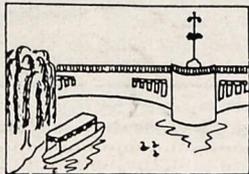


21 YEARS OF CHANGE & CHALLENGE

CAVERSHAM & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

COMPARED with the two-hundred-and-fifty years of Methodism celebrated in these pages last month, twenty-one years does not sound a very long time, but Caversham and District Residents' Association considers it a milestone in its history. It cannot lay claim to being the oldest Residents' Association in the country but of those which were formed before it, of which there were many, comparatively few have survived, whilst it continues to thrive. There are many reasons for this, but a main one must be the area it covers. Caversham is as large or even larger than many a small town, and it is in a part of the country that has been the subject of constant growth and change so that there has never been a shortage of issues to occupy its attention.



PROBLEMS AND GROWTH

It was the early 1960's that saw the rapid expansion of residents' associations and similar amenity societies. These were not only the swinging sixties, but also the jet setting sixties, when town centres were being ripped apart and high rise angular blocks were replacing the familiar buildings of the past, as the new technology got into its stride. It is easy enough to look back through rosy coloured spectacles and forget that many of our towns and cities, and even some of our villages, were outworn, outmoded, and in need of rehabilitation.

□ □

However, as often happens, the baby was frequently thrown out with the bath water, and looking round at the new brutalism that characterised too much of the architecture, at the breaking up of communities and the choking increase in traffic, people became aware, not only of what they were losing, but

also that what was replacing it showed little thought for its future effect on the lives of those who were going to have to live with it. It was this realisation that led to the formation of residents' associations and amenity organisations. The best of these were concerned not with preservation, though there were cases in which this was an urgent and No. 1 priority, but with the need for the growth and change which were taking place to be on a human scale.

□ □

In Reading, the Civic Society was formed in 1962. Caversham at that time was relatively untouched, but change was soon to come, heralded by the building of Caversham Park Village. In 1988 it may seem strange to recall that traffic was a serious problem more than twenty years ago. Of course there was less of it, but traffic management was still in its infancy and the streets were as choked as ever they are today,

Caversham being no exception. It was also a time when supermarket shopping, done mainly by car, was overtaking the old style of shopping and it was the combination of these two factors that led to the formation of Caversham Residents' Association.

THE DEFENCE OF CAVERSHAM CENTRE

In 1966 a plan was unveiled to develop land to the south of Church Street as a shopping centre with space left through it for a road to be constructed leading to a third bridge between the two existing bridges and linked to Henley and Peppard Road by a new road cutting through housing between Westfield Road and Prospect Street. The outcry can be imagined. A bridge at that point would do nothing to speed up traffic which would only end up in already overburdened Caversham Road. Good and serviceable housing, at the most in need of some modernisation,

would be destroyed and a friendly community broken up. The shopping centre would be against planning guidelines by being separated from the area it was to serve by a main road. Moreover it would bring extra traffic to Caversham if it included the kind of shops envisaged for it. If successful, it would have an adverse effect on Prospect Street as a shopping street.

□ □

The result of the outcry is still there to be seen. The plans for the new road and bridge were dropped. The shopping precinct is there and so is the extra traffic it brings. It was many years before Prospect Street recovered from the blow inflicted on it. Also there is Caversham and District Residents' Association, for it was the group of people who organised a mass petition against the proposals who formed the nucleus of what in 1967 became the Residents' Association. The 'and District' part is important, for it has always

been felt that what goes on immediately across the river and in the surrounding countryside is also of importance to the people of Caversham.

□ □

Back in those days there was little in the way of consultation. Public participation was a new concept but that great and growing body of amenity societies were not content to sit back and let decisions be made over their heads and behind closed doors.

□ □

Gradually consultation came to be the accepted thing until finally it was embodied in the statute book. It is odd now to think that, for instance, the first that was known about Auburn Court was when it was actually built, and the first known about the widening of St. Peter's Hill (newcomers may be surprised to know it was a winding narrow hill not all that long ago) was when bulldozers arrived to knock down the an-

cient flint and brick walls.

FIRST BATTLE OF BUGS BOTTOM

The early battles for Bugs Bottom were fought by individuals, notably the Public Inquiry of 1961, but successive ones have been led by the Residents' Association. Latterly they have been joined by Emmer Green Residents' Association, which was formed primarily for this purpose. From time to time various residents' associations have been formed to deal with matters that particularly concern their own area. Some of these still exist, whilst others have either folded up after the issues they were dealing with were resolved, or else are dormant until something of moment arises.

So here we are, looking back over twenty-one years and on the whole the issues haven't changed much, even if Caversham has. Lorries still thunder down St. Peter's Hill, a third bridge is still under discussion, trees get felled that shouldn't,

traffic queues up, good buildings go, bad buildings appear. So what, if anything, has been achieved? Chiefly it is that all these things that used to be considered of fringe interest have become recognised as matters of importance which people feel they can influence, and slowly this influence is having an effect. But nevertheless this process is neither so fast or so certain that a residents' association will not be a necessity for many more years to come.

So this year, Caversham and District Residents' Association comes of age (when it was born eighteenth birthdays had no particular significance) and looks forward to its quarter century. In the interval perhaps the greatest victory of all, the saving of Bugs Bottom, could be announced, and if this should happen, Caversham and District Residents' Association, without undue modesty, could claim a large part in bringing this about.

M.C.

1,200 join protest to save Reading beauty spot



■ On the march — 1,200 protestors set off towards Bugs Bottom ©

Courtesy Evening Post

D/EX 1758/25/6

TALKING POINT

AN EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

A few Sundays ago the Methodists at Caversham Heights held their Annual Church Meeting. One of the issues raised was the need for a Council of Churches in Caversham. There is a Council of Churches for Reading but this is felt to be too remote.

"Oh, no", we can hear you say, "not another talking shop! Anyway what is the purpose of it all and what would such a council do? Isn't there plenty and possibly enough cooperation between the Churches in Caversham? This paper, The Caversham Bridge, is run jointly by Anglicans, Catholics, Baptists and Methodists, there's the Link Group, the Bridge Scheme and the Care Centre which all have interdenominational backing. What else do they want? In any case I don't suppose the man in the street could care less, so what about the man in the pew?"

out to consider working together or more closely. First of all, do individual Christians know who are the members of other Churches in the area? Members of the various Churches need to meet together more often both in worship and in fellowship to get to know each other, to find out what their individual feelings and beliefs are, to discover what brings them together and what keeps them apart. Too often we conceal our churchmanship as if it were a plague. Christianity is meant to be infectious, don't isolate it!

church acts of worship yet these are the supreme way in which we can express our oneness in Christ. Week by week we worship in our own way be it high church, low church, evangelical or whatever. We need to remember from time to time that ours is not the only way and that other churches have equally valid acts of worship. We need to develop a sense of belonging together and to put away divisive attitudes.

It may be daring to suggest that it is up to the laymen of the Churches to take the lead in bringing the Caversham Churches closer together. We cannot, indeed we must not, leave it to the clergy. We shall still be here when they have moved on. We can only grow if we are prepared to take risks in our relationships with others. This applies as much to the Churches as it does to individuals. We must risk ourselves for Christ's sake and not remain sheltered in our local bunkers. Remember we live in a competitive world. The Churches cannot afford to compete with each other — we have together to compete with the forces of mammon for the people of Caversham.

So Christians of Caversham it's up to you!

