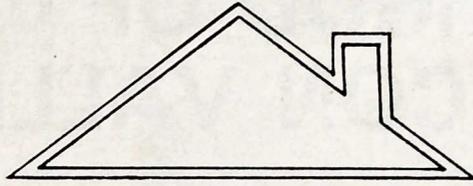




CHERWELL PUTS ROOFS OVER PEOPLE



A NEW project for six homeless men was officially opened by the Mayor of Reading, Councillor G. Canning on Monday 4th June. The project was conceived and developed by the Cherwell Housing Trust in conjunction with the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project (R.E.A.P.), a voluntary organisation, established in 1982, to provide emergency accommodation for single homeless people.

R.E.A.P. runs a thirteen bed direct access hostel in central Reading known as the "Keep"; demand for accommodation provided there has increased dramatically and the number of people who had to be turned away, because the hostel was full, has steadily risen.

In 1988 R.E.A.P. approached the Cherwell Housing Trust to provide a suitable dwelling for people who are homeless. The intention is to provide secure, high standard accommodation for men whom R.E.A.P. are assisting to resettle in permanent housing. Length of stay will vary according to individual needs and the availability of "move-on" accommodation, and so could range from six to eighteen months or beyond.

Support and advice is available from the Assistant Housing Manager during weekdays, but as

there are no workers living at the house, residents will be catering and caring for themselves, including participating in cleaning communal areas. This is a large end of terrace house that has been renovated and modernised to a high standard. It is centrally heated and fully furnished.

Each of the six residents will have their own rooms, most of which are very spacious, and will share a large sitting room, a kitchen/dining room, two bathrooms, two toilets and have the use of a laundry room and a big garden at the back of the house.

A weekly rent of £60 is charged of which £11.50 covers service charges for heating, lighting, cooking, laundry facilities and food. Each resident will be provided with keys for the

front door, their own room and a kitchen cupboard.

The house is owned by the Trust and managed by R.E.A.P. which gives equal consideration to all referrals, whether they are made by other agencies or by applicants themselves.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Cherwell Housing Trust was founded in 1967 and works in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire to provide rented houses for families and single people on low and fixed incomes who are homeless or badly housed and develops either directly or in conjunction with other organisations such as REAP, specialist housing for disadvantaged groups. These include young single people leaving institutional care, mentally ill and handicapped people, young single mothers and vulnerable single men and women.



E.S. Archer

HORACE THORNE 'BRIDGE' DISTRIBUTOR EXTRAORDINARY

WHETHER a large part of one's working life as a baker's roundsman was good training for a distributor of the 'Bridge' it would be hard to say. But the fact is that when he finally retired last month, Horace Thorne had given longer and better service to the 'Bridge' than almost anyone. When he canvassed for readers over a quarter of a century ago, Mr. Thorne could hardly have known that, at the age of 81, he would still be trudging faithfully around the Cromwell Road area regularly every month. Only short breaks, for instance, when he had a hip operation, stopped him from delivering the paper, always with a smile and a friendly word. We shall miss him very much, but he deserves a break.

It is fascinating to hear him talk of his early life on a farm at Ascot, where he helped his uncle and aunt, of school in Ryeish Green, of becoming a bread roundsman in Caversham, working most of the time for G.F. Fuller, whom some of our readers will remember. It was at this time that he met his wife, Vera Lee. They were married at St. John's Church in 1936. He lived for a time at Orts Road, where their daughter Joan was born, but eventually returned to Queens Road, Caversham. Their peaceful life was interrupted by Horace's service in the R.A.F., finishing the last 18 months of war in Egypt.

Sadly his wife died many years ago, but with his daughter living in Caversham, with 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, with several brothers and sisters still alive, he has been surrounded by family love and affection. Today he is probably best known as an active member of Gosbrook Road, Methodist Church, for his assistance to Joan in her Red Cross work, and for his membership of the British Legion.

How he ever found time to deliver the 'Bridge' so promptly every month is a mystery, but he did and for that we must be eternally grateful.

D/EX 1758/27/7

TALKING POINT

By the Rev. Nigel Hardcastle

Vicar of St. Barnabas'



GOD OF SILICON VALLEY

NOWADAYS they call the Thames Valley, Silicon Valley UK. When I was young of course silicon was something to do with furniture polish, but time moves on and now it means micro electronics, thousands of transistored circuits on a chip that look like a shredie.

