

# A DAY TO REMEMBER

— Patricia Townsend, Principal of Chiltern Nursery Training College

THE SUN SHONE, everybody smiled happily and suddenly it was Spring. For many weeks preparations had been going on. From the moment HRH The Princess of Wales accepted our invitation to open the new extensions to Chiltern Nursery Training College it was difficult to think of the ordinary day-to-day work of the college, although it was as important as always to give loving care to the children and careful instruction to the students. Our main object was to show Her Royal Highness how our college works and what the training of a Nursery nurse student is all about. Some of the training takes place in Nursery and Primary Schools outside college and some in hospital maternity wards and sick children's wards. On April 25th all our girls were allowed to remain in college. This enabled us to have groups involved in every aspect of training.

We were also able to invite children who do not usually attend Day Care or Nursery School on Friday mornings to play in the garden

and have their view of the Princess. We invited all those people who have given so much to the college in the past. The Principals, now

retired, past Board Members, ex students and neighbours. Staff were able to invite two guests and there were parents of students and children. It was important to share our happiness and the honour bestowed upon us.

### A gift for the Princess

The students who are the most artistic and those who are gifted needlewomen were invited to design and make a wall-hanging that would be both educational and fit for two little Princes. They set to work with a will and spent many hours producing the finished article. All their efforts were rewarded when HRH turned to look at it and with obvious delight said "Oh is that for my boys?"

Staff in every department worked hard to make every-

thing look its best on the day. Students' needlework was displayed in the Lecture room, lovely examples of their art work along with hand-made wooden toys in the art room and lots of the children's projects and art in the Day Care and Nursery School. Maintenance and Domestic staff all worked together to give a clean and bright background to our buildings. Catering staff were eager and willing to comply with special arrangements and make a special picnic meal for the children so that their day would not fall flat after HRH had passed through. The Tutors used all their expertise to assist the students and the Board Members gave their enthusiasm and support to me. The gardener and landscape gardeners worked in snow, mud and rain in order to finish off the planting and paths. The

administration staff were hard pushed to get invitations out in time and parking arrangements made.

We had deputations from the Palace and visits from the Police departments as well as the Central Office of Information. One and all were helpful, friendly and caring. None of us were worried! Well only periodically in the middle of the night...

The only thing that couldn't be arranged was the weather and I need not tell anybody what that was like. It just had to be another one of my "little miracles" and what right had we to that when even the Queen needed an umbrella on her visit to Henley?

### The great day dawns

However, the day dawned, all the security checks were made, all the barriers delivered and put in place. More policemen than I have ever

had the pleasure to entertain before arrived and so did the people. They came from far and wide for that very special day in my life and the life of the college.

The sun shone and we heard the cheers for the approaching cars. It was almost impossible to realise that at last the big moment had come.

The Princess, smiling and relaxed, approached our line of dignitaries and each in turn was presented. Any nerves I may have felt were calmed and there was only pleasure as I accompanied this poised and pretty young Princess round our college. She was so interested in all she saw and so ready to talk to our staff, students and children. Gifts were accepted with pleasure, although it is doubtful that we shall see a necklace made of pasta being worn

for the state occasions. I wonder if the newly made peppermint cream, handed over in a sweet paper by a three-year-old was eaten on the journey home! The Union Jacks were all hand-made of paint and sticky paper. Rather unusual in design but they were red, white and blue.

Flowers came from all sides and cameras clicked.

### Memories

Our plaque was unveiled for all to see and will remain for future generations.

I hope our memories of the happiness will also endure to help us over the more frustrating times.

So many people in this world of ours never have such an opportunity. I want everybody to know how thankful those of us who were here at Chiltern on Friday 25th April 1986 feel.

## Book of the Month

IN BOOK of the Month, presented by "The Puffins" from May 1-3, Bim Halliday, innocent, sweet eighteen in her parents' eyes, reveals that she has written the daringly entitled "Bare Bosom'd Night". Her parents, Edward and Joanna, are first shocked by its "advanced" disclosures, then horrified to find that Bim has based her characters on them and their friends, and finally alarmed that there may be more than a grain of truth in the intrigues in which the characters indulge!

At the end of the first scene Edward and Joanna settle down to read the novel and learn the worst, and the action dissolves into Bim's melodrama, quoted by the Sunday Times as being devoid of any literary qualities whatever but expected to sell like hot cakes.

Bim's starry-eyed romanticism casts herself and her would-be novelist friend Nicholas as characters of suave sophistication. The other characters become larger, and in one case, smaller than life, but in their "real" characters of the first scene they need to indicate subtly the idiosyncrasies that inspired Bim's vivid imagination. This aspect of the play was achieved in large measure in a production that was excellently cast and proceeded effortlessly at a rapid pace.

It is hard to imagine Bim being played more effectively, certainly on the amateur stage, than by Louise Smith. It was a splendid performance by a young actress who has the rare gift of being able to react to the words of her fellow-actors as if she was hearing them for the very first time. Derek Spears captured exactly the changing moods of Nicholas, avuncular towards Bim at the beginning, debonair and dashing in the book scene and humble when he finds that she has succeeded where he has failed. The plumb with which he swept her up in his arms and successfully negotiated a difficult exit was an example of the care taken to ensure the smoothness of the action.

Yvonne Coe as Joanna gave flashes in the first scene of the masterful character which foreshadowed that of the book scene, and she was a joy to watch as she slumped into dejection when she saw her lifestyle threatened by Bim's achievement. Marjorie Tillman, as her sister Marcia, successfully evoked the aloofness which had deterred Dr McClure, played with great integrity by Charles Croft, from declaring his long-felt affection for her.

Tom Chadwick made a splendidly colourful Colonel Barnes-Bradley, but the gusto of his characterisation at the outset

allowed him little scope for heightening it in the book scene. On the other hand Valerie Watts, playing Doris the maid, might perhaps have prepared us with a cheekier air at the beginning for her naughty character apparent in the book scene, which she performed with great relish and effectiveness.

Bim had discerned that her father's strength of character scarcely matched his public image as an MP, and in the book scene he becomes smaller rather than larger than life. He is blinded to events around him by his own self-esteem, and reacts with bathos to the emotions of others. Ken Etherington played Edward Halliday most competently, but a little more exaggeration of his pompous self-assurance in the opening scene might have pointed up the book scene contrast.

The stage team, managed by Betty Price, had produced a splendid set, even if the evidence of her parents bad taste castigated by Bim was a little over-subtle. The costumes were breathtaking and the lighting and sound worked to perfection. It was a production that showed clear evidence of thoughtful direction, intensive rehearsal and painstaking attention to detail. Congratulations to director Jessica Gilbert and all the Puffins.

Martyn Allies.



Cast in action — left to right Charles Croft, Tom Chadwick, Majorie Tillman, Derek Spears, Louise Smith — Photo Ken Tillman



HRH enjoying a visit

— Courtesy Hymor Photographers

D/EX 1758/23/6

# TALKING POINT

Tyrone Clark and Alan Wilson

## Doing a Runner or The 'Oliness of the Long-Distance Runner

THREE members of St John's Church took part in this year's DEC Reading half-marathon as first-timers. Here's how they got on...

The day began at about 7am with a light breakfast, and the quiet 8am communion service at St John's, before the lift to Whitley Wood. There was a place to leave clothing near the start, in numbered black bags; we brought polythene bags of our own and used the dustbin liners provided to put over our tops, keeping out the wind and cold as we were starting. This was the point at which we discovered how many people we know "do the marathon". We also found out that when 7,000 people all take their clothes off, the distinctions and assumptions of ordinary life become rather irrelevant. This sense of common humanity contributed to the tremendous atmosphere at the start, bobbing down Northumberland Avenue.

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We started near the back in the hope that it would be more encouraging to overtake people all the way, than be overtaken! The sheer numbers of bodies in the way slowed us down early on, but we soon established a steady pace that saw us through in under two hours. We have many memories of people on the way — Elgar Road old ladies rhythmically banging their pans in the front gardens, a running policeman complete with truncheon, the face of a wheelchair competitor we passed on Kendrick Road. The highlight was Caversham, where we were cheered right through. It's funny who we noticed and who we didn't in the crowd. Some members of the youth group came along with us, but only for a few hundred yards.

