

## NEW MINISTER FOR CAVERSHAM PARK

THE Bishop of Reading has appointed the Revd Philip Abrey, to succeed the Revd Paul Kenchington as Curate-in-Charge of the Parish and Local Ecumenical Project of Caversham Park in our Group Ministry. The licensing at Caversham Park Church is 5pm Sat 19th May.

Phil is 38, coming to us from his non-stipendiary post as priest at All Saints', Hindley, in Wigan. He is by earlier profession a schoolteacher, having taught for the past 14 years in primary schools in Kent and Lancashire (currently at a church school at Parbold, Lancashire). He spent four years with the Scripture Union, developing links with primary schools in the north. For the last

two years he has also been very involved in a voluntary capacity with the area National Union of Teachers, in which his pastoral, conciliatory

work has been highly praised. He trained for the Ordained Ministry with the Northern Ordination Course and was ordained to Hindley in

1985 as 'unpaid, part-time minister'. He breeds budgerigars!

Dorothy Abrey has been a teacher since the

mid-sixties in primary and special schools in Northamptonshire, Liverpool, and Wigan. She has for over six years been Headteacher in a

church primary school along the road from Wigan Pier! She hopes to keep her ministry as a teacher flourishing by obtaining a post in the

Reading area.

Asked for his feelings on the appointment, Phil smiled gently and said: 'All our moves have been after thought, discussion and prayer. I applied initially for Caversham Park when I had shingles and time to stop and think! We both have ecumenical backgrounds and a Local Ecumenical Project appeals. Other key factors were the style of the job advertisement — it contained a sense of humour — and the CPV 'A Growing Church' aims and objectives, and, crucially, Dorothy's willingness to move if I was appointed!'

He and Dorothy have our Prayers and good wishes for the move.

R.K.



## EASTER DRAMA AT CAVERSHAM SCHOOLS

ASSEMBLIES in many of the primary schools in Caversham will not be the same again after the visit of 'Keybunch', a drama group from Caversham Hill Chapel, consisting of Marion Hedley-Lewis, Sue Fairbairn, Mark Hatcher and Mike Holmes.

The group visited Caversham Park Primary, The Hill Primary, Thameside Primary and Caversham Primary conducting two Easter assemblies in each school, one for the infants and one for the juniors. They also visited The Avenue, Abbey and Chiltern Edge Schools. All in all, about 2,000 children were involved.

How do you get across the meaning of Easter to young

children, many of whom have no idea why Jesus came?

The Primary School assemblies started with the 'Clown Sketch'. This centred around a sad clown who tried a number of things to make him happy, like Easter eggs, presents, sports and friends, but found that nothing had lasting value. It was then pointed out that lasting happiness can be found in Jesus.

After a song with actions the infants enjoyed the 'Mr Grott' sketch. If you have an infant in any of the primary schools visited, ask them whether they remember Mr Grott! Mr Grott was a naughty man who kept on stealing chocolate bars from all sorts of people, until one day he was caught

red handed by P.C. Gotty in a cunning disguise. He then appeared before the judge, but when he realised how naughty he had been, he was very sorry. He still had to go to jail, however, to pay for his crimes, but at the last moment the hero arrived in superman style and said he would go to prison instead of Mr Grott. The meaning of the story was then explained; Jesus, represented by the hero, has paid for all the things we do wrong when he died on the cross.

The juniors had a competition after the first song, which was followed by the 'Signpost Sketch'. Sid, the signpost man, was building a signpost on stage. During the sketch different people appeared needing

various directions. A hiker, a mum with a boy desperate for the toilet, a robber were all helped to find their way by Sid, but he could not help somebody looking for the directions to heaven. This person goes off trying to find another signpost, and while he is away a naughty boy comes on and changes the signpost eventually leaving only a bare cross. This is then found by the man looking for the directions to heaven. The explanation of the sketch was then given: Jesus came to show us the way to God, bridging the gap between God and us by dying on the cross, enabling the things we do wrong to be forgiven.

Sketches appealing to older children were done at the secondary

schools. Fun was had by both those listening and those performing. The reaction by the schools was also very positive, with invites to come back already given. Hopefully the

meaning of Easter will be clearer to our children as a result.

Keybunch have been involved in street evangelism and other evangelistic events, Christian

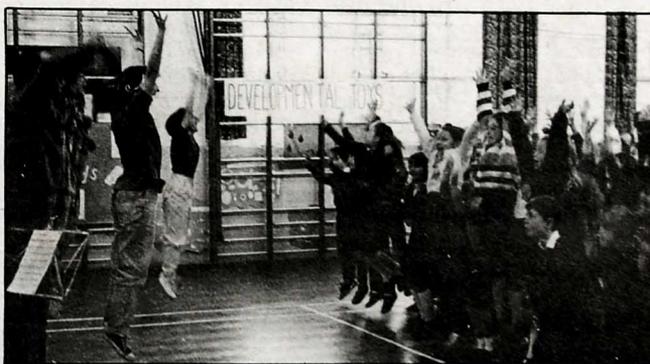
Unions, religious education lessons and church services. If you are interested in the work of Keybunch phone Mike Holmes at Caversham Hill Chapel, Tel 474529.



Scene from the Signpost sketch



Teaching the song, Keybunch from left to right — Mike Holmes, Sue Fairbairn, Mark Hatcher and Marian Hedley-Lewis



Juniors from the Hill Primary School enjoying 'I will lift my hands in adoration'

# TALKING POINT

By the Rev. Christine Allsopp  
Curate, St. Peter's & St. Margaret's



## TURNING OFF — OR TURNING ON?

WHAT does the word EVANGELISM do for you? I must say it isn't a word that has ever set me alight — not, that is, until last week when I attended a conference on the subject. In fact it's a word that has most definitely turned me off. If it does the same for you, please, don't turn off completely. After all, this is my first "Talking Point" so I urge you to at least give me (and evangelism) a chance by reading to the end of this column!



I suppose it's the picture which the word conjures up for me: earnest well-scrubbed young men and women knocking on the door with one hand while holding a Bible in the other, asking if I've been saved. Or the big meeting with the big name and the invitation to get up out of your seat and make a commitment to Christ. I'm not denying that these methods have brought people to Christ, but I suppose I feel more comfortable with a gentler, perhaps more English way of doing things. Many Christians would run a mile rather than be involved in knocking on doors and I would guess that while these methods are attractive to some non-Christians, they just leave others cold.



Maybe what we need are some adverts. I'm not thinking of the man with the sandwich board proclaiming: "Repent for the end of the world is nigh". We need to be more up-to-date than that. I rather like some of the recent suggestions (admittedly tongue-in-cheek) for advertising the C of E. How about: "Music, wine, virgins-party, his place, Sunday." or: "From the people who brought you Christmas..." But seriously, is this really the way to advertise the Christian faith?



Advertisers generally start by looking at the market for their product. It's a startling fact that in a survey of adults in this country commissioned by the BBC seventy-six per cent of those questioned were happy to call themselves Christians but of these about fifty per cent only attended church very occasionally. Many people had stopped going to church merely because they had "lost the habit" and only a small percentage because they had

stopped believing. "You can be a Christian without going to church" is a comment made frequently. But what sort of Christian? Most of us need help and encouragement and the strength which comes from joining with other believers to worship God.



One thing is certain: we are going to find it difficult to avoid the word EVANGELISM over the next ten years. The Church of England has announced a Decade of Evangelism beginning next year and ending in the year 2000. Quite independently the Pope has announced a similar initiative in the Roman Catholic Church and I believe that the Free Churches are planning to focus on evangelism too. It might have been possible to ignore a Year of Evangelism — but not a Decade!



