

CAVERSHAM

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1987
BRIDGE

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TRAVESTY!



HEMDEAN BOTTOM 1987

Photos N Wright



FIGHT FOR BUGS BOTTOM GOES ON

The battle to save Bugs Bottom is not yet lost. Nicholas Ridley does not finally make his decision until October. It may be little more than a formality but it does mean the door is not yet finally slammed, and Caversham people, their anger and fighting spirit roused, are determined to spare no effort to overturn this thoroughly bad recommendation.

Neither is this sense of outrage confined to Caversham. In fact there are several disturbing features to this matter which have attracted national attention.

In common with three other instances in the Wokingham-Bracknell area, the announcement of this result was delayed, as cynics were already suggesting it would be, until after the general election. In the case of Bugs Bottom the Inspector sent his report to the Secretary of State in May 1986, a reasonable six months after the Inquiry. Why then was the result not announced until July 1987?

In all four cases public opinion was totally opposed to the plans. In the case of Bugs Bottom three councils were involved, Reading Borough, Berkshire County and South Oxfordshire District, all of them, regardless

of their political make-up, unanimously opposed to the development. Backing them were established and respected local organisations who were present or submitted their cases in writing, and thousands of individuals. The revised and much debated Central Berkshire Structure Plan made no mention of Bugs Bottom being a possible growth area. Yet this massive expression of public opinion, with no one whatsoever, except the developers' paid representatives opposing it, counted as naught.

Outside developers and faceless civil servants have made this decision. Is this what democracy is all about? It makes a nonsense of the whole business of public inquiries.

Loss of amenity, intolerable traffic conditions, pressure on public services, serious though they are, pall into insignificance in the face of this contemptuous disregard of hard won freedoms. Small wonder that as soon as the news broke letters and phone calls started pouring in to the D of E and the Prime Minister.

On the legal front the Borough Council's lawyers have been unable to find anything that would stand up in

a High Court action. Sir Gerard Vaughan however, has agreed to take the case to the Ombudsman at the request of the Residents' Association. Additionally, traffic figures produced by Emmer Green Residents' Association as the result of a carefully carried out survey, show that the traffic figures bandied about at the Public Inquiry which led to the Inspector concluding that the additional traffic "will not have any noticeable effect" to be the nonsense that experience and common sense have all along told local people that they must be. Sir Gerard is putting these to the Minister dealing with the case as new evidence can be a reason for review.

JOIN THE WALK

The issue must be kept alive and in the public eye. As part of this, there will be a Sunday afternoon walk through the valley on 6th September, when there will be TV and probably national media coverage. Come and bring the family. Meet at the junction of Hemdean Road and Oakley Road at 2.30 pm. As the developers have not yet laid down their tarmac roads, be prepared for mud if it has been raining.

0/EX 1758/24/9

TALKING POINT

by REV RICHARD KINGSBURY
Rector of Caversham & Mapledurham



'NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT'

A young man went into a gift shop to buy a crucifix for his girl friend. The lass behind the counter produced two boxes. 'We do two models sir, this one is a plain cross. This one's got a little man on it.'

A lady asked in a music shop for some music for a Nativity Play. 'A what?' asked the shop assistant. 'Nativity — you know, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus.' 'Ah, right,' he said, 'This one sells very well' — handing her a copy of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.'

An insurance salesman couldn't accept the Christian Faith because of some of the Bible stories. 'Such as?' I asked. 'Well' he replied, 'I've never believed what it says in the Bible about Adam asleep in the Garden of Eden and God making Jesus from one of Adam's ribs.'

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I vouch for the authenticity of each of these stories. We hold up our hands in despair at the widespread ignorance of the basics of the Christian Faith. 'Whatever are they teaching in our schools today?' Have things really got so bad that churchpeople now leave it to the schools? Has church life so lost contact with ordinary people that we don't feel guilty or even responsible for this parlous state?

In a few months time, radio and TV will churn out mawkish, sentimental songs for the Christmas market. They will feature The Special Baby, Angels and Tubular Bells, Falling in Love at a Party, Peace on Earth, and Someone Ought to do Something about World Famine. Churchpeople will roll their eyes and tut-tut about the commercialisation of the Sacred. Who is being more unrealistic: record producers turning in barely remembered scraps of the Gospel, or we wish They would Leave Our Religion Alone?

'Privatisation' is the one thing you cannot do, must not do, to the Christian Faith. If so many are so ignorant about so much of the Gospel, can it be because we are increasingly treating our faith as a private thing? Look at the militant fervour of some Islamic nations. Where is 'the whole state of Christ's Church militant here on earth'?

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Tehran crowds chant their dependence on God; their children are 'indoctrinated' (we smugly say) in homes and schools. Englishmen's pulse rates rise more for Ian Botham than for Jesus Christ. Our ignorance may be temporarily blissful, but I have a feeling that the privatisation of the Christian Faith is a contemporary blasphemy for which soon we shall pay dearly — if we are not already doing so. Clergy and congregations, we have all failed to listen to, to meet and to 'nationalise' the religious yearnings of our compatriots.

There are those in the C of E who would like to see privatisation complete by severing the historic link between Church and State. Well, at least — if things get that bad — Christian education will be back where it finally belongs: in the Church. I fear that it will stay there, IN the Church. We can't have it all ways, wanting the State to teach the Faith, wringing our hands at the widespread ignorance, complaining when non-churchgoers piece together the wrong bits in their religious jig-saw, and at the same time celebrating our faith with the esoteric privacy of a Masonic lodge.

If you were arrested for being a Christian today, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Could your friends, work colleagues, neighbours, family even, be called as witnesses for the prosecution?



Postbag

Dear Sirs,

As a subscriber to the Caversham Bridge I read it with interest and am always interested in references to the past and places and old photographs bring back memories.

In the July issue I was particularly interested in the front page article by 'M.K.' relating to Caversham Bridge and prior to its replacement by the construction of Reading Bridge. The photograph of Reading Bridge brought back memories of that occa-

sion which I had to attend officially.

This brings me to my reason for writing to you to correct the assumption in the caption "Note the barge passing underneath with its horse towrope." Unofficial river traffic was not permitted near the Bridge during this weight test and the barge which is seen was anchored underneath the bridge and the "towrope" is one of the anchor ropes used to keep the barge in position. The barge

contained the Engineer in charge of the bridge construction and other "on site" staff who were using an instrument to measure the bridge settlement during the passage of the steam rollers. If I remember correctly the Engineer in charge told me this had to have a degree of tolerance of not more than two inches and the settlement was within this.

W.C. Holder
59 Kidmore Rd
Caversham, Reading

NOT ON TOW!

