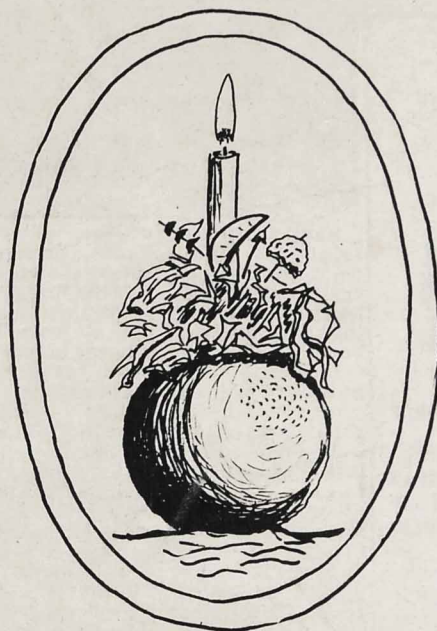


Joyous Christmas Greetings To All Our Readers



An Artist's impression of a Christingle

Several churches in Caversham will be holding Christingle Services during the Christmas Season this year.

Christingles were first given to children of the Moravian congregation at Marienborn in Germany in 1747, when each child received a lit candle with a red ribbon. The Christingle today consists of an orange representing the world with a candle lit to represent Christ the Light of the World. The fruit, sweets and nuts placed around the candle stand for the created order over which Christ is King and for God's bounty and goodness to us.

ST PETER'S		
December 1	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
December 8	9.15am	"Toy Service" in Holy Communion
December 22	5.30pm	Evensong (said) for Advent IV
Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
	4pm	Children's Crib Service
Christmas Day	11.30pm	Midnight Mass of Christmas
	8am	Holy Communion
	9.15am	Sung Communion (family worship)
	11.15am	Holy Communion
December 26	9.30am	Holy Communion
(St Stephen)		
December 27	9.30am	Holy Communion
(St John Evangelist)		
ST ANDREW'S		
December 22	6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Children's Crib Service
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
	8.30am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9.30am	Family Eucharist
	11.15am	Holy Communion



ST BARNABAS'		
December 22	4pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	5pm	Children's Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8am	Eucharist
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and Sermon
ST JOHN'S		
December 18	8pm	Prayers and Meditation
December 19	10am	Holy Communion (1662)
December 22	8am	Holy Communion (1662)
	9.15am	Parish Communion (1980)
	4pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols and Christingles around the Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8am	Holy Communion (1662)
	10am	Parish Communion
		Throughout Advent midweek service at 10am on Thursdays and Evening Prayer at 4pm on Sundays



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM		
Christmas Eve	2.30pm	Children's Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	11am	Family Communion
December 29	11am	Family Communion
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (in Caversham Park Primary School)		
December 22	11am	Morning Worship — including Children's Christmas Play
Christmas Eve	8pm	Carol Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Christmas Day	11am	Family Service (bring toys!)
December 29	11am	Shelter — a Christmas Service in aid of the homeless

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH		
December 15	10.30am	"Nativity" Service (Family and Children)
December 22	6.30pm	"Candlelight" Service (Carols led by "Gospel Singers" and "New Light")
Christmas Day	10.30-11.15am	Christmas Day Service
December 31	11.40pm	Watchnight Service

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road)		
December 8	11am	Toy Service
December 15	6.30pm	Traditional Carol Service
December 22	11am	Family Christmas Service
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	(at Caversham Heights) Christmas Night Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Service
December 31	11.15pm	Watchnight Service

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH		
December 8	11am	Toy Service
December 22	4pm	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	11.15pm	Christmas Night Communion
Christmas Day	10.30am	(at Gosbrook Road) Christmas Morning Service

ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (York Road)		
December 1	11am	Advent Holy Communion
December 15	11am	Festival Gift Service
December 22	11am	Advent Christmas Service
	6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Reading)		
December 22	3.30pm	Bring-and-share tea
Christmas Day	10.45am	Christmas Worship

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL		
December 22	10.30am	Christmas Family Worship (in the Hill School)
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship



ST ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH		
Christmas Eve	10am	Morning Mass
	11.30pm	Carols followed by Midnight Mass (Sung)
Christmas Day	9am	Mass
	11am	Sung Latin Mass
December 26	10am	Mass

OUR LADY OF CAVERSHAM, RICHMOND ROAD		
Christmas Eve	10am	Mass
	11.30pm	Carols followed by Midnight Mass (Sung)
Christmas Day	8.30am	Mass
	10.30am	Mass
December 26	10am	Mass
		NB. There will be no other Masses or Services at either church on Christmas Day.

CONFESSIONS
These will be part of the Penitential Services being arranged by the whole of the Reading Deanery on a Rota basis in the week before Christmas week. The Penitential Service scheduled for St Anne's Parish will be on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19**. Details of the whole list of Services will be circulated. Officially these will be the only set Confession times, but details of when you may be able to go, should it have been impossible for you to attend the Penitential Services, will be given later.

TALKING POINT

by the Revd Peter Mullins, Curate at St Margaret's and St Peter's



CHRISTMAS IN A DARK ROOM

WHEN I was a little boy I was taken to visit Norwich Castle. I can remember almost nothing about it other than the dungeon. That tells you what a horrid little boy I was. We were shown all sorts of methods of torture and execution, and I loved every minute of it.

Then the guide asked us if we would mind if he put the lights out. Did we mind the dark? Of course we didn't! I had already half conceived the idea of going up behind my brother and tapping him on the shoulder to frighten him to death.

I never got the chance. What happened was that my eyes never got used to the dark. That was exactly what the guide wanted us to see. Since then I have found out that our eyes don't "get used to the dark". They adapt to the amount of light. And deep under Norwich Castle there was no light at all. Even the keenest eyes in the world would not be able to see anything.

I wonder if St John knew that? When you go to a Carol Service or to church on Christmas Day you will probably hear his words trying to say what Christmas meant to him. It is a beautiful and simple passage. "The light shines in the darkness", he says, "And the darkness has not overcome it."

Can you imagine being in that room without any source of light at all? Can you imagine how important the light of a candle or even a crack of light under a door would be? Whilst there was even a glimmer of light your eyes would be able to begin to accustom themselves to it and begin to make out the real shape of the place you were in.

When we don't think about it we rather presume that the darkness puts out light, that evil puts out goodness, that despair puts out hope. But it is not so. Darkness is not capable of overcoming even a glimmer of light.

Perhaps you think it isn't very ambitious of me to think of Christmas as only a glimmer of light? I don't, of course. I think "the dungeon flamed with light"! But have a think about that first Christmas morning. There is a young peasant woman giving birth without even being able to provide a proper roof over her baby's head, in the middle of an occupied country from which she is soon to flee as a refugee into Egypt. What a stunningly insignificant event!

But St John says gently and simply that there is more to it than that. It is only by the light of this little baby that we can even begin to accustom our eyes to the darkness. It is only by the light of this little baby that we can begin to make out the real shape of the world which we are in.