So perhaps we should look at what evangelism really means. Quite simply it is sharing what God has done in Christ for us. There may be many different ways of doing this, but if we have experienced something of the love of God through Christ, shouldn't we want to share it? Shouldn't this Good News be something we can't help but share? The first followers of Jesus found themselves unable to keep quiet! Jesus had told them: "You will be witnesses for me" and the power of the Holy Spirit enabled them to be just that.



We may feel, though, that we have a choice about whether we should be witnesses for Christ or not; that our religion is essentially a private matter; that some people are "good at that sort of thing" but others are not. Two answers to these doubts came from the conference I attended. Firstly, it's a good job the first disciples didn't feel like that! Secondly, we are all witnesses whether we like it or not. Whenever and wherever people know that we are Christians we become witnesses: at work, at home, at the shops, waiting at the school gate for the children. It's a sobering thought isn't it? We may be good, bad or indifferent witnesses but we cannot avoid the fact that we are the visible evidence for Christ and his Church. Are we turning people on to the Good News — or turning them off?

# POSTBAG

## BLACK RAILINGS

Dear Sir,  
What on earth are all the awful black railings being put all round Reading for? An utter waste of our money. Surely it would be much better to spend the money on the appalling state of our roads, some of which are extremely

dangerous. For instance the roads and pavements by the Henley Road shops are absolutely disgraceful. Loose stones and wobbly pavements are truly dreadful. I have to go about in a wheelchair and the other day was nearly tipped out owing to the frightful conditions. Luckily a kind lad helped to save me, but my back has not recovered yet.

Yours etc.  
Mrs Nancy Banfield  
1 Mander Court,  
Derby Road  
Caversham.

## HONG KONG

Dear Sir,  
May I urge your readers to be involved in the local efforts, writing to local M.P., praying, petitions etc., to influence Government policy at home and abroad. In particular at this time our Government's attitude towards Hong Kong and the Vietnamese Boat

people is not in my view pleasing to God. The Bible is full of references to God as having care for the poor and oppressed, Jesus himself was a refugee. When 1997 comes it will not only be the Boat people who are refugees but many Hong Kong citizens. We have a responsibility to

find a home for these unfortunate and should not be looking towards our own self and national interests.

Yours etc  
Colin Johnson  
335 Gosbrook Road  
Caversham

## HELP

ST John's, Caversham Guide Company are urgently in need of leaders. This is a flourishing Guide Company with its own Headquarters, meeting on a Wednesday evening. If you are interested in working with 10/14 years olds this can be very rewarding voluntary job, and we should like to hear from you. There are also vacancies for both Guide and Brownie leaders in Caversham/Caversham Park/Emmer Green areas. For more details please phone 477860 or 482386.  
(Mrs J. Hall, District Secretary)

## 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.  
Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.  
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.  
The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

### CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

### BAPTIST

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

### METHODIST

The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.  
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, 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.  
The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue. Tel: 474138.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.  
(For Caversham Park Village)  
The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

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## GRAND FETE

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## CONTRIBUTORS

Please note — change of date for September copy.

Now Wednesday  
1st August

## CAVERSHAM CHRISTIAN NEWS LTD

AT the Annual Meeting of the Caversham Christian News, a reasonably healthy balance sheet was submitted. However, in view of the known increase in the cost of printing this newspaper, your Board of Directors agreed to be prudent in their distribution of end-of-the-year profits. £100 was donated to Reading Emergency Aid Project. The possibility of a further disbursement would be considered later.

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

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

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

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 30 April.

The dates for July will be Monday 4 June and Wednesday 6 June.

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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# WHAT IS GOD UP TO?

THERE is no telling what the impact will be of the millions of scriptures now flowing into the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Is it too fantastic to believe that these Eastern bloc nations will experience — in years to come — a spiritual revival comparable to that which swept through Great Britain and North America in the late 18th and early 19th centuries?

"The worst thing is that we are living in a decayed moral environment. We have become morally ill.... We have learned not to believe in anything, not to have consideration for one another and only to look after ourselves. Notions such as love, friendship, compassion, humility and forgiveness have (been lost)..."

These are not the

words of a pastor or priest, but of Václav Havel the president of Czechoslovakia. How surprised we would be if such statements came from the mouth of a Western leader!

And yet what Havel has said is true for East and West. The decayed moral environment is evident, whether the result of atheistic communism in the East, or freedom without restraint in the West. What Havel must realise is that while he rebuilds his nation from the moral ruins of communism, he will face the moral challenge that freedom of choice brings in democratic capitalism. As a case in point, BBC Radio 4 recently broadcast a story about the rise of pornography in Czechoslovakia.

Beyond the battle for political freedom

in East European countries, then, is the more fundamental battle for their moral reformation. That, I believe, will only come about when people turn to the Christian scriptures and discover the God of

same to our brothers and sisters in the East?

But let's not mount our triumphalist horse too soon. There is an irony that while in formerly 'godless' nations religious educa-

tion (Bible-based in some cases) is being reinstated and the demand for scriptures unprecedented, in West European and

religious attachments — is one of the most telling paradoxes of our time." A paradox ... and a warning. In the coming years, will the export of the Christian scriptures bring renewal to Christianity in the East while the West continues its moral decline? Only future historians will be able to answer that question. Perhaps the East will reject Christianity and turn, as the West has, to the religion of materialism and decadence. Let's hope not. What must we do? We must provide

How strange it would be if ex-communist nations experienced a moral reformation (because of the spreading of God's Word), while the West became what communism is now: a spiritual wasteland. When Gorbachev met with the Pope in Rome, the Soviet

Steven Downey is the Information Officer for the United Bible Societies (UBS). His opinions are not necessarily those of the UBS. For those who want to help send scriptures to Eastern Europe (or anywhere else in the world) please contact the British and Foreign Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG.

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by Steve Downey  
United Bible Society

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Druga strana reitome  
**TEHNOLOŠKI VISAK — ŠTA JE TO**

Demokratski socijalizam  
**ŠTA ŠTAJAMO ZELE ZAPADNOEVROPSKI SOCIALDEMOKRAT**

Raspodela  
**MUCKE NA YU NAČIN**

Moguće varijante budućeg razvoja  
SSSR u Istočnoj Evropi  
**POGLLED IZA ZAVESE**

The weekly magazine of the Yugoslavian Communist Party with an advertisement of the United Bible Societies. Published 2 March 1990

The United Bibles Societies has calculated that if every Christian family in the USSR and Eastern Europe were to receive one Bible and one New Testament, 74 million volumes would be required costing approximately \$150 million. These figures are mind-boggling, but they are more than figures: they represent people who have been spiritually starved during decades of totalitarian rule.

Shall we who have the Word of God for discipleship and evangelism deny the

North American leader said publicly that moral values generated by religion "can help in the work of renewal in our country" (not the first time he had said it). A commentator in **The Christian Science Monitor** wrote that this:

"...set up a curious spectacle. A communist leader recognising the religious basis of ethical behaviour — while Western democratic societies doggedly refuse to make the connection between their agonising lapses in ethics and their declining

leader said publicly that moral values generated by religion "can help in the work of renewal in our country" (not the first time he had said it). A commentator in **The Christian Science Monitor** wrote that this:

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# THE POLL TAX - AND YOU RESPOND

## Fairer than the Poll Tax!

THE party manifesto which foreshadowed the Poll Tax asserted that 'the tax system must be fair and be seen to be fair' and promised that the domestic rating system would be replaced by 'taxes more broadly based and related to people's ability to pay'. Amirable sentiments, but the bizarre circumstances in which Gurkha soldiers and student nurses have found themselves have highlighted the unsuitability of the Poll Tax to fulfil them.