Before we dismiss the idea our of hand we most ask ourselves some questions. Are the Christian Churches in Caversham pulling together to advance Christ's Kingdom? Should they not be seen to be getting their acts together? We sometimes sing "like a mighty army moves the Church of God". You can hardly claim that for the Caversham Churches. Each is like a platoon going its own way. Each is a cosy club which by and large keeps itself to itself.

There are areas where the Churches

Secondly there are areas of activity where it would be appropriate to work jointly. Work among particular sections of the community such as among young people and with the aged could be organised as work for the community not just for the individual church unit. Indeed work at such a level is often not viable.

The Churches in Caversham are better at expressing their unity at practical levels (e.g. the Link Group). The greater need is to experience and express unity on a spiritual level. There are few opportunities at present for inter-

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

THE Group would once again like to extend its thanks to all supporters who give help and buy. Without that support they would not be able to do their work. The recent Jumble Sale realised over £100 again. Many items were donated to the Home in such good order. The group also took part in the well attended Easter Fair held at the Hill School by their Parent/Teacher Association. In various ways a further £100 was raised. This sum included new Sue Ryder Gift Shop goods sale, the

money from which goes to headquarters who still support the Home at Nettlebed.

Thanks also to the Revd A. Wilson and his friends who again ran the Reading Half Marathon for the Group. (£295 was raised this way last year). It is hoped to see many friends at

Highdown Show on May 29th. The Summer Fair at the home in Nettlebed takes place on Saturday July 16th and there is to be a Flower Festival at the Home on October 1st and 2nd. Any enquiries or gifts will be gladly received by Mrs A. Deane 473798.

CAVERSHAM CHRISTIAN NEWS LTD.

AS is customary at the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors of this newspaper has given donations to charity from the profit made over the year. Those to benefit are:-

Caversham Carnival	£50
Caversham Care Centre	£50
ITV Telethon	£75
Caversham Park Mission	£100
Churches Urban Fund	£100
Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed	£100

Thanks to all our readers whose continuing financial support has made this disbursement possible. Even though there has been money to distribute, sad-

ly this year the amount collected as sales has fallen. So this comes now as a special plea. Please encourage friends and neighbours to buy a copy of the paper regularly. To our faithful distributors, please watch out for new people moving into your area. We need more help to cover the new developments; this is all part of Christian contact which we are endeavouring to fulfil. Please help us to boost the readership so that we can continue to increase our giving.

* * *

At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Patrick Baily was appointed a Trustee in place of Miss Alderson.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday - Thursday 9.30 - 12.30. Tel: 471703).

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

BAPTIST

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

The Rev Dr Philip Egglestone, 324B Hemdean Road. Tel: 470554.

METHODIST

The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 48 All Hallows Road, Caversham. Tel: 482530

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

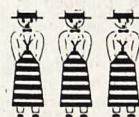
ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418

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S.C.F.

House to House collections in April in Caversham raised

£1912.23

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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COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

All contributions for July issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday June 1. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by Friday May 27. The dates for August are July 6 and July 1st.

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT INVINCIBLE FORT

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, when the fight for Caversham Bridge took place, after the delays that dogged it for so many months. It is early days to judge. Starting with its name, it is not of course in Caversham. There seems no real reason why it should not have retained its predecessor's far more accurate name.

It is described also as a riverside hotel, but from most angles it seems more like a roundabout-side hotel. It itself blocks out the riverside view, and unfortunately, even from the north side, its view of the river is impeded by the new boathouse shown a building called St Edmund's Chapel.

In John Mann's History and Antiquities, Ancient and Modern, of the Borough of Reading (1816) he writes - 'At the West end of Friar Street called Chapel hill was situated St Edmund's Chapel founded in 1284 by Lawrence Burgess, bailiff of the town by permission of the Abbot on condition of his giving an endowment for its support. This chapel was desecrated by Abbot Thorne as appears in a memorial presented against him in 1479 to King Edward the fourth for various instances of misconduct. The memorial states that this chapel, wherein were laid the bones of many Christian people, which then became a barn. It was situated on a triangular piece of ground formed by Chapel hill and the road leading to Caversham, containing about half an acre. It had probably, from the above circumstances, become the property of

the Crown before the Reformation, when it was annexed to the King's manor of Battle. In the time of the Civil War ... this chapel was converted into an invincible fort called Harrison's barn and afterwards, about the year 1750, was taken down and re-erected at Battle farm where it now is'. The writer goes on to say that the barn was a strong building of brick and stones, which flanked the Caversham road and was admirably placed to prevent the enemy from forcing their way into Reading either from the Pangbourne or Caversham roads.

Harrison was said to have been a carpenter. In the registers for St Peter's Church several Harrison's appear listed.

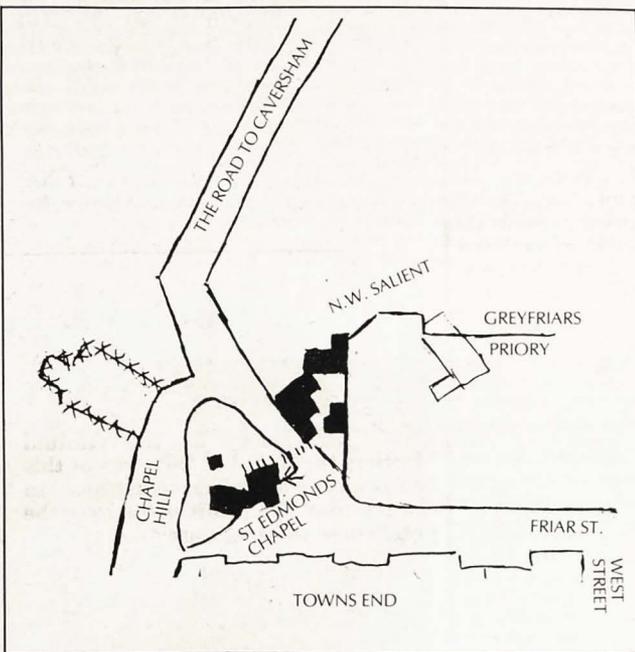
The fighting around the chapel turned barn was bitter on that day. To quote Richard Atkyns 'T' would grieve one's heart to see men drop like a fruit in a strong wind and never see their enemy. For they made loopholes through the

walls that they had the full bodies of the assailants for their mark as they came down the plainfield. I need not tell you what

men we lost." Many people will remember the small triangular piece of land bordered on one side by Thorne Street and

used as a car park until the whole face of that area became totally changed as Reading was redeveloped.

M.K.



Rough enlargement of part of the map of c. 1800 including major features of Medieval times of which St Edmund's Chapel was one. Note the triangular piece of land.

GARDENERS' CENTENARY YEAR

THE Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association, celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year, is at present enjoying a splendid programme of talks and there are excursions planned for the summer months.

At recent meetings members have had some extremely interesting lectures, including one on 'Plant Hunting in Crete' given by Mr Ken Buras, Superintendent of the Oxford Botanic

Garden, one entitled 'An Introduction to Victorian Gardens' by Dr Brent Elliot who is on the staff of the Royal Horticultural Society, and a most useful and informative one on 'Pest, Disease and Weed Control in the Garden' by a representative of the technical staff of I.C.I. at Jealott's Hill.

Mr James Compton, author of a newly published book on Special Plants and Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, talked about growing unusual plants, many of which are there in the famous London garden, now open to the public.