By the time we had reached 10 miles, Mike began to feel the pace, and the others began to employ techniques of abusive encouragement developed during training. By the last stretch we all speeded up naturally, and joined hands to cross the line together. What a feeling!

Was it worth it? We had five months' training (probably too long), in all weathers, including gales, torrential rain, numbing cold, snow and various combinations of these. It was a question of simply getting on with it — we didn't know what the weather was going to be on the day

and playing chicken on any training session only postponed the time we would have to face our reluctance to get up and get going.

The acceptable face of training showed itself at the end of a ten-mile run, with a hot shower at Tyrone's sports club, then pints of orange juice and lemonade in the lounge bar. Orange juice? We convinced ourselves we would have to give something up as a pledge of serious intent, and we chose beer. Subsequent perusal of running enthusiasts' handbooks revealed one expert's opinion that beer "maintains (runners') fluid balance and restores electrolytes such as sodium, potassium and chloride... it does them more good than harm". Would we have gone faster on the booze than off it?

What did it teach us? As a team, we learned the value of helping each other through. Everybody had their own barriers to overcome, but doing it with friends made it easier. People in churches go on about belonging together. If there were real feelings involved, they might be slower to bicker, quarrel and sulk, and quicker to accept that everyone has their own limitations. Working as a team with a real object in view, weaknesses turn out to be much less limiting than we would have found on our own. Then there was that impression of humanity at the start. If PCC meetings always began in the swim (or a sauna!) would they be so deadly?

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What was achieved practically? Over £500 for the Sue Ryder home, with the help of generous friends from all the local churches. Friends at St Anne's were particularly generous. By "local" we mean Caversham and Mapledurham — St Margaret's managed three times as much as St Peter's! It amazed us that this sort of money could be raised by so few so quickly — £4-£5 a minute of running time! If by any chance you wanted to contribute but didn't get round to it at the time, donations are still coming in and it's not too late.

And now? We feel very grateful to everybody who helped. The event seemed to bring out the best and most natural side of people in church. And next year we hope to recruit a team of six or more for the race — and double the money?

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 August issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, July 2.  
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, June 27.

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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Postbag

Dear Sirs

I would like to draw readers' attention to a Magic Show to be held on Friday, May 30 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall, Caversham. Tickets are £1 adult and 75p children. There is a free entry to the painting competition with each child's ticket.

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The Home Counties Magic Society are giving this show in aid of the Parents' Group of CRUSE (Reading Branch). We are part of the National Organisation for the Widowed. The parents' group is newly formed and is running social meetings and outings for one-parent widowed families.

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We will be selling tickets ourselves but may have difficulty in filling the hall with CRUSE members. Any help from outside would be much appreciated. Tickets may be obtained from Church House.

Yours etc

Ann Pickard  
125 Oxford Road  
Reading

Dear Sirs,

What exactly was the point of your editorial "Jesus the Troublemaker" in the April issue? To treat Christ's expulsion of the traders from the temple as an act of civil disobedience is to follow the method of liberation theology which seeks to find a political motivation in Christ's words and actions. We do not find in Christ any denunciation of the political actions of Roman or Jewish authorities. His whole concern is for the liberation of both Jew and Roman from the tyranny of sin.

You imply that the Church is not the ally of law and order and that "our Christian faith is grounded more in the concept of justice". On the contrary the Church has always supported authority (see 1 Pet. 2, 14) and endeavoured to change society from the inside by reconciling man to God; a process which simultaneously leads to the reconciliation of man to man.

Our Christian faith is grounded in love and it is the absence of this which causes the "problem emotions" which you list; a list which should perhaps be headed by envy and lust. And the only violence which the Church would

endorse is that directed against self-love.

I cannot end without some comment on the article by Guy Williams. The Church has always regarded Holy Communion as the Sacrament of Unity — "the bond which binds close the members of the Body". The Body here is the Church — the Mystical Body of Christ, and it would seem obvious to preclude from the sacrament those who do not belong to the visible unity of the Church. Further, the reception of Holy Communion cannot be separated from participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; so how can those who deny the sacrifice receive the sacrament?

Yours, etc  
Frank Sweeney  
152 Galsworthy Drive  
Caversham Park

### Message from Editors:

WE regret that owing to the amount of copy we have received some items have been curtailed and others held over until the next issue.

## WHOLE HEALTH

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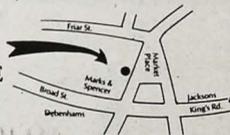
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# KIT IN CAVERSHAM

KATY'S walks around Caversham have long been a popular feature in this paper. Unfortunately "Katy" is still unwell and I am sure all our readers wish "Katy" a speedy recovery.

Rather nervously I shall try to fill the gap. I hope the readers will have patience with me as I set out to explore the by-ways of Caversham and jot down some personal observations.

Every few months Caversham seems to undergo a facelift. New shops appear, some sadly disappear. New people take up posts in our community, whilst others leave. The interminable, but no doubt necessary, road works shatter our nerves and rumours of yet more changes are whispered abroad.

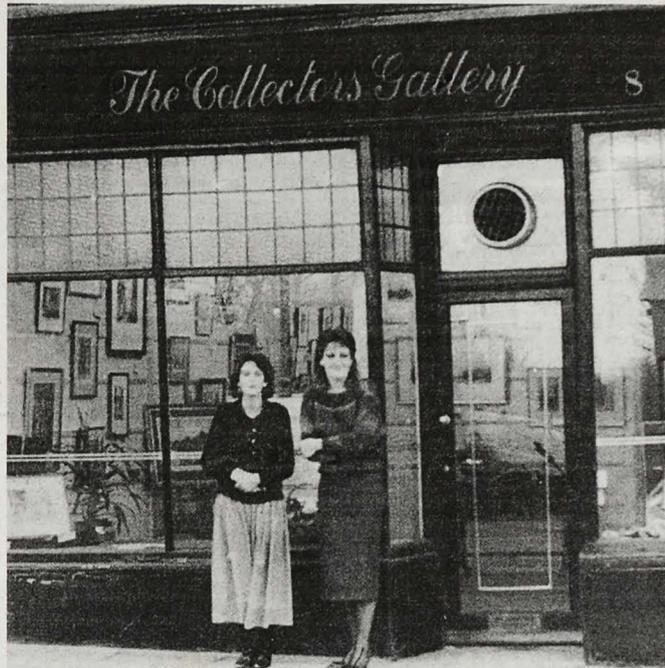


Whatever one's feelings about the defeat of the Shops Bill, which would have allowed Sunday trading, it will have one effect on Caversham even if it is that little will change. We can only imagine what Caversham would have been like on Sundays had the Bill been passed.

To park or not to park

Not least among the changes would have been the problem of parking on a Sunday as well as every other day of the week. By the time this issue of the paper appears, the closing date for comments on the Council's proposals to impose charges on the Chester Street car park, will have passed. But the Council meeting will not have taken place. It is scheduled for June.

Now this really will change the face of Caversham. We can be pretty sure that if one



Helen Snook and Nicky Hales — Collectors Gallery.

E. S. Archer

car park has charges, so will the others. We are all used to parking charges, but £2.50 for just over two hours! Come off it planners! Do you live in the real world of shoppers? A telephone call to Reading Borough offices and I was told the charges were in the interest of shoppers and traders. I would like to meet any trader who finds forking out nearly £1,000 a year per vehicle in his interest. And of course the increase in costs will be passed on to us in increased prices. Is this really in the interest of shoppers? Perhaps the Council just want to kill off Caversham businesses so that we can all savour the pleasures of Reading.

I do agree something has to be done about our car parking problem but pricing

traders out of existence and adding to the shoppers' bills is not the way. I wonder if the readers can come up with any better schemes.