In all the bustle of THIS Christmas try to find a few minutes quiet in a dark room — perhaps with a chink of light coming under the door. Just sit there and pray

*Give the light of the Christ-child, Father,
To all who are lonely or in despair this Christmas
Give the light of the Christ-child, Father, to me
That I may be able to begin to see and to follow*

CELEBRATION! LINK GROUP

OVER 100 people connected with the Caversham Bridge Newspaper came together on Wednesday, October 23, to celebrate the 250th issue.



Many Caversham residents whose paths do not generally cross could be seen to be sharing this unifying bond of Christian fellowship. The number present underlined the great amount of work and goodwill that goes into producing and distributing each issue of the Bridge. Clearly it is an enterprise that transcends boundaries of religion, age and interest. Indeed it would be difficult to envisage Caversham without the Bridge. Certainly the village would be a much poorer place socially and spiritually without its monthly newspaper.

Most welcome therefore were Canon John and Mrs Anne Grimwade without whose hard work, initiative and imagination Caversham would not enjoy the benefit of the Bridge.

Following an excellent buffet and a chance for the guests to meet one another, there came the surprise entertainment. Some of the clergy of Caversham delighted all present with a dramatic execution of a Morris dance. John Grimwade proposed the toast and in a short speech brought back memories of past years.

Bernard Miller, as Chairman of the Caversham Bridge, announced winners

A MEETING of the Group was held at the home of Mrs Anthea Prescott. Mrs Boshier from the Hard of Hearing Club gave members a moving account of the difficulties of the partially deafened in a noisy world. By telling members of her own experiences from childhood when two operations left her with no hearing in one ear and gradually deteriorating hearing in the other, a picture emerged of how we can all help the hard of hearing by giving them our time, friendship and understanding. Members heard about the work of the club and of all the hearing aids available and Mrs Boshier's lip-reading teacher who came with her gave a short account of the teaching of lip-reading. The Chairman, Mrs Pat Jenkins, thanked Mrs Boshier for coming to talk to the Group.

Mrs Jenkins read a letter from the Mencap Club thanking members for the outing and saying how much the children had enjoyed the day. The Treasurer, Mrs Janet Ferguson, told members that the money given so generously by the guests at the fortnightly tea parties had largely covered the expenses of the outing. Members involved with the tea parties sadly heard of the death of Miss Harpur who came to the parties from Abbeyfield.

Mrs Doreen Bennett reported on progress at the Care Centre. Between fifty and sixty people had visited the Pop-In Centre on the open day on September 26. Numbers of visitors were gradually building up with help able to be given through the office in some cases of desperate need. Charity Christmas cards were on sale for the first time on October 29 and several people came for Christmas Cards, stayed for coffee and a chat and decided to come again!

Mrs Anthea Prescott reported that furniture is being offered and found a home. Berkshire Women's Aid and Katesgrove House were to receive clothes kindly donated. Women's Aid were giving a Christmas party to mark their tenth anniversary and members voted them twenty-five pounds towards the party.

Posters for the Musical "Greater than Gold" on December 7 were given to members to distribute. Admission is free and there will be a collection in aid of Link Group Charities.

Finally Reading Emergency Accommodation Project, though now getting some Council Aid, still appeals for men's clothing, and for fruit, vegetables and meat to help feed the homeless of Reading.

Nicholas 1882

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COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG, Tel. 474017.
POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham, Tel. 473045.

All contributions for the February issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, January 8. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, January 3.

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

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading, Telephone Reading 471703.

Printed by Thames Valley Newspapers Ltd, Tessa Road, Reading.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

Bugs Bottom (contd)
LAST MONTH'S ISSUE CONTINUED
ANNOUNCED THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE HEMDEAN BOTTOM, and, with fingers crossed, consigned it to the inner reaches of the Department of the Environment, whence a decision would ultimately emerge. This was, of course, written before the Public Inquiry started, to conform with the printers' requirements, and had assumed that it would, as indicated, be over by October 22. Nothing of the kind in fact happened.

In the first place, the developers' counsel stated that their case could not be put in under a week. As this would have to be followed by all the objectors, including the chief one in the form of the Borough Council, whose Planning Officer, Stuart Hylton, had prepared a long and detailed case, though mercifully only a fraction as long and detailed as the applicants, it became clear that at least another week would be required. By the time the objectors' turn arrived, the appellants' QC fell ill. This, together with the Inspector's having to adjust his timetable to fit in a further walk of the area, led to the Inquiry being adjourned till November 25. The walk will take place about then and anyone who wishes to will be able to point out any relevant matter to the Inspector. Look out for an announcement of the time.

A major growth area

Not altogether surprisingly the developers' case rested mainly on the fact that Berkshire had been designated a major

growth area by the Department of the Environment; that local authorities are trying to evade this directive, and this place would provide part of the answer. The fact that discussions are going on at top level about how much more development Berkshire can take, that the traffic produced will be totally unacceptable and that the site is one of such high landscape value that its inclusion in an extended AONB is under consideration were all brushed aside as inconsequential. Instead laws, acts, plans, precedents and even would-be objectors' remarks, taken out of context, were all brought in, in tedious detail, to support their contention.

The cost of presenting their case went far and away beyond anything the local councils could afford, leave alone local residents, who would be most affected if the application were granted. However, money isn't everything. On the evening of Tuesday, October 22, the Inspector, after carefully weighing up the pros and cons of such a rarely taken step, held an evening session for those unable to attend in the day time. His fears that it might not be well attended melted right away as people began pouring into the Council Chamber as the hour approached. Likewise his reluctance to listen to a repetition of points proved unfounded, because although amenity and traffic were the major considerations there were so many different aspects of these two points. It was in fact a very impressive occasion, and although it is not for

Inspectors to show bias in any way, he could hardly fail to be impressed by the size and quality of the objections voiced.

On site inspection

Whatever decision he recommends to the Secretary of State, the walk he took through the valley when he inspected the site and its surroundings must have scotched any ideas that scenically it was only run of the mill. Perhaps the objectors could be accused of cheating by calling in Divine assistance, for the day

ing things occurred. First of all, the tenant farmer withdrew his objection to the application a week before the Inquiry started. He had a perfect right to do so, of course, but his support for the objectors was of more than average value when one of the arguments rested on the viability of the land for farming.