Mankind the Creator

We live, as the cliché goes, in a technological age, and as a result, it seems an age that is less to do with God. This is wrong. Man has lived in a technological age since he evolved from the apes. Far from letting man ignore God, technology has always been part of God's will for us and part of his way of revealing himself. One of the great things about the Old Testament is that it is the story of not only how Israel coped with changing technology and its social results, but also how these disturbing changes led to a deeper understanding of God.

"They didn't have those when I was young!" is what most of us mean by technology. For some, this means the radio is part of the "natural" order they grew up with, while TV is "technology". For Lizzie, computers will never be technology in this sense because she grew up with them and regularly wordprocesses her letters to Grandma. In fact, however, silicon polish was as much technology as silicon chips. The horse plough and the reaping machine are recent technology while the stone, axe and fire are ancient technology.

How can you tell the bones of the first primitive men from those of their ape ancestors? We look for the signs of technology, tools made of flint and above all for signs of the technology of fire. Once these signs are found we know that we are dealing with a creature made (through evolution or some other way) in God's own image to be like him a creator, a maker of things and a user of processes. Technology is basic to man's nature and part of the way we are like God.



Developing Technology and the Vision of God

Broadly man's religion depends on his state of technology. Peoples who live by hunting and gathering are typically animists. They see spirits motivating trees and animals and mountains just as their own spirits motivate their own bodies. But as man's powers increased, so these spirits were replaced by more powerful gods.

The technology of farming led to fertility religions. Instead of relating to one plant, man related to whole fields. The spirits who were seen as in each plant became replaced by gods who controlled fertility in general. The gods became separate from their domains as man was separate from his tools. Spirits lived in their objects as man lived in his body. The gods controlled their domains as man controlled his crafts and his farms.

Farming technology made cities possible. Irrigation technology made cities essential. So in Mesopotamia, the first city states grew into the first empires. And with the power of man, grew the perceived power of the gods. City man could look and see around him an entirely man-made world. Who made this pot? This axe? This harp? This house? That Temple? The canal? Those fields? It

became obvious that everything had a creator. Who made those mountains? The stars? In a less technological world the question of creation would never arise.

Cities needed new forms of government. The family and tribe were no longer enough. Kings and emperors came to be. People came to talk of a king of gods and God as king. Kings were seen as the Vice-regent of the gods. So we would have a word, "CHRIST", anointed king.



A Universal God

This tendency for gods to grow in power and to become more general in their power reached a natural conclusion of monotheism — one God whose domain was the entire world. The idea emerged from time to time in the empires of greatest technology, Egypt, Persia, Greece. But most dramatically, monotheism emerged in a tribe whose main claim to fame was that nearly every technological empire on earth had conquered them, made them slaves or exiles or refugees.

Voyager and the Space Telescope continue the growth of our vision of God. Superman with a beard on a cloud above planet earth finally disappears. If there is meaning in life, if there is a God, then he is the God of all the universe, the God of the big bang, creator of Einstein's maths and the reality behind Hawking's physics. God is not the processes that made the worlds but the person and meaning behind the processes.

In computers processes stop being deterministic and become interactive. A software engineer creates a world on the computer expressly to give the users choices. Systems managers may well also exercise power on large systems without robbing users of all their freedom. The image of God as the maker of a giant clockwork device left to run untended in its predestined course vanishes. God, the systems manager, and man the user, both have power again.



Technological Changes in the Old Testament

The people of Israel underwent two great changes caused by changes in technology. The first was the change from a nomadic, herding technology to that of settled agriculture when they entered the Promised Land. At first sight, this meant adopting the practices of the Canaanites. But religion and technology were intertwined. How do you make barley grow? Plough, go to the temple prostitutes to ensure fertility, sow the seed and then reap, thresh, grind and then offer a gift to the priests of the bull god of fertility.

As always there were people who loved new technology. They adopted the Canaanite way whole heartedly. As always there were people who hated everything new. The Rechabites continued to live in tents. They scorned the evil goddess technologies of housebuilding and winemaking. How could anyone who claimed to be a follower of the God of Abraham dream of living in one of these new fangled "houses".

But some took a more difficult way. Slowly they sorted the good from the bad of Canaanite religion. Since this technology they called agriculture clearly worked, it must be the work of their one true God. Giving thanks seemed appropriate. The God of Abraham became, like the Baals, the God of harvest festivals. Temple prostitution, however, did not fit in with the God of Covenant Loyalty. Many of the Canaanite names for God were taken over, — God Almighty, God Most High, and Baal or "Lord". Thus Israelite understanding of God grew. God became more universal, applicable to more situations. Yet more important was the purging, sorting the true insights of other religions from the false ideas about the God whom Israel already knew.