To provide a tax system which is seen by every taxpayer as being fair to him or herself

Household	Student Nurse	Pensioner Couple	One Earner Couple	One Earner Couple	One Earner Couple
Income 1/4/90	£5,695	£5,815	£9,500	£12,000	£44,951
Poll Tax	£447	£460	£894	£894	£894
Local Income Tax	£132	nil	£234	£327	£1,971

million pounds a year. The other is that it would be much less easy to evade, whereas the fear of widespread non-payment of the Poll Tax has led councils to insure themselves with inflated Poll Tax rates.

The Association of London Authorities has said that it is confident that 'a workable Local Income Tax, which is cost-effective to collect, simple to administer and easy to understand can be successfully devised and implemented'. And if it were the relative charges under Poll Tax and Local Income Tax would, it is estimated, look much like this:

citizen, only mitigated in cases of inability to pay without extreme hardship.

There are three criteria which should govern our tax system. The first is that it should place a comparatively equivalent burden on those at every income level: it would bear lightly on both the poor and the affluent or bear heavily on both the poor and the affluent according to the health of the economy.

The second is that, unlike a tax on property which not everybody owns, it would be applicable to everyone and all would have an interest in whether

the taxes they paid were wisely or prodigally spent. And the third of the criteria, since we live in a society which claims to follow Christian principles, is a bias towards the poor. The principles could best be achieved by a local income tax which, in the view of the Liberal Democrats, should replace the Poll Tax. In addition to working as fairly as any tax can and being proportional to a person's ability to pay, it has two additional merits.

One advantage is that it is cheaper to collect, whereas the collection of the Poll Tax will, it is estimated, cost Reading over a

## A Green Perspective

IN his article in the April issue of Caversham Bridge, Robert Dimmick rightly stated that the former rating system was thought to be unfair. How then can we begin to assess the fiscal and political ineptitude of those responsible for the introduction of the Poll Tax, a system perceived to be unjust and inequitable by people in all sections of society? How can it be right that a tax should be levied that takes so little account of income or ability to pay?

We have abolished a system whereby in one house an individual might have to pay the rates single-handed whilst in another several wage earners shared the burden. There will now be many households where more than one Poll Tax comes out of an

individual wage packet.

Poll Tax attacks family life at precisely those stages where people are most under stress and in need of support from the community.

Many families with young children will be faced with having only one wage earner and two Poll Tax bills to pay. Some will no longer be able to choose the luxury of looking after their own children.

An eighteen year old studying at Technical College, although not receiving a grant, will be obliged to pay 20% Poll Tax. Is this an incentive to acquire the skills we are told this country needs? There can be no justice in requiring money from someone who receives no income. Those youngsters from homes where money is tight will face a terrible dilemma and may well feel obliged to take a job to ease the burden instead of continuing their education.

There will be no exemption for people with physical disabilities who live in the community. In the Sunday Correspondent, Anne Clarke, the National Development Coordinator for the Carer's National Association, has been quoted as saying

"Carers tell us that the Poll Tax won't make them give up caring for their relatives. Caring is an emotional rather than a financial decision. But they're hopping mad that they are being penalised." Who can blame them?

All elderly people cared for within the family are similarly liable for Poll Tax. If they are placed in residential homes, the family no longer has to meet this added commitment. This is a further attack on family life and care within the community.

There must be many better ways of raising money to finance Local Government than this. The Green Party favours a combination of local In-

come Tax and Community Ground Rent, a land taxation system which rewards rather than penalising the improvement of property, and provides a financial disincentive to slum landlords and those whose use of land is speculative and does not benefit the community. This system has proved successful in regenerating a number of American cities. No doubt other parties have good ideas too, but so long as our political system is adversarial rather than cooperative we cannot benefit from the variety of view points available to us.

The Poll Tax is only the latest of a series of attacks on the

fabric of our caring society. The terrible damage inflicted on our Health Service, the systematic demoralising of those whom we have asked to educate our children, and the introduction of the Social Fund, which claws back benefits from those in our community who are most in need, are a national disgrace. The righteous indignation which the Poll Tax has aroused in all sections of the community is perhaps a sign that after ten years' sojourn in an ethical wilderness the Country has had enough. We must encourage one another. A monumental task of reconstruction lies ahead.

by Anne McCubbin

## POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

Caversham Post Office

Re: 'Caversham Bridge' No: 305

Subject - 'Poll Tax and You'

May I draw your Reader's attention, in the public interest, to an omission regarding the methods of payment for Poll Tax in the Reading Borough. You may pay by 10 equal instalments, free of charge, at any Post Office within the Borough. Bearing in mind postage costs, and that 40% of the public do not hold Bank Accounts, to say nothing of the sick, elderly, and handicapped, who regularly visit their local Post Office, the Borough should be congratulated on this arrangement. I was therefore surprised to note that Mr. Dimmick omitted this caring and considerate method from his article. But perhaps he just forgot. After all we are told a week in politics is a long time! Please use your Post Office or risk losing it, for we are ready and willing to serve you.

Yours faithfully  
M. L. Fussell

E & O E of course

Turn to page 5

## 'A TALE OF THE RIVER BANK'

DURING the aftermath of the great storms of February, it was a common sight to see tree trunks and large branches, like strange river-craft, swiftly carried downstream by the strong current. Most of them swept through Caversham

Bridge, but one lodged itself near the 'wharf' outside No.2, Bridge Street. There it remained, settling ever more deeply into the mud.

For the past four years, a pair of Crested Grebes have nested on the little island which is in the

care of Joan and Dennis Hammond; on one afternoon in March there could have been a tragedy, but for the quick-thinking of the men who were working in No.4, Bridge Street. Alan, Colin, David and Ian, through talking to Joan had become in-

terested in the variety of river birds which congregated there. On the afternoon in question, a commotion was heard by the men, who found a frightened, struggling grebe by the tree trunk, apparently attached to it. David immediately called upon Joan, and they found it was indeed attached, by one wing. They went into action; they carefully pulled the tree nearer to the wharf, and found it was necessary to remove branches before attempting rescue. This the men did, whilst Joan supported the grebe. It was then discovered that the wing was entangled in a discarded fishing line, which, in its turn was entangled in the tree. For a long twenty minutes Joan painstakingly untangled the wing, feather by feather, slowly so as to cause no

damage, whilst the other members of the rescue team held the tree steady, also the frightened bird which was doing its best to peck its rescuer! At least the job was done and the grebe was free to go back to its nest and be re-united with its mate. David, Colin, Ian and Alan went back to their work feeling very pleased at the success of their endeavours in a new venture — bird rescue! Joan, who was feeling exhilarated and grateful for the presence of the young men, went home and made herself a cup of tea!

A last thought! One wonders if there were any fishermen amongst the crowd watching from Caversham Bridge, who had at any time discarded unwanted fishing line on the river bank!

J.A.

## 'SWAN LIFELINE GRAND DRAW'

THE raffle tickets for the Swan Lifeline Appeal, organised by the Caversham Hotel, sold well and on Tuesday, 27th March the draw took place in the hotel. At one p.m., in the

presence of the Manager, Mr. Robin Winter, Tim Price of Swan Lifeline, Windsor and other members of Swan Lifeline, the draw commenced. Mrs. Joan Hammond drew the

tickets from an elegant top-hat (to match the elegant prizes). There were four winners from Caversham:-

Mr. G. Feast — Picture of Caversham Hotel. Mrs. Helen Smith — The Food Hamper. Mr. D. Brown of Heron Court — The Candlelit dinner for two. Mr. C. Nichols of Surley Row — The year's Subscription for the Caversham Hotel Leisure Club.