Secondly, at about the same time, the smaller site in the valley, adjacent to the junction of Sheridan Avenue and Hemdean Road became the scene of building operations. This was,

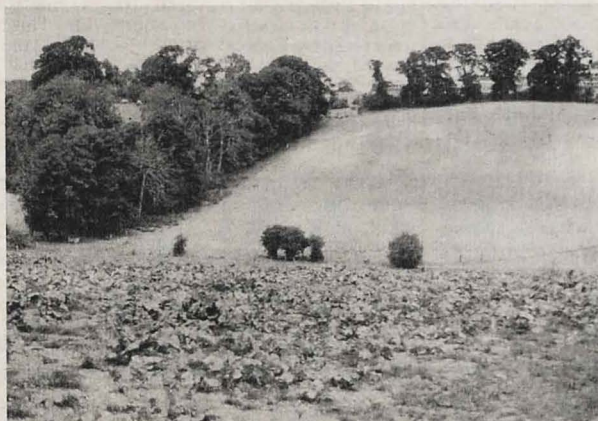
a thorough airing at the evening session of the Public Inquiry. Parking in the centre of Caversham and the sheer volume of traffic in Church Street were referred to more than once. The latter makes crossing the road like a game of Russian roulette. It is now virtually impossible to cross anywhere except at the pedestrian crossing, unless you are prepared to wait for ages for a gap in the traffic. Yet even at the crossing only the quick stand a reasonable chance of not being the dead, for the time allowed for crossing must have been worked out using Olympic runners as models. The Residents' Association has protested time and again about this, only to be told that the timing accords with the rules laid down by the Department of Transport and cannot therefore be altered. How many Department of Transport officials walk, burdened with shopping, push chairs, kids, or advancing years, in busy urban streets? Here is another example of the pedestrian being sacrificed on the altar of the powerful god, Car.

allow shoppers two hours free parking as they have in adjacent streets. It wouldn't empty the car park but would generate some income and reduce resentment. It is time the Borough Transport Committee got round to doing this. To argue that a machine cannot be programmed to do this is nonsense in these days of hi-tech. What a machine won't do is catch defaulters. A traffic warden would have to visit Caversham more frequently than is now the case.

Correction corner

September's column contained a number of errors. Apart from the opening date of the Public Inquiry, which is now water under the bridge, Martin Andrews of the Museum Staff came out as Martin Adams, and Sue Read, apart from being mis-spelt, still lives in Caversham, even more so than she used to. Don't forget, as gloomy winter days approach, that the Blake's Lock Museum, in which these two played a large part, is open on Sunday afternoons and will be a useful place to take week-end visitors when it is too wet or cold to go elsewhere.

Hemdean House has also asked me to point out that the intrusive comma in "pupils" that appeared in their advertisement last month was a printer's error, and not an example of the education being offered.



he chose was one of golden autumn sunshine, with the faintest suggestion of mist, and the leaves just beginning to show colour. Who could fail to be enchanted? Moreover, to get there he had to drive through Caversham's rush hour traffic and find somewhere to park his car. Magic figures flung about in the Council Chamber to show that traffic was perfectly acceptable did not stand up to what actually happens on the ground.

Caversham Residents' Association has still to put its case, though Emmer Green has already been heard. As a consequence of the adjournment, the petition is still circulating for the collection of signatures. It was announced at the evening session that these already numbered nearly 4,300. The aim is to reach 5,000 and at the time of writing this figure was being steadily approached. If the developers' case has been backed by thousands of pounds, the objectors' has been backed by thousands of people.

to say the least, starting, as only early in the summer an application to build there had been dismissed on appeal. Everyone was angry about it, but alas, the law had not been broken. The application is one that had been granted in 1976 for slightly fewer houses than the dismissed application; had been "kept alive" by periodic digging of foundations, and then sold to another building firm. It is, of course, sheer coincidence that the building should have started just before the Inquiry began. It does though lend weight to the argument put forward by the applicants for the larger site that the whole valley is suitable site for rounding off the existing built-up area. It is also unfortunately the part of the valley that BBONT found had the most interesting fauna and flora. On the other hand, the Inspector must have seen how building on the valley sides destroys the environment.

Resultant Traffic

Existing traffic conditions and their further exacerbation if the development goes ahead were given

GOING UP

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors agreed that from January 1, 1986 the price of this newspaper will be increased to 15p, due to the higher cost of printing. As it has been four years since the last increase, we hope our readers will find the new charge acceptable.

The only fair solution would be to make day-long parkers pay a reasonable price, as they would have to in the town centre, and

WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

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WE WERE just two of the twenty thousand who joined the Mass Lobby of MPs on October 22 which had been arranged by the development agencies and the Churches for the purpose of demonstrating concern about Britain's policies towards the world's poor.

It was an exhilarating yet disappointing experience. Exhilarating because banners and placards indicated that parties from as far afield as Edinburgh had come down to Westminster for the day, but disappointing in that the representation from each constituency, numbering on average one hundred thousand electors, was, like our own Reading East's, no more than thirty to fifty. However, twenty thousand people put no small strain on the Lobby's organisers, and our MP would have been under similar strain if our party had numbered three hundred and seventy instead of thirty-seven!

Sir Gerard Vaughan

met us in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons and listened with interest to the many matters we were anxious to raise with him, four of which caused us particular concern.

The first was the drastic scaling down of British Government aid in the six years since 1979. In that year this country gave more than any of the other seven most industrialised countries: 0.52 per cent of Gross National Product. Now, by reducing our aid to 0.33 per cent of GNP we have slipped down behind France, Canada, Germany, Japan and Italy to the point where only the USA is less generous! We urged Sir Gerard to press for this trend to be halted and reversed.

We were concerned also about how the aid

was spent. Since 1980 the Government's policy has been to concentrate the aid on the industrial development of the poorer countries, since the export of equipment for these development schemes benefits British industry and creates jobs. But the African famine has shown clearly the need for peasant farmers to grow more food, and the tiny proportion of British aid now devoted to improving local food production, such as by agricultural training, needs to be increased if future famines are to be prevented.

Next we drew attention to the illogicality of promoting industrial production in Third World countries and then erecting tariff barriers against its imports into this country. We asked Sir Gerard to

press the British Government to exempt the poorest of these countries from severe trade restrictions, quoting the case of Bangladesh shirts. There are no restrictions at all on the import into Britain of shirts from European countries, but when Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, started exporting shirts, Britain immediately imposed restrictions, even though that country was supplying only two per cent of the total imports!

The last of our principal concerns was the suffering which is resulting from the crippling debt burdens borne by countries of Africa and South America. Due to the world recession these countries have been able to

earn less from their export crops and have had to borrow from the International Monetary Fund. The Fund has then imposed "adjustment" programmes to increase foreign exchange earnings and reduce foreign exchange expenditure, and these programmes require the growing of more cash crops instead of food and reducing spending on health and social services. The result, needless to say, is falling nutritional standards and rising levels of infant mortality. Britain is an important member of the Board of the IMF and can, if it wishes to, press the western Shylocks to drain away less lifeblood when securing their cuts of the flesh!

Sir Gerard asked the convenor of the Reading East lobby to give him all our points in writing. Perhaps in a later edition of the Bridge we may be able to give an account of the results of such action as he is able to take.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

Fun and Run Day at Hemdean House

WHEN the Commonwealth Games are held in Edinburgh next year, Caversham's Hemdean House School will be able to say that they helped send the English Team to compete.