The same sort of problems would arise when Israel changed from a bronze age tribal league to an iron age state. Kingship, standing armies, centralised government all became essential. But how could these institutions become purged of pagan assumptions, while still increasing the understanding of God. Here David, the "ideal king", becomes the focus of the historic change and the focus of a theological debate that would last until the coming Christ, the heavenly king.

Principles We Can Learn

Two attitudes seem important in these changes, (and in the changes that happened when Israel met Babylonian and Greek technology):—

- * First, the willingness to learn from new situations and technology.
- * Second, the determination to remain radically true to the God they had always known, the God of their Fathers.

They would never be a blind follower of trends nor stuck in the mud of the past, no trendy liberal nor tired conservative.

So in UK's Silicon Valley, some will worship new technology while others will treat it as the work of the devil. Christians will have a more difficult but more stimulating task. They will try to be open to the future, open to discovering God in new unlikely situations, open to discovering he is mind-bogglingly awesomely great; yet they will remain critical, questioning the new as well as the old, not accepting too easily the first interpretation of some new fact, radically loyal to the essentials of orthodoxy, above all radically loyal to the God of our Fathers as revealed in Jesus Christ, who has led us on this voyage of discovery and will lead us on.

POST BAG

Dear Editor,
A Partial Solution to Global Warming and Pollution

At the recent international conference in Bergen on global warming and pollution control the nations of the world could not agree whether action should be taken or not.

Shortly after we had this year's Eurovision Song Contest which was watched by umpteen millions, and this weekend sees this year's Telethon to raise money for various charities and deserving causes.

There is one cause which would benefit every living creature on this planet, and that is an overall project to cut down the emissions of dangerous gases into the atmosphere, industrial effluent into streams and rivers, and harmful solids in or on to the earth.

The earth's ecology is far too important a subject to be left to mere politicians. It needs both practical and financial help from all of us.

Once way partially to address the balance would be initially for the European television networks to stage a European Telethon to raise money to promote projects to clean up Europe's pollution problems, especially in the Eastern bloc countries — so how about it BBC and ITV?? Dare you take it on??

If such a Telethon was successful why stop there? Why not a World Telethon for Ecology??

Yours etc
Pete Littlewood

11 Moss Close
Caversham

CAVERSHAM DIARY

Saturday, 7th July 2pm St Peter's & St Margaret's Summer Fete, Caversham Court.

Sunday, 8th July 6.30pm St Peter's Church, Reading Male Voice Choir.

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

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All contributions for August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 July. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Mauls, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 July. The dates for Sept will be Monday 29 July and Wednesday 1 August.

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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A NEW COUNCILLOR FROM CAVERSHAM



WHATEVER one's political affiliations it is always heartening when a Caversham person becomes a local government councillor. The May elections saw Richard Stainthorpe returned as Borough Councillor for Battle Ward. He lives in Caversham Heights and is married with one child.

Many readers may recognise the name. Ten years ago he came to Reading and worked as manager of Caversham Bookshop. At the same time he joined the Caversham Theatre group. Some might well remember his stage debut as Richard Rich in 'A Man For All Seasons'. After a couple of years in the Bookshop, he moved into estate agency and the financial world. He soon became a well respected mortgage broker for Whiteknights Estate Agents.

Just over a year ago he took the courageous step of setting up in business on his own account. He says this was partly to give him job satisfaction. More im-

portant, though, he wanted time to devote himself to local politics. He sees this as his opportunity to work in the community and help others. The crisis of poor housing and even homelessness he views as one of the major evils of our society. A secure home is the corner stone of a contented family and this is what many people lack.

Working in less fortunate parts of Reading, such as Battle Ward, he has seen the effect on people of being forced to live in unsuitable housing. This can be due to lack of cheap rented accommodation, lack of council housing, to unscrupulous 'bed-sit barons', mortgage repossession and many other reasons.

At the time this paper is being prepared Richard hopes to gain some first hand experience of the problems facing the homeless. He will be taking part in The National Homeless Week sponsored 'sleep out'. By sleeping rough in St Mary's

Butts he will be joining the movement launched outside Westminster Cathedral this year by Cardinal Basil Hume and organised by St Mungo Association and Salvation Army Housing Association. He realises that this in itself could be considered cynically but, as he says, anything that draws attention to the plight of the homeless can only be to the good.

On the positive side Richard praises Reading Borough's play council scheme. This aims to provide space and time for young people of all ages, from teens to toddlers. One example is the spread of after school clubs to attract teenagers off the streets.