Most recently there was an especially ap-

propriate talk on the 'Gardens of Myddleton House' at Enfield where the famous E. A. Bowles lived until his death in the 1950s and which the Association is going to visit in May. It was given by the young and recently appointed Head Gardener who is actively restoring the garden very much in keeping with Bowles' creation made famous by his books and remembering his influence in gardening circles a generation ago.

The Annual General Meeting and sale of plants ended the spring programme on April 13th. The new Chairman will be Mr

Bill Baker whose lovely garden has been shown on Gardeners' World on BBC Television.

Anyone interested in knowing more about Reading Gardeners should contact the Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. W. Rutherford, 24 Malvern Court, Addington Road, Reading RG1 5PL.

CAVERSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE society held a very successful evening on 14th April when Mr J. W. Wilson gave an illustrated talk on Flowers of Crete. As well as slides of flowers unknown in this country, Mr Wilson talked about the different parts of Crete, showing ruins of old Roman towns dating back to

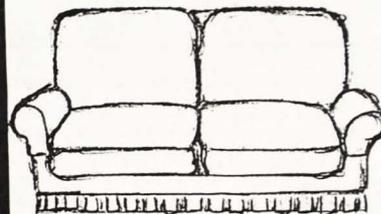
1300 BC. During the coffee break a draw was held for two members to have free tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show in May.

The next meeting will be held on 9th June when Mr A. R. Smith will talk about some less usual plants.

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DINT

I WONDER who the stupid idiot was who stuffed a whole lot of office mail, neatly done up in a rubber band, into an overfull post box in Prospect Street recently. Fortunately it wasn't vandals who discovered it but a gentleman wanting to post a letter and with some effort the letters were detached from their rubber band and inserted separately in the post box. Years ago it was my job to post the office mail, so I do have sympathy for anyone running to catch a bus with a pile of mail clutched in his/her hot little hand, but this was asking for trouble.

Jolies Fleurs

On a recent visit to Paris we were struck by the lack of flowers in small gardens, until we remembered that Caversham wasn't nearly so good in this respect as it used to be and front gardens are all too often a repository for building materials and rubbish. But it was a joy this morning to take a route I don't normally use, down the bottom of Westfield Road and come across a delightfully colourful front garden. Mrs Drew, the gardener, in spite of the handicap of two recently broken legs, was equally delighted to talk to me about the different plants. I've been on this tack before, so I'd better not say too much, but I do enjoy those, mostly small, gardens which are colourful. We had lovely displays of spring flowers in Caversham this year, particularly those in Peppard Road, so it would be nice if everyone joined the campaign to brighten up Caversham.

Cleaning up

And I take my hat off to the Church next to the public library, where a gentleman comes out first thing on Sunday mornings to remove the rubbish.

Talking of 'cleaning up', I can't think of a more serious attempt to attack hygiene arrangements in Caversham than to close the only two sets of toilets near the centre at the same time for, the authorities said, renovations and cleaning up. It was very distressing particularly for those who had come a long way to shop and often had

SUE RYDER SUPPORT

letter to the Local stationmaster recently. A great one I am for writing letters when I'm aroused and, like many others, I was getting angry, and frightened, at having to alight from London trains with an enormous leap — not easy at my age and size — and a prayer. This time I received a most helpful letter, explaining why the problems has arisen and assuring me that steps were being taken to raise the platform, tho' it might take a little time. In a lifetime of 'writing letters' I don't think I ever received such a helpful and encouraging reply.

didn't know the facts of the case — I do wish she'd done what my friend suggested, and written a letter to the 'Bridge' herself. And I do sincerely apologise for upsetting somebody who is apparently only trying to earn an honest penny after being made redundant.

Caversham En Fete

At this time of the year there's always something going on in the area and I do like meeting so many friends at sales and fetes. At a Link Group Sale recently I was asked if I'd seen the dolls at Church House. My friend and I hastened across to find

are constantly on the lookout for speakers, and I'm assured Mrs. Rixon is a very entertaining one, so do give her a call next time you are stuck for making up a programme.

Nettlebed takes
ice on Saturday
ly 16th and there
to be a Flower
stival at the Home

October 1st and
d. Any enquiries
gifts will be gladly
eived by Mrs A.
ane 473798.

TD.

Another Beef

I've said a lot recently about the friendliness of Caversham people, so it is with some sadness that I've learned recently that not everyone has got the message. And it was particularly distressing to discover that there are members of various churches in the district who just don't want to know, even members of their own congregations. I believe one clergyman had a notice on the church door reminding people that they shouldn't stop talking to each other once they left the building. Church members, at least, shouldn't need reminding. I'm not asking people to go around with a fixed grin on their faces, but a smile, especially coming from somebody one doesn't claim to know, makes the day for many people. I don't understand it. Is it because people are afraid of getting involved with others?



A reminder of a fine spring.

— E. S. Archer

young children with them. In desperation many made their way to the public library, but with only one staff toilet of their own, the people there couldn't invite everyone in. What are people supposed to do — take to the bushes down by the river? An urgent call to the local authorities didn't meet with much help either.

Write a letter

Which reminds me of the response I had to a

Corrections

I've been asked to point out, following what I've recently said, that (a) Milwards take in all shoe repairs willingly and (b) unfortunately the local travel agents no longer issue rail tickets. The staff are most apologetic, but I understand a lot of travel agents have recently cancelled this facility.

Oh yes, and I'm told that something I said recently rather offended

somebody who said I the Save the Children Fund people had organised a small 'do', sale and so on, which included a display of dolls of all shapes, sizes and ages. Talking to the lady who owned them I discovered her name was Mrs. Rixon, (Tel: 413006) and that she frequently gives talks on the subject and, I believe, has already done so in Caversham. Now I know that organisation secretaries

LOCAL QUEEN'S SCOUT AT WINDSOR CASTLE PARADE

ON Sunday 24th April local Venture Scout Ian Cleare of 3rd Reading Venture Scout Unit was one of eleven hundred Queen's Scout Award holders on Parade at Windsor Castle for St George's Day.

The Parade was reviewed by the retiring Chief Scout, Major General Michael Walsh CB, DSO, DL at the request of Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of the Scout Association, in recognition of Major-General Walsh's outstanding service to the Movement as Chief Scout.

This year's Parade

was a particularly special occasion to those Queen's Scouts involved, having taken place during the Venture Scout Section's twenty-first Birthday year. There are over thirty-eight thousand Venture Scouts (young men and women aged fifteen and a half to twenty years) in the United Kingdom.

Following the Parade, the Queen's Scouts attended the National Scout Service in St George's Chapel led by the Dean of Windsor, the Rt Reverend Michael Mann. The address was given by the Rt Reverend Nigel Mc-

Culloch, Bishop of Taunton.

The Queen's Scout Award is the Scout Association's highest Progressive Training Award and is given only to Venture Scouts who have maintained high standards of perseverance, community work, physical and creative proficiency and leadership. To qualify, the following programme was completed: expedition on Exmoor, helping 22nd Reading Scouts, playing football — Gardeners Arms. Ian has now taken over as leader of 3rd Reading Venture Scout Unit.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

THE RIVERSIDE SCENE

AT LAST THE NEW CAVERSHAM HOTEL is, or should be, open, after the delays that dogged it for so many months. It is early days to judge. Starting with its name, it is not of course in Caversham. There seems no real reason why it should not have retained its predecessor's far more accurate name.