On a Tuesday towards the end of September the whole School took part in a fund-raising effort. There was great fun and excitement as nearly 200 pupils and staff lapped the School field in the presence of world indoor record holder for the 400 metres — athlete Todd Bennett. Everyone took part from the youngest to the oldest including one dog suitably attired in School hat and tie. I had the pleasure of joining them on their Run and accompanied Headmistress, Mrs Monica Ralph, on her twenty laps, which was much more than she intended but a great effort and example to the youngsters. All participants then had their individual photographs taken with Todd Bennett — a mammoth task for him — smiling at the camera 200 times. However, I am sure that he enjoyed his morning at Hemdean

as much as the School enjoyed his visit. Several hundred pounds was raised which will go towards the national target of £200,000.

Perhaps there may be a future Commonwealth Champion among the young girls and boys who lapped the School field on that damp September morning. Well done Hemdean House!

1986 Half Marathon

The 1986 Reading Half Marathon is at last up and running. Although this will be the fourth event it has certainly not been easier getting it off the ground. There have been all sorts of problems behind the scenes but fortunately most of these have now been solved. As far as the route was concerned a full Council gave their blessing to this on the first day of October so that the Race will follow its usual course and Caversham will not be deprived of seeing the once-a-year spectacular. The number of runners to be accepted will be the same as last year, i.e., 7,000 and once again the event should be a sell-out.

As always we will be

trying to encourage both new people to start running and also at the other end we will be endeavouring to bring some of the very best runners to Reading. It is hoped that in the very near future we will be able to announce the first big name in the running world as a confirmed entrant.

With the co-operation of Reading Recreation Department training sessions for Beginners are being held at Palmer Park Stadium on both Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to 8pm, from now until Christmas. To help runners prepare during the winter there will also be a number of smaller road races over varying distances which will be held locally. For the coming event there will be more time for preparation as the race is not being held until Sunday, April 6, 1986, that is the week after Easter but NOW is the time to start preparing by getting out for a little jog once or twice a week.

Farewell from Stan Eldon Sports

As you know I closed our Sports Shop in Caversham at the end of September and I would like to thank all our customers for their past sup-

port. In particular, I would like to thank all those who called and gave their best wishes for the future. Happily, we have been able to find premises not too far away

and we are now open at Walls Carnival Stores in Caversham Road with a specialist Running Shop. We hope to see you there in the future for your running gear.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I DON'T ever recall such a fascinating conversation with a stranger — and in a local supermarket of all places. It actually began with a comment about types of cat food but ten minutes later we had covered our devotion to cats, our admiration of the work Petwatch is doing, and endless stories about various parts of the world.

The gentleman in question — all I know about him is that he lives at the top of Chiltern Road and he and his wife are great lovers of animals — has travelled extensively, both with his work and service life and, since retirement, for pleasure, including a world cruise. Such enthusiasm! And when he told me he was over 80 my admiration grew — I learned a lot from him, not least that life isn't over in one's mid-sixties. Bless you, Mr Unknown — you brightened my day.

A day trip

By the same token, I talked to a local shop assistant who had just had a day trip to Bath — her first. Now before you much-travelled people laugh, I must tell you that this lass got so much out of her visit that I envied her. Not for the experience — I've been to Bath several times — but for the fact she got out of it. Perhaps it's because I'm cur-

Vincent Ruane

I was delighted to read the article by Vincent in last month's "Bridge". I've known the family for years and have seen young Vincent grow up into an extremely thoughtful young man; he has just gained an Honours degree in Portuguese and Spanish at Leeds and, like many other graduates, will be trying to establish a career. This article shows all the signs of his father's objectivity — no glib comments or copies of printed hand-outs for him — so if he should decide to follow in Kevin's footsteps it might be no bad thing for the world of journalism.

Caversham Care Centre

I finally got round to "popping-in" at the Centre one morning and must say I was very impressed; I was prepared for the "caring" but I really didn't expect such an efficiently run office, prepared to try to solve anyone's problems at the drop of a hat. All known organisations are ticketed and docketed so that anyone can be put in touch with whichever one they need. Please use it if you need; likewise if you suddenly find yourself with an hour or two to spare during the week (and people whose circumstances change suddenly sometimes do) please give them a ring and see where you can help.

She'll hate me to say it, but I really must pay tribute to the sustained and steady work of Doreen Bennett, whose brainchild the Centre really is. Both this and the Link Group are recognised by the local authorities and social welfare departments, so there is nothing amateurish about them. Doreen, whose husband Ken is one of our parish wardens, realised years ago that there is a fund of goodwill in Caversham and she has been determined to harness it. She has had some wonderful help — for calling; I hope space alas doesn't permit a lot of names — but she really has been the one who kept up the continuity of the good work for many years. She's a great lass!

Conservation

I didn't get to the September meeting of Caversham WI — Yateley Industries, hence no report. But perhaps I can make up for it by saying that I was told Mick Denness gave an excellent report, with slides, of all the work being done by the Berkshire Conservation Volunteers. He spoke of the work of reclaim-

ing ponds, clearing waste land and footpaths, particularly in forest land. This is an excellent organisation for anybody, particularly the young, who is interested in conservation. Most of the work is done at weekends and there is still much to be done. Why not lend a hand. Do give Mick a ring (473160) — these people need your support.

Gardens and Flowers

While on the subject of keeping our countryside beautiful, I must again congratulate the very many Caversham people who give us so much pleasure with their colourful front gardens, however small, often a blaze of colour this autumn. On behalf of all of us who walk past, many thanks.

Walking into our local florists recently, I gasped at the beautiful red and white flower arrangements; they were, I was told, for the snooker tournament. If you really want to see just how good our florists are, I'm told you should look in at the Ramada when they've been doing their stuff there. Fortunately they still have time for the customer who just wants a small bunch of flowers and I did like the new assistant who sped me on my way with: "Thank you for calling; I hope you will come again". She needn't worry — it's one of my favourite ports of call.

Yateley Industries

I forgot to mention that our kitchen-ware shop in Prospect Street is selling tea-towels, oven gloves etc, hand printed by Yateley Industries, a workshop for the disabled. From time to time I've bought their things at craft fairs and it's nice to know we can now buy them locally.

By the way, if this reaches you in time, don't forget the Mayor's Market on November 28!

Save the Children Fund

We're all delighted to hear that our good friend, Norman Kent, continues to make an excellent recovery from his operation. The SCF in particular miss him, but until he is able to take up the reins again I'm told that his office in Church House can still supply SCF goods and Caversham Bookshop has copies of the catalogue if you want them. Meanwhile, Norman, our very best wishes for your convalescence — we miss you around Caversham.