We are indebted to one of our regular readers for the following information correcting the caption to the photograph showing the road rollers stress testing the new Reading Bridge which we published in our July issue. The barge under the bridge does have a wire attached but this is anchoring it. If the barge were on two from the towpath, the wire would have been made fast to the beam, not the bows as is clear in the photo. This barge is anchored. Very close inspection of the photo reveals that there is a ladder on the barge under the bridge. This indicates the barge's purpose, to monitor the deflection of the bridge under stress. Our reader, Mr Ray Lock was present on the bank when the picture was taken. He tells us that it was said at the time that the bridge deflected by an inch, although he points out that he was not the man up the ladder!

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All contributions for this issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday Sept 2.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs I. Mule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday, Aug 28th.

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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THE EDITORS REGRET

The Editors regret that they are unable to publish anonymous material, but if names and addresses are supplied they would respect the writer's desire not to have them published.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS ORDER BOOKS

EVER keen to discover more about the past in Caversham and Mapledurham, I decided, a couple of years ago, to look at the Quarter Sessions Order Books at the Oxfordshire Records Office. Mostly they contained cases of petty theft or assault. The story of William Martin, a Caversham baker at the very end of the seventeenth hundreds made a good story, but there was little else.

All for Hunger

It was very clear that many labouring people in the earlier part of the eighteenth hundreds had a hard time providing for their families for a lot of the cases dealt with the theft of food. In 1824 a gamekeeper at Mapledurham caught Charles Morley stealing two eel traps, which possibly contained fish, from Mr Michael Blount. An eel chest was also stolen from the same estate one Christmas and Walter Brown could have got away with sixteen pounds of live eels if he had not been caught. No doubt he hoped to sell some for the festive season and perhaps keep a few for his own needs, too. Instead he got twenty one days' hard labour.

□□

William Bolton got a far stiffer sentence, a year's hard labour for stealing eight tame rabbits and five fowl in Caversham. Suckling pigs, too, were also fair game and in 1785 the Caversham wheelwright, Thomas Stevens, lost two stolen by Moses Hutton of Reading. But for real enterprise there was John Cooper who was found milking a cow in a field in 1824. Poor man he must have been desperate. Perhaps the cow was used to being milked in the meadow and not in a shed or maybe she was just a nice gentle old

lady and very obliging. For obtaining four pounds of bread under false pretences the punishment was a couple of months in prison.

A dark deed on a dark night

So the entries went on, nothing very startling, till I found something a little more out or the ordinary and funnily enough at about the same time I was shown an article in Oxfordshire Local History Vol. 2 No. 3 Autumn 1985. It was called The Resurrection Men of Caversham by A. P. Jenkins and a most interesting piece of writing. The Resurrection Men was the name given to people who dug up bodies which they sold to aid medical research and teaching, and one was actually dug up in St Peter's Churchyard. The payment for most corpses seems to have been around a guinea.

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So on November 13, 1829, a young man aged twenty-one, William Matthews by name was buried in the graveyard at St Peter's Church. Seven days later, on a dark winter's night, three Caversham labourers William Davis, twenty-two, William Bedgood, thirty-two and Richard Knapp, forty-one, went to the grave and unearthed the remains of the poor young fellow. However they were caught within a short time for they were committed for trial at Oxford on November the twenty-fourth. All three pleaded not guilty but Bedgood and Knapp were sentenced to twelve months at the House of Correction. According to A. P. Jenkins, and I am indebted to him for this, Jackson's Oxford Journal stated that Davis, who was the worst of the three prisoners, managed to escape from his cell under the Town Hall whilst awaiting trial. Although a search was made for him he managed to escape

and no more seems to have been heard of him.

Body snatching, as it was called, was suppressed by legislation passed in 1832.

Ending on a lighter note I read in 1853 that Louise McBredon stole a pair of drawers and other articles (of clothing?) from Charlotte Groves of Caversham. Poor Louise got four months' hard labour for this.

M.K. Outside the police station at the proclamation of King George V May 10th, 1910.



The old Victorian police station, Caversham, opposite the Griffin. It was demolished in February 1966, and is now an office block. Originally the first lock up was in Bridge Street on the right hand side facing the Thames.

HELP!

PLEASE, is there anyone with a little time to spare who could help Guide Companies in the Caversham Park / Emmer Green area; three are in desperate need of adult leadership. No previous experience in the Guide Movement is necessary as training can be given if needed, but a knowledge of the needs of the ten to fourteen age group would be an advantage, also an appreciation of the 'outdoors'. For further details please ring 477860 or 482386 or call at St Barnabas Hall on a Friday between seven-thirty and nine p.m. or Caversham Park School on Tuesday at the same times.

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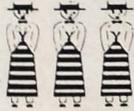
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

ROAD WORKS AHEAD

"To have one pavement closed, Mr Surveyor, can be regarded as unfortunate: to have two closed looks like carelessness." Even Lady Bracknell, if she will pardon the paraphrase, would be lost for words if she found four closed or as good as closed.

For weeks, and as far as can be told, when you come to read this, one pavement over Caversham Bridge has been officially closed and the other unofficially, for although there is a muddy rubble strewn track between ice cream cones, it is very narrow and frequently occupied with workmen and construction equipment.

The Richfield Avenue roundabout (or apology for one at this stage) may have speeded up the traffic flow in Caversham Road. It has done nothing for the pedestrian. It is true that after protests a light controlled crossing was installed but the pedestrian has to go to the crossing along Richfield Avenue, rather than the crossing coming to the pedestrian.

As for cyclists, a heavy proportion of these has given up the unequal struggle, some of them doubtless taking once more to their cars. Those of them who choose to use the south bank of the river to avoid the horrors of Caversham Road, find themselves taking a risk here too, for the gravel used on the path is of too coarse a grade so that both cycling and walking, particularly if you are a woman with light summer shoes, becomes very uncomfortable.

IS THIS A RECORD?

Motorists avoid these discomforts but still sit and fume as the traffic gets squeezed into one lane and they know well that when they have negotiated the bridges, further road works await them in Reading. Can any town have had more road works going on at the same time as in Reading? Surely it merits an entry in the Guinness Book of Records. If someone had tried to synchronise them all like this they would never have succeeded.

"ROAD WORK IN TOWN CENTRE,

USE ALTER-NATIVES" proclaim the notices hopefully, without adding that even if the alternatives exist, it is more likely that they too are blocked by roadworks. And there are more in the pipeline to come. Our troubles are far from over.

Salter-Goodman-Lorco Site

It is almost a full time job to keep track of the various planning application that have been put in for the Salter-Goodman-Lorco site at Caversham Bridge. They all of them involve an office block and there is no hope of getting anything else on the site without one. There will be housing too, but for anyone thinking how nice it would be to have an open space and some housing, the message is forget it.