It is described also as a riverside hotel, but from most angles it seems more like a roundabout-side hotel. It itself blocks out the riverside view, and unfortunately, even from the north side, its view of the river is impeded by the new boathouse, the storage side of which it is privileged to see from its back windows.

Moreover, somewhere along the line the instruction about contrasting roof tiles seems to have got scrambled, for in some places instead of just picking out the gable roofs they extend along the main roof, giving it a distinctly odd appearance. But the lights look nice at night time and the bar meals sound tempting, though it is too early as yet to have sampled them.

As I write, landscaping is not completed. On the Richfield Avenue frontage, a few strategically placed cola tins and crisp packets among the newly planted shrubs soon produced a homely and familiar appearance. On the car park side, new asphalt was laid right up to the trunks of the mature trees, the lessons of St. Martin's Precinct apparently going unheeded. Let us hope something is done about this before the

trees are irrecoverably damaged.

Doubtless before long, the hotel will become part of the accepted scene, though it will be a long time before nostalgic memories of its smaller predecessor, which allowed glimpses of distant trees and the river, fade from our minds. Somehow, although it actually post dated the Three Men in a Boat, it was evocative of them in a way that the new one

anyone approaching from that direction, as well as to hotel guests who may have been expecting a river view from their rooms on that side. The turret does not bear the promised weather vane, but that would have done nothing to mitigate the main fault of the building, which is simply that it is in the wrong place.

UNJUST FINE
It is disturbing to read that Reading Borough Council has

ing reasons. There is no doubt that the majority of Reading's citizens would concur with the Planning Committee's decision. The Department of the Environment however did not, and as a consequence the Borough finds itself faced with this bill. If the original decisions had been ill-founded it would have been a different matter, but it now means that if there is a shadow of doubt about an application, it is going to be expedient to

well to remember who 'they' are. They are not your local planners, or if they are, they are your local planners with a gun held at their heads.

In any other context, Bugs Bottom could well have attracted such retribution, yet the Borough would have been failing in its duty had it granted permission. The development at Dean's Farm has been refused, and rightly, but it was a risky thing to do in the light of this legisla-



The new Caversham Hotel, which is now open.

- E. S. Archer

never can be, in spite of that rather nice sign portraying them on their famous journey, complete with Montmency.

WRONGLY SITED

The controversial boat-house too is completed. Now that it is again possible to get to that part of the river without getting bogged down in building operations, its full impact can be seen. Approached from the bridge, it completely obstructs the view upstream, and to make matters worse presents its service and storage area to

had to shell out £50,000 to developers just because two planning appeals went against them. Both were for office blocks, one in Greyfriars Road and one in Blgrave Street, and in both cases the decisions to refuse permission were made for sound plan-

grant permission, regardless of local interest. Once more, decision making has been taken out of local hands. When, as yet another office block appears on Reading streets, the oft repeated cry goes up, "Why ever do they allow it?", it will be as

tion. Apart from anything else, that £50,000 could have repaired a lot of potholes, paid for extra street cleaning, or been used to enhance one of the drearier corners of the town. The sooner this act is removed from the statute book, the better.

What's in Star for You?

CALL the First Age, childhood; up to Majority eighteen years. Call the Second Age the working years, maybe forty or fifty. What of the Third Age, the years of retirement which could number thirty or more? A large slice of life not to be sneezed at! Members of STAR in Reading and district are well aware of this and are seeking to make the most of their Third Age. In fact STAR is an acronym for Students of the Third Age Reading.

It all started in France with the formation of the University of the Third Age, U3A for short. The movement is spreading. Local groups may choose their own names; the one in Oxford is called ASTA!

The idea is to keep older minds lively by providing outlets for the knowledge and experience gained in earlier years and for

by **MARY CROSIER** sharing them with others, through various group activities. The accent is on mutual benefit through association.

We ask all our members to participate fully in group activities and to give freely of their individual abilities and enthusiasms. In this way we have formed already, groups for Writers, Readers (literature and poetry), Walkers (short morning walks with natural history and local history in mind), Cooks and Craft Workers. An Art Group is in the pipeline. We have talks by members or non members who have kindly offered to help out of interest in our efforts. New ideas for holidays are also being put forward.

We meet in three venues; the Berkshire Retirement Centre in Caversham, Wilson Road School and the

Abbey Room at Reading Central Library.

Up to now it has been very obvious that people joining STAR are by their very natures keen and enthusiastic "Doers".

What we want now is to encourage more contact, with those people who are not so active but who would welcome the chance to be drawn into association with others of similar interests. Our policy of small groups makes it easier for individuals to feel at home; to make their own contribution. The annual subscription is small (£2) Mrs Jean Thompson (Hon. Sec.) who lives in Caversham, telephone Reading 477968, would be pleased to hear from people retired or finished with paid work or please write to Mrs Eileen Attwell (Membership Sec.) 8 Tofrek, Terrace, Reading RG3 1HN.

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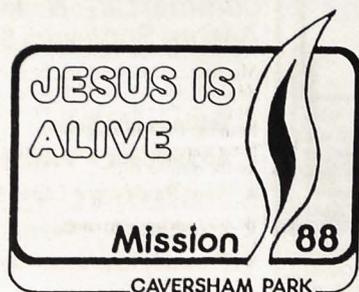
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ROUND THE CHURCHES



JESUS IS ALIVE — that is the message which will be proclaimed in Caversham Park Village from 10th to 13th of July. There is no building on the Village anywhere near big enough to hold all the people who will come, so the Church is hiring a tent which will be pitched on the Showground next to Clayfield Copse. It will hold 400, plus the visiting mission team, plus a quantity of audio-visual equipment — projectors, microphones, amplifiers, loud speakers — so much so that they are having to negotiate for a three-phase electricity supply to power it all.

□ □

The visitors will be a faith-sharing team from St Andrew's Church at Chorley Wood led by Barry Kissell as principal speaker and Shirley Hartup to lead the musicians. In addition to the evening meetings there will be afternoon events and a variety of children's activities. Meanwhile, advance preparations are in full swing under the guidance of a mission team at Caversham Park Church.

Tent, chairs, apparatus and children's play equipment have to be hired, transported and insured. Arrangements have to be made with the Borough Council, the Police, the Fire Service and St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Publicity is vital, and so are finance and fund-raising. At the time of writing the Church is already well over half way to covering the estimated cost of the operation, with promises of more money to come. But more important than any of these are the spiritual preparations before, during and after the mission itself. This is too big a task to be left to either the faith-sharing team or the mission team, so church members are being encouraged to form themselves into prayer pairs and prayer triplets to pray for the two teams, for the church as a whole, and for the people of the Village.

□ □

A series of sermons on the basics of Christian faith has been organised and for the follow-up to the mission, "Nurture

Groups", in which new Christians can meet with those of longer experience to get acquainted, share thoughts and feelings and talk out problems, are being formed.

□ □

All in all, this is a time of great enthusiasm and excitement for Caversham Park Church, which as yet does not even have a "Church" in the sense of a consecrated building. The moral of this is of course that a church is not a pile of bricks (however beautifully arranged) but a gathering of people. At Caversham Park people are indeed gathered from many different denominations as well as the three which have actually signed the covenant. Some day representatives will have to sit down and work out a constitution which will define the position in relation to the parent churches. In the meantime, denominational differences have lost all importance in a united commitment to Christ, and consequently to mission.