### New and old

Wandering around Caversham and looking at local shops, I notice that congratulations are due to Allnutts. They celebrate their first birthday in Prospect Street this May. Well done! It is difficult to convince people that small stores can compete with the large "multiples". But a browse around Allnutts' kitchen and hardware shops reveals an Aladdin's cave of goodies. What's more it is not all on show, so do ask if you don't see what you want. This is where the small shops score over larger

ones. Often their stock is not as limited as the customer thinks and the shopkeeper is only too happy to spend time to find out what is needed and as a specialist can give advice which will save us money.

On my walkabout I noticed the "nearly new" shop above Just Bikes. I didn't manage a visit — a treat for a future date — but I am sure this will give additional interest to Prospect Street. Nino's Quattro opened last month. Alberto, the chef, is a lively young Italian offering us really delicious genuine Italian fare. Alberto has just come from Italy so his English is pretty limited. He is determined to learn English and is taking daily lessons; Buona fortuna!

A sad note is the

closure of Hackett's music shop. Hackett's has been a feature in Reading since the war. It is always a great pity when a specialist trying to provide a service to a cultural minority finds he or she cannot continue. Let us hope that John can find a suitable outlet for his talents.

Some months ago, after walking my baby by the river, I crossed over from The Crown in Bridge Street, intrigued to see an art gallery in preparation. Now here is a really specialist business. Last November Helen Snook and Nicky Hales opened the showroom and workshops at 8 Bridge Street. They are trained picture restorers and say that many pictures only need a professional clean to bring them back to their original glory. But amateurs beware! Retouching by dabbers can lead to a six month job. The gallery also has pictures for sale from antique water colours and prints to valuable oil paintings.

### A Royal visit

The Chiltern Nurses Training College is a well known establishment in our community. We must congratulate them on their new extension. Many Caversham people, including the children of Caversham Primary, lined the route to welcome Princess Diana when she came to open the new wing. We were all very lucky as this, if you remember, was the first day it seemed for months, that it wasn't either blowing a gale or pouring with rain — well during the royal visit anyway.

Seen slipping "unobserved" into St Peter's Church recently as a wedding guest was Carol Thatcher, daughter of the Prime Minister. The bride (Rosemary Lilley) is Carol's goddaughter, who wed local groom Simon Ambrose. The Rector, who officiated at the ceremony, commented wistfully afterwards that the news of Miss Thatcher's godparenthood of the bride suddenly made him feel "awfully old".

It is reported that

the Premier's daughter occupied the seat usually used on Sundays by Eric and Mary Smith. On hearing who had sat in "his" pew the previous day, the PCC Treasurer, Eric Smith, offered his Sunday-best trousers for immediate auction in aid of church funds.

One final plea — if anyone finds a boomerang in Clayfield Copse Recreation Ground, my son lost it in the trees and would be most grateful for its return c/o Church House — it does have "returning boomerang" written on it.

## CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE

Church House, 59 Church Street

Office open Monday to Friday 9.30am-11.30am. T.N. 483466. Please ring, or call personally, if you need help or information from the many local charitable and caring organisations on the LINK GROUP files, or, if you need assistance from the CAVERSHAM BRIDGE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME, who will:

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HEADMISTRESS MRS M. K. RALPH

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## Caversham Diary

WE ARE hoping to make a regular feature of this new item, whereby coming events in Caversham can be more widely publicised. The last date for copy to be received for future events is always at the bottom of page 2. We are offering a free insertion which will give basic details. If larger space is required, charitable organisations will be asked to pay half the cost of the advertising space. Please use this new facility!

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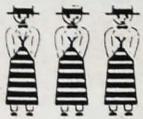
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(Peace and love be always with you)

but a lot more work needs to be done.

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IN June 1985, I left the Parish of Caversham and Mapledurham to go to what would be my local church for the next six months. A journey that first took me to Paris and then Brazil before my arrival in Argentina. The preparation and journey were complicated by the fact that the country I was to visit does not have diplomatic relations with the UK. I had approached the Revd Richard Kingsbury, the Rector of my Parish, and he put me in contact with the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel — USPG in London. After a preliminary meeting with the Revd Philip Wetherell of USPG, I was accepted for their experience exchange programme and was to be sent to the Diocese of Argentina and Eastern South America.

#### Meeting the people

For an opportunity to meet people, I travelled by bus from Sao Paulo, Brazil to Buenos Aires — BA, a total time of forty hours. This was also a chance to see more of the countryside which changed from the smog around Sao Paulo through craggy coastline to flat marshy ground before reaching BA. I was to stay one week in this capital city with the Bishop, the Rt Rev Richard Cutts and his family before going up to the mountains north of Cordoba. While in BA I helped at one of the Guarderias where mothers can leave their children for the day while they go out to work.

In many cases the father is no longer with the family so when I was at the Guardia all the children were following me everywhere which made it a little difficult to feed them at lunch time.

My first week in BA passed too quickly, and then it was on to an overnight bus for the twelve or more hours bus ride to Los Cocos in the Sierras de Cordoba.

Once at the centre it was very easy to see why it is the Diocesan Retreat and Conference Centre and one is reminded of Mark ch. 6. v 31: And Jesus turning into the hills said 'Come away with me and rest awhile'.

#### The Ministry

The Rector of the Allen Gardiner memorial chapel and surrounding mountains of Cordoba is an Episcopalian from Denver, Colorado, in the United States. The Rev. Randall Lyle, his wife Karla, and their three children, had been there just a year and I was to work with them for six months. During this time, I was chalice bearer on Sundays and led Morning Prayer when there were no priest available. There was also a



Charles Ingham

Youth Camp made up of two English schools in the area and I did some work with them as well as teaching during the week at the Girls' School. This was one of the surprises, to find so many English and Anglo-Argentines living in this area. Again the impression of a by-gone age which all the locals, known as the Ancient Britons, manage to maintain. Many of the families have strong links with the UK and former colonies; and it was

through the Bishop's friendship that one Sunday in August the Celebrant was the Archbishop of Cape Town.

The British are very much in the minority and in answer to many people's questions, I found no resentment towards the British after the Falklands/Malvinas. Even when I had time to travel, people were interested but never threatening. I believe this was in part due to the change from a military to an elected civilian government.

#### A Northern visit

The centre used to be an orphanage and then it was used occasionally for 'camps'. Randall is the first priest to live in the Rectory attached to the centre for several years. In consequence, the grounds and buildings had deteriorated and there was a considerable amount of cleaning to be done. The centre was functional for the first camp in December

I left Los Cocos after the second camp and returned to Caversham at the end of January. Before leaving Argentina, I was able to travel to the Northern Diocese in Salta and meet the Primate of the Southern Cone, Bishop David Leake. Here there is a noticeably different approach in Ministry. This is in part due to the geographic location and the supportive organisations. The Northern Diocese is supported by SAMS — the South American Missionary Society whereas the Southern is supported by USPG. In the North there are many small Indian villages and towns great distances apart and there is a Non-Stipendiary Minister in many of these towns and larger villages. Whilst in the South, there are a few cities and large towns with a full-time priest.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to St Andrew's and St Peter's for their support of this project.



Children from Buenos Aires Guardia

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(Parish Office: Monday - Thursday 9.30-12.30. Tel: 471703).

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

The Rev Adrian Dorber, 33 Grove Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 473095.

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

The Rev Tony Dalton, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel: 472788

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

#### BAPTIST

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

#### METHODIST

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

#### UNITED REFORMED

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

#### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

## Public Notice

ST Martin's Precinct is to get its public noticeboard after all and neither the Borough Council nor Caversham Residents' Association will have to pay a rent, for St Martin's Property Corporation have after all decided to let it occupy its site rent free. When Caversham Residents' Association wrote to the Corporation, offering to pay the rent, provided it was reasonable (as they pointed out, their income was rather less than St Martin's), St Martin's were moved to look up their correspondence on general care of the precinct over the years, where they found that they had indeed, in a rush of blood to the head, committed themselves to what they refer to as "a healthy relationship with local residents" or "keep the natives happy" in other words.

So, all you organisers of local

events, there should soon be a nice new noticeboard there. Use it instead of the trees, which are happier if pins are not stuck into their bark, and remember to take down your notices once they are out of date.