Given that, the best plans ever for the site have recently been submitted. Metal Box, anxious to keep a presence in Reading, want to put a fairly different office building on the Caversham Road side, but lower than many previously proposed, and gardens and landscaping on the ther

side that will pay regard to its riverside position and will slope in such a way as to conceal the car parking. As Metal Box have always kept their Queen's House gardens in good order we have reason to be confident that they will do the same here. We could do a lot worse on this sensitive site. After all the steel yard, though ruggedly individualistic, scarcely enhanced its surroundings.

Wild Life Week
During Reading Wild Life week some

one (not the Borough Council) bulldozed the piece of waste land at the bridge end of Richfield Avenue where Allied Lyons want to build a restaurant. They have in fact put in an appeal against the Borough's refusal, one of the grounds being that this was a wild life site. The bulldozing effectively removed most of one reason. The Borough Council has put preservation orders on all the trees or treelets (if there is such a word) that remain. The appeal is at the end of September.

CAB - CAN YOU HELP

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If you are looking for rewarding and stimulating voluntary work Reading Citizens' Advice Bureau could be the place for you. We are looking for both administrative and advisory workers. Our aim is to inform our clients of their rights and responsibilities in order that they may reach, if possible a solution to their problems. Often there is no solution and we then aim to help our clients to explore ways in which the problem can become more manageable. We never tell people what they should do. We are a free confidential, impartial

and independent service.

Our training for advisers is intensive, lasting six months initially, though it is going on whilst you work for us. Training is given in basic counselling skills and in using our extensive, updated information system. We require one and a half days work per week and usually only recruit people over fifty-five if they have previous relevant experience.

The commitment and training for reception and administrative work is less intensive, although this work

is equally important in providing our service. We require a minimum of half a day a week. There is no age limit and the ability to type is not essential.

Though the work can be stressful and exhausting it is very uplifting and rewarding. We work as closely knit, cheerful team which supports and encourages all its members. Come and join us.

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THE CANCER RELIEF MACMILLAN FUND

Seventy-five years ago when Douglas Macmillan was a young man he watched helplessly as his father suffered for months, dying slowly of cancer. This made such a deep impression on him that he determined to do something about the pain and suffering of cancer patients and their families. In 1911, with a small group of friends, he founded the National Society for Cancer Relief to disseminate information on the prevention and relief of cancer. Douglas Macmillan's initial donation was £10, the Society last year received donations of over £10 million!

In 1924 Cancer Relief was registered as a Benevolent Society, concentrating on giving financial aid to cancer patients and their families. There was no National Health Service at the time and the illness was frequently exacerbated by lack of money, as basic essentials such as warmth and a proper diet were often unaffordable. The work of the Society increased yearly and by 1933 the money paid out in grants had risen to £2,000.

Better medical care became available and by twenty years after the second World War most cancer patients were looked after by general hospitals. By the end of the sixties the special needs of such patients became more recognised. The quality of life and the relief of pain were greatly improved, especially in the new hospice movement pioneered by Dr Cecily Saunders.

In the early 1970's a new initiative was taken to help make such care more widely available. Grants from the fund were given to help with the building of two hospices and then the Society, working closely with the NHS, began a programme of building Macmillan continuing care homes of which there are now thirteen.

Continuing Care Homes

The Society provides the money to build and equip the units and then hands them over to the NHS to control and run. Patients do not go there just for their last weeks but at any time and for varying periods and then return home to their families rested and

refreshed from the skilful care and the change of scenery.

Cancer Care in the Community

To bring cancer care further into the community, in 1975 the Macmillan nursing services were set up. Teams of specially trained nurses caring for patients in their own homes were both an economical and a more immediate way of providing expert care for a greater number of patients and their families. In 1980 the development of these highly successful nursing teams was accelerated by a large investment in three year grants to establish them nationwide.

The immediate emphasis was on setting up the teams in areas where few facilities existed for the care of cancer patients and now there are over three hundred and thirty Macmillan nurses across the country. However, there is still a long way to go before the ultimate goal of having teams of nurses in every District Health Authority in the country is reached.

Macmillan nurses

Despite the practical and emotional demands of caring for a dying patient at home, most families have the strength and the courage to cope, provided they have the right support. Giving this support is the role of the Macmillan nurse, who is specially trained to work alongside the family doctor, the district nurse and the Social Services in bringing not just nursing skills of the highest order, but also emotional support and comfort to the whole family. One of the nursing sisters has written "The Macmillan service has four main objectives for each patient: "To improve the quality of remaining life by the elimination of pain or control of symptoms - To help maintain independence and dignity - To give opportunities to talking about the feelings aroused by the diseases and the prognosis - To help the patient remain in his own home, with its continuing family relationships, until the end, if this is desired and possible."

Patient Grants

Any patient suffering from cancer is eligible for a grant. Cash is made available for such basic comforts as electric fires, fans, electric blankets and special kitchen equipment as well as help with heating bills and much needed holidays. Grants are used for a wide variety of purposes, the main aim always being to improve the quality of whatever life remains.



Mr Arthur Burton receives President's Medal from the Duchess of Kent Patron of Cancer Relief Macmillan fund for services given to the charity.

special kitchen equipment as well as help with heating bills and much needed holidays. Grants are used for a wide variety of purposes, the main aim always being to improve the quality of whatever life remains.

The Future

In 1986 Cancer Relief reached its seventy-fifth Anniversary. The plan for the future is to continue the expansion of its Macmillan services until every cancer patient can call upon their care and support. The fund works closely with the NHS and the extension of these services will take time and money. Fund-raising committees all over the country have been responsible for raising millions of pounds and will do even more in the future. These achievements are due to large numbers of volunteers working extremely hard. One such person is the Reading Committee Chairman, Mr Arthur Burton.

Arthur and Phyllis Burton

Mr Arthur Burton has been the Chairman of the Reading Committee for eight years. He lives in Emmer Green with his wife Phyllis who has been a member of the Committee for twenty-four years and was the secretary for thirteen years. Together they have worked tremendously hard for Cancer

Relief and both have been honoured by the fund.

In the photograph Mr Burton is receiving the President's Medal from the Duchess of Kent, Patron of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, for services given to charity. The ceremony was performed in June this year. Phyllis Burton has been awarded a certificate of Merit which acknowledges with gratitude the support given to the fund

million appeal by the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The hospital and the Macmillan fund have co-operated on a unique project which has been launched in West Berkshire. The £3 million appeal will now provide, for the first time in this country, a co-ordinated plan for cancer care. This plan involves firstly, the redevelopment of the Radio-Therapy Department at the RBH.

The second development is at Blagrove Hospital in Tilehurst. A sixteen bed in-patient ward is to be built, a day care support unit and an educational unit for training doctors and nurses. Finally, there are to be day centres built at Newbury and Wokingham.

As one in three people will suffer from cancer in some sort in their lifetime, these facilities are obviously going to be put to very good use. It is through the work of people like Mr and Mrs Burton that these plans can come to fruition. If you have any time or money to spare to help this cause, please get in touch with Mr Burton or write to Macmillan Fund, Anchor House, 15/19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TY.