H. H. Carter

ST JOHN'S NEWS

COME let us Join our Cheerful Songs — to Thine be the Glory. A most uplifting Songs of Praise was held to start the Centenary Celebrations. The Church Choir and Organist were joined by Reading Military Band under their conductor Mr P. Hopkins and the resulting sound was magnificent. There were quieter moments too for the choir to sing Brother James Air and soloists Miss L. Hopkins (flute) and Mr R. Trinder (cello) to play a Handel Sonata. It is hoped to repeat the experience for Advent.

The May Bank Holi-

day saw a load full of St John's and Mapledurham folk travelling to Coventry for the day and then to Rugby for the induction of the Revs John and Jo Stevenson to that Parish. The weather was kind and the welcome in Rugby warm and appreciated. It is hoped to welcome them again to the Parish during its centenary celebrations.

The Rainbow Circle continues to flourish and beautiful evidence of its activities is around the walls, including the Risen Christ over the Altar. All children from aged

four are very welcome on Sundays at 11am in Church.

The Mothers' Union are very busy preparing for the Centenary celebrations of the Oxford Diocese and a special article will appear next month. They have been very sorry to lose two members in Mrs Ada Hinton, in whose memory the family have given her prayer book, and Mrs Maude Neale. Mrs Neale had been a long time member and regularly helped with the organisation. Always a cheerful, calming person, she will be sadly missed, but members give

thanks for her good life and extend their sympathy to both families. One of the major functions of the Mothers' Union is prayer, a continuous process for members throughout every minute of the year and June 15th is the public day for them when members in Caversham stop for half an hour (fifteen minutes at St John's and fifteen minutes at St Andrew's) to pray for the Dioceses of Boga-Zaire, Kisangani, Okigwe, Orlu and Owerri to whom Oxford is linked. This year members at St John's meet in Church from 8.45-9am on June 15th.

PRESENTATION



Presentation at St Peter's Annual Meeting to Mr Bob Gamble, who has retired as District Warden.

— E. S. Archer



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OBITUARIES

JACK EVEREX AND BILL FREEMAN

WITH the recent deaths in April of Mr Jack Everex and Mr Bill Freeman Mapledurham has lost two well-known members of its community.

Mr Jack Everex farmed Whittles Farm, Mapledurham for thirty years until he recently retired.

Mr Freeman was a regular worshipper at

St Margaret's until he moved from Chazey Road into a flat at Woodrow Court a few years ago. He then went to St Peter's which was just across the way. He was a most cheerful person who always got the very best out of life.

Both will be greatly missed. To their families we extend our deepest sympathy.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

PROFILE: LESLIE WYETH

IN three-quarters of a century, many changes have taken place in Caversham, for it is no longer a growing village, north of the Thames but part of the suburban sprawl of the south-east. Changes have taken place in the Baptist Church which no longer has an orchestra to accompany its singing (even if it is sometimes returning to guitars) and no longer has a Sunday School numbering hundreds meeting each Sunday. But it still has amongst its committed worshippers Leslie Wyeth, who was baptised there as a youth in 1916, four years after arriving in Caversham from "the other side of the river".

trying to teach refugee Jews from Europe the "meaning of English life". But all of this work is overshadowed by the fact that since 1935 Leslie Wyeth has been the honorary pastor of the chapel in Brimpton, a little village outside Newbury. When he started, he used to travel in on the bus each week for Sunday morning service, stay for a Bible Club in the afternoon and take the evening service before going home. Even now, over fifty years later, he still preaches there regularly, taking their Easter service this year. "It's not easy to disentangle yourself from a community you've been involved with for fifty years", he commented.

thousand years of critical ancient history" and it was clear that he had seen much of his vocation in life as being to explain this revolving kaleidoscope to those people for whom he had a responsibility, in ways which they could really understand. After fifty years of trying to hold together those who want to run to Paradise, and those who prefer to sit and wait for it, Mr Wyeth has heard many of the arguments many times... and seen many of them come full circle. Yet despite all these changes, his basic faith in the Resurrection is a faith based on experience, not argument.



Leslie Wyeth

It was not easy to persuade Leslie Wyeth to talk about his achievements for he is far more concerned about others than himself. Reading between the lines, his life seems to have been filled with serving others in many ways, or preparing himself for this service. As a young man, he studied theology for three years under no less a person than the great grandson of William Carey. Perhaps it was he who showed his pupil the importance of knowing why you believe anything, for this was one characteristic which stood out in all Mr Wyeth said during the time I was talking to him. For twenty-five years he lectured to groups of YMCA members and then in World War II he had the daunting task of

One of the things about Leslie Wyeth that stood out for me, was that I was meeting a mind still young, still active, and still thinking. He is ready and willing to challenge his faith with the newest discoveries of astronomers and particle physicists, as he had been ready to challenge the orthodoxies of Victorian theology with the theories of Darwin and Freud at the start of his life. "It all makes religion much more different in a sense, but on the other hand it opens up vistas to the future... the Church has hardly got started yet", he nused. As for the Bible, it's a "kaleidoscope of a

The other strong impression I was left with was his perpetual optimism — not an optimism of naivety, but one based on a very deep and very real faith, concerned with real living. "Religion's really basic side is the things we have to deal with each day. Remember, in most households the critical time of day is breakfast time..." It says a lot for Leslie

Wyeth's faith and courage that it was some while before I discovered that he had coped with diabetes for twenty years, and now was having to come to terms with one of its results: the onset of blindness. For him not a source of bitterness or self-pity, but just a matter of fact acceptance of something else to come to terms with and to live through. As he said, "this is the true purpose of religion — to enable people to come to terms with, and perhaps transform their lot..."

— E. S. Archer

It was very comforting to meet a man who despite all the wars and political horrors of the twentieth century; despite the wrangling of denominations and theologians; despite Berkshire's Sunday preoccupation with sports and car-washing rather than worship, still believes in optimism, still believes the Church can survive its own stupidity, and still believes that life is always exciting. Thank you, Leslie Wyeth, for sharing your faith with yet another person!

R.E.R.

St Andrew's Fellowship

ST Andrew's Fellowship was delighted to welcome Dr Geoffrey Udall, assistant Rural Dean, to its April meeting. Dr Udall became a non-stipendiary clergyman after many years of treating disabled and handicapped children. He emphasised that it was not only the children who needed his care, but the parents too, who sometimes found the situation hard to accept. Mothers in particular often felt a great sense of guilt at having brought a handicapped or disabled child into the world. He also said that sometimes so much attention being focussed on the sick child made life difficult for his brothers and sisters. The questions which were put to Dr Udall after his talk showed

the depths of sympathy and attention he had aroused.

The meeting stood in silence for a minute in memory of Donald Clarke, who was a Fellowship member and had entertained on many occasions with slides of his tours to remote parts of the world.

On Saturday April 23rd about thirty members and friends of the Fellowship had a very happy and enjoyable trip to Broadmoor to see their latest dramatic production. This was an amusing comedy. During the interval 'fresh dragon meat' sausage rolls were served 'it was St George's Day after all!) with tea and coffee. The raffle, a magnificent box of fruit, was won by one or the party.

CAVERSHAM ROUND TABLE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT the Annual General Meeting of Caversham Round Table held on 13th April at the Ship Hotel Reading, the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year:

Chairman: Robert Whittle, 11 Newlands Avenue, Caversham.
Vice-Chairman: Phil Buckman, Carrow, Shinfield Road, Reading.
Secretary: John Brunnen, 24a St Andrew's Road, Caversham.
Treasurer: Iain Wilson, 11 Cullodon Way, Wooshill, Wokingham.
Sports and Social Officer: Peter Nicholson, 4 Osterley Drive, Caversham Park.