Many thanks to Mr. Robin Winter, his staff and the Caversham Hotel for their generous help.

J.A.



E. S. Archer

From Councillor Pauline Palmer — Leader Conservative Group, Reading Borough Council.

## AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF THE COMMUNITY CHARGE.

WHILST not a regular attendee at Church I believe I am a Christian and that my view on the Community Charge is a true and honest one.

Whilst I would accept that the level of this year's charge is much higher than any of us would like there is no doubt that it is a fairer system than the old rating system.

The Labour Controlled Reading Borough Council must take its share of the blame for it being so high — their budget this year is much higher than last year yet they didn't even want to discuss amendments put by the Conservative Group to reduce it!

I cannot, with accuracy, quote the Bible but I do find it very difficult to understand how anyone with the in-depth knowledge of the Bible that Councillor Robert Dimmick obviously has, although not encouraging it personally can support or even be associated with a Party that has many members both nationally and locally that condone law breaking in the form of non-payment of taxes — i.e. The Community Charge, or even support and encourage civil disobedience — surely this is not something the Bible advocates and as a Christian I find this very difficult to understand.

Why do I believe that The Community Charge is fairer than the old rating system?

The major injustice of the rates was that about half of all people who benefitted from local services, and could vote for them, did not make any direct contribution towards them. The Community Charge addresses this problem head on. It is the only system that ensures that everyone pays their fair share towards the cost of local services, no more no less. Those who cannot afford to pay the full charge will get a rebate.

The Charge will restore accountability to Local Government. In time, it will put an end to extremist Councils spending recklessly safe in the knowledge that, on average, half their voters (and in some instances more) will not have to pick up the bill. THE COMMUNITY CHARGE IS A FAR BETTER WAY OF PAYING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON ONE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE: WHAT YOU VOTE FOR, YOU PAY FOR.

How can it be fairer that the rich have to pay the same as the poor?

The fact is that the rich pay more in taxes than the poor. Part of these taxes form what is still the majority of local government spending — GOVERNMENT GRANT.

No one likes taxes but they have to be collected to pay for services. Many people don't like the Community Charge but I ask all who read this to think long and hard on what alternatives the opponents of the Government are offering — I believe the alternatives are far, far worse than this system.

## POLL TAX POSTBAG

From page 4

Dear Editors,

First I was surprised, then I was incensed to see that so much space had been given to Councillor Dimmick's article on the Poll Tax in the April issue of the "Bridge", especially with the local government elections due in May.

Having worked for over forty-three years in local government finance I long ago realised that the left sometimes adopted ultra left policies, and the right wing sometimes adopted ultra right policies with each side, when in power, striving to nullify the effect of its opponent's former policies. What is needed in both local and central government are policies which, in the words of that old advert, are "Not too little, not too much, but just right." Obviously some of the ideas of both Left and Right are good, but equally so some of them are bad.

However, I digress from Councillor Dimmick's article which, admittedly made interesting reading. In one part he states "In 1989/90 Reading invested £36 millions", and then goes on to list where this amount was invested viz:

Major repairs to Council Housing	9
Buying land and new Housing	9
Grants to Housing Associations & Private Owners	5
Town Hall redevelopment	2
Computers for Poll Tax	1
Environmental improvements	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28 millions</b>

£36 less £28 leaves £8 million — where did this go? I have no doubt that he can provide this information, but it would have been better if he had given all the facts, not just some of them.

Most of these investments necessitated Capital Expenditure, which, in local government is usually financed by obtaining loans from the Public Works Loan Board. Such loans are repayable over a period of sixty years, and un-

til these loans are fully repaid the Council must continue to repay instalments of the Principal, and Interest. Sixty years is a long time, and whenever such a loan is taken out it must be remembered that we are saddling not only our children but also our children's children with this debt. Was it really necessary to spend £2 million on Town Hall redevelopment? Food for thought?

I do not think that the Community Charge, in its present form, is fair, but it is certainly fairer than the old rating system under which an elderly pensioner living alone in a large house paid the same amount as the occupiers of the house next door where there could be six, or more wage earners. Personally I should prefer to see a form of local Income tax introduced.

Yours etc.

Pete Littlewood.

11 Moss Close, Caversham

(One of David Owen's Social Democrats)

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES



CONGRATULATIONS to four young members of St. Peter's choir, who have passed the Royal School of Church Music's Bishop's Chorister Award exam, held recently at St. Mary in the Butts. They are Andrew Cutts and Zoe Smith

(Junior Award), and Jackie Cutts and Elizabeth Jones (Senior Award). After a much extra rehearsal and preparation, all four candidates earned good pass marks. It is hoped that they will receive their medals and ribbons from Richard

Kingsbury on a Sunday in June during the Parish Eucharist at St. Peter's. They will then have to wait until November when they will be formally presented to the Bishop of Oxford at a service in Christ Church Cathedral.

E. S. Archer

## St Andrew's Fellowship

A good sized and appreciative audience greeted Major Michael Paxton when he came to talk to the Fellowship at their March meeting about Huntley and Palmers. He started by asking whether any one there had ever worked at Huntley and Palmers, and two hands immediately shot up.

The talk Major Paxton gave was very amusing and entertaining. He recounted how Quaker Palmer arrived on Biscuit-maker Huntley's doorstep one day and said 'We must work together', and work together they

did. It appeared that George Palmer had discovered the biscuits at an occasion in Glastonbury and decided this was what he must be involved in. The whole concern was very much a family one with another Huntley making the firm made six hundred different types of biscuit, and exported them all over the world. It is sad to think that Reading's three famous industries, biscuits, beers and seeds, are no longer operating in the town.

Major Paxton promised to return at a future date with some of his videos.

## St Peter's Wives

"CAVERSHAM in the Eighties" was the title of the talk given by a member of the Caversham Photographic Club to the group in March.

It was with great interest that a large number of members gathered in Church House. Which Eighties were going to be discussed? In fact curiosity was soon satisfied and a journey from 1880 to 1990 was embarked upon. The

slides showed the differences between the quiet 1880's and the bustling 1980's! The old bridge, the new bridge, the different aspects of the river and changes in the roads — all these were viewed with great interest and many comments from the floor.

The slides also showed the different architecture and brick ornamentation which have to be searched for to be appreciated. The many newcomers to Caversham found it fascinating and vowed to move around with their eyes wide open to the interests and beauty of Caversham.

## ST ANNE'S PARISH NEWS — CORPUS CHRISTI AT MAPLEDURHAM

In the last few years the Parish has celebrated the important Feast of Corpus Christi with a Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the grounds of Mapledurham House, at the extreme edge of the Parish boundary.

What was, in every parish, until a few years ago, a major event in its calendar, has become something of a rarity. The Feast was established in the Middle Ages to highlight our love of and devotion to Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist (Mass of Holy Communion). Until that time Maundy Thursday, the day Our Lord celebrated His first Mass and gave His Apostles Holy Communion, was the annual opportunity for commemorating this central part of our faith-but then the joy was always overshadowed by the solemnity of the following day, Good Friday.

From the thirteenth century until our present day Corpus Christi has been celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Processions to honour the Blessed Sacrament, during which Our Lord is borne aloft in the Sacred Host, were often held on the Sunday following.

It is only a few years since the Parishes in this area had processions around their own

Churches on that day, and then, on the next Sunday a Procession for the whole town, which I remember as a great occasion, culminating with Benediction in the grounds of the Abbey Ruins, and a Sermon in St James' Church.