If either you or any member of your family or friends are suffering from cancer and wish for help from the fund, please get in touch with the Community Nursing Centre, 25 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, telephone 61472.

Groups frequently go on to raise money themselves, for example, the Caversham Ladies Circle raised £675 by a vanishing lunch. Reading volunteers have raised money in a variety of ways, including Bridge Drives, sponsored events and garage sales. A house to house collection is to be held in Reading, followed by a flag day on 26th September.

As more money is always needed, additional helpers are always welcome. If anyone has any time to spare and would like to help, please contact Mr E.A. Burton, 2 Russet Glade, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8JU, telephone 472359.

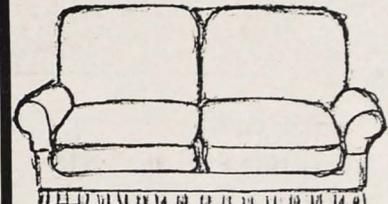
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OFF-SALES LICENCE HELD

MICHAELMAS DAY

29th September sees an important anniversary for St John's Church, starting their centenary year. Appropriately this is where the Parish Confirmation service will be, that day, 7.45 pm, with the Bishop of Reading. Candidates from the Anglican churches will make their commitment as adults to God in His Church, returning to their own churches on the next Sunday to make their first Communion. A warm invitation is extended to all Christian brothers and sisters from ALL our Christian churches in the parish for this great day!

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ROUND THE CHURCHES INNER CITY CURACY FOR DAVID BUTLER

LINK GROUP



Presentation to David Butler from the Caversham Parish.

John Madeley

by John Madeley

Working in a tough inner city parish on his first curacy is the challenge that the Revd. David Butler believes he is fortunate to have. David, whose parents Lyn and Bill live in Caversham and worship at St Peters Church, was ordained deacon on July 5th at the Church of the Ascension in Hulme, Manchester, where he will now serve what Anglicans call his "title" — his first job as an ordained minister.

David is curate to the Revd. John Methuen who some readers will remember was vicar of St Marks, West Reading until 1983 when he was appointed rector of Hulme.

Hulme, 15 minutes walk from the centre of Manchester, is an area where Britain's inner city problems are at their starkest. Male unemployment

among the 12,000 population is 65%. For ethnic minority groups, who comprise around a third of the residents, it is estimated at 80%.

Housing is an architectural disaster, mostly consisting of system built flats, thrown up in the 1960's without consulting local people, to replace Victorian 2 up and 2 down terraced houses which were totally cleared. Today the flats, almost all council owned, have become the slums they replaced. Manchester City Council is planning to demolish most of one entire area — the area in fact where David lives.

They tell you in Hulme that Tottenham's Broadwater Farm is quite posh in comparison. Crime in the area, mostly petty, is rife. The rectory at the Church of the Ascension has been burgled 42 times in the 4 years the Methuens have lived in Hulme.

And yet having spent a week in Hulme, which happily coincided with David's ordination and first week, I can testify that the church and the area

have some wonderful people who give it that great quality of hope. The problems are many but they can be overcome. That hope is important for Hulme's future.

Ecumenical relations are excellent; Hulme churches are the largest employer of labour in the area, employing 220 people through a company called the Churches Work-scheme Ltd. Set up 6 years ago this scheme is matching up at least some of the skills in Hulme with work that needs to be done — a fine example of the church at work in an inner city area.

It will not be all work for David. Indeed I can reveal exclusively for the "Bridge" that David's third day in Hulme was spent at Chester Zoo and, later, umpiring a cricket match! To be fair — tougher than it sounds. At the zoo David was helping Bridgett Methuen to look after a large class of children — and any "Albert and the Lion" situations would, he was told, be somewhat frowned on.

The cricket match was between the Church of Ascension, lead by a rector whose immaculate dress tended to outshine his cricketing ability, and the Churches Work-scheme, nearly all of whom were West Indian and looked dangerously as though they knew what they were doing.

Alas the work-scheme side took the field with only 8 men which this visiting scribe quickly offered to make up to 9 to even things up a bit. Skillful umpiring by David had nothing at all to do with our side's modest 9-wicket win.

David will face many testing times in Hulme but I think he will also have a lot of fun. He could well need a fishing rod. The rector of Hulme enjoys three miles of salmon fishing rights along nearby but alas lifeless River Irwell. Irwell salmon have, I understand, yet to grace the rector's table. John will clearly be looking to his curate to change many things!

The Link have continued in good heart through the summer months. On 22nd June they met at Audrey Preston's home for their Annual General Meeting, which was an opportunity to review problems and plan for the future. The Group were pleased to be joined by the Revd. Dr. Philip Egglestone, who conducted a House Communion at the end of the evening.

In a sometimes inclement summer, the sun looked kindly on the annual social event, which took the form of a garden lunch at Suzi Robinson's home on Sunday, 12th July...Yes, the weather and food were good, as was the company, wherein a number of members' 'other-halves' were welcomed in...It was particularly appreciated that members of the clergy from various denominations in Caversham took time from their busy Sundays to attend.



The Link does still provide an opportunity for members of the many local churches to work together in caring projects, and it is hoped that the new season will bring more members to contribute new ideas. The next meeting will be on Monday, 7th September, at 16 Rosehill Park, Emmer Green, and anyone wishing to learn more about the Link Group activities will be very welcome.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

THE PARISH HOLIDAY

Ninety of all ages descended on Florence Nightingale's lovely old home, now Embley Park School, near Romsey, for the 1987 parish holiday. In nine days of frenetic activity, new friendships were made and old ones renewed.

While the rest of southern England suffered cloudbursts, the Caversham holidaymakers skipped about the tennis courts, bowled, putted, croqueted, swam, squashed, snookered, ate and drank, in generally good weather!

The first Eucharist launched the week with Catharine, Helen and Pam singing us along with them in praise, supported by musicians from our number. It was a promising start, surprising most of us with the intensity of our feelings so early in the week. A midweek morning service kept the spiritual pot boiling and we ended in the open air with a breezily bright service, 'Lord-of-the-Dancing' off to work again after nine days fun, games, and the odd hour of sleep!

Our final party night ('yuppie' theme) starred Mark Hopkinson and Simon Pinchen in delightful humour, the girls and boys dorms in wickedly funny take-offs of some of us, Stephen Smith and Margaret Dimmick in their own ways making some of us look proper daft, Nigel Stanbrook presenting his 'alternative awards', other cavortings and

general hilarities, along with the seriousness of seeing who had won the coveted 'Embley trophies' after the week's hard competitions.