Retiring

Mr Joe Jenkin has worked for the Caversham and Reading laundry for twenty-five years and when Mr Williams retired, long ago now, from the Caversham round with its surrounding country area, Joe took on Mr Williams' "patch" and it has remained in his capable hands ever since. Now he, too, is retiring and a lot of people are going to be very sorry to see him go. Thank you Mr Jenkins for all you have done for so many of us. We wish you a long and happy retirement and much enjoyment in that garden which is your pride and joy.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

St Anne's News

ST ANNE'S Church greeted me on my return from holiday with an entirely altered appearance: the central part of the church has now been carpeted, offering a number of benefits. It is soft underfoot, muted to the ear and warm to the eye. The remaining wooden floors in the side aisles have also been improved and are newly gleaming.

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BAPTIST NEWS

Baptist Youth Weekend

THE Church recently held its annual youth weekend when the Young People and their guests "took-over" and literally "lived-in" the Church for the weekend. One can but imagine the "high jinks" which took place but it must be emphasised that such activities were adequately supervised and disciplined.

On the Saturday evening there was an excellent attendance at the Rock Concert, the music for which was provided by "Special Offer" and the drama by "Jesters Royal", a duo from Manchester dedicated to propagating the scriptures by their acting talents which were effectively manifest during Sunday morning service when they gave a new slant to the story of Noah and his Ark. Prior to the Rock Concert both "Special Offer" and "Jesters Royal" led workshops during which the young people prepared for the Sunday evening service. At that service a vocal group sang a gospel song which one of their number had written and the actors depicted the Parable of the Talents in a humorous but thoughtful and thought-provoking manner.

Sally-Ann Ousley

Articles have appeared in previous issues of the paper detailing the work which Sally-Ann is doing for TEAR Fund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) in Bangladesh. Earlier in the year Members of the Church considered ways

in which they could give practical, as well as prayerful, support to her and it was decided to set up an Informal Trust Fund on her behalf. The

students, and as a token of his appreciation of this relationship he presented a Birthday Cake — of excellent quality and appro-



purpose of the Fund was to provide a source from which she could supplement any savings which she could make from her minimal salary to enable her to re-establish herself in her profession in this country on completion of her tour of service. Many members and friends have made direct contributions to the Fund whilst others have organised a Coffee Morning and "Sign-in" whereby, on payment of a nominal sum, one could send birthday greetings to Sally-Ann on a mammoth card. The most spectacular effort to date however must be attributed to Mr Alex

and Mrs Vi Stott who entered themselves for the Henley Half-Marathon and invited sponsorship. Alex and Vi, both of whom are on the "wrong" side of the middle years of life, completed the course and whilst they broke no records for athletic prowess they raised some £250 for Sally-Ann. Our picture shows Alex and Vi displaying their medals. Vi somewhat diffidently — long may they continue to put one foot in front of the other.

Some Birthday

The Church recently celebrated the 113th Anniversary of its founding with Thanksgiving Services led by the Revd Bruce Keeble, Tutor in Pastoral Practice at Regent's Park College, Oxford. The Church has, over a number of years, enjoyed a close working relationship with Mr Keeble and his

St John's Notes

LINDA Shoesmith and Philip Blackburn were married on October 19 at St John's. John Summer came over to assist at the ceremony and several old friends also came. The church was full of friends to see the marriage and to share in Communion with Linda and Philip. The sun really did shine when they came out on to St John's lawn. There was another crowd of friends there — Guides and Brownies and members of the Sue Ryder Support Group, who both had sales on that afternoon, and had not been able to go to the Church. It was a very happy occasion and St John's wish Linda and Philip every happiness as they begin their life together.

The two sales did very well that afternoon. The Sue Ryder Group made £180

and the Guides in their hut next door, £95. They think they benefited from each other's customers.

St John's want to say thank you to Gwen Bartlett, Hilda Godwin and Sue Harris for twenty years' church cleaning and brass polishing. They have now decided to give up and the congregation are grateful for their regular work and service.

St John's had two visitors from Canada in September. They were pen-friends of Pat and Freda Haines, made nearly forty years ago by "Thank you letters" after gifts sent because of the floods in 1947. At least two people have families in Canada and visited them this summer. St John's seems to have particular links there.

ST PETER'S & THE WORLD

THAT was the modest title of a map standing at the entrance to St Peter's Harvest Supper on October 26. During the evening everybody was asked to put a pin in somewhere with which they had a link. One of the organisers found his pin in Malawi (where he had taught) was only a hundred miles from the curate's (where he was born). As the map filled up and filled up the point was soon made. We are all part of "One World".

The Harvest Supper was "late" this year because the organisers wanted it to coincide with "One World Week". They felt that in a year in which the African famine had made such an impact

it would be wrong to be too self-indulgent.

They watched an entertaining cartoon film from Christian Aid. And when the food was served they acted out a parable. Those with red serviettes got a full meal. But those with blue serviettes only got rice and had to depend on their neighbours to feed them. Even so there was more than enough for everybody and the surplus was taken off to the Emergency Accommodation Project on the Oxford Road.

Finally they sang some hymns of praise. Most were familiar favourites. But they also learnt a beautiful new song of praise... from Malawi again.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL

The children sat attentively in one of those rare moments of quiet waiting for their special guest — a visiting pastor from Wallingford — to speak to them.

He began.

Holding up a small, tubby Friar Tuck-like doll, he asked the children to tell him what it was. From his audience a few small hands reached tentatively upwards, whilst lips murmured their answer. Things seemed to be going well.

Then... "Peeeeepp!" The hush was rudely broken by the shrill note of Nitty Norah, the zany Explorer blowing her referee's whistle as she dashed in from the back of the building with a pantomime cow in tow! This pair (or should I say threesome?) was closely followed by Jungle Jim, the travelling joke salesman, clad in a bowler hat, smart jacket and tie, oversized shorts and wellies. He waved his arms and shouted to Norah. The hall erupted with sounds of children's laughter, clapping and chatter. Gone was the quiet orderliness of the previous moment.

There are few preachers who have their sermons interrupted by a pantomime cow, but this one (Mike Mortimer — who had not been warned about this little intrusion) reacted marvellously.

The incident was typical of the week of fun and activities at Caversham Hill Chapel during this autumn's

children's mission. Variety and surprise were characteristic of all the goings on, and were what led to a successful half-term week.

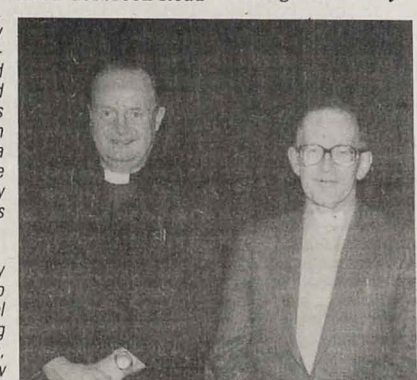
This year's theme was that of a Safari Adventure. With the worship hall decked in green paper creepers, bright flowers, a bamboo hut and umpteen animals, it would be difficult to have missed the fact!