On June 14th, then, there will be a Mass at Mapledurham followed by a Procession. The ceremony will begin at 7.00 pm. This year it will be especially significant because it is five hundred years since the Blount family came to Mapledurham, and almost two hundred years since the present Chapel was added to the house.

His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham, (The Most Rev. Maurice Couve de Murville) will celebrate the Mass, an indication of the importance in which the tradition of Catholicism, kept by the family, is regarded. Because the family practised the faith through difficult times of persecution and deprivation, the Chapel has been given the privilege of reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

It is therefore, and particularly this year, a very suitable place for the Parish to celebrate Corpus Christi. All our friends are asked to come and rejoice with us.

## OBITUARY

### MISS NORAH POLLARD

MANY people in Emmer Green and Caversham will be saddened to hear of the death, on March 18th, of Miss Norah Pollard. She was a very active member of the community and for many years was treasurer of the Townswomen's Guild and until recently its Chairman.

Through her love of acting she became, in her early years, a prominent member of the Reading Repertory Company and this led her to join the Drama Group within the Townswomen's Guild. She also fostered in members an interest in Social Studies.

Miss Pollard was also one of the stalwart band of helpers who voluntarily deliver the Caver-

sham Bridge newspaper.

In spite of all these activities Miss Pollard managed to find time for her two greatest joys; tending her large garden at her home in Emmer Green and walking with her many friends into the surrounding country side. Her life has been a full and happy one.

To her family we send the deepest sympathy.

## FREE MIME AND DRAMA AFTERNOON

ON Sunday May 20th, 3.00pm. A mime artist, Brian Seward, from Ipswich Christian Fellowship (part of Caversham Hill Chapel) and the drama group Keybunch from the Chapel will be performing. Everyone is welcome AND IT'S FREE!

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### ST JOHN'S CHURCH CAVERSHAM SUMMER FAIR AND JUMBLE SALE

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### CAVERSHAM CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Will be held at St Barnabas' Church Emmer Green at 8pm on Wednesday May 23rd - Bishop M. Woods, former Bishop of Norwich will be officiating

### ADVANCE NOTICE

### ST BARNABAS DAY 11TH JUNE

Patronal Service will be held at 7.30pm when the Preacher and Celebrant will be the Right Reverend Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham

# A HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

WALK along the Lower Warren and when you reach the turning down to Chazey Court Farm look away to the right and you will see a great white scar on the wooded hillside, the chalk walls of a huge pit. Here, high on the top of this cliff, two young Caversham lads had the holiday of a life time in 1916.

That year Charlie Paddick was thirteen and when the school's summer term came to an end the whole month of August stretched away before him; a time of freedom and a chance to be out in the country from morning till night; a time for adventure.

The adventure soon materialised when he and his school pal, Reg Gordon, made a cart out of an old wooden box and some pram wheels. When that was done they made a tent out of a piece of

their way pushing the cart along the Warren. In it was the tent, a bar of salt, several bottles of water, a few cooking utensils, a lump of lard from the late family pig, a large loaf for each boy and their fishing tackle. In their pockets each had one shilling and a box of matches.

High above the chalk pit was a patch of grass, an ideal place to camp; so here they pitched their tent and settled down.

### Living off the land

They had no intention of living on bread alone soon had made and set up several snares, for rabbits were everywhere. Many children in Caversham in those days were almost country born and bred and killing, skinning and gutting a rabbit would have been nothing out of the ordinary in their experiences. Over a

spent angling and roach and perch were caught by the fishermen. Back in camp these were salted overnight in the bucket and next morning the scales scraped away, then they, too, went on the spit.

Mushrooms were gathered from the meadows and blackberries from the hedges that surrounded them. Potatoes and swedes from nearby fields provided vegetables.

Skimmed milk was given to them at the farm and also a little butter. The latter was not supposed to be made during those war years but the farmer churned some on the quiet for his own needs so the boys were lucky. When the bread was eaten the lads bought more loaves from the baker when he called at the farm.

After a week a trac-

added bonus for the lads had several free dinners with the new acquaintances.

So the days passed happily and quickly into weeks and the weeks into a month. Caversham seemed a world away. But August drew unrelenting to its close and school loomed on the horizon. It was time to strike camp and return to home and family.

### Presents for the family

The last day of the glorious holiday was spent picking mushrooms and blackberries and trying to catch rabbits, for the two friends did not wish to return from the countryside empty handed — and indeed they didn't.

It is now over seventy years since that wonderful August, yet Charlie Paddick remembers it clearly. It was an experience which obviously meant a great deal to him, a holiday to be truly remembered and listened to him reliving those days I, too, felt his enthusiasm. M.K.

# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IN CAVERSHAM

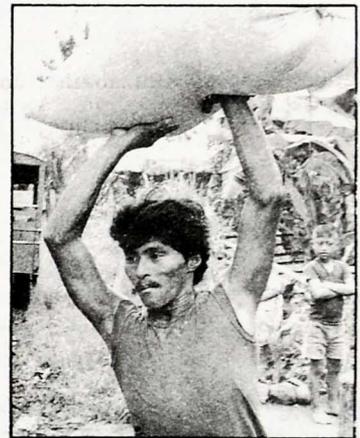


"As children of the one God we are members of one family, with relatives in a war-ravaged country like Mozambique."

Mike Goldwater

CHRISTIAN Aid Week is from the 14th — 19th May. Volunteers to help with the House to House collections are always needed. If you feel that you could take part in this way please contact your own Church Representative on the Caversham Christian Aid Committee.

If you would like a very pleasant walk the Christian Aid Sponsored Walk is on Saturday the 19th May. The walk follows the usual route starting at Henley Rugby Club and it



Food prices are rising in the Philippines.

Derrick Knight



The beginning of The Warren, just past St Peter's pre 1914.

tarpaulin and by then the idea of a camping holiday was forming in their minds. Their mothers, when approached, agreed to let them go, perhaps imagining they would be back to the comfort of their home long before August was out.

Soon they were on

camp fire Charlie and Reg roasted their rabbits on a home made spit.

Bread and rabbit would have been a dull diet for a whole month. The Thames was close at hand, across the water meadows of Chazey Court farm, so many a long summer hour was

tion engine with four Canadian lumberjacks turned up in the valley below. They had come to cut down a large plantation of trees for the match company Bryant and May. Naturally the boys went along to watch the felling and soon made friends with the woodcutters. This was to prove an

HEMDEAN House Drama Club once more ventured into new territory for their annual performance this Spring, when they put on a Victorian melodrama, Before Your Very Eyes by John Challen. There was something peculiar about it though, as it was set in present day Caversham, which was beset by

a ruthless Villain, complete with cape and ruthless moustache, who was intent on destroying it and Civilisation As We Know It. Also lurking about the place were a set of likely and unlikely characters intent on thwarting or aiding and abetting him, including a pantomime horse, Chinese dancers,

respectable shoppers with their crying babies, as well as Spies and Injuns of unparalleled ferocity. The strains of Land of Hope and Glory inspired a group of modern, or were they Victorian, school boys to do their patriotic duty and save the heroine, Caversham and the world. A vociferous Vic-

torian M.C. held the whole thing together, which Nancy Quinnell had obviously enjoyed producing, and the cast acting. The audience also enjoyed it, particularly booing and hissing and singing 'Down at the Old Bull and Bush'.

M.C.

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# TO FIND OUT MORE.....

By Sarah Boardley

IN late August /September of 1989 Rachel Baker and I went to Northern Ireland on a visit that became known as a fact-finding mission, indeed it was. The beginnings of the idea had first formed over two years ago. Whilst we were both still at Kendrick Rachel and I entered, and won, the sixth form travel award. To do this we had to write a project explaining what our "worthwhile" trip would involve. Due to exams and other commitments we postponed the trip until August 1989.