Ken Faulkner notched up a notable 'first' with his family by leading an afternoon ramble in the New Forest, during which Elizabeth Osborne discovered mud. Robin Kitcher led a convoy to Southampton's Ice Rink, where forty of us found our feet and John Kavanagh found the Rector in the bar. Roger Hopkinson's highflying model aeroplane found some broody racing pigeons. We discovered synchronised swimming talent in Catharine, Anna and Pam's gyration in the shallow end with David, after which (on a superb sunny morning) many of us found ourselves in the deep end with or without clothes. Marion Thwaite led us a merry dance at dusk on barbecue hill, where we found three excellent chefs at work. On the cricket field the fossils outplayed the young men, who promptly challenged us at football and were charitably helped by Richard Gash finding his own goal and giving away a phantom penalty. Margaret Notton found her appetite and much to everyone's surprise, the gentle giant — John Martin — found that nobody wanted to throw him into the pool.

'Lamplighter'

SUMMER PATRONALS

June 11th, St Barnabas' Day, hinted at a trend which showed up markedly in our parish patronal festivals. More folk there from the six Anglican churches than for many a year! Canon Rowan Williams eulogised on how St Barnabas encouraged others in the Faith. We sang lustily, the parish clergy in chorus-line looked pretty in red, and a jolly nosh-up followed.

June 24th saw St John the Baptist's Church full to welcome back Graham Lynch-Watson to preach. It was a lively, spontaneous evening, typical of St John's Church warmth and informality. Again a better than normal representation from all six churches.

June 29th, St Peter's Day, brought sunshine, flowers and a full house at the parish church. The Rector of Wallingford, Tony

Good, glowed gently in the pulpit, the choir were at their best and we ate and drank afterwards in style.

July 20th, St Margaret's Day, and the lane to Mapledurham clogged with cars. The little church (maximum seating 70) easily opened its heart to 110 communicants from all parts of the parish and we packed into cosy Trench Green Hall for a superb Mapledurham spread, led by the Assistant Rural Dean, Dr Geoffrey Udall, who had addressed us movingly in the Eucharist.

Thank you, all who made the welcome so warm in the four churches for the Caversham 'summer tour' of patronals. Whatever we become in the future, it will surely be from a renewed feeling of belonging together in the present! Next stop, St Andrew's 30th Nov...

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Where has it been? Producing its own Newsletter, but it seems that circulation does not reach our Bridge friends, so they are back. Amongst the most notable events has been the journey to St Paul's to see the consecration of Bishop Harries, a most moving occasion and a day of joy particularly for Mrs Joan Stroud who gained the Archbishop's signature to send to her daughter in America, who was being confirmed that day.

Fond farewells have been said to Mrs Bickford and Miss Pauline Bickford who served St John's and the Parish for many years. They have moved to Melksham in Wiltshire in anticipation of Pauline's retirement from her teaching post at Queen Anne's School. They have worked tirelessly for St John's with flowers and

gifts for fund-raising and Pauline served as PCC Secretary. St John's thank them most sincerely and wish them Good luck in their new home.

They also wished happiness to one of their younger members and servers, Patrick Holmwood who recently reported to HMS Raleigh to start his training in the Royal Navy.

August 2nd saw the Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Bunny and Walter Bartless. Congratulations and get well wishes to Bunny.

Looking forward, plans are well developed for the Centenary Celebrations in 1988 and it is hoped to provide something for everybody during that year.

Recently the district committee decided the time has come for warmth at St John's and a new heating system is planned.

ST JOHN'S — RAINBOW CIRCLE

The new St John's Sunday School has continued successfully for its second term and given plenty of thought for future plans.

They have welcomed new children and helpers, particularly Mr Tyrone Clark and Mrs Rosemarie Brooks. They still compete with Sunday sports activities but this seems to be the best time to meet.

The Circle starts again on September 13th at 11

am, but the Family Service will be on September 6th when Sarah Baldcock will be baptised. Congratulations to Jane Robson, the leader who had a beautiful, bouncing son, Stuart in June.

New leaders would be sincerely welcomed to enable the Circle to extend its outreach, and of course children from four years. Further details from Jane Robson 481452.

ST PETERS ORGAN FUND

A Bridge Drive in aid of the fund will be held on September 19th. For details contact Debs Oates (phone 470080).

BAPTIST NEWS

Our offertory prayer often includes the words, "Lord please accept these gifts for the extension of your Kingdom here and overseas." On a recent summer Sunday the church had a visit from BMS missionary Miss Ann Flippance. Ann came as part of a delegation to the Reading District Baptist Churches. Ann's visit was a timely reminder to us all of God's work overseas. She has been serving at Uptoto and then at Binga in Zaire since 1974. Ann shared some of her experience in Zaire with the church. Out of these came a vital reminder for our churches in this country — pray for your missionaries. She recounted how, as it happened on the day when it was here name which was on the BMS prayer diary, she had to undertake a particularly difficult journey back to her home in Zaire. The locals told her that due to freak rain that afternoon, she would not get through on her moped. Ann knew she had to return and set off. She told us that she undertook the journey in the knowledge that folk in

England would be praying for her. Her moped failed in mud after a while, she had to walk (over 10 miles to go) and it got dark. Having made it to the village, a local Christian pastor offered to escort her home — a God send — for on the way he, in the dark, spotted a Gabon Viper and had caught it before Ann had realised what was happening! God's message to us was (and is) to pray for our missionaries — He answers prayers in ways we can't dream of or imagine.

A BIG THANKYOU Two of our ladies, Shirley Strong and Pauline Hay have 'retired' from service with the School Lane Playgroup and the Monday Club respectively. Between them they have clocked up over 200 years of service.

Presentations have been made to mark this. Undeterred, both are taking up new work in the church — we do thank them both for all they have done and pray God's blessing on their new endeavours.



Photo N. Wright

Presentation to Shirley Strong

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**DAVID CLIFT —
A TRIBUTE**

Although twenty years have passed since David Clift left Caversham his recent death at the early age of fifty-two will evoke for many people memories of the contribution that he and Mary made to the life of the church and community during their years in Caversham.

David's parents had lived near my own in Barnes, and David had stayed in our Smethwick parish one long vacation while a student at Cuddesdon in order to see a little of Birmingham industrial life; he then became curate to Canon Ralph Stevens, Birmingham's industrial life; he then became curate to Canon Ralph Stevens, Birmingham's industrial chaplain, and his concern with industry was to shape his whole ministry. Before moving to Caversham in the autumn of 1962 I approached David and said that in all likelihood there would be vacancies before long on the staff at Caversham; so David and Mary arrived in the parish in the early summer of 1963, and in four very happy years they initiated many things which were to become an accepted part of parish life. It is of course impossible to write about David without writing also about Mary; they were a marvellous partnership.