Every day about one hundred and thirty children flooded to the chapel to take part in quizzes, singing, dancing the conga, games, competitions and a host of other activities. Of course, the main aim of the holiday club was to teach the children about God's love and His plan for their lives, and to show them that Jesus can indeed give them life in all its fullness. It was a privilege to have the chance to share with so many children a little of life as God intended it to be.

We were especially pleased to welcome so many parents to the Chapel on the Sunday morning following holiday club, when we were able to show them something of what their children had been doing during the week. For some of the children it was probably the first real teaching about Jesus they had ever received, and we hope and pray that they will want to learn more about Him through Sunday School, and that in turn this will draw their parents into the Kingdom of God.

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

CAVERSHAM Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road has been the venue for many visitors this month. The Reading and Silchester Circuit hosted the Southampton Districts Circuit Stewards Meeting. Circuit Stewards came from as far away as Portland Bill, Yeovil and the Isle of Wight. Discussion took place on ministerial appointments, sabbaticals, and the shortage of Ministers for 1986. Other visitors to the Church came from much further afield, in fact from across the Atlantic. Bud and Marion Protengier, and Keith and Marilyn Milliron visited Gosbrook Road from Clawson, Michigan, USA. They are all members of The United Methodist Church at Clawson and links have been renewed that had been begun during the Ministerial Exchange in 1980.



The Rev Brian Skinner and the Rev Laurence Ashman at Gosbrook Road's Gift Day

HARVEST REJOICING AT MAPLEDURHAM

ST MARGARET'S children played their usual part, and indeed more, for the Sunday School members actually made the bread for the Communion and then, as a special treat, they all received a bread harvest mouse made for them by a kind and talented Mum — a great idea!

Then, almost a week later, on October 12, members of St Margaret's and their friends gathered at Trench Green Hall for a Harvest Barn Dance. It was good to see so many young people and especially a group from the Methodist Church. Everyone had a wonderful time and grateful thanks are due to the Dunn family who arranged it and to all who provided the usual mouth-watering refreshments and decorated the hall so beautifully and then did all the tidying up afterwards.

Most of the harvest gifts this year were taken to the Salvation Army Centre in Reading.

TWO RECIPES FOR JUSTICE

RECIPES for Justice, the theme of the 1985 One World Week, was the title of a Workshop held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on October 19, when members of Reading churches sought to decide for themselves what recipes might lead to a fairer distribution of the world's food resources.

The Church Anniversary and Gift Day proved to be a very successful weekend. Rev Laurence Ashman, Chairman of the Southampton District of The Methodist Church, was the guest speaker at the Gift Day Dinner. £1,250 was received in gifts and the Minister, Rev Brian Skinner and treasurer wish to thank all who gave and responded in such a generous way.

Max Peberdy, Area Secretary for Christian Aid, opened the workshop with a case study of Papua New Guinea, where in less than a quarter of a century the inhabitants have been thrust from the stone age into the twentieth century. A social system in which all the menfolk of a village lived in one long hut and the women and children in another, plus an effective system of subsistence agriculture, meant a controlled birth rate and food for all. But western influence brought an emphasis on family units and export crops, with the result that half the population is now under sixteen and there is not enough land outside the plantations to enable the country to feed itself.

Merfyn Temple, Methodist minister, biographer of Kenneth Kauda and now practising organic farming in Berkshire, confessed the remorse that he felt as he recalled how, as a young missionary in Zambia, he had encouraged agricultural innovations that promised quick returns but

only brought distress to the native villages. He stressed that violation of nature for instant wealth not only impoverished the environment, but made the powerless people of the world even poorer as they lost their land and incurred debts in the struggle to adjust to the new situation.

In the course of a final discussion there was agreement on two courses of action that were open to those who felt themselves committed to seeking justice for the poor and powerless. One was to persevere in exerting political pressure, as was done at the Mass Lobby to Fight World Poverty held at the House of Commons on October 22. The other was to live more simply ourselves, foregoing unnecessary luxuries so that we may give regular and increased support to development projects being undertaken by third world agencies and enable others to simply live.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

THE ANNUAL PARISH CHOIR OUTING

By Philip Bowcock



Photo: Christopher and Joanne Loader

EACH year the trebles of the parish choirs abandon robes and hymn books and take a day off, and so, on September 28, some 45 trebles from the choirs of Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists took off by coach (after nearly having left their Organiser behind!) and arrived in St Albans on just about the best day of the year in terms of weather.

The present City of St Albans is the medieval town but its predecessor was the Roman city of Verulamium and there is a great deal of evidence of their occupation around. We spent the morning in the Museum looking at the many

relics which have been found on the site and then had lunch in the Park which is on the actual site of that city. After some less formal fun we walked up the hill to the Abbey which dominates the area. This was built at the site of the execution of Alban, the first English Christian martyr, an event which is now remembered annually by the Pilgrimage attended by Christians from all denominations and many parts of the country.

We toured the Abbey which has one of the longest naves in the country and as with most of the older cathedrals

was built over many hundreds of years — in fact the most recent addition was only completed within the present decade. The tower is of particular interest as it is largely built of bricks from the Roman city, bricks which were being fired at about the time of Christ. We listened to the choir rehearsing, and then to end the day all assembled with a congregation which must have been in the region of 1,500 for the eucumenical Pilgrimage Service at which the Preacher was Dr Colin Morris of the BBC, and which finished with a procession to the Shrine of Alban.

LORD OF THE DANCE

HAVE you ever heard of the Shakers? If you look at the tune to "The Lord of the Dance" you will find that it is called "Shaker Tune". It is much older than the modern words which we sing to it.

The Shakers started near Manchester two hundred years ago. They were a small Christian sect who believed in dancing in their worship. They had to emigrate to the United States because

such enthusiasm was not approved of by the churches in England.

Last year a group of academics in Birmingham published a pamphlet showing how they thought some of the dances might have gone. One of them goes to the tune of "The Lord of the Dance". In it the dancers "shake" out all their sins and trample them under their feet...

What has all this got to do with Caversham? Well, a group of those who help run youth groups in the Anglican Churches in Caversham have been meeting together every few months for a year now. They thought that this might add a little spice to a Barn Dance.

So it was that on October 27 forty or fifty young people

from four of the churches descended on St John's Church for "A Barn Dance with a difference". They were put through their paces by an entertaining caller, who turned out to be one of those who sets up the adverts for the "Caversham Bridge" at the Evening Post.

And in the middle of the evening they had a short act of worship. They shook out their sins. They heard the bible story of King David dancing before the ark of the covenant. They "marched" into the New Jerusalem — complete with extempore cries of "Alleluia!" and "Love one another" in true Shaker style.

Thank God for the variety in his church and the news that worship can be fun!

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AN EXHIBITION to delicate flower paintings, among the most popular choice being water colours of rural and local scenes. It is anticipated that the exhibition will become an annual event, so great an interest was shown by the general public. The photograph shows a section of the paintings with Mrs Edna Fitzeustace (Associate's representative on Council of Reading Guild of Artists) pointing to the picture which won the Jack Earl trophy, painted by Mr A. A. Parsons, "May Banks." It was selected by Mr Jack Orford, Chairman of Reading Guild of Artists. Also shown is Mr Cyril Hosmer, Treasurer and part organiser of the exhibition.