Unlike many of us he is fortunate enough to be able to link his community conscience with his job. As an independent financial adviser and member of FIMBRA he is committed to the principle of ethical and green investment. These could be considered 'in' words with little true meaning. However it does offer the consumer who wants to invest money with the choice of avoiding areas which his conscience may find unacceptable, which do not offend ethical or green criteria.

The above may be a highly personal and subjective view of one of Caversham's residents. Unlike many papers however the Caversham Bridge would like to stress without cynicism the good many Caversham residents hope to achieve through their work and lives. We hope to carry other similar profiles and if anyone reading this would like to make any suggestions please contact the editors.

CAVERSHAM PLAYERS

THE Players' production in April of 'Keeping down with the Joneses', directed by Nancy Quinnell, provided a lively evening's entertainment which was enormously enjoyed by the audiences and enthusiastically reviewed in the June edition of the 'Bridge'. If you enjoyed the play, or missed it and wish you hadn't, then make a note of the following in your diary:



On Saturday, 8th September, the Caversham Players will be putting on an evening of entertainment in St Peter's Church at 8pm with all profits going to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed. The evening will be made up of poetry readings on the theme of 'The Seven Ages of Man' (and Woman, or Persons, if you prefer). The programme is very varied with a wide selection of poems spanning the years between Elizabeth the First and the Second. Tickets will be £2.50, including light refreshments served in the interval.



On the 8th, 9th and 10th November, in St Andrew's Hall, the players will be presenting the gripping drama 'Black Chiffon' directed by Jessica Gilbert, who has so successfully directed for us in the past.



Caversham Players has been in existence for almost eleven years now. The group is small and friendly and always welcomes new members. For a modest subscription members can act, direct, help in set construction, work backstage or front of house, take part in play readings, go on theatre outings, and generally enjoy each other's company. If you don't want to become too involved but would like to support them they have a growing list of patrons who have reserved seats at the performances, receive the newsletters and are invited to join social events. The Players are grateful to their patrons for their support and welcome any practical help they feel able to offer.



If you would like to know more about the Caversham Players phone Jim McClure on 472353.



Mrs Waynefleete (Anne Bliss) joins her daughter Deidre (Sheila Hodson) and son-in-law Geoffrey (Derek Spears) on the 'cruise' in their underground shelter.



The Scandinavian au pair (Alison Kyte) prepares endless cups of tea for everyone including the Indian milkman Clive Patel (Jim McClure) and the telephone engineer Joe (Ray Hammond)



P.C. Bobby Smith (Ken Etherington) breaks the news to Raymond Blake (Chris Locke) and his wife Sonia (Val Watts) that their house has been blown up.

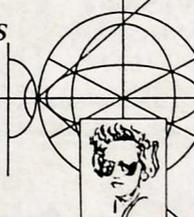
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT by WATCHDOG

BUGS BOTTOM TO GO TO COURT OF APPEAL

THE Bugs Bottom saga is still far from coming to an end. Permission has been given for it to be taken to the Court of Appeal, for which the average queue is of about eight months duration. This gives valuable time to prepare the case and with every week that passes the climate of opinion moves further against the spoliation of green field sites and the relentless spread of urbanisation.

Messrs Higgs and Hill must be wishing they had never embarked on this venture, which six years ago seemed a sure way of making a substantial profit, but is now turning into something of a liability. In the improbable event of their paying a visit to Caversham they could hardly fail to see the proliferation of 'For Sale' boards springing up in every street, something which is increasingly becoming the pattern all over the South Eastern part of England.

This in itself will not save Bugs Bottom and much appreciated. A number of fund raising activities has been arranged for the summer months and the Reading Chronicle has agreed to support the appeal. It is important to raise the money reasonably quickly as although eight months are the normal waiting period for the Court of Appeal, sometimes if a major case is withdrawn there is a considerable reduction in that time.

Look out for these events. A Barn Dance at the Mapledurham Pavilion on Saturday 30th June. A rally at Highdown School on Sunday, 15th July, with well known personalities, a band, entertainment and ending with a walk through the valley. Ring 478744 if you are willing to organise an event.

COST OF THE APPEAL

Until now, money has not played a particularly large part in the campaign to save Bugs Bottom beyond what has been required for running costs. Hard work and determination have played a much larger role. However, with a Court of Appeal case to be financed, fund raising has become an important issue. Something like £20,000 is required. Over a quarter of that has already been subscribed. The Caversham Bridge's donation of £250 was a very useful contribution towards this target and is

Money will be returned to all donors of sum over £5 in the event of the Appeal Court hearing being successful. The chances may not be great, but the case is good and it would be a matter of eternal regret if it were not pursued to the end.