THE START OF THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE While in Birmingham Mary had been working with Nick Stacy in produc-

ing the Birmingham Christian News; this later developed into the National Christian News to which the Caversham Bridge was linked for many years. Mary worked hard with me in producing the early numbers, and she had high standards which she did not always feel the editor was meeting. I will remember the reception at the Caversham Bridge Hotel when the first number appeared, just a few days before the birth of her first child, Joanna. Her persistence produced the first and I believe only full page advertisement that the paper has ever carried, when she badgered the managing director of a then well known Caversham firm; she was delighted to get the page advertisement; she was equally furious because he had kept her standing throughout the interview.

EMBLEY PARK

To David the parish owes the annual holiday at Embley Park. It was his idea and he organised the first two holidays in 1965 and 1966; on only two occasions has a parish holiday not been held there since David started it; he also introduced Lord of the dance and other hymns by Sydney Carter long before the publication of A Hundred Hymns for Today, while his interest in birds caused adjournment of a staff meeting one Tuesday morning when he spotted

some long-tailed tits in the Rectory garden. His interest in industry led him to spend half a day most weeks at Elliott's; the first piece of industrial chaplaincy work in Reading. Others will remember his well thought out and easy to follow sermons, and his pastoral visiting was valued by many people.

TO ARLEY

In the spring of 1967 David, Mary and Joanne left Caversham with reluctance. They had not intended to leave so soon but the magnet of industrial chaplaincy work in the carpet factories of Kidderminster combined with the country parish of Arley on the banks of the Severn tempted them away, and a large contingent from Caversham arrived there on Saturday afternoon for David's induction. Then came the shattering news of Mary's death a month later as she collapsed in childbirth with a still born baby. Among other things Mary had while in Caversham started St Peter's Wives of which she was a founder member and the many young wives in that group found her death particularly hard to equate with belief in a loving god. So on a beautiful May day many of us made a second journey to Arley for her funeral service. But it was essentially a service of thanksgiving and announcing her death in the papers David had quoted

the opening phrase of Psalm 11 'In the Lord I put my trust.' The later years at Arley were to be brightened by David's marriage to Judy, herself a young widow, she and her first husband having been friends for many years of David and Mary.

**CANON OF
CANTERBURY**

After six years at Arley David was invited to become industrial chaplain in the diocese of Canter-

bury and moved to Maidstone; he was made an honorary canon of Canterbury in 1979; a few years later multiple sclerosis was diagnosed and this led to early retirement. He faced up to his illness with characteristic Christian courage and this newspaper published a recent article by him on the subject of healing. His condition however worsened and he died while on holiday in Cornwall; our sympathy and prayers go to Judy, Joanna, Tom and Ben and David's mother. Caversham has been fortunate in many of its curates, not least in being able to number David Clift among them. May he rest in peace.

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**FAIR AT
WESTFIELD ROAD**

There is no truth in the rumour that there is to be another fair at the Westfield Road recreation ground during the late summer bank holiday. If an application is made for a fair next May, there will be a full public consultation

and certain conditions will be laid down if it is granted.

This was the reply from Reading Borough Council to queries from Caversham and District Residents' Association.

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

As most readers know, I seldom mention hairdressers in this column, the reason being that we have several in Caversham, all very good in their own way and all highly spoken of by customers. But I do think I'm justified in making an exception in this instance.

Last month I said that David Hunt and his family had given up the business in Prospect Street and had gone to Spain; I also said that Pauline Duckett, who has worked there for the last 14 years, was taking over the business — joining the ranks of the very efficient female proprietors (or whatever you call them) in this area. She's a popular lass, so it's no wonder that the day she took over was a merry occasion, with cards and flowers arriving, including one single rose from her

young daughter, Alison. Currently Pauline's most vital need is for another stylist; fortunately she has been able to persuade Una, who worked with her for some time, to return to the fold and Mrs Adams will be carrying on part-time. Young Sandy is 'trying her vocation' for three months; she's a happy lass, so the business sets fair to being the kind of place where we shall continue to have the same friendly and obliging service. And I'm sure those who know her will join me in wishing Pauline every success.

IT PAYS TO PHONE

On and off for years I've done battle with various authorities trying to get things done so — especially in view of the current economic climate — it was with no real hope that I

rang the local Council's technical services department a few weeks ago, imploring them to 'do something about road' before somebody had a nasty accident. The potholes in the pavements were, by this time, big enough to trip up an elephant. Now I really shouldn't be so sceptical. Within a few days workmen had arrived — currently, of course, we're having problems with parking, getting out of garages and so on, but the job badly needed doing and I'm delighted.

Unfortunately funds won't rise to a full-scale renewal of roads and pavements but at least we should be able to walk on the pavements in safety very shortly.

DIRTY STREETS

I was delighted to read Mr Dimmick's letter in the 'Bridge' concerning the state of the roads in Lower Caversham. Delighted, but a little pneumatic sweepers he mentions and I've only seen the young man who used to appear from time to time once in the last few months. It could be that I'm not in the right place at the right time and I'll admit I don't get around Caversham as much as I'd like. The worst areas I have struck recently have been the alleyways joining Westfield Road with roads leading to Prospect Street, but there may be others.

Well readers, Cllr. Dimmick has given us an open invitation to comment on any particular streets, so do take the trouble to do so, instead of just moaning. And I promise to keep a weather eye open.

THOUGHTFULNESS IN OXFAM

I've been asked to comment — and I do willingly — on the thoughtfulness of the OXFAM assistant who, seeing that one of our readers had practically spent out in the shop, offered to lend her the fare home. The lady wasn't to know that 'home' was just around the corner, but it was a thoughtful gesture and much appreciated.

STARS IN THEIR COURSES

Do you read horoscopes? For some reason I do occasionally, though I don't know why since (a) I don't really

believe in astrology and (b) they are seldom relevant to anyone past the age of romance. But a recent horoscope had our household literally falling about laughing, particularly as I read it aloud just before sitting down to type letters and reports concerning the fight for Bugs Bottom. I could hardly believe my eyes, and I quote it verbatim, hoping the forecaster will forgive me: It read:

"The development of your neighbourhood by companies or councils could create a changing scene that will alter your community. Whether for the good or bad boils down to personal taste, but if you're going to fight for your locality now's the time to begin a campaign."

What could be more appropriate!



E.S. Archer



E.S. Archer

Mrs Vivien Cussell B.Ed., arrives in September to take up her duties as Headmistress at Thameside Primary School. Mrs Russell comes to Caversham from Whitley Park Junior School, where she was Deputy-Head. She has also taught at schools in Mortimer, Thatcham and Bracknell.



E.S. Archer

Summer activities started on Thursday, 30th July, at Caversham Childrens' Library, when a group of under-fives gathered to hear stories of pirates and their hidden treasures (some small 'pirates' came as well). Then they joined in a search for 'silver coins' hidden around the shelves, and also guessed where a treasure chest was buried by picking a spot on the 'map.' The finder received a small reward!