The new oak tree has been taking rather a long time to materialise. When I wrote last month's column I assumed that by the time it appeared in print the hole, which had already been there for some time, would contain a tree. Perhaps by the time you read these words it will contain a tree.

## Trees lost and replaced

The Borough Council seems to have got the message that its drastic tree removal pro-

gramme was not popular and appears to be modifying its plans to fell every other tree in designated streets of the town, in favour of a less drastic replacement time table.



Meetings are currently taking place with residents in affected streets. As far as can be gathered, most people like their trees, though the occasional voice can be heard complaining that they are nasty things that drop leaves and make the place look untidy.

Urban trees however are not the only ones at risk. Sadly a felling scheme at Mapledurham means that the whole of Barldolph Wood, apart from the odd yew grove, has disappeared. Trees of course are not immortal and as a crop are eventually harvested, but all the same it is sad to think that for all but the youngest, never more shall we see that hill clad with delicate beechen green in Springtime and with glorious copper tones in Autumn. There has been replanting with five thousand trees, some of them fast growing, though deciduous, such as mountain ash, but even so, for most of us that hill will be bare or nearly bare for the greater part of our mortal days.

## Fears of urban spread

Fears that the beauties of South Oxfordshire, of which of course Mapledurham is a part, would be lost, were the main plank in the platform of those opposing Berkshire's proposals to extend its boundaries into Oxfordshire, when representatives of both Councils came to put their case at the Annual Meeting of Caversham Residents' Association. Berkshire, not unnaturally, protested that they had no intention of allowing such a thing to happen, pointing out that pressures on them Department of the Environment, that they resisted them as far as was possible and would follow Oxfordshire's policy of restraint if the five parishes came with Berkshire. Oxfordshire was not convinced by this argument; an urban council was experienced in managing an urban area and a rural one in managing a rural area. Yet if the parishes were attached to Newbury or Wokingham instead of Reading, any so-called advantages in bringing them within the "travel to work area" would be lost. A show of hands overwhelmingly favoured Oxford's cause and the general feeling was that any anomalies that exist could be ironed out by a little co-operation.

## Another success

Hemdean House School chalked up another success when one of their pupils, thirteen year old Cheryl Mcleary of St David's Close, won a star award for the best entry in a project competition run by the British Trades' Alphabet, which involves entrants doing their own research into a subject related to the alphabet. Cheryl's geography teacher says her work was very well researched and beautifully presented. Her award was £100 worth of savings certificates and the school received £160 worth. Cheryl, as befits a canny Scots girl, is investing her money so that she will have a useful sum by the time she is ready for further education. The school is considering buying a weather vane with part of its money, partly as an attractive reminder of Cheryl's success and partly so that girls studying geography need no longer wet their fingers and hold them up to complete their daily weather record.

Caversham has another weather vane with Hemdean House connections, on the edge of Chester Street car park. It carries the initials F.K., standing for Francis

Knighton who founded both Hemdean House School and Caversham Academy for Boys, which stood where

St Martin's Precinct now is, but had some of its classrooms in the building now used as the men's club. Which takes me back to the beginning of this article as the Holm Oak, which the new English Oak is to replace, was once in Francis Knighton's garden.



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## THE READING AND DISTRICT HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

THE Reading and District Home Physiotherapy Service held its Annual General Meeting recently in Caversham. The Service was set up to bring physiotherapy to those patients for whom attendance at hospital is not practicable, who cannot afford private physiotherapy and where home treatment is not covered by the NHS physiotherapists. The services of fully qualified physiotherapists are used and patients must be referred by their GP.

This Home Physiotherapy Service is a registered charity and relies on voluntary donations to maintain it. Some patients are able to make donations toward the cost of their treatment but no-one is refused treatment because they cannot afford to contribute.

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL

Easter is, or course, our most joyful celebration as Christians! Although meeting together on Good Friday is a solemn reminder of the sacrificial death of Jesus, it is impossible to remain solemn for long, as Jesus IS alive and reigning each day of our lives.

It was very much with this anticipation of the resurrection that we met in the Chapel on Good Friday, for a short service. It was a "family" affair, whilst Easter Sunday is often more the time for visitors. We broke bread together, reminding ourselves that Jesus died for each one of us personally.

"He's alive, He's alive, He has risen! Hallelujah! These words were so much on our hearts and minds over Easter, especially when we met at the Hill Primary School for the Easter Sunday celebrations. It was lovely to have so many visitors from far and near joining with us. We were reminded of the unshakeable facts of Jesus' resurrection and of how that same

Jesus has the right to rule and reign in our lives.

### "The Nations for Christ"

During mid-April the Reading and District Evangelical Fellowship organised a three day event to reach and stimulate the minds of every evangelical Christian in Reading.

On Thursday a leaders' seminar attracted Church leaders from fourteen local churches. During this whole day event they heard from such men as John Arkell (British Director of Campus Crusade for Christ) and Patrick Johnstone (author of "Operation World"). Whilst this was in progress a good number of ladies met with Jackie Tatum (of WEC International) who spoke on "Join the action and change the world." This was a very challenging meeting for those involved, as we were reminded of the amazing power of prayer.

In the evening Patrick Johnstone shared

something of the progress of world evangelisation. Did you know that most of the world's Christians now live in the east rather than the west? Or that South American Christians now look on Europe as their mission field? A sobering thought.

Friday was a day for the sixteen to thirty age group, followed by a family day on Saturday. Those involved found it informative, challenging and exciting. The time when every "people" has been reached with the Gospel is withing sight. Once that has happened we can look forward to the return of Jesus!

## ST JOHN'S NOTES

Congratulations to Mike Butler, Tyrone Clark and Alan Wilson on finishing the Reading Half Marathon Run, in under two hours, and on the perseverance and self discipline that kept them training for so many months. They have raised over £500 for the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed.

On Wednesday March 26th the 3rd Caversham (St John's) Brownies celebrated their Pack's twenty-fifth birthday. They invited parents and friends, Mrs Helen Holloway District Commissioner, Miss Shirley Brown, an old friend from many Pack Holidays, and Marilyn Rogers, St John's Guider. The

## 75 HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY FOR ST ANDREW'S

"Happy Birthday to all of St Andrew's Family" was the greeting of Fr. Tony to all those gathered for a Mass Thanksgiving on the 75th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, on the evening of April 29.

Fr. Derek Eastman, a former Priest-in-charge and Canon of Windsor, was the preacher. His role, he explained, was "to provide a window into the Past, in order to give Hope for the Future". He drew a picture of the "tall awesome figure of Fr. Brancker" who was in charge of St. Andrew's at its dedication in 1911. He

Brownies played games from many countries, Tawny and her husband produced "eats" from four different countries, and a Brownie Mum had made a birthday cake. Mrs Holloway presented the Pack with an autograph album to collect the names of Brownies in the next quarter century. A Brownie of twenty-five years ago sent them a letter of congratulations. The Brownies gave Brown Owl a ceramic owl and all St John's congregation add heartfelt thanks and congratulations to her for her hard work and dedication. The Brownies and guests went home saying "We enjoyed it" and "I'll remember this evening for a long time."

described the evangelistic Mission which was a highlight of his own ministry; and he brought love from "Auntie Gee", the nonagenarian lady for so many years a source of affection and encouragement for fellow-members of the congregation, and who is now in retirement near his own retirement home in Dorset.

There had been "gaps" in the ministry of the Church thirty years ago. Some, like Stewardship, had now been filled. But the Church still lacked adoration of Christ as Lord and Servant of all."

The choir sustained the reputation of St. Andrew's for good music and David Sidwell brought out the best from the organ, whose newly installed mixture stop enhances its sparkling tone. Ann Gray and her Flower Artists added beauty to the occasion also.

After Mass in the Hall, the congregation made short work of a marvelous spread of food delicacies, including a beautifully decorated birthday cake made by Jane Steer and iced by Jean Hazel. This birthday supper was organised by Sylvia Cooper and friends.