Community Service Officer: Ray Holland, 6 Den-nose Close, Earley.
Press Officer: Jatin Desai, 22 Allendale Road, Earley.
Membership Officer: Jim Buchan, 9, Newlands Avenue, Caversham.

Round Table is a fellowship organisation for men between eighteen and forty years of age which meets twice a month and also organises social, fund raising and community service events. If you would like to know more about Round Table please contact Jim Buchan (Membership Officer) (business 0252 5444484, home 0734 473570).

WEDDING AT ST. BARNABAS



— E. S. Archer

On Saturday, 16th April, Michael Newton and Gwynneth Notton were married at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green. Gwynneth was a Server at St Barnabas and is a Queen's Guide and a Queen's Scout, and is now a Staff Nurse at Southampton. Michael is serving with the Royal Corps of Transport, and he and Gwynneth will shortly be moving to Germany.

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DID you know that Alan Stratton sat in a pew last Sunday — got right out of his wheelchair? He wants to do more and more the things that we can do, to join in. Under the loving care of his parents he has been enabled to make enormous progress since June 1980 when he fell and cracked his skull on concrete. A blood vessel broke and this led to brain damage. For five years he stayed in hospital but his parents, Eileen and Harry Stratton, wanted him home. With John Grimwade they had prayed him into God's hands and they saw some small progress. They moved into a bungalow in Cherry Close and left St Peter's to join our fellowship at St Barnabas.

Grants and Builders

With the compensation paid to Alan the Strattons were able to consult the Building Design Service, surveyors who specialise in designing homes for the disabled, and the builders started work last September. All the doors have been widened to accommodate the width of the wheelchair (2ft 1in) and give a six inch clearance. There is a paved non-slip ramp with rails up to the front door and Alan showed me that he can open that door as well as the patio door and other sliding doors in the house. The Strattons are pleased to see the builders move out in many ways but Alan will miss them. He has acted as foreman and enjoyed their company!

A Rugby club bathroom!

Two new bathrooms have been added on to the bungalow. Alan's is huge and beautifully fitted out

and decorated. There has to be a six foot space at the side of the bath and there is a seat in the bath which is easily raised by a lever which is operated by a hydraulic pump. The

shower is roomy with no step and lots of handrails and there is ample space under the wash basin for Alan's chair so he doesn't splash himself. The basin also has armrests so he can

lean forward. The colour scheme is blues and lilac and very attractive.

dy whom Alan is teaching to talk!

READING VICTIMS SUPPORT

LAST year this newspaper gave a donation to Reading Victims Support and a representative was invited to their Annual General Meeting held in the Police Station. It was their 10th Anniversary. The Mayor was present at the meeting.

The business was over smoothly and efficiently under the chairmanship of Mrs Ann Barroll, who sadly said that this was to be her last year in office. Reports from the Chairman and the Coordinator (Mr Peter Oates) covered all the work done in the year. Figures for the 11 months to February '88 showed that 1349 cases had been reported to the Support scheme and had been dealt with by personal visits and 'phone calls. The type of offence for which referrals were made were burglary (the highest, 1022 cases), then criminal damage, assault, robbery and theft.

Finances were in not too happy a position with a deficit of £121 on the year. Some Home Office funding will be available for the next financial year, but most income is derived from charitable donations. Of the £1,472 income for the year, £438 came from donations.

An address was given by Mr John Pointing. Mrs Barroll introduced him as Assistant Director of NAVSS, a position he has held for 3 years. He has done research into unemployment and has written two books, the most recent, "Victims of Crime" to be published in May. He spoke generally of

the work of the scheme, comparing the change in outlook over the last 10 years and the feeling that all victims should have support. Previously support was not given for crimes such as rape, sexual offences and racial harassment, but the trend was that help to cope with these crimes should be made available. With some Government funding, the possibility of having specially paid workers to deal with such serious crimes was being considered. In some areas (and he quoted Lambeth, where he lived) it was never possible to team enough volunteers anyway to cope with the less serious crimes. He had seen the biggest area of growth in the support schemes for very serious crimes.

This small but compact organisation needs help in various ways (and it was good to see several Caversham folk highly involved) like becoming a volunteering visitor or giving help with professional and practical advice, or making a donation and helping with fundraising. The local association has joined others to form a Thames Valley Association with aims to further the work in the area and encourage mutual support. The proceedings were over in an hour (something to be highly commended) and excellent refreshments, including a 10th anniversary cake were available, courtesy of the committee.

An apple-green garden room

Adjoining Alan's bedroom is a day-room with patio doors which he can open to wheel himself into the garden. Again there is not step and, when I visited, he walked into the garden leaning on his frame. He had to be restrained from taking a long walk! There are lots of puzzles and games in his cupboard and Eileen is re-teaching him his letters so he can recognise them on the computer keyboard.

Headway Group

Alan attends this on Monday and Friday with Eileen courtesy of the Readibus. The group was set up by families with brain-damaged relatives and the Lindsay Barnett Centre (named after a former invalid) had been opened at the Battle Hospital for them solely by the efforts of these families. The company they enjoy there and the change of scene make it invaluable for both the injured and their families. While Alan plays games, Eileen makes tea and coffee. There is now a cockatoo called An-

Repairs

Both Alan and Eileen are waiting for operations, she on her hip and he on his foot which is to be straightened. They hope they don't get called into hospital on 2nd July as they start their holiday at a holiday camp on Hayling Island on that day. Alan's brother and family are going with them.

Thankfulness

I can't do justice here to the atmosphere of thankfulness, love, fun and home that I experienced when I visited the Strattons. Their dependence on God and their gratitude to Him for keeping Alan with them, and for all the progress he has made is often on their lips.

God's gift

As we all meet at the communion rail on Sunday, and as Adrian says a special prayer for Alan, shall we join with them, thanking God for the gift of Alan's life and for the gift of his parents' great love. And — why not a spot of building at St Barnabas? Where is the Ramp for our congregation on wheels?

Jan Carroll

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SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

MARY Smith, who oversees the flowers at St. Peter's Church, has given her teams a strong challenge for the forthcoming flower and music festival (June 29th-July 2nd). She has chosen to portray the love of St. Peter, as recorded in the New Testament, by floral arrangements in each of the church windows. A text to illustrate will be used.

Apart from St. Peter's own devoted and artistic arrangers, ladies from all the other Anglican churches in the parish have been enrolled, and each has been given a window to decorate. This will be a demanding though uplifting exercise for them all and be of great interest, so do go along and support their efforts.

CAVERSHAM'S OWN SEAT OF LEARNING

THERE may not be a degree to collect at the end of the course, "O" or "A" levels attained, but the rewards lie in the stimulation of new interests or of old ones revived, the satisfaction of achievement and the forming of friendships with those of similar interests. For the retired, Caversham Adult Centre offers a new lease of life presenting a wide variety of subjects and new outlets hitherto unthought of in many spheres of learning.

No pressures are brought to bear on those attending courses apart from the obvious one of keeping up attendance; refusal to do this keeps someone else out of a class, numbers being restricted. Such is the growing popularity of the courses that far more people apply for places than can be accommodated at the outset. Nowadays enrolment is by post, notice of which is contained in the local Chronicle Midweek freepaper. Even so, the most popular courses of Yoga, Languages and Art fill up quickly.