VOTE FOR X

The local government elections held few surprises. It was expected that Conservative candidates would find themselves carrying the can for the Poll Tax, whatever their reservations about it and

regardless of how much hard work they had put into their civic duties. Fred Pugh was such a one. Even his political opponents had to agree that he knew and cared for his Caversham Ward and had made himself informed about the wider area of Reading. His ward, more than either of the other two Caversham wards, was particularly hard hit by

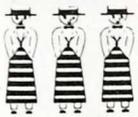
comfortable at accusations of Hamza's defecting to the enemy and not attending meetings.

The Green Party in all three wards was far behind, yet many more people than those who voted for them felt there was much good sense in their policies. They can at least claim one triumph in that no party that does not pay at least lip service to environmental issues would get anywhere today.

of an improvement. An idea for diverting the money that might be spent on the shopping precinct to repairing the Caversham Court Gazebo, something that does belong to the Borough and badly needs work done on it, can be dismissed, as this money is in the piggy bank marked "shopping precincts" and will go to another (perhaps more deserving) precinct if St. Martin's doesn't get it. It always seems odd that money cannot occa-



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the poll tax and Fred had to pay the price. Caversham's new councillor, Judy McDevitt, the Labour candidate comes from the other side of the Thames, but will, we hope, soon get to know Caversham.

Geoff Canning must have wondered if he would in fact become this year's Mayor, but in the event he was the only official Conservative to be returned in the whole Borough, pulling ahead of his Liberal - Democrat opponent by over 700 votes, so we have once more a Caversham Mayor, and for a change, one who is Reading born and bred.

But it was Thames, which once more provided the greatest interest, as Hamza Fuad set out to defend his seat against the official Tory candidate, sent in to show the electorate the error of their ways in persisting in choosing the independently-minded Hamza. It is known that on occasion he votes with the other side if he thinks they have a better point than his fellow Conservatives. However, Thames Conservatives do not like being told how to vote and responded by returning Hamza with a comfortable majority over his official Conservative opponent, who nevertheless took 764 votes from those who felt un-

ST. MARTIN'S SHOPPING PRECINCT

The controversial scheme to carry out improvements at St. Martin's Precinct with the use of public money has temporarily been put on ice, whilst further discussions and consultations take place. Caversham Residents' Association has made it very clear that they totally oppose the spending of any public money on work that should rightly be carried out by St. Martin's Property Corporation, even though the idea seems to be to encourage St. Martin's to smarten up their precinct by the Borough Council agreeing to pay for improvements in what it calls 'the general areas'. If this means the pavement along Church Street, the replacement of the community noticeboard by one of better materials, shabby railings and misused bus bay, all well and good. All the rest is St. Martin's responsibility.

Perhaps they have already had an uncharacteristic attack of bad conscience, as they actually felled (and felled is the only applicable word) the shoulder high weeds in the area behind the green board fencing. However, as they had concealed the sordid collection of rubbish that had accumulated there, the end result was not much

personally be switched to another needier area if it can be better used there.

TOWN TRAIL

The Civic Society has published the first of a series of Town Trails which will eventually cover the most interesting parts of the town. The first trail features part of the town centre, from the Town Hall and Abbey area, along London Street, through Church Street and back along Mill Lane to Duke Street. It is packed with information about all the older buildings that have survived as well as recent ones, together with a review of the area's history, contemporary pressures being exerted on it and the likely effects of future developments. There is also a map.

The text is by Godwin Arnold, well-known to many Caversham people through his adult education classes. It is illustrated by Janet Tait's beautiful line drawings, though it is perhaps a little unfortunate that the red printing ink used to give the folder a distinctive appearance should also reduce the clarity of her fine detail.

The trail is on sale at Caversham Bookshop. There are also other outlets in the town, including the Town Hall Information Centre. The price is 50p. The next Trail will be on Caversham.

BUMPER YEAR FOR BUTTERFLIES

THE mild winter, combined with last year's long, hot summer, makes this year set to be a bumper year for Reading's butterflies.

The butter yellow brimstones were on the wing as early as January, and the odd small tortoiseshell awoke early from hibernation to flutter at the window.

About a dozen different butterflies are commonly found in our town gardens, skimming over the flowers and sipping nectar, looking for small mating partners to start the next brood.