Now the St. Andrew's Family girls its celebratory loins for the Flower Festival and Summer Fete, scheduled for the weekend of June 20-22, when it looks forward to welcoming lots of visitors.

## ST ANNE'S NEWS

After many delays, building work has started on St Anne's Church, and it is a very tantalising affair. Every Sunday a screen placed behind the temporary altar arrangement hides from our view the progress that may be supposed to have taken place during the preceding week. All we have been vouchsafed a glimpse of so far is the new lighting, which does indeed seem a great improvement. But progress has also been accompanied by unwelcome

revelations. Inspection of the roof revealed (to those competent to judge the situation) that to avoid horrendous problems with damp in the future, we have no option but to have the present roof stripped of all its tiles then have bituminous felt battened down to the existing wooden shell and have new tiles pinned to this, all for an extra £9,000. Recovering from the initial shock, we are looking once more for ways and means.

## GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

Easter and the assurance of His resurrection has once again been brought home to us in the fellowship of moving united services shared with friends in the Caversham churches. Caversham is very special in this way and we say thank you for that.

The Church at Gosbrook Road has had visits from an abundance of Service Chaplains during April. We were very privileged to meet again Rev Major Joe Miller, Chaplain to the United States Army stationed in Germany. Major Miller led a mid-week meeting and had everyone sitting on the edge of their seats as he retold an old bible story. The bible really came to life and it was a joy to be present.

The Home Missions Anniversary this year was a great success and thanks must go to Brian & Joy Bosier for arranging the weekend. A Saturday

lunch was organised, and the Rev. Peter Bayley, who is Chaplain to Arborfield, was the guest speaker. On the Sunday the Rev. Irving Vincent, senior free church Chaplain to the Royal Navy, led the services.

The Ambassadors held a successful dinner dance on April 19 and over £400 was raised for Band Funds. Thanks are due to the organisers.

Congratulations to Gisela Keating who celebrated her 21st birthday on April 23. Happy Birthday!

Silchester was the secret venue for the Church treasure hunt-cum-car rally on Sunday, April 27. 60 people set off from Gosbrook Road at 2pm. By 5pm all but a few stragglers had deciphered the clues and found their way to Silchester Methodist Church for tea. The evening service was led by Rev Brian Skinner and friends from both churches enjoyed the fellowship and coming together of the two congregations.

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## ALL TOGETHER OPEN-AIR!

All Anglican churches on Sunday, June 8 in the Reading area will not be holding normal services! The reason? It's a special day for the Deanery — an OPEN-AIR EUCHARIST at 10.00am in the abbey ruins of St Laurence, Reading, when the Bishop of Reading will preside. In Caversham this means that the normal 8.00am Holy Communion and 6.30pm Evensong services will happen, but there will be no other morning services in the Anglican churches. It is hoped that our morning congregations will make their way to join this great Eucharistic jamboree in sunshine!

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

**AMONGST FRIENDS!  
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MAYORESS  
VISIT ST. ANDREW'S  
FELLOWSHIP**



The Mayor of Reading (Councillor Brian Fowles) addressing St Andrew's Fellowship.

The Mayor of Reading (Councillor Brian Fowles) accompanied by his wife addressed the April meeting of St Andrew's Fellowship.

He spoke of the history of Reading and described some highlights of the Mayoral year.

He brought with him a large facsimile of the Arms of the Borough "because they tell us a lot about how Reading developed." Featured

are Queen Elfrida and the four local "merry maidens" who accompanied her into the Reading Nunnery nearly 1,000 years ago; the initials 'R.E.' — Queen Elizabeth I gave the Borough its Charter in 1559; the silver ram "supporters" indicated Reading's early prosperity in the wool trade; and the Abbot's mitre on top reminded us of Reading's former importance as a religious centre.

## Awash with Baptists!

by  
**Ken Shield**

Interested in rare sightings? Don't worry if you missed Halley's Comet earlier this year — in June you will have the opportunity to spot an even rarer phenomenon when the Berkshire Baptist Association holds its Annual Assembly in Caversham. The first recorded Assembly was in 1652 (just four years before Halley was born!) and although it has met annually ever since, its first recorded sighting in Caversham was in June 1959 when our good friend, Pastor Leslie Wyeth, was installed as President. Now 27 years later Caversham is again the venue for the 334 Annual Assembly, marking the close of the Rev Dennis Weller's Presidential year. So, on Saturday, June 14, watch out — Caversham will be awash with Baptists when over 250 delegates from all over Berkshire will be converging on the Baptist Free Church!

□□  
□□

What is it all about? Unlike most Christian denominations the Baptist Church is a "grass roots" movement. In other words, each church is independent, and the ruling body is the Church Meeting, usually held monthly, when the members meet together to conduct the business of the Church, seeking the guidance of God in prayer. The business will include the election of a lay leader or secretary and a treas-

urer (both annual appointments) and a number of other leaders or Deacons. It is the Church Meeting which also "calls" a minister and this requires near unanimity from the members. In the same way, Baptist Churches in an area combine to form a County Association and will meet in an Annual Assembly. They will seek God's guidance as they conduct their business, elect their officers and spokesmen and also appoint representative delegates to the National Baptist Union Council which has its headquarters in London.

□□  
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The 250 or so delegates will be representing a Baptist "family" of about 9,000 in Berkshire, worshipping in 46 churches. Some of the churches, like Abbey in Reading or Newbury go back to 1640, but the majority have been established since 1800. The Berkshire Assembly was one of the earliest to be set up in England, and at the first meeting three churches were represented, Reading, Abingdon and Henley. The minutes of that first Berks Baptist Assembly in October 1652 record that the Assembly had three purposes — "to hold a firm communion with each other in point of advice in doubtful matters and controversy," "in giving and receiving in case of want and poverty" and "in consulting and consenting to ye carrying on of the work of God." Religious toleration was unknown, Roundhead and Cavalier were deadly enemies and delegates to that Assembly lived in peril of their lives. They met at Wormsley, a remote mansion just north of Henley under the protection of Col. Adrian Scrope, one of Cromwell's generals. For the record, when the monarchy was restored in 1660, Scrope was hung, drawn and quartered — a fate which we hope our present B.B.A. leaders will manage to avoid!

The B.B.A. on June 14 will still be meeting for the same three reasons. The Baptist family is growing fast, and in the last 12 months, under the Rev Dennis Weller's presidency, four

brand-new Churches have been "planted", in Basingstoke, Frimley, Thatcham and Woodley, with a £250,000 appeal to all 46 churches well under way to pay for the buildings. After the traditional roll call of the churches, the new president, Mrs Joan Morris (of Wycliffe Baptist Church, Reading) will be inducted and give her presidential address during a service of worship and communion. The assembly will then receive reports from the association pastor/secretary and the treasurer, consider applications for membership from new churches, review the work of home and overseas missions and the four churches appeal, and elect officers and delegates. There will be a special focus this year on missionary work and care for the community. The assembly will close with a rally led by Mrs Morris's son, the Rev David Morris, who is minister of the big Baptist Church immediately opposite the Headingley Test ground in Leeds.

□□  
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Caversham will really be overflowing — lunch will overflow into the Arthur Legge Centre, car parking will overflow into St Anne's RC School playground (thank you for a nice ecumenical gesture!) and between sessions the delegates will overflow everywhere. Just make sure your wellies are in good shape!

## ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION

April was a very eventful month for everyone. At the afternoon meeting Mrs Benstead gave a very interesting talk on "Preparing for a Flower Festival" from the Christian viewpoint and demonstrated how to make a "Pew end." At the evening meeting Mr W. A. Vincent transported members to the Holy Land with a vivid account of his visit last year which he illustrated with slides.

The Annual Deanery Festival was held at Christ Church and during the Eucharist the new Deanery Presiding Member was commissioned. At this service all the Mothers' Union branches in the deanery come together for a

united act of worship and a representative from each branch carries the branch banner in procession which is a very impressive sight. Three St Andrew's members also belong to the Deanery Choir which enhances the music on these occasions.