Our principal aims were to educate ourselves and to find out more about the situation in Northern Ireland, particularly the Troubles, and to visit places and projects working for peace and reconciliation. In our sixteen day visit we made many friends and learnt a great deal. One thing we found was that many people were pleased that we wanted to learn more; everyone we met really made us welcome and all were willing to share in their experiences and feelings.

The first week of our trip was spent at the Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle some forty miles from Belfast. We were participants on a Youth Work Camp at the end of the Centre's busy summer programme. It was an unusually quiet week in the year but we made friends with many of the other young people who were there at that time. One particular evening about twenty of us got

together and our Youth camp Leader ran a session in which the people from Northern Ireland were simply asked to tell us where they had come from and what their experiences of the Troubles were. Many of them told sad and frightening stories of petrol bombings, injury from plastic bullets, threats and loss of life. Some claimed at first that the Troubles had not affected their lives but as the evening wore on many changed their original statements. We had to stop them often to define words and explain festivals and traditions. To us the evening illustrated how little we knew, understood or even truly sympathised with. On reflection it taught us a lot and not least that "peace and reconciliation" involves enormous healing forgiveness and patience.

The Corrymeela Community is unique in many ways but is one of many groups of people working to heal divides in the Province. There is great variety in these groups; some are principally Christian based, others remain independent of religion; some seek more to resolve common problems such as unemployment or youth opportunities but others call peace and reconciliation their main aim; some are found in the midst of very troubled and

divided areas, while others are away from this, perhaps providing a more relaxed, reflective surrounding. Corrymeela works throughout the year bringing different sections of the community together often emphasising what they have in common; single mothers, sixth formers, old people, prison families etc. During our stay there we made good friends whilst sharing in the varied tasks of cleaning the centre, washing the buses and also enjoying recreation.

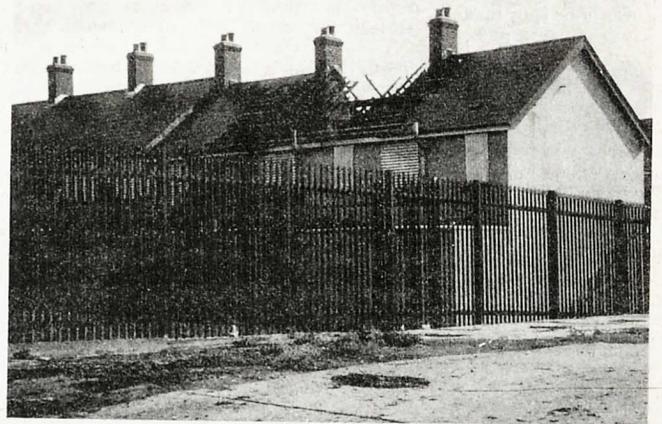
In order to gain more insight into the realities of living in Northern Ireland we felt we should spend our second week in Belfast. We are able to stay with two Ecumenical Communities, the Cor-

nerstone Community and Columbanus. Both are Christian houses providing practical and theological help by their work and example. We were pleased to share with the Falls/Shankill fellowship one evening an incredible example of Christian unity between two very divided local communities. In Rachel's words "they had a very peaceful and positive attitude".

We filled every minute of our days in Belfast visiting employment schemes, an integrated school, two of the Quaker service projects, the Y.M.C.A., the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, the Peace Education Resource Centre and also managing to do some sightseeing and

"cultural" bits.

Both Rachel and I returned with better understanding of some of the history and incidents of that part of our country but also more aware of our lack of knowledge. In many ways without having lived in the area it is impossible really to understand the embedded prejudice, the depths of division and the feeling of frustration, but it has helped to listen. In doing this we have become much more personally involved in the struggle and hopes for peace. We know the value of our visit has been increased through our many opportunities to share what we learnt with people here. We felt it necessary to write a much more detailed project, which can be borrowed from St Peter's or Caversham Heights Methodist churches.



Derelict housing in West Belfast — results of fighting etc.

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## A FIRST FOR CAVERSHAM

AT the end of March sixth-formers at Highdown School took part in a "Faith Day" called "IN AT THE DEEP END". They were invited to take the plunge by spending the whole day investigating religions from around the world.

The idea for the day came from the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Juliet Smith who spent six months organising the event. Among the many religious representatives present were a Buddhist Bhikkuni Nun, a Hindu from a Community Radio Station, a Jewish Rabbi, a Humanist and a Muslim Community Education Officer. Most major Christian denominations were well represented and the day was chaired by the Reverend Roger Royle, the television and radio broadcaster.

This is the first time that an event of this kind has been held in this county. Its aim was to enable students to meet people of different beliefs and to hear a variety of viewpoints. It

was a very full day. Students were able to choose from a wide variety of workshops including, 'The Demands of Being a Catholic Today', 'Building Bridges in Northern Ireland', 'Asian Adolescents in Britain Today' in the morning and 'Meditation', 'Fasting and Eating your way through Lent and Easter' and 'Women — Second Class Citizens in the Church?' in the afternoon.

There were also two opportunities to ask questions of two multi-faith panels on the subject of 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' and 'Faith in the News'. The multi-faith theme was continued at lunch time when the participants were able to enjoy an excellent "Feast of Friendship" composed of dishes from around the world. This was thanks to generous donations from the Edgar Milward Charity, The Green Girls' Trust, Milwards Shoes Ltd and Royal Mail Parcel Force.

The students certainly found it a worthwhile day. It enabled them to learn about a variety of religious traditions and to reflect on important questions more deeply than is generally possible in a normal school day.

Roger Royle congratulated the School on their initiative: "It is better than any number of R.E. lessons and it has given pupils a chance to think".

Christine Allsopp

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## RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT by WATCHDOG

### THE INJUSTICE OF BUGS BOTTOM

A STUDY of the High Court judgement in the Bugs Bottom case has added little to what was already apparent. It is therefore no cause for surprise that the Borough Council's legal advisers were having difficulty in finding sound grounds for appeal.

The stumbling block all along was that the court case could only be argued on legal and not on planning grounds. Therefore with the judge decreeing that the Secretary of State did not act illegally in coming to his decision, the appellants find themselves up against a brick wall. It was assumed that the evidence placed before the Secretary of State was correct, and there is no legal channel through which this can be contested. Underlying the whole case was the assumption that traffic and highway objections were negligible and that the valley, though attractive, was in need of management and maintenance. The first is patently untrue. The second in only true in so far as a farmer on the verge of retirement is not going to spend time and money on maintaining land that is up for sale for mass housing.

The objection that the application contravened the findings of the County Structure Plan was dismissed after much argument about how far a structure plan was binding, and there was much more argument about the definition of 'presumption' against building and the need for housing which cannot be adequately summarised in the space available here.

Overall, the impression given to the average person reading the document was that on balance the Secretary of State was judged to be in the right, but that the case was by no means clear cut. Yet if the Secretary of State had given any serious consideration to the immense local opposition, both from elected councils and the thousands of individuals who had taken the trouble in some way to make their opposition known, he should have realised there was far more to the Bugs Bottom application than some run of the mill scheme which the applicants thought might be worth taking to appeal.

That is why residents, whom the document patronisingly admits were 'somewhat aggrieved', are determined to carry on this battle, through the Courts if necessary, or in any other way. There is a petition being circulated but to make any kind of impression it must have thousands of signatures. Take one and fill it up if you can. Offers of help to Reading 477711.