OBITUARY

Barbara Jackson

ON MONDAY October 21, St Peter's church was filled with the family, relatives and friends of Barbara Jackson as they gave thanks to God for her life of Christian witness, love and courage.

In his address the Revd Derek Spears shared with the congregation a "mental" snapshot of Barbara Jackson which seemed to sum up all that we would wish to thank God for in her life. It was a picture of Barbara on pack holiday in South Wales, surrounded by her Brownies, her face lit up with laughter and joy. The Guiding movement was of great importance and satisfaction to Barbara, both in her former parish in Northampton and at St Peter's. She was a devoted and caring Brown Owl, nothing was too good for her Brownies and they responded with love and affection. Indeed, as Don, her husband remarked, the Guiding ethic lay at the root of Barbara's life; she was indeed one who worked and lived for others. One other instance of this was her work for the WRVS in running the Darby and Joan Club. This caring for others was seen at its



— E. S. Archer

Christmas, Easter and Harvest. It was a privilege to have known Barbara, and in our sorrow at losing such a good friend, we can thank God for the life and love she radiated. At this time we send our love and sympathy to Don, Wendy, Lesley, Alison, Simon and all the family that they may know they are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

highest and best in her family life; she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and to visit at home was to share in the joy of her family life, truly a privilege. This great love and concern for others sprang from Barbara's deep Christian faith and commitment. Week by week she would join in worship with her friends at St Peter's and it was that same faith which gave her the strength to face her final illness with such courage. She placed her trust in her risen Lord, and he did not fail her. It was both a poignant reminder and also an affirmation of the faith that sustained and inspired Barbara that the Paschal candle, symbol of the Christian's faith in his risen Lord, stood for her funeral in the corner of the church that she, with her Brownies, had so lovingly decorated every

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CAVERSHAM COURT AROUND 1920

TWO more pictures of Caversham Court, once known as the Old Rectory or Parsonage. They are more of the pictures taken by Miss Arathoon of her family around 1920. Among the previous pictures shown was one thought to be in the walled vegetable garden but a note from Canon Grimwade suggests it could be part of the rose walk in the present Rectory garden which seems to be correct. It obviously got into Miss Arathoon's collection of photos of Caversham Court by mistake.



(Right) A dove-cote once graced the lawn at Caversham Court around 1920. The great yew hedge was then still in its prime.



(Above) Believe it or not, this estate cottage once stood where there is now a small patch of ground before reaching the road at the bottom of St Peter's Hill. How it fitted in the small space is amazing and it seems to have had a flower bed in front of it as well. To the left is part of Caversham Court stables.

GOLDEN WEDDING



— E. S. Archer

MR AND Mrs Gordon 27 Gravel Hill, Emmer Green, overlooking Hemdean Bottom. Mr Page, a Caversham man, has been a member of the choir at St Andrew's and later at St Barnabas. He was also District Warden at St Barnabas for 18 years (1954-72) and from 1972-75 was Parish Warden at St Peter's. Mrs Page lived in Caversham before moving to Devon, and was a member of the Sunday School and choir at St Andrew's. They have one son.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Blagrove WI

A VERY cold day did not stop members from meeting on November 5 at Maple-durham Playing Fields Pavilion. Mrs Muriel Popplewell was in the chair and welcomed a new member, Mrs Ayres. The speaker was Mr Cyril Kirby, who delighted everyone with his slides of "Across Canada" when he and his wife had realised a childhood ambition to see the Rockies. They crossed the continent by train and took in Toronto, Niagara, Winnipeg, Jasper and the wonderful scenery in between. Mrs Dean gave a heartfelt vote of thanks.

The competition for a hand-made tea cosy was won by 1, Mrs Ogden; 2, Mrs Iden; 3, Mrs Housden. Tea and scones rounded off a most pleasant afternoon in spite of the cold outside.

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent welcomed members to the October meeting. After reports of the various activities including a visit to the ballet at Oxford members had the pleasure of another visit from Mr N. Ellingham whose subject was entitled "Out and About in Africa". Mr Ellingham worked in Swaziland for some years, so his commentary with slides was about that country and Rhodesia (as it

was known then). Such spectacular pictures, for instance of the Victoria Falls, etc made the talk a most interesting one.

There was an exhibition of cacti and succulents.

Maplewood WI

AT MAPLEWOOD'S October meeting Mr Cyril Kirby took members on a "Journey of a Lifetime across Canada". In spite of the rain which dogged their footsteps, his large collection of slides illustrated many changes of beautiful scenery from Toronto over the Rocky Mountains to Vancouver. Finally Mr Kirby showed a film with musical background of a visit to the dramatic Niagara Falls.

After tea members discussed the future of Denman College coming sadly to the conclusion that it was very hard to justify the large sum of money needed for its continuance.

The winner of the decorated wooden spoon competition was Mrs Eileen Fenning.

St Peter's Wives' Group

OCTOBER for St Peter's Wives' Group was extremely busy, but proved most successful and rewarding.

On October 8, seventeen members from the Group were entertained by the Mayor

and Mayoress of Reading in the most impressive Mayor's Parlour.

Church House was the venue for an Autumn Fayre on October 12 when members arrived with goodies for sale and had soon set up stalls and tables for the sale of coffee and biscuits. Over £80 was raised.

The third Tuesday in October was the Wives' regular meeting and the thirty-eight members and visitors who attended were treated to an enthralling evening by Barry Wigmore, The Chief Feature Writer of The People. Barry outlined his progress into journalism and the many high spots in an obviously successful and busy career.

The last event on the Wives' programme was also well supported when members, husbands and friends met at Chiltern Chase Lodge at Woodcote. An excellent dinner was followed by a well-received Cabaret provided by Keith Chur-cher. Members had provided the majority of the prizes for a raffle and then generously bought tickets to win them back. The proceeds from this raffle, together with the money from the Autumn Fayre will be donated to charities of the members' choice.

There are two events on the Wives' programme for December. On the 10th, Marie Hyde will be providing the musical fun and entertainment at the Group's Christmas party and on the 17th the members will be out carol singing — the proceeds to be donated to charity.

Emmer Green TG

AT THE October meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild Mrs Noble was the speaker, her subject, Kenneth Grahame, the author of Wind in the Willows. He came as a child to live with his grandmother at Cookham Dean, and even though he later moved to London, he never lost touch with the Thames Valley, visiting Streatley at weekends, and eventually ending his days at Pangbourne. He married and had one son, Alistair, who died tragically at Oxford whilst a student there. Kenneth Grahame left the copyright of Wind in the Willows to the Bodleian, and also left his last home, Church Cottage, Pangbourne, to Oxford University.