The new venture of "Tea on Sunday" was well supported, the weather was cold and wet but the atmosphere in the hall was very warm and friendly. On parting all guests said they were looking forward to the next time. Mothers' Union members also look forward to the monthly "Tea on Sunday" and hope that they will welcome more people to afternoon tea as time goes on.

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**ROUND THE CHURCHES**

**A DAY BEFORE ALL DAYS  
IN WHICH TO FOLLOW CHRIST**

EACH Good Friday in Jerusalem crowds and crowds of Christians walk along the route which Jesus would have followed on his way to the cross. At a number of points (called "stations") they stop and pray. It was the followers of St Francis, the same people who thought of having a Christmas crib, who began to do the same thing wherever they were in their own churches. Many readers will be familiar with the fourteen stations of the cross which have become traditional around the walls of many of our churches.

Each Good Friday in Caversham young people in the Anglican parish have got used to different activities. There have been long walks carrying a cross. There have been events for children in St John's. This year all these ideas came together and a Way of the Cross was organised in St John's by people from all six of our churches. It took the three hours of the traditional three hour service. The three hours which St Mark tells us that darkness

covered the face of the earth.

First arrivals and games. We found we had over a hundred children on our hands! We broke for lunch, sharing what everybody had brought and being warmed by soup still hot after a trip from King's Road. Then we set to work to prepare our own stations of the cross. The youngest children were in the choir and sanctuary preparing an Easter garden. The butterflies they put on the walls were still there on Easter morning for the normal congregation to enjoy. Next to them some older children prepared the drama of Jesus's trial which they were going to act out at the beginning of our service. Others put up collages at their own stations. One represented those who helped Jesus on his way and they included a Dad and a nurse as well. Another showed places where there was suffering in the

world. They thought of what we could do about these, and what God does. Another group thought particularly about Jesus falling on the way which they were to act out. The oldest children set to work preparing the front page for the night's "Judea Evening Post", which was "published" at the end of the event so that everybody had a copy to take home.

Each of the six groups was organised by one of the churches. Every child had taken some part in preparing what was to follow. We were introduced to the songs we were going to use and we were off! We saw Jesus at his trial (Pilate in the pulpit!) and taking his cross. We followed the stations around, singing "Travel On" and "The Journey of Life" and having a prayer at each stopping point. When we came to the font we were all sprinkled with water (we were told that this was to remind us that we had

been baptised and belonged to God!), singing "Jesus we place into your hands". When we came to the altar in the side chapel we ate Hot Cross buns, miraculously produced hot at just the right moment by one of the St John's mums, and sang "Were You There?". We finished in the Easter garden where Jesus was lain waiting for Easter morning. Here we were all given a little Easter egg and told why we had eggs at Easter. We sang of

Easter, said a final prayer and armed with the "Judea Evening Post" we rushed off home...

P.S. An hour later the church looked almost as if nothing had happened. An enormous "thank you" to the large number of people who did something to contribute to the day. There is no day in the year quite like it. A blessing on all those who try to bring it alive for all the members of the church both young and old.

**SPRING HARVEST** by Debbie Bartley

On Saturday, 29th March I set off from Emmer Green at 7.30am and caught the bus into Reading, on the first leg of my journey to Wales, to the famous seaside resort of Prestatyn. This turned out to be a fantastic week's holiday, not

in some luxury hotel, nor on a camping site, but in the chalets at Pontins holiday camp, along with about four thousand other Spring Harvesters. There were seven in our group, only one of whom I knew, and we had two adjoining chalets. The others all proved to be a great bunch and we had a lively time together.

On arriving at Prestatyn we were immediately welcomed and given various newsletters to keep us up to date. This was my first experience of a "Christian holiday-cum-conference," and one I'd thoroughly recommend to anyone. I think we were all a bit dubious about spending our holiday time going to seminars, bible studies and celebrations every day, but they were so enjoyable and generally entertaining that the time went all too quickly.

Spring Harvest is an event for all the family. The younger children were looked after by trained staff with more organised activities for all age groups splits between five and fifteen years — workshops, quizzes, aerobics, puppets, drama, children's theatre, etc.

As well as the study and worship there were also multimedia mega shows, pop mobility, late-night chat shows, It's

a knockout, swimming, canoeing and a sixteen-hour plus TV network with TVs in all chalets.

During the worship and teaching we were all one body. It didn't matter whether you were Baptist, Catholic or Methodist, strait laced or spirit filled, everyone joined in enthusiastically — barriers were pulled down and very few people left without feeling more humble and with a more intimate relationship with God. We learned so much about ourselves and each other. The prayer and preparation over the previous year by all the organisers resulted in a successful Spring Harvest.

After that very refreshing break I now feel prepared to go back into the battle of daily life. Armed with my seminar notes, songbook, music cassettes and memories — and hopefully filled with a new zest — I want to share all that I learned.

★ ★ ★

Debbie Bartley is a pupil at St Martin's School in Caversham Park. After a very successful ecumenical Lenten study group in Caversham Park, both the Anglican and Catholic churches have joined for weekly bible study on Thursday afternoons.

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## FORWARD TO '87

Thank you, Caversham, for turning out on a cold day, April 6, to cheer the runners in the Reading half-marathon. At the front this year we were privileged to have a very good-class field and the winner, Paul Davies-Hale, will soon be a very big name on the athletics scene. An international steeplechaser, he is now concentrating more on the road where he already holds the world record for 12 kilometres. Watch out for him in the future. We had a hat-trick of records with

Mike Bishop in the wheelchair and Anne Ford in the women's race also breaking their respective records.

In the London marathon two weeks later many of our successful competitors proved their quality by being highly placed in this race. In particular, Anne Ford was the third woman in London and Mike Bishop was second wheelchair finisher. Also in a wheelchair, Peter Hull, who has no limbs, completed the London course in a

personal best of under four hours. This was a particularly notable achievement in such appalling conditions.

Among other runners prominent in our race was Philip O'Brien, who finished third in 64 minutes 10 seconds at Reading and achieved a personal best for the full marathon in London in just over 2 hours 14 seconds.

As always, in a mass running event, a number of people who had entered the half-marathon didn't run on the day, but in one age group there was a 100 per cent turnout. Yes, it was the stronger sex — the women over 55 — ten entered, ten ran and finished, the winner in just over 1 hour 40 minutes. If they can do it, so can you! Start training now for 1987...

## CAVERSHAM WEST BOYS CLUB

by Malcolm Gray

ROBERT Powell will have good cause to remember the Caversham West Boys' Club 1986 Finals Night, held recently at the Club's Kiln Road Headquarters. He was successful in three of the five finals. This was one more victory than he had achieved in last year's finals and a record for the Club tournaments.

Contrasting this success was the fate of the two Brown brothers. Chris made it to three finals and David the other two but neither of them was able to win one.

In addition to Robert Powell's victories there were wins for Simon Lovegrove in the Billiards final and for Mark Lewington who retained the Darts Championship.

Refreshments were provided for players, parents and supporters by the Management Committee and an enjoyable evening was had by all. The trophies and medals were presented at the end of the evening by Ray Tapken, the Berkshire Association of Boys Clubs' Organising Secretary, who

praised all those taking part for producing some fine performances.

★ ★ ★

During the Easter break a small party from the Club spent some time cycling around West Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. Based at the Leckhampstead Countryside Centre, trips were made to Lambourn, with its horse racing connections, to Wantage, birth place of the legendary King Alfred the Great, and to the many historic sites around the White Horse Hill, including a climb up the hill itself.

★ ★ ★

The Boys Club now looks forward to an interesting summer season with various events already planned, culminating with the Club's annual summer holiday. This year we are visiting South Wales. New members are always welcome at the Club and further details can be obtained from Malcolm Gray on 479560 or look at the notice in Caversham Library.

## Caversham Christian News Ltd

AT ITS Annual General Meeting on May 14, the Board of Directors of this newspaper were happy to make the following donations from the profit made during the year.

£100 to Caversham Care Centre.