We know hardly anything about our town butterflies, so

Reading Urban Wildlife Group has launched the 1990 Butterfly Survey asking you to help us find out more. Thanks to the generosity of Caversham Bridge in previous years, and the many Caversham readers who replied, we already know a lot about frogs and toads, newts and house martins.

Can you help RUWG with its survey by filling in the form which may be obtained through your local library, or direct from RUWG, PO Box 367, Reading RG4 7QZ.

With your help, this survey could be the best one yet!

BUTTERFLY SURVEY

1990




Peacock

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**BBONT
READING URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP**

COMMUNITY LUNCH

THE guest speaker at the recent community lunch held in the Library was Francis Thomas of CRUSE. Ann Pickard was there too and both answered questions after the talk on bereavement care.

Name

CRUSE was formed in 1959 by Mrs. Margaret Torric and she chose the name from the biblical story in 1 Kings 17 of the widow who used the last oil from her cruse to feed the prophet Elijah.

The Reading branch is at 125 Oxford Road, where quiet warm rooms have been made available by the Oxford Road Methodist Church. Here the first contact is made, either by referral from doctors or clergy, or perhaps a person calls in on the off-chance, or a telephone call. This first contact is very important and the helpers understand and are very sympathetic. Thereafter, depending on need, contact is made with a trained counsellor. Maybe it is help with the legal side — even filling up the DHSS forms can be a real worry to someone who has not tackled this side of life before.

Counsellors and Groups

One was reminded that bereavement is unique. There is the loss, the shock, the pain, the guilt feelings, the lack of confidence. The counsellors use their skills with patience, listening, making aware that life thereafter is going to be different. There are special groups for those bereaved by suicide, for those who have lost a child, for single people who have lost a parent. Small groups are formed from those who feel unable yet to join in a more social side. The aim is always

self help. Other groups meet monthly for a speaker, go on rambles, join a "For Your Pleasure" group, but are always encouraged to join other groups away from CRUSE when they feel ready. A training course is run every two years on aspects of bereavement and this lasts for six weeks. After, those interested in becoming counsellors do further training.

The organisation is voluntary and so some fund raising has to be done to maintain the office and pay for the telephone. Members who join pay £4pa for their newsletters from HQ and the local branch. A flag day is planned.

The lunch was well organised by Kathy Munns, the community librarian and her efforts are highly appreciated.

MORE CHORAL CONGRATULATIONS

ON Easter Day the Rector, the Revd. Richard Kingsbury, presented to two of his choir members a medal for long and loyal service to the choir. Mary Cadwallader and Charles Croft are seen here holding their medals and wearing their

bright yellow ribbons on which the Royal School of Church Music's Medallion hangs. Well done to them and to the rest of the choir, under the direction of Andrew Boseley, for keeping such a high standard of music in the church.



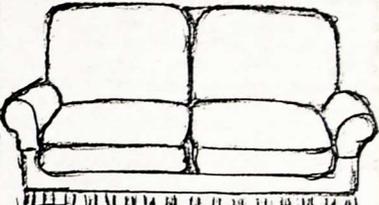
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ST BARNABAS GUIDES' HOLIDAY

THE Guides and Leaders of the 2nd Emmer Green Guide Company went to Bracknell Guide Centre for the Bank Holiday Weekend 5th to 7th May for a Guide Holiday.

The Guides had a chance to be together for three days and experience a lot of new activities, from wound simulation and first aid on how to treat wounds, to cooking and cleaning for themselves, and trips out in the surrounding area for walks and games. The cool spot of the weekend was a visit to Bracknell ice skating rink, which was enjoyed by

everyone. Hopefully another visit will be arranged to go again. An enjoyable time was had by all — with the weather smiling all the weekend.

Guide Guider Mrs Caroline Wright, Mrs Elaine Bloomfield and Mrs Sue May were the leaders in charge of the twelve guides over the weekend, with Sue retaking her holi-

day licence. The whole company are now looking forward to their next holiday, and with what they have learnt over this weekend, being able to try lots more new exciting activities.

If you are interested in Guiding, we always need adult helpers and have room for more girls to become Guides. Contact Caroline Wright 477871.

Audrey Vince and Barbara and Cyril Werrell and their family would like to thank everyone who gave cheques or cash in memory of Don. This was sent on to the R.B.H. Cardiac Monitoring Unit and the total amount received was £414.30.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

MAMA NUTRITION

IF you had tried to get into Dorchester Abbey on the afternoon of May 5th you would have found it quite a challenge! For by 2.00pm it was filled with a wonderful assortment of banners, models, kites, posters, doves and drawings and collages, all of which had been made by the thousand children who were crowded into the Abbey. They had come from all corners of the diocese of Oxford (including groups from St Barnabas' and St Peter's) and the event was the Diocesan Children's Gift Day.