### ENCLOSURE ACTS

ONE other way still being explored is through application of the Enclosure Acts. These Acts, as those who can recall school history lessons will know, were passed in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries for the purpose of enclosing agricultural land which had previously been held in strips scattered through the commonly held

open fields. Caversham's acts and awards were passed in 1832 and 1834, later than most. Enclosure Acts can only be repealed by Act of Parliament, and these, as far as is known, have not been repealed. They have already been disregarded, as many houses have been built on land designated for agricultural purposes, but that does not mean that they still do not apply where land, such as Bugs Bottom, is still in agricultural use. Work is still being done to find out how far they might be used to protect Bugs Bottom.

Meanwhile, Christopher Patten has received so many letters he must be aware of public disquiet. The replies vary to suit the individual writer in the first paragraph, but in the second, state that he has no powers to overturn the decision now that it has been granted on appeal and upheld in the High Court. If that is the case then, as Mr. Bumble said, 'the law is an ass', if it can be used to give a tiny minority its way against the interests of large majority. Somehow the Secretary of State has got to get round to looking at the case in broad terms and not just as a legal argument. The Enclosures Act might be the catalyst we are looking for.

Congratulations to the Evening Post on an excellent photographic spread. It is encouraging too that the national as well as the local media have taken the case up. The name, of course, makes a good headline.

### ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT

IT is pleasing to report that, in the end, the flint and brick wall in the Mount was completed. It is unfortunate though that St Peter's Conservation Area gets regular visits from a group of vandals who do a lot of mindless and costly damage. However, the most effective response still is to repair it, however discouraging it may be.

There are now well made and designed street name signs in Reading's Conservation areas, which have increased in number in the last year or so. It is an encouraging indication that the town is gradually coming to take more pride in itself. We all know what is wrong with it — characterless

office blocks, insensitive road schemes, choking traffic — but slowly the general air of neglect that for too long hung about it is being remedied and attractive areas are being created. The forecourt of the Town Hall springs at once to mind.

In Caversham the Westfield Road playing field has been given a very welcome face lift. It has always been nice to have a large open space there (the remaining part of one of the old open fields) but that was about all it was, apart from the horse chestnut trees round its edge. There have now been some landscaping and planting, and the play area has been up-graded to make it particularly attractive for young children. It is now the kind of place people would feel pleased to visit, rather than somewhere that was just there.

### POLL TAX REVOLT

THE old rates system which ironically came to an end on 1st April, had its shortcomings but it now seems fair compared with the new poll tax. Even the little old lady who was reputed to live next door to the houseful of rugby players, can derive little comfort from it. In Caversham, noted for being better off than the rest of Reading and the kind of place popularly supposed to have benefitted from the change, there are far more people paying more under the new scheme than they did under the old.

Thames, without doubt Reading's wealthiest ward, still has over 77% paying more than they did under the old system, for Thames is not exclusively inhabited by rich people living in large houses. Peppard and Caversham wards similarly exceed 82% and 88% respectively who will find themselves worse off, but the areas with the highest percentage, such as Katesgrove where over 95% are paying more, must be even more hard hit than the figures suggest. The houses in these areas are old and small and were low rated, but now their occupiers have taken a great leap. This tax will have to be changed before very much longer. It is difficult to find anyone who can put a convincing case for it.

### FROM DAFFODILS TO DUSTBINS

BY Easter the daffodils were over and most of the blossom associated with the Festival, or even with Ascension or Whitsuntide, was either gone or past its best. Somehow a Puritanical streak in us tells us we ought to endure the rigours of a hard winter before being rewarded with the joys of Spring, but this year, once again, we got the goodies unseasonably earlier without having to suffer for them. By the last week end in March, Caversham Court and the riverside looked like summer, with bodies outstretched on the grass, children happily playing and boats passing up and down the river; yet not a duckling or a cygnet to be seen.

Along with the premature flowers, a newcomer has also burst into blossom. What appear to be dustbin lids are sprouting from the upper half of houses. They are not an added attraction either to the houses or the street. Possibly they will eventually come to be accepted as much as aerials on roofs, though it would be preferable if they could be superseded, as being only just above eye level it is almost impossible to avoid seeing them.

They are no worse than actual dustbins left in the front garden, an unfortunate growing custom. In some cases people have real difficulty in carrying bins, but most of them could be moved with no problem, leading to an improvement in the appearance both of the house and the street.

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**Caversham  
W.I.**

THIS year's AGM commenced with the previous year's minutes being accepted. The financial statement was presented and adopted, and the annual report was given by Miss Jarrett. Members were reminded of various dates: the group meeting on April 19th, the jumble sale on April 21st, and the outing to Evita on May 30th. Mrs Colley gave the president's report and thanked the committee for its help. The new president is Mr Susan Taylor. Mrs Parkes VCO, conducted the rest of the evening, and the vote of thanks was given by Mrs May Smith.

**Emmer Green  
Townswomen's  
Guild**

THE Annual General Meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held in March. The new committee was welcomed and wished a very happy time in office, and the retiring committee was thanked for its hard work during the past year.

The Social Studies and Arts and Crafts groups are thriving, and have had some excellent speakers and several visits to interesting places. The Ramblers continue to take walks locally and farther afield and enjoyed a lovely holiday in Cornwall last

Spring. Another holiday is booked for Rothsay in May of this year.

The Guild is financially sound, largely due to its own efforts, and generous donations have been made to the Battle Hospital and the Institute for the Blind. The membership stands at seventy with a good attendance at all meetings, and it is hoped to encourage new members in 1990. The Guild meets once a month at 7.30pm every second Tuesday in St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road Emmer Green.

**Caversham  
Heights  
Townswomens  
Guild**

ARE annual general meetings ever interesting? Yes, when you hear encouraging facts about the state of the finances, about the progress of the countryside scheme for planting new woodlands, and an outing in June to the sea breezes of Portsmouth is mooted. Michael Lynch's amusing play "Inside Out" was read by members of the drama group, while the bring and buy table was a boon to some as always.

Mrs J Brown remains chairman of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild, Mrs J Purton secretary, Mrs B Smith vice-chairman and Mrs N Goodman treasurer. Mrs Maureen Dawson had

come along from Federation and commented that it was healthy to have an election, so perhaps next time!

To finish the month Mr J Taylor ARPS, who has lived in Africa, showed social studies in Highmoor Hall, slides of Lake Nakuru in Kenya, a lake fed by two freshwater streams. It souplike consistency is stirred up by the paddlings of thousands of flamingoes, white-necked cormorants and sacred ibises, to mention only a few birds. Grey heron such as we find on the Thames are there. There was plenty of rainfall. The delicate ecological balance of the lake was upset by the growth of the town of Nakuru, but was restored through spending more money on basic services in the town. Pictures of local tribes-people showed tall, handsome men who dressed each other's hair while the women worked. Could this be an idea? Many more pictures remained to be seen another time.

**Maplewood  
W.I.**

MAPLEWOOD held their Annual Meeting at Mapledurham Pavilion when the retiring President, Mrs Heather Baker, was thanked for her hard work over the past three years and presented with a gift of W.I. engraved china as a token of appreciation. Mrs Joan Baddeley was elected as the new President with Mrs Muriel Popplewell as Treasurer. Mrs Janet Hooper will continue as Secretary.

There was an impressive display of members' handiwork and the Flower-of-the-month competition was won by Mrs Toni Aldiss with a camellia. Mrs Peggy Turner was presented with a gift token as the member with the most com-

petition points for the year.

The Secretary's Report reflected a variety of interesting speakers through the year and several occasions when members met for Coffee Mornings, Tea Parties or Lunches.

On February 23rd several members had attended the Berkshire Federation W.I. Lunch at Reading College when the Principal gave a short history of the College and afterwards conducted members on a tour of the Home Economics Department.