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There is a shorter walk of 5 miles starting at 11am.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Blagrave WI

The July meeting was held on one of the rare Summer days of this year when the speaker was Mr C. G. Davis who has been involved with china all his working life and has a very wide knowledge of the subject. The competition was for a pretty piece of china and Mr Davis chose Mrs Peacock as the winner and Mrs Hunter and Mrs Hutt second and third place. A very successful ploughman's lunch had been held at the home of Mrs Davidge in June. Mrs Ford gave a very informal report on the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall.

Someone rashly said that it never rained on Blagrave garden parties but there had to be a first time and this was it! Deluges of rain and thunder did their best to spoil the August party at the home of Margaret Mercer but W.I. members do not get downhearted that easily. A swift move indoors and on with the party. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and at least went home in sunshine.

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

Members enjoyed a bread and cheese lunch together in the Hall on July 7th, and were honoured to have with them the Deanery Presiding Member, Mrs Ruby Hignell.

At the meeting which followed Mrs Mildred Hutchinson welcomed The Rector who gave an interesting and informative talk about the Prison Service, in particular the Parole Board on which he served for many years. He paid tribute to Prison staffs who under great difficulties did a magnificent job in the day to day running of the prisons and were often able to form good relationships with the inmates. The Rector asked his listeners to remember that the words of the penitent thief were the last which Christ heard as he died on the Cross, and that it was

to the penitent thief that Christ gave His promise "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

The meeting on August 4th took place at the home of Mrs Elizabeth Mason.

The next meeting will be in the Hall on September 1st at the usual time of 2.30 pm when the speaker will be Mrs Barroll on The Victim Support Group.

St John's Mothers' Union

The Union members are now in the midst of their garden meetings, a summer routine, though recently it's become a competition to see how many people you can seat in a flat and what you can do when you've achieved it! Members were driven indoors twice last year and so far once this year but July saw them able to enjoy prayers, fellowship and fun in the lovely garden of Gwen and Norman Bartlett, lovely produce on sale and on view growing in their extensive garden.

The Mothers' Union celebrate forty-five years here at St John's though the Parish Union is obviously older, as that was separated into three following the death of the then Rector Wood, and subsequent leaving of the town of the Presiding Member Mrs Wood, his wife. There will be a celebratory service on October 27th at 2.30 at St John's to which all members and past members in the Parish are most welcome.

The regular corporate Communion members have lost a friend in Lucky, the Yorkshire terrier belonging to Mrs Bickford, as he "retires" with his mistress. He's apparently fell off a pew elsewhere in his puppyhood, and learned quickly to sit still in Church!

Caversham Camera Club

The continual rise in popularity of amateur photography has caused a rapid rise in the membership of Caversham Camera Club, with some members coming from as far afield as Tilehurst, Woodley and Folkestone! Yes, Folkestone is quite right, but the reason is simple. The two members concerned have moved away due to job relocation, but they like the Club so much that they are seen quite often at the regular Friday evening meetings.

Last summer members all took a break from meetings during July and August, but this year they are meeting every Friday right throughout the summer months by popular demand. The highlight of the summer activities will be a display of photographs from Club members, to be shown on Saturday 29th August at the Binfield Heath Flower Show.

New members will be welcome to discuss the pictures on show with several Club members manning the display, and quite a large attendance at the first meeting of the autumn season on Friday 11th September is expected, when the full facilities available to Club members will be on show.

Already there are several active groups within the Club, expanding their interests in portraiture, landscapes, studio photography, whilst printing and slide processing continue to hold the interest of most members. Use of the Club's own extensive studio lights and library is available to all members, and there are some seven different trophies to be won each year in the various competitions which are a very popular feature of the Club Programme.

The Club meets every Friday at 8 pm in the meeting room at the rear of the White Horse public house in Emmer Green. Non-members are welcomed at every meeting, and more details of Club activities can be obtained any evening by telephoning either Reading 475482 or 478657.

Chazey WI

On July 7th Mrs Lynda Rixon gave a demonstration of machine knitwear, and a fashion show of jumpers and suits made on the machine. The choice and variation was remarkable.

Mrs Liz Nealon reported on the resolutions taken at the Albert Hall and it was gratifying to realise that the W.I. resolutions carry far beyond the institute itself. The W.I. cake stall at the Battle Hospital Fete realised £106, a good effort, and all the cakes were sold by 2.30 pm.

The Age Concern Party on June 12th for pensioners from London was a huge success. Mrs Kathy Sell, aided by a dozen W.I. members met the bus and ambulance at Mapledurham Hall, and greeted each one with a floral buttonhole. The weather was good and vast amounts of sandwiches, cakes and tea were consumed. There was much talk and singing, and all felt they had made new friends, and hope to make the party a yearly event.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood in the Chair welcomed members to the July meeting, also welcomed back Mrs Florie Parker and Mrs Edna Beardmore, both of whom had operations earlier in the year. In the absence of the Secretary the minutes were read from the Chair, members being informed of a FREE outing to Bath on Thursday, 24th September, also that August would be a "holiday month." Members were asked to bring produce for the Harvest meeting in September.

Then came the introduction of Police Constable Michael Todd, who, incidentally, is Lower Caversham Area Beatman. He gave a most interesting talk about his duties and answered many questions from members; in fact, there were so many that tea had to be delayed. P.C. Todd was warmly thanked by the Chairman and members.

Members now look forward to a bumper Harvest meeting in September.

Rosehill WI

The July meeting was the last to be enjoyed until September, there are no meetings in August. However, social meetings will occur, a garden party, a ploughman's lunch, and an afternoon visit to Dorney Court. After the usual preliminaries, the Link Delegate from Caversham came to report on the AGM at the Albert Hall. The speaker for the afternoon arrived at St Barnabas Church Hall in "full fig" with gavel. Certainly he looked very distinguished in his red jacket, white shirt and tie, and black trousers. He is Mr Ted Smith, lives in Emmer Green, and had done the job of toastmaster for about thirty-five years, so he had quite a number of humorous stories to tell. Later there was an exhibition of over a dozen or so

wineglasses, brought by members, some very unusual and beautiful.

Maplewood WI

Maplewood members were given a fascinating insight into the history and workings of a major supermarket when Mr M.A. Davies, manager of Caversham Waitrose, was the speaker at the July meeting. Waitrose came into being fifty years ago when Mr Wait and Mr Rose joined forces and the first of the shops that now spread right across southern England was established. Their recipe for success comes under four headings, Value, Assortment, Service and Honesty and the

Turn to page 11

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ROUND THE CLUBS

From page 10

Caversham WI

assortment principle was amply demonstrated in the trays of tasty morsels that members enjoyed with their usual cup of tea. Some changes are planned for the autumn when the store will open at 9 am on Mondays and have three late shopping nights.