Central Spot

Caversham Adult Centre is part of Reading Adult College which altogether offers over one thousand courses spread over the various centres in and around Reading and covering two hundred subjects. The former is held partly in

Caversham's old Parish School built in 1863 and partly at the Arthur Legge Centre at the corner of Wolsey and Gosbrook Roads. The Old School has been altered and adapted to embrace good-sized classrooms and entrance hall and is approached by Archway Road which leads to the Waitrose.

A section of the old building lends itself admirably for use as a pottery studio which is available both for the advanced craftsman to work unaided and the beginner in need of tuition. At all times firing is in control of a qualified technician.



Variety of Courses

Language courses take place in the main classrooms and there is an up-to-date language laboratory available run on Rent-a-Booth lines for private study in eight languages, both during the daytime and in the evenings. Keeping abreast of today's technology is a computer in the Learning Laboratory where a Macintosh and a BBC computer are both available with a member of the college staff present to help and advise.

One of the original larger rooms is used for Yoga classes, flower painting and Bridge and for weekend courses. There is also a creche available for parents to leave their pre-school children whilst attending

classes. Choice of subjects is vast, extending from crafts such as dyeing and hand-weaving, Chinese brush painting, screen printing and photography to videofilm and genealogy presenting the chance to trace family history. Always highly popular are WEA classes in music appreciation, art history and history of King and Parliament. On special weekend or all-day courses students can learn about creative writing, flower arranging or calligraphy and there is a family history Forum and Family Clay Day when all the family can make pots of their own design.



Holiday Facilities

Provision is made during School holidays for children accompanied by an adult, often a grandparent, to learn screen printing and to draw and paint in the Holiday Workshops. A craft circle for the over fifties is held on Monday afternoons when participants can follow their own particular skills and gain fresh ideas from others.

There is no end to the originality of courses. So that women do not have it all their own way a recent "Sexism-What is in it for Men!" course proved highly successful and members of both sexes attend the Language evenings when interest is centred round Spanish, French, Dutch, Japanese, Russian, German or Italian.



Arthur Legge Centre A Plus

It was in 1981 that the Arthur Legge Centre, formerly the School Meals Canteen, became part of the Caversham Adult Centre. Now, well lit and equipped with tables and art materials and a photographic dark room, it has become the venue for societies such as Reading Camera Club, Reading Guild of Artists, Caversham



Working in the pottery.

Horticultural Society and Caversham Community Association. Use can be made of the community dark room by those not necessarily members of the Camera Club, by arrangement.

Ongoing courses for the unwaged in such subjects as photography are available free upon application to the Centre, and for the physically handicapped there are pottery and yoga classes, and at Highdown which comes under the same educational umbrella, there is a movement and fitness course. Also at Highdown are courses in Chinese Brush painting and lace-making and those interested in wildlife have not been forgotten, for a WEA course embraces Gardening

for Wildlife, the Woodlands of Reading and bird watching. For the experienced as well as for the complete beginner are courses on antiques and a Folk Musicians Club.

Twice a year a craft stall is held at the Caversham Adult Centre giving students a chance to display and sell their work, a percentage of the profit going to charity. Extra courses are laid on when the demand exists and at least half the people disappointed in September have been accommodated by the Spring Term.

Caversham Adult Centre with its ever-increasing membership and facilities for learning has come a long way since 1961 when the Workers Educational Association began a class in English Literature at the Library. By 1972 the idea had caught on and several hundred students were enrolled on courses throughout

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Caversham W.I.

At the April meeting Mr and Mrs Colley transferred some of the enjoyment of their holiday by showing slides of their trip to Israel. Members saw scenes in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea etc.

At the next meeting resolutions will be discussed for eventual decision at the Royal Albert Hall.

Blagrove W.I.

Mrs Ford welcomed members plus the link delegate from Whitechurch Hill to the meeting to discuss the proposed resolutions for the Albert Hall Annual Meeting in June. Mrs Moss, V.C.O. gave a very clear and helpful explanation of the four resolutions to be voted on. There was a display of old household items including a cookery book, a paper back edition of Mrs Beeton, price 6d and a chestnut roaster that was mistaken for a small warming pan with some justification! Homes with these reminders of the past are getting few and far between regrettably. The raffle was won by Mrs Humphreys. A pleasant coffee morning had been held at the home of Mrs Margaret Mercer.

Caversham Community Association

There was no meeting the first week in April because of the Easter Bank Holiday. On the 11th April the members welcomed Freda Clarke and Frank Terry to the club for a musical evening. Kathleen Robson, at the Piano, accompanied the singers during the programme of songs from shows and musical operettas. Everyone enjoyed the fine singing of selections from works by Ivor Novello, Gilbert and Sullivan, Noel Coward and Offenbach etc. and hoped for a return visit of the singers.

Members were asked to wear fancy dress for the Club's birthday party on the 18th April. There was a good response and members showed their ingenuity in contriving a

variety of costumes. Mrs Jean Butlin was invited to judge the winning efforts and chose Margaret Barnes for first prizewinner, as a St. Trinian's schoolgirl, Olive Howard in second place, as 'Wee Willie Winkie' and Daisy Heath in third place, as a Bingo Queen. Earlier in the evening the members had enjoyed a good meal of salad, ham and pie followed by cakes and trifles. Later, after games and some dancing, birthday cake with a choice of fruit juice or wine was served. Thanks were expressed by the members to the committee, who had prepared the food and organised the party, and to follow members who had also helped to make the evening a success.

The Annual General meeting was held the following week and was well attended. The Chairman reported a successful year with a varied programme which included film shows, social evenings, talks and demonstrations and several outings. Officers were elected including Maida Feast, who was re-elected as Chairman, Margaret Cameron as Secretary and Ivy Masterman as Treasurer. The committee was then elected by the members and a vote of thanks given to retiring officers and committee for their work during the previous year. Beryl Latham, the retiring Secretary, did not wish to continue in that office but agreed to become Vice-Chairman and was thanked for all her work during her years as Secretary. The Chairman also thanked other members who had assisted in various ways including Evelyn Wallis, the collector for the chosen charity. The club wished to continue to contribute to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Appeal Fund and Mrs. Wallis agreed to be the collector. The Chairman said that new members would be welcomed at the club meetings held on Mondays at 7.30pm at the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsley Road.

Caversham Ladies Club

There was a good attendance at the Club's Easter party which was the New Year meeting, being the first after the AGM. In a short time tables were well covered with tempting

goodies that members had so generously brought along. The centrepiece was a lovely cake, made by Mrs Harwood and decorated by Mrs Queenie Strong with marzipan, in the Easter tradition. Mrs Harwood then opened the meeting, welcoming the members to their party. Club business was then given, and final details of the day outing to Wye Valley and Symonds Yat on May 5th settled.

A competition was held for a floral buttonhole. This was judged by Mrs Hazel Strong. The winners were first Mrs Nehlams, second Mrs Hill, and third Mrs May. The buttonholes were then spread around, bringing a fresh spring look to the tables. Mrs Harwood said Grace, and then as usual at club parties the Committee waited on the members. When tables were nearly emptied the cake was cut and distributed; club members absent through illness had some delivered by friends.

It was now nearing time for closure; Mrs Harwood thanked everyone for their contributions and help and reminded them that Miss Bea Snell would be at the next meeting. She also thanked them for their voluntary contributions to the RBH box which she and Mrs Queenie Strong would be taking to the Hospital before the next meeting.