Easter Eggs will again be given to the handicapped young people of Peppard House.

**Caversham  
Ladies Club**

MRS Harwood, Chairman, opened the meeting and said it was a pleasure to see so many members present, as this being the AGM it showed their interest in the Club's activities and gave the committee encouragement.

Mrs Harwood and Mrs Queenie Strong had taken the Club's RBH collecting box to the hospital for emptying, and the sum of £26.60 was realised. This added to contributions from past years' monthly meetings brought it up to the grand sum of £114.29p.

Mrs Harwood then announced that Mrs Marjory Howe was resigning from the committee due to ill health. Mrs Howe was warmly thanked for all the help she had given to the club and presented with a gift in appreciation of her help.

After general business was completed Mrs Harwood read her report. She thanked Mrs Weal, Vice-chairman, for taking over in her absence and her help on committee, Mrs Queenie Strong for her fine work as Treasurer, Mrs Nelhams, Secretary, for her monthly reports and finding in-

teresting speakers, Mrs Brenda Strong and Mrs Locke for their Produce and nearly New Stalls which contributed so much to funds and at the same time benefited the members themselves, Mrs Howe who was always willing to step in where needed, Mrs Leach for her work of distribution of birthday cards, Mrs Frostick, Mrs Beardmore, Mrs Roddy, Mrs Crawley and Mrs Weston, all willing helpers in various jobs.

Reports followed from Mrs Nelhams, Mrs Queenie Strong, Mrs Brenda Strong and Mrs E. Locke. The Committee then retired and Mrs Weal, Vice-Chairman took the Chair. After reading her notes thanking officers and committee members, also club members, it was time for a nomination for new Chairman. Mrs Harwood was re-elected followed closely by all the committee being re-elected 'en bloc' by unanimous vote.

It was now time for the lighter side of the meeting, 'Bring and Buy' and witty auctioneer Mrs B. Strong was soon in the process of emptying the laden tables which members had so kindly covered with their contributions for selling to help club funds. Soon there were empty tables and the most welcome sound of crockery which heralded much needed tea after a busy afternoon. Then it was time to close the meeting and members left with a feeling of a past happy year and a new year to look forward to in the first of the nineties.

**Caversham  
Community  
Association**

THE Quiz evening held on the 5th March was well attended. Members of the committee had been busy preparing quizzes on

Turn to page 11

**CAVERSHAM DIARY**

Friday,  
11th May

7.30pm Public Meeting "Beating Aggression"  
Mrs Diana Lamplugh at Rivermead Leisure Centre. £3 and £2.50.

Saturday,  
19th May

5.00pm Licensing of the Rev. Philip Abrey Caversham Park Church.

Wednesday,  
23rd May

8.00pm St. Barnabas' Church Caversham Confirmation Service. Bishop M. Woods, former Bishop of Norwich officiating.

Saturday,  
2nd June

2.00pm St John's Summer Fair and Jumble Sale, Caversham Hall, St John's Road.

Sunday,  
3rd June

Dedication of Wesley Lounge, Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Monday,  
4th June

and for the rest of the week Wesley Exhibition at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Monday,  
11th June

7.30pm St. Barnabas' Church Patronal Festival. Preacher: Rt. Rev. Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham.

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# the CLUBS

From page 10

various countries and explained later that they were obtained for her over a long period of time. Yvonne Milne said that she used shells collected on holidays to make decorative articles for her home and explained her methods to the members. Maida Feast provided the recipe for Chocolate Nut Crunchies and then quickly made some for the members to sample. Finally, Doreen Meadowcroft demonstrated the way to make a Garrett Frill, using glucose icing, on a cake and also decorated a cake in the shape of an Easter bonnet. The members went home with lots of new ideas from their fellow members. Ted Smith paid his second visit to the club on the 26th March. This time his subject was 'post-Office Busses'. Mr Smith, who worked at the Post Office, suggested in 1972 that it would be a good idea to get the post office vans to collect passengers, as well as the mail, in the Hungerford, Lambourn, Newbury area that was not covered by local bus services. Post Office busses were already used in several places in the British Isles and were appreciated by the passengers. After much preparation and discussion the service started in 1974 and proved very successful in the rural areas. Passengers waited for the Royal Mail bus at points where the mail was picked up and found the service most

The following week the members were given the chance to arrange the evening's programme. To begin with several members brought items from their favourite collections. Dorothy Osborne brought models of pigs, Daisy Heath, cigarette cards and 1930's mementoes, Maida Feast - spoons from many places and Margaret Payne - Toby Jugs. Margaret Cameron brought dolls from

useful. Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked Mr Smith for an interesting and informative talk.

## Methodist Wednesday Group

BEETLES, beetles everywhere, all shapes and sizes - and not a shriek of horror anywhere! The first session of 1990 started with a well-attended Beetle Drive, an enjoyable evening which finished with coffee, mince pies and cakes.

"The Oldest Road" was the title of the next meeting a fortnight later. Mrs Meryl Beek gave a talk beautifully illustrated with slides taken on her walk along the Ridgeway one weekend in October 1988. Mrs Beek, with her husband, David, started near Streatley, stayed one night at a youth hostel near Wantage and continued to Avebury, passing ancient stones called Sarsen burial mounds and, of course, the Uffington White Horse.

Meryl and David decided to spend their next holiday walking from Avebury to Lyme Regis. This took fourteen days, averaging 11 miles a day through some beautiful Wiltshire and Dorset countryside, sometimes stopping at a village to look around. Her talk ended with her best slide, that of the Dorsetshire Gap. Mrs Beek was thanked by Mrs V. Keating.

On a very wet and windy evening two weeks later, Mrs Sheila Holly welcomed Rev. John Boakes, the minister at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church. He talked about various aspects of his ministerial career. He was brought up as a Methodist, though not initially interested in becoming a minister until he went to a Billy Graham Crusade meeting, which set him on the road. He mentioned various highlights, including his first wedding, and various christenings. His outstanding memory was being asked to conclude a televised "Songs of Praise" programme.

A Valentine's Dinner was arranged by the Committee, resulting in a hive of activity in the kitchen, while tables were being laid in the Hall and decorated with hearts and flowers, the scene be-

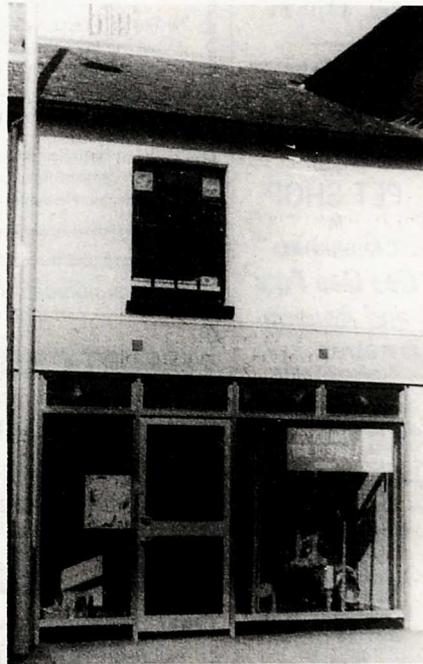
# BUGS BOTTOM EXTRA

A fund has been launched to seek unused monies will be returned. Cheques started to come in as soon as the fund was made known. The Bugs Bottom Action Group will be administering the fund. Details on how to contribute can be had by phoning Reading 477711.

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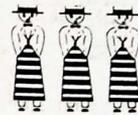
It is hoped that the shop in Prospect Street will open again on Friday 20th April. Hours from 9.30am - 4.30pm, six days a week. New voluntary workers and gifts of goods for re-sale would be welcome.



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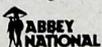
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