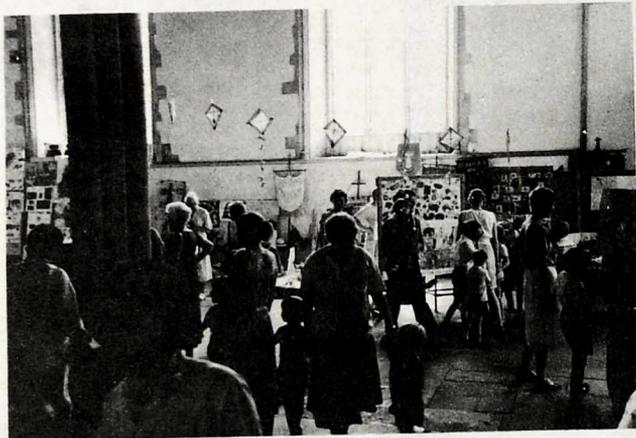
The children had been raising money for "Mama Nutrition" — a project which aims to improve the health of children in Tanzanian Villages

through teaching simple preventative medicine and by providing seeds for higher protein crops which can grow in the villages, and thus improve the diet of the children. The project workers are Tanzanian, but need money for equipment and the seeds. Besides collecting the money, and of equal importance, the children had been learning about life in Tanzania and the work of Mama Nutrition and had brought examples of what they had done: a model Tanzanian village, diagrams of the needs of children...the variety seemed endless. During the morning the children prepared in various ways for the afternoon's service.

Some made banners, some wrote prayers, many printed "headscarves" and necklaces to wear, or made kites and doves to decorate the Abbey.

Then followed a picnic lunch in glorious sunshine (and even more welcome shade) and finally, the culmination of the day in a happy service at which the Bishop of Oxford preached, children read lessons and led the prayers and everyone sang. As they left the Abbey a smile was on every face, and the words of the African song "We are marching in the light of God" were still on many lips and in all their hearts.

R.E.R.



The display inside Dorchester Abbey

FAMILY CONGRESS

THE Princess of Wales and Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be joining thousands of Christians from all over Britain at an International Congress for the Family at Brighton in July.

Parishioners at St. Anne's, Caversham, heard Congress organisers Jamie and Joanna Bogle speak about the state of the family today when they addressed all the services at the church recently.

With Britain having the highest divorce rate, and the highest single parent numbers in Europe, the family in this country is under severe strain. At the Family Congress both British and international speakers will be suggesting answers to these urgent problems. Speakers at the Brighton Conference Centre from 12th to 15th July will include scientists, doctors and specialists in related fields, together with Church leaders and laypeople from all the major Christian denominations.

"With anti-family attitudes spreading in society, it's vital that Christians in particular stand together to affirm family values," said Joanna Bogle, speaking at St. Anne's. "We have

the clear teaching of Our Lord in the Gospels — the sure foundation for stable family life. If you are concerned about the family, please support the Family Congress."

The Congress is to be a real family affair, with children warmly welcomed. Special programmes of activities and entertainment for children are being organised to enable parents to attend. Young people are especially invited also to take advantage of the Congress to become familiar with the challenges and commitments involved in marriage and family life and to hear about ways of meeting these successfully and creatively into the 21st century.

Among the topics spoken on will be: The Family and Public Policy; Ethnicity and Genetics; Families Need Fathers; The Great Sex Education Boomerang; Family Policies or Social Collapse; Natural Family Planning; and what promises to be the highlight of the Congress — Family: Community of Love by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

There are also to be workshops on such topics as: coping with pressure in the family; bio-ethics; fertility awareness; the media

LICENSING OF NEW PRIEST

A BRILLIANT sunny day welcomed the Rev. Philip Abrey and his wife to their new church in Caversham, a Local Ecumenical Project. Many Christians from within the group in Caversham as well as personal friends and friends from his old church were present to take part in the lively but simple service which included those legal portions to make

Philip "legitimate" priest-in-charge. The Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Rev. John Bone licensed Philip and led to congregation in prayer for their new minister. The Rev. Richard Kingsbury, the Rev. John Stevens and the Rev. Keith Sanders were present and robed and the preacher was the Rev. Stuart Woodward, President of the Berks Baptist Association and Minister of Woodley Baptist Church in Reading. Most of the