The Guild congratulated their Chairman,

Mrs Chamberlain, on winning first prize in a National Competition. She won a Suzuki motor scooter and £200 worth of clothes from Debenhams. The Secretary and Chairman of the Guild enjoyed a delightful evening as guests of Woolworths, to celebrate the opening of the new-style store in Broad Street. They were given a guided tour and then entertained to a delicious buffet supper.

Several members of the Guild attended the Federation Arts and Crafts Show, and were most impressed with the range and standard of work on display.

Chazey WI

THE speaker, Mrs R. Wright, was welcomed by Carole McKevitt. Mrs Wright, herself an active WI member, is at present president of Chazey Down, Ascot. Her obvious fascination with the flora and fauna of Berkshire quickly rubbed off on all the members present. Her enthusiasm was demonstrated with numerous slides of wildlife, much seen in her own garden, and taken by herself, including snakes, lizards, stoats and weasels. Some of her slides of butterflies and moths emerging from their chrysalises were quite delightful and must have required tremendous patience. Virtually all the finch and tit family had, at some time, visited her garden, not to mention the green, spotted and lesser spotted woodpecker. The photography was superb. Finally, there was a great variety of wild flowers, all to be found in Berkshire, and especially its very own Loddon Lily. Chazey were left wondering whether they were very unobservant, or whether Mrs Wright was not only clever, but very lucky.

Caversham Community Association

THE club members enjoyed a meal out when they met for a skittles competition on October 7. Mr Bernard Moring had the highest score and was awarded first prize.

It was the chance for Old Tyme dancing enthusiasts to enjoy themselves the following week when May Plant led the dancers through some of their favourite routines.

At the meeting on October 21 May Plant

was again busy directing the club's Drama group in a repeat performance of the farce "Wedding of the Paper Doll". The comedy was well applauded by the members who had difficulty recognising some of the cast in their amusing costumes and make-up.

The Hallowe'en party which completed the October meetings was the occasion for a visit by Julia Feeney and her School of Dancing. These Irish dancers gave a lively performance, accompanied by their own musicians, and looked attractive in their colourful costumes. Various games were played during the evening and a supper of sausages in bread rolls was served to everyone to complete a pleasant evening.

OBITUARY Gwendoline Beale

JUST as this issue was going to press it was learned with great sadness that Gwendoline Beale had passed away in hospital at Gloucester. Gwen and her husband, Dr Eric Beale, were well known in Caversham and were stalwarts at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, for many years until removing a few years ago to Priors Norton to be near their son and his family.

Gwen was an active member of the Mothers' Union, a founder member of the local Townswomen's Guild and a keen worker in the parish and for St Barnabas Church, and the parish and district will be very saddened by her passing. She will be remembered with affection for all her good works at St Barnabas over many years.

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Oct 13 Gemma Smith, Colin Whitehead
Oct 20 Paul Tarrant
Oct 27
St Andrew's
Oct 13 Helen Reed

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St Peter's
Oct 6 Martin Willis and Abigail
Johnston, Martin Franks and
Caroline Smith
Oct 12 Peter Marchant and Rachael
Gaunt, Michael Williams and
Susan Dabner

Oct 26

Malcolm Frew and Kate-Louise
Wiltshire, Christopher Scott
and Ann Whiting, Ian May and
Helen Russell

St Andrew's

Aug 10

Andrew Vincent and Vivien
Dean
Aug 17 John Sheehan and Denise
Alexander

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Martin

Sept 28

Clive McNelly and Anita Taylor

Oct 12

Kevin Sheldrake and Penelope
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St Andrew's

Sept 17

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Kathleen Hall

Nov 4

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

SOME members may find huge stores such as Savacentre, jointly owned by Sainsbury's and British Home Stores, too large and confusing and consider that good land has been wasted, but at least Mr Selwyn Morgan put forward a case for their existence when he came to the autumn meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in St Andrew's

Hall. It is interesting to note that this store lies outside the borough and is actually attached to Newbury.

One windy afternoon social studies enjoyed an autumn outing to the Mayor's Parlour, where they had a warm welcome. They learnt that the four maidens shown on Reading's coat of arms were maidens who went into Queen Elfrida's

nunnery after the murder of her husband. A reception was given in the Kennet room for the artist John Piper and tapestries designed by him specially for Reading and woven in France adorn the walls. The Mayor is carrying out his avowed intention of attempting to preserve the Abbey ruins. As many people will know a link dating from the end of World War II exists with Dusseldorf.

Mr Nash, chartered civil engineer and head of a group of highly qualified professionals, spoke at the October meeting about the engineering services it provides to all departments of the Council. Areas covered are traffic, highways, street lighting, sewerage, heating, ventilation, structural surveys, disposal of land and promotion of industry. His department helped to create leisure buildings in the South Reading leisure centre. Research was undertaken into the controversial scheme for mini-roundabouts before its introduction, and monitoring continues for two years. Despite lack of funds for roads in general the inner distribution road is being finished in stages, and for car owners other plans are being thought out for Reading.

Living near the old track through Hemdean valley, Mr D. Chandler cares for birds in distress. A mine of information about wild life in general and birds in particular, members of Social Studies were glad to have the chance of a talk with him after seeing many of his slides at the end of October meeting in Highmoor Hall.

POVERTY; Family Breakdown; Crime and Violence; Drugs, Solvent and Alcohol Abuse; Unemployment; Neglect — these are the dangers facing Britain's children today.

The National Children's Home launched its CHILDREN IN DANGER CAMPAIGN this autumn to highlight these dangers. But NCH believes that, given commitment and resources, much can be done to help turn the tide.

NCH today runs sixteen residential care units, seventeen centres for handicapped children, thirty-three family support centres, sixteen treatment centres for children in trouble, three employment training centres and a host of

community, counselling and adolescent projects. Through trained specialists and specially equipped centres, NCH is well qualified to help overcome many of the most basic and threatening dangers to children.

The people of Caversham, Caversham Park Village and Emmer Green recently gave generously to the House to House Appeal and over £2,644 was raised. Sincere thanks are expressed to all who contributed and to those who collected.

Competition Results

MANY thanks to all who "had a go" at the Wind Vane competition in the September issue. The correct answers were:

1. Tudor Cottage, Surley Row.
2. Notley Gate, Church Road.
3. Caversham Library.
4. Inside St Peter's.
5. Highdown School, Walled Garden.
6. Caversham Baptist Free Church.
7. 15 Surley Row.
8. E. P. Collier School.
9. St Peter's.

Three entries were correct, and book tokens go to Helen Morrison, Charlotte Lovie and Barbara Chapman. Congratulations!

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Margaret and Jim Pilgrim, who will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding on Boxing Day. Jim has been on the Board of the Caversham Bridge since its inception, as Treasurer and Secretary and under his guiding hand, the paper has not only remained solvent but has been able to make charitable donations annually. We wish the Pilgrims a happy day on December 26 and many more years of happiness ahead.

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