£150 to HEED (Health, Education and Economic Development). This is specifically to replace sewing machines (essential for women's work) lost in a serious fire at a Bihari refugee camp in Dacca, Bangladesh. Sally-Anne Ousley from Caversham is at present working in the area.

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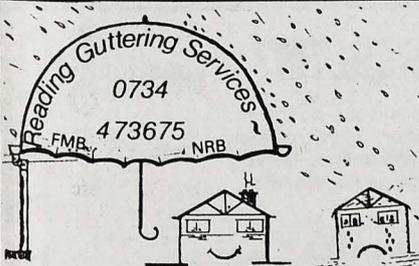
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## Nabisco family fun run

IF you have just started running or feel inspired to start after Reading and London then why not go along to Prospect Park in Reading on Sunday, June 8, and join in the family fun-runs. There will be races over a two-mile course for all age groups from 15 to over 65 and for younger age groups there will be distances of a half-mile and one mile. A large number of people are already entered and the youngest participants are only 2½ years old while the oldest are over 65 years old.

The day will be part of the West Reading Festival and there will be bands, refreshments and entertainments as well as the running. The whole day is in aid of Radio 210's Give a Child a Chance appeal. The cost of entering is £1 for adults and 50p for children and all will receive a souvenir mug and special badge based on performance. See you there!

## LINK GROUP

A meeting was held on April 28 at the home of Mrs Mary Dennes. The meeting opened with a talk by Mr Boulton of the Berks and Oxon Phobic Trust. This is an organisation set up to alleviate the suffering caused by the many different phobias and works towards eventual cure. There are nearly 300 different phobias and it is estimated that 4½ million people in the United Kingdom are sufferers, with agoraphobia the most common. This means that they cannot leave their homes and Mr Boulton spends a lot of time either visiting or speaking on the telephone as talking about any phobia is the main help in easing tension. Self-help discussion groups are also used when possible. The speaker runs this group on his own with little financial help and is finding it increasingly difficult to meet all costs.

The group then discussed the recent sale and the distribution of the money raised. It was agreed that money should be sent to Mr Boulton of the Phobic Trust and a new refrigerator bought for the Priest Hill House. Other gifts are still to be arranged.

Mrs Doreen Bennett told members that the anniversary meeting of the Care Centre would be held at Church House on May 22 at 8pm.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ST PETER'S DAY

Sunday, June 29

Preacher at 9.15am Eucharist  
Canon Brian Brindley

Special St Andrew's 75th Anniversary events  
June 7: Farmhouse Supper, St Andrew's Hall. Tickets £2. Homespun entertainment.

June 21: Summer Fete in aid of the Organ Fund.

June 20-22: Flower Festival with Organ Music.

June 22: Holy Eucharist 9.15am. Rev Roger Packer.

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

Flower Festival

June 21: 10am to 8pm

June 22: 10am to 7pm

St Barnabas' Patronal Festival

June 11

St John's Patronal Festival

June 24

## WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

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The twenty-four members of the Council are drawn from local authorities, voluntary organisations and other sections of the community. They form an experienced independent group, representing your health care interests.

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

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

## Rosehill WI

ON April 2 the meeting was chaired by Miss Vincent with the new Committee. After the usual business and arrangements for sum-

mer programmes there was a very good speaker. Mrs Ludmilla Burt, the daughter-in-law of a member, talked about Everyday Life in Moscow, assisted by her husband showing slides. She kept members

interested with her descriptions of housing, shopping, cultural activities etc. The snowy scenes were beautiful and the buildings surprisingly lovely. She answered more questions at the end. An exhibition of members' various hobbies and interests was very well supported.

## Caversham Darby and Joan Club

MEMBERS have enjoyed talks on a wide variety of subjects over the last few weeks. Miss Tyler's cruise to New York on the QE II, with a flight back on Concorde was recounted with such great wit and skill it caused much laughter and interest. The beautiful slides of Round Britain shown by Mr Kirby in March made us anticipate our holidays with greater relish. On a subject nearer home Mr Moss came for a second visit to show more of his excellent slides of Old Reading. As the Darby and Joan Clubs belong to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service organisation we welcomed a visit from the District Organiser Mrs Evelyn Boot. Members listened with interest to the amusing anecdotes and information she gave on the work of the Service in so many different fields. When he came to the Club on April 23 (St George's Day) the Rev Peter Mullins appropriately informed and entertained us with numerous stories about the Saints.

national network covering 28 different countries. Mr Booth said that as an environmental pressure group they want people to enjoy the same standards as at present, but not to go too quickly into the future without first having a natural regard for the world in which we live. Using coal and oil is preferable to nuclear power.

There are problems of pollution, endangered species, increasing population and less agricultural land, not much heeded by government or big business. The video shown drew attention to the creation of acid rain which affects lakes, fish, wells and trees, also erodes stonework. He stressed that cleaning up of emissions could be done at power stations and catalytic converters used in exhaust pipes. He wanted people to react to what worried them and to keep areas round Reading green.

two of his grandchildren. The Mayoress, Mrs Fowles, was also present together with Mr Jones, the Borough Recreation Officer, Mr Gillespie his Deputy and Mr Wilton of the Parks Department. Refreshments were provided after the ceremony by the Chazey Women's Institute.

### Dogs

A number of complaints have been received of dogs fouling football and cricket pitches and the land around the play area. Dog walkers are urged to do all they can to avoid this nuisance and to keep their dogs to the perimeter of the field.

## The National Council of Women of Great Britain - Kennet

A prospective member was welcomed to the April meeting in a member's home. The evening started with general business including arrangements for the Triennial Conference of the International Council of Women to be held in London at the end of the month, and suggestions and menu for the Kennet Branch biennial Supper Party at Henley in July. Mrs Judy Warwick then spoke on the Cromer Report on Food Additives which provoked much lively discussion.

After a break for coffee and biscuits the meeting finished by selecting eight Resolutions for the Annual Conference to be held in London later this year. A very varied and interesting meeting and if you would like to come along and join the members, phone Vicky on Pangbourne 3260.

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## Chazey WI

DID you know that there are over seven thousand named varieties of fuchsia? This is one of the fascinating facts learned from Mr George Bartlett when he talked to Chazey WI for their April meeting. Training fuchsias are particularly well suited to planting in hanging baskets, where they will supply a mass of colour from July until the frosts arrive. Members were intrigued to watch a basket planted with the skill of an expert — so easy when you know the short cuts!

Mr Bartlett's enthusiasm for the propagation and care of these graceful plants was infectious and Caversham gardens can only benefit from his visit.

## Blagrove WI

A GOOD turnout of members risked All Fools Day and attended the April meeting at Mapledurham Playingfields Hall to be welcomed by Mrs Poplewell, the President. During the meeting members heard a report by the President on the Spring Council Meeting held at the Hexagon. A new member, Mrs Skinner was made welcome as would be any new members at any meeting, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm. Two speakers from the Samaritans organisation gave a very informative and interesting talk on their work, showing aspects hitherto unknown to many.

The competition for a pretty hankie was won by Mrs Ogden, Miss M. Chapman and Mrs Housden.

## Caversham Heights TWG

SINGING and drama groups are continuing to meet to sing and act respectively.

A teacher of history and nurse, Mrs J. Debney gave a talk about the origin and meaning of surnames at Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's meeting in April at St Andrew's Hall. Anglo-Saxons had a single personal name that was not handed on and Welsh personal names are in the Domesday Book, the Normans, however, brought over many other names such as Robert, Richard, Geoffrey, Alice and Isabel. Surnames were not established until long after the Norman invasion of England. Derivations from Robert for example are Robson, Dobson, Hopkins and Mobbs, a pet form. Slawson may be from Laurence. Willets is from William, Maule from Mary. Holloway means dweller by the sunken way and Blunt is from blond meaning fair. Many related to the place where they were born. Christian names guard against supernatural forces. Through Mrs West's good offices John Booth, Steve Thames and Edward Steel, members of a local action group of Friends of the Earth, came to social studies group at Highmoor Hall at the end of April. FoE are part of an inter-

## Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

Mrs Connie Bartlett Mrs Connie Bartlett of Westdene Crescent Caversham who had been Hall Manager for over eleven years died after a severe heart attack at the end of March. She had also been Secretary of the Mapledurham Bridge Club for a similar period. She had endeared herself to all she came into contact with and will be greatly missed.