After tea the President, Mrs Heather Baker, spoke of the resolutions that were discussed at the Albert Hall when she attended the AGM on June 4th.

The exhibitions of household accounts, including one of a year's expenditure in a country vicarage, provoked many nostalgic comments. There was a tie for the most popular flower of the month between a red rose and a yellow one brought by Mrs Betty Clamp and Mrs Peggy Turner.

Due to the absence of the booked speaker at the July meeting, Mrs Helen Lilley stepped quickly into the breach and gave a most interesting talk on lace making.

She showed a large range of bobbins, Honiton, different from other British ones, which have a bead on the end, Spanish, French and Bruges. She illustrated the difference between needle and bobbin lace and traced the history of lace making from where some had been found in ancient Egyptian tombs to where cottagers sat making lace for a mere pittance from daybreak to nightfall, not being able to have a fire in cold weather, because that might make the lace dirty and they

would then lose the 2p for that day.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Lilley for giving such an impromptu talk, which was enjoyed by all.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild had a full house at their meeting on July 14th. After the committee had read their reports, they thanked Mrs Ellen Fuller for organising the Guild's summer outing to Cardiff where forty-six members enjoyed the St Fagan's Museum, Castle, and gardens on one of the few lovely days in June; everyone said the trip was one of the best they had had.

The speaker for the evening, Mr Jeff Serle, Development Officer, S.E. Counties for the RNIB, gave a talk on how they held the home, work and school environment for blind, and partially blind adults, and children. There are one hundred and forty thousand registered blind in Britain, some are born blind, some lose their sight through accident or illness, and of course old age. Every day forty people lose their sight. Mr Serle showed some marvellous devices which ease the daily life of blind adults and children. He was helped in this by Mrs Swain, Central Organiser of Reading and some volunteers from the Guild members.

White canes, guide dogs, braille, and "moon" for the elderly which has more pronounced lettering to help the lessening sense of touch. Different shaped buttons sewn onto clothes denote the colour, toys with bleeps make sure the children can enjoy games, and a brilliantly simple device such as the liquid level indicator makes domestic chores less hazardous. There are of course many more helps, including the Talking Book Service, which has proved invaluable to thousands of blind people.

Certainly this talk gave members a better understanding of the work of R.N.I.B., and how much they rely on the generosity of all of us.

Mrs Ellen Fuller gave the vote of thanks.

film gave a tour round a pottery works and showed how some fine china-ware was made.

At the social evening on the 20th July it was announced that another evening coach trip was to be arranged. There was a bargain table with a good assortment of books and other articles for sale, the proceeds were given to help subsidise this trip. Members were asked to contribute to this stall for the next few weeks.

A popular evening in the summer was the games evening held the following week. As the weather was not very bright the games were held in the club room. Dominoes, shove ha'penny, scrabble, skittles and card games were played. Ted Howard, the Vice-President, kindly volunteered, as in previous years, to order and collect a tasty fish and chip supper. Thanks were expressed by the members to Mr Howard and his helper, Mrs Crawley, for this good deed.

in 1981 and the egg presented to the Duke and Duchess of York resembling Royal Worcester plate.

At social studies at the end of the month Welshborn Mrs P Kovacic, who has been every year for over thirty years to Yugoslavia and lived with her Yugoslavian husband on the island of Hvar, gave her impressions of a communist country which is not a member of the Warsaw Pact and which more and more British people are visiting. The six republics which form Yugoslavia are Dalmatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Bosnia and Croatia and all are alike in prizing freedom. The speaker said that their close family ties which are similar to those found in Welsh villages mean that people are concerned not to bring shame on the family by, say, stealing, and are generally law-abiding.

St Peter's Wives Group

On a cold, dark evening in January, the members of the committee for St Peter's Wives, sat around a table arranging for the forthcoming year's programme. Thinking wistfully perhaps, of long, warm summer evenings in mid July, it was decided to organise a Treasure Hunt. Now for the reality, it was raining steadily, when five cars with their intrepid crews, mustered at a car park in Caversham. They set out at two minute intervals, in various directions, the clue setters hoping fervently that they would not lose any of their members or their friends in deepest Oxfordshire. Happily, everyone arrived at the final rendezvous and only one minute separated the winning car from the next team home. In the absence of any pieces of eight, gift vouchers were awarded, and even the setting sun put in a brief appearance.

On September 22nd, Mrs Edna Fitzzeastace will be with the Group at 8 pm in Church House to talk about her recent trip to New Zealand, illustrated with coloured slides.

Caversham Heights TG

There may have been rumours to the contrary, and Caversham Bridge does seem to want to show the guild as TWG, yet it must be pointed out that there is absolutely no connection between the Transport and General Workers' Union and Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild!

At the July meeting of the guild in St Andrew's Hall the subject lay in the study of eggs, not as a birdwatcher might see them but nevertheless work of imagination and beauty. Mrs T Hayward, an egg decorator and flower arranger, spoke of the work of the great Russian goldsmith Carl Faberge, who around 1870 began decorating eggs in the most extravagant way. Mrs Hayward's husband accompanied her to the meeting and assists her in this work. Any event, Christmas, Easter, a birthday even has prompted her to make an egg and there are special occasions such as the Year of the Disabled

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Caversham Community Association

The members met on the first Monday in July for a "Friends Evening." The idea was for members to bring their friends and introduce them to the club. A pleasant evening followed with dancing, games and competitions.

Roy Blandthorn visited the club on the 13th July and showed some entertaining films on a wide range of subjects. The first film gave a good tour around Eastbourne and Sussex. Next the petlovers enjoyed an interesting insight into Battersea Dogs Home. George Cole, the actor often seen on T.V. screens, starred in the next film called "Perishing Solicitors" — this film gave advice in a light hearted way. The final

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11.15am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
11.15am Matins (2nd 4th and 5th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong
St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)
St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong
St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
4.00pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)
St Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

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10.30am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)
11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
10.30am (meeting in the Hill Primary School)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

METHODIST
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm
Caversham Heights
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm
ROMAN CATHOLIC
St Anne's 9.00am, 11.00am (also Saturdays 5.30pm)
Our Lady of Caversham 8.30 and 10.30am, 5pm Mass
St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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CAVERSHAM DIARY

September 5th Cycling for Berkshire Churches Fund.
September 12/13th Pilgrimage to Oxford.
September 12-19th One Family Week at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.
September 19th 6pm. "A Grain of Mustard Seed" at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, followed by Harvest Supper.
September 19th Harvest Supper at Caversham Baptist Free Church.
September 20th Gosbrook Road Methodist Church. Harvest Service conducted by David Partington of Yeldall Manor. 6 pm.
September 21st Harvest Supper and Concert at Gosbrook Road. Methodist Church.
September 29th Confirmation at St John's Church, 7.45 pm.

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