Caversham Heights TG

Ladies in Black,
Debating Questions
and Tourists

At the meeting in April in St. Andrew's Hall Mrs A. Dismukes, the sister of a member, who has lived in Dubai on the Persian Gulf for 11 years, made a dramatic appearance dressed as a lady in black having her face partially covered and also being veiled as is customary in Arab states. Bringing along some articles in common use in the home, she told members about the marriage ceremony and the kind of life a woman could expect to live once married. For instance she only goes out with her husband, and her life centres round her home. Shops are mostly very small and it is rare to hear of a theft. It was a quick glimpse into the life of an Arab woman in the hot parched area around Dubai.

Answers to a questionnaire sent by the National Union about random breath tests and penalties for excessive speeding were sought. Regrettably not enough was known about the subject of the poll tax. Michael Mates' amendment to the Bill about the proposed tax was debated and defeated by a narrow majority in the House of

Commons that week, so it was a pity that a short educational explanation did not precede the putting of the question, which was oversimplified.

A true traveller is one who goes out not to shun but to seek, but Mrs P. Kovacic who spoke at social studies in Highmoor Hall later in the month and whose time is much involved with the tourist industry, described how different travellers can be. In this category can be encountered those who know too much, those who don't want to know too much, white sheep and black sheep, those who are happy with the national food and those for whom only fish and chips will suffice. How difficult then for the organisers and the courier. Her many amusing anecdotes emphasised that tourism has its lighter side.

Chazey WI

Dr Barr, Consultant Anaesthetist from the R.B.H. gave a very interesting talk on the history of the R.B.H. at Chazey's April meeting, chaired by Patricia Stringer, the new Vice-President. Dr Barr is also Chairman of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary Appeal for the R.B.H. He reports that this appeal is half way towards its final total.

Kathy Sell is organising the visit by Pensioners from Age Concern in London to Chazey on June 16th. Everybody hopes

this will be as successful as the one last year.

Mary Cadwallader will coordinate members in making a banner for Chazey which is entering its seventh year in May.

Members enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the Group Meeting at Bluecoat School on April 14th. The Thames Valley Chorus of the Reading Barbershop Singers royally entertained, and Chazey were delighted to win third place in the Limerick Competition.

Maplewood WI

The first speaker at the April Members' Meeting of Maplewood W.I. was Mrs Phyllis Duckworth who gave a very detailed report of the Annual Council Meeting of the Berkshire Federation held at the Hexagon in March.

This was followed by Mrs Elsie Edwards giving an interesting account of a recent Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which she described as a holiday of a lifetime.

Miss Winifred Simmonds followed with slides and a talk on her holiday last year in Turkey, which covered many aspects of classical Turkey.

A talk was then given by Mrs Margaret Pilgrim on

Turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

From page 10

her hobby of Lace Making, and members were shown some delightful examples of her work.

Finally, a new member, Mrs Eileen Biner, gave her impression of renewing her membership with the W.I. after a gap of twenty-five years.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs Evelyn Harden with a camellia.

Rosehill W.I.

The April meeting was chaired by Mrs Barbara Weller, who welcomed everyone to the first one of the year. Many celebrations are being planned as it is the Institute's twenty-fifth anniversary in June this year.

Members had attended the Spring Council Meeting at the Hexagon and three members had an interesting day at Harwell, reports being given for both.

The speaker was Mrs

Rixon, her subject Victorian Dolls. Her collection came in all shapes and sizes and she has many more at home. She kept members enthralled with stories about them, their origins and what they were made of, wax, papier maché, bisque, china, etc. Some American dolls had amusing faces, which by manipulation could be changed.

The competition, for an Easter bonnet, was won by Mrs Brown.

Emmer Green TG

Do not treat your dogs as human beings, was the advice of Mr L. Wilson who was speaking at the April meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild on Dog training. Mr Wilson who has experience of training dogs as guides for the Blind, as

EASTER PARTY



— E. S. Archer

Easter party at the Library for the under-fives. Here the children in their Easter bonnets are about to start an Easter egg hunt.

guards, to the gun, as well as detecting narcotics, now works teaching obedience to individual dogs with their owners in their own homes. He told members that the best age to begin training is four and a half months, but a dog can be taught at any time with perseverance, patience and affection, giving a confident and well behaved pet.

The Arts and Crafts group displayed some of the very pretty cotton dresses that have been made for the OXFAM Appeal. Mrs M. Sutherland the Group Leader, said that they hope to complete one hundred garments by the end of the summer.

The prize for the best Spring Hat made entirely of paper was won by Mrs L. Nicholson who modelled her creation of mauve crepe paper flowers.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Widen your interests and meet new friends. The Guild has welcomed many new members this year who have decided to do just that. They have not been disappointed, learning about their rights as a consumer together with their responsibilities — yes, you have a right to demand that your product works but read the small print. Heirlooms in silver and jewellery have been enjoyed and discussed, often the history being more fun than the value and the valuable being left uncleaned in a cupboard.

A successful Jumble

Sale has been helped to boost Guild funds and help pay for interesting speakers. The Guild is currently supporting the Royal Berkshire Hospital 150th Appeal by collecting all loose change at Guild meetings. In relaxing vein the countryside has been explored, with its occupants, through slides with Mr J. Taylor. He had some delightful slides of everyday scenes, made interesting by the light or angle of his approach, and most recently members have had a value for money talk by Mrs Logan, a home economist, with Sainsburys. She gave an interesting guide to the labelling of products and the demands of the public for health foods, including tasty snippets.

New members are always welcome and can come to meetings held on the third Thursday at 2.15 at Church House, Caversham, i.e. June 16th, July 21st, or contact Mrs House 471434. Members will be learning more about Home Safety and tracing their family history.

St. Peter's Wives Group

In March Mrs Mollie Harris, entertained St Peter's Wives Group with her humorous reminiscences of her childhood in an Oxfordshire village, and how she subsequently wrote articles for a small newspaper, not unlike the Caversham Bridge, and then decided to put her anecdotes into book form. She also gave us an idea of what it was like being a

member of "The Archers" family, which she has been, for 18 years. She kept her audience laughing from the word go. On April 19th, Mrs Catherine Radcliffe — Dietary Consultant talked to our members, and passed on some advice about a healthy daily diet and also added information on dietary supplements in which she is very interested.

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The annual Garden Party will be held on Saturday June 11th in the Rectory Gardens (Church House if it rains!)

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6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
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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)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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12th Philip Clerk
April 16th Stuart Robson
Alexander
Birch-Hawkins
24th Ian Sleeman

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26th Allan Bryson and Tina Yapp
April 16th Ian Fletcher and Anne Lovegrove

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13th Evelyn Barnes
21st Jim Shaw
Rosalie Smith
25th Frank Purcell
29th Catherine Stroud

CAVERSHAM DIARY

Saturday 28th May 2pm St. John's Centenary Fair, Church grounds
Wed. 8th June 2.30pm Mothers' Union Deanery Festival, Beech Hill Church
Saturday 11th June 2pm Cav. West Rangers, Guides, Brownies Assn. Rectory Garden
Sat/Sun 11/12 June Craft Fair, Mapledurham
Wed. 15th June 8.45-9am St John's Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer
Friday 24th June 8pm Patronal Festival Eucharist for St. John's Day, with Bishop of Oxford
Wed. 29th June St. Peter's Flower & Music Festival — July 2nd
July 2nd-6th St. John's Arts and Crafts Exhibition

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