### New Play Area

The official opening of the new Play Area was held on Saturday April 19. Mr Martyn-Johns, the chairman of the Management Committee, introduced the Mayor, Councillor Brian Fowles, who had himself been associated with the Playing Fields for over twenty years, and he performed the opening ceremony with the assistance of

## Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Speaker at Caversham Afternoon Townswomen Guild was Mr John Ward, an engineer at Harwell. He gave an enlightened talk about the hopes and fears of Nuclear Power with slides and sound presentation.

Several members of the Guild have entered handicrafts for the National Arts and Craft Exhibition to be held in Solihull Birmingham next October, the regional judging will take place in Newbury on May 29th.

## Maplewood W.I.

At the April meeting Mrs E. Noble spoke to members

Turn to page 11

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# ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

on the subject of William Morris who promoted the revival of decorative art in England, and was one of the chief exponents of staining glass in the nineteenth century. He was also the author of "The Defence of Guenevere," and many other books which led to the starting of the Kelmscot Press in 1890. The following day some members went to see William Morris' home at Kelmscot Manor near

Lechlade where they were able to see materials designed by him on show as curtains and bed hangings.

## Caversham Community Association

A Beetle Drive was held on the 7th April, Ivy Masterman won first prize, Violet Forward and Margaret Cameron joint second prizewinners with Hilda

Hunt receiving the consolation prize.

The following week the members, who chose to go, visited the Independent Television Studios to see Michael Aspel in his show called "Child's Play", therefore, the meeting at Wolsey Road was cancelled.

The Club's birthday party coincided with the Queen's 60th birthday celebrations so the committee planned to make the meeting on the 21st April a special event. A delicious supper was arranged on tables decorated with flowers and Union Jacks. An entertaining concert, based on the theme of a tribute in song from around the world to the Queen, was arranged by Maida Feast and performed by the members. Muriel Waite at the piano accompanied the singers and Betty Petherbridge made a gracious Queen listening appreciatively to the songs. A "Birthday card for the Queen" competition was held, the winners were Pat Haines, Peggy Martin and Freda Haines, each received a prize. Birthday cake and wine was served at the end of the meeting to complete a most successful and enjoyable party.



The Annual General Meeting on the 28th April was well attended, the President, Mrs Gladys Weal, was present. The Chairman reported a successful year with varied activities. During the meeting thanks were expressed to the officers and retiring committee for all their work during the year of office. The chairman, Maida Feast was re-elected as were also Beryl Latcham, the Secretary and Ivy Masterman, the Treasurer. The charity chosen for the coming year was the Sue Ryder home in Nettlebed with Evelyn Wallis as collector.

New members are welcomed at meetings held at the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsey Road on Monday evenings, 7.30pm.

## St Peter's Wives Group

St Peter's Wives' members were expecting "Beetles and Biscuits" for their April meeting and there was no reason for disappointment. By 8 o'clock Church House was appropriately decorated with cut-out beetles and the smell of homemade biscuits was beginning to fill the air.

It is many years since the Group held a Beetle Drive, but the rules needed little explaining and play was soon under way, accompanied by the usual groans, shrieks and noise of chatter.

The home-made biscuits were consumed with coffee mid-way through the evening, the highest and lowest scorers receiving appropriate prizes — a most successful fun evening. The Group's next meeting is on June 17th at 8pm in Church House when Mrs Hibberd pays a return visit to the Group to give another of her talks on Costumes — "Saxon Times to 1901."

## Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

AT their March meeting the members of the Guild were treated to an evening with Concorde. Captain Leney is a pilot with Concorde, and his enthusiasm and pride in the beautiful aeroplane was mirrored in his talk.

Although beautiful to look at, many people dislike the noise; one minute after take-off the power is reduced by fifteen per cent to reduce the noise over Reading, and Concorde is still not allowed to fly to Tokyo as the noise lobby there is so strong. Nevertheless, Concorde has made a £25 million profit for British Airways, and continues to be extremely popular, especially with businessmen, to whom 'time is money.' Mrs Whittaker gave the vote of thanks.

Captain Leney was accompanied by his wife

who very kindly judged the competition 'An arrangement in an egg-cup,' which was won by Mrs M. White; and Miss V. Graham and Mrs P. Harvey were congratulated on winning prizes at a recent Gas Cookery demonstration.

The next meeting will be on June 17th at 7.15pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, where the speaker will be someone from Harwell to speak about 'Nuclear Power.'

In April, the ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were treated to a talk on 'Beauty and Colour Coding,' when Mrs Christine Essex talked about Shaklee Cosmetics. These are produced using no animal tests and are completely natural and unperfumed. Mrs Essex then used one of the members, Mrs Davies, as a model and demonstrated how to choose the right cosmetic colours, concluding with a complete new make up.

The Arts and Crafts Group will be visiting the Commonwealth Institute, and the Ramblers are getting in training for their walking holiday next month.

## Caversham Ladies Club

Despite heavy winds and very cold weather there was an excellent attendance for the Club's Easter Party. Mrs Harwood welcomed them all for coming, then gave out the few items of news which were on the agenda. The tables were filled with lots of goodies which all members had so generously brought along. The lovely large Easter cake was made by Mrs Harwood and Mrs Queenie Strong had decorated it with marzipan in the usual Easter tradition. Grace was then said and the party settled down to enjoying themselves.

A competition had been held for a green and yellow floral decoration using a half-pound margarine pot for a container. This was won by Mrs Queenie Strong, second was Mrs Brenda Strong and Mrs

Nelhams third. Mrs Harwood was highly commended. Miss Freda Haines and Miss Pat Haines were the judges. They said it was hard deciding as all of the entries were a delight to see.

The meeting then closed with Mrs Harwood thanking all members for their generosity and contributing in so many different ways to make it a very happy and enjoyable afternoon meeting.

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 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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**June 18:** 1 Kelso Mews (Diane Etherington).  
**June 25:** 27 Galsworthy Drive (Karen Rees).

## OBITUARY

**Air Vice Marshal J. Cox, CB, OBE, DFC (RAF rtd)**

AIR Vice Marshal Joe after them until they Cox was President of were well. A retiring the Caversham branch Branch officer would of SCF ever since the always receive a letter branch's inaugural of thanks and meeting in 1975, appreciation from him, keenly supporting the and there were always fund-raising events, words of encouragement not least the two great ment for the "workers" carnivals, the latter whenever he visited being a two day event, fund-raising function when he worked very tions, which he always hard along with the tried to do.



rest of the members, putting in some very long days.

In June 1979, accompanied by his wife, he attended the Diamond Jubilee Garden Party representing the branch and meeting the Queen, Prince Philip and Princess Anne (SCF President).

He was always willing to turn out to "receive" MONEY on behalf of the SC Fund. His genial face has appeared in many newspaper pictures receiving a cheque, the result of this or that sponsored event.

He always showed an interest in the well-being of supporters; upon hearing that any of them was ill, he would constantly ask

Following a hip operation, he retired as Branch President early in 1985, his place being taken by Air Marshal Sir Alan Davies who spoke very highly of his predecessor's work and of the very high respect for him in RAF circles.

Apart from having an outstanding career in the RAF, Joe Cox will always be remembered for his association with the late Douglas Bader, convincing the pilot that he could fly again after he had lost both his legs.

Joe Cox will be particularly mourned by the Branch PRO, Mr Norman Kent, who as the founder Chairman of the Caversham branch invited Air Vice Marshal Cox to become its first President. The two were good friends, working closely ever since that time.

Air Vice Marshal Cox was commissioned RAF 1928; War 1939-45, commanded No 15 Bomber Squadron May-December 1940; Chief Instructor Flying Training School, Canada 1941-42; Station Commander RAF Spitalgate 1943-45; AOC Ceylon 1952-55; Senior Air Staff Officer, Flying Training Command 1955-58.

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