Caversham clergy were also present in the congregation, as were the Rural Dean, the Rev. Eric Essary and his assistant, the Revd. Dr. Geoffrey Udall. Richard

Kingsbury gave greetings from those who could not be present, including warm wishes from the Kenchingtons and also from the Rt. Rev. Eric Wild, former Bishop of Reading, who was once Vicar of All Saints Hindley, Philip's last parish. Cheers from the Hindley supporters! In nine minutes the Hall, in which the lovely service had been held, was transformed into a huge buffet area, where food and drink arranged by the faithful congregation was present in abundance. Let us pray that the joyful spirit on this occasion will carry on in the ministry of Philip and Dorothy. We wish them well. (Pic Page 9)



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE FAMILY
BRIGHTON CONFERENCE CENTRE
12-15 JULY 1990
families for tomorrow

and families; and the influence of rock music.

But it won't all be hard listening and talking. The Congress aims to bring pro-family people together in a family atmosphere. There will be a range of evening events including a concert, theatre and a Saturday night celebration with well-known Christian personalities from the world of entertainment.

Family Congresses have been held all over the world, with recent ones in European cities attracting over 5000 participants to each. They are part of the growing concern among many people, especially Christians, about the state of the family in modern

society. Churches up and down the country are sponsoring groups from their congregations to attend. Caversham parishioners heard how groups are even coming from as far as Poland to take part.

Participants can stay in a range of accommodation which will all be arranged by the organisers. Day visitors will be very welcome also. If you care about the future of the family and would like to know more about this important event, write to: The XVI International Congress for the Family, 58 Hanover Gardens, London SE11 5TN; or phone 071-820-9411.

Andrew Nash

St Andrew's Fellowship

AN appreciative audience welcomed back Mrs Meryl Beek who came to talk to St Andrew's Fellowship at their May meeting about "The Oldest Road". She illustrated with slides an account of the walk she and her husband did over the Icknield Way which is the oldest road in Britain, dating from long before Roman

times. The audience was transported down leafy lanes and across grassy fields down the centre of England, and quite forgot the existence of Caversham for a pleasant hour. The questions asked at the end showed the interest of those present, and Mrs Beek has promised to return with slides of her latest walk.

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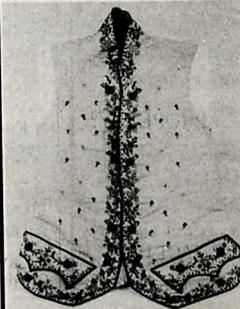
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ROUND THE CHURCHES

EX-SAFETY CHIEF ON GRAND FETE

JOHN Meston, OBE, Secretary of St Margaret's Mapledurham Church Council, says 'This year's GRAND FETE in Caversham Court is very likely to beat last year's magnificent response record.'

This year's Fete is on Saturday, 7th July, again in the beautiful riverside grounds of Caversham Court, the Borough's own public gardens.

Adults and children will find real fun at the side shows and events, while a variety of stalls will provide bargains of interest.

Added attractions include a traditional Punch & Judy Show, Miniature Steam Railway Rides, Maypole Dancing and

Children's Races with prizes! Strawberry Teas will be served. There is a Grand Draw (tickets now available) and Raffles.

In 1989, over £3,000 was raised by the Fete to support the twinned churches in the Caversham Parish, St Peter's and St Margaret's, Mapledurham.

Ex-Safety and Hygiene chief at Ranks Hovis McDougall, John Meston is again leading a keen team of volunteers from both churches, helped by Reading Blue Coat School and local organisations such as Caversham Primary School, Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs, British Red Cross and Thames Valley Police.

ST. PETER'S SUNDAY CLUB



Bishop Richard Harries with three members of St Peter's Sunday Club displaying scarves they had printed that morning.

CATHEDRAL FLOWERS

Our Cathedral, Christ Church in Oxford, is holding a Flower Festival from 12th-15th July. Apart from the flowers, which should be glorious, there will be exhibitions of brasses and embroidery. There will also be demonstrations of bell ringing and masonry carving. Two recitals will be given on 13th (Choral) and 14th (Organ). Admission is £2.50, with accom-

panied children under 14 free. Profits are in aid of the Church Urban Fund. The opening times are as follows: Thursday 12th July 10am-4.30pm, 7-9pm Friday, 13th July 10am-4.30pm Saturday, 14th July 10am-4.30pm Sunday, 15th July 1-4.30pm, 7-9pm Information Centre 0865 727855 will help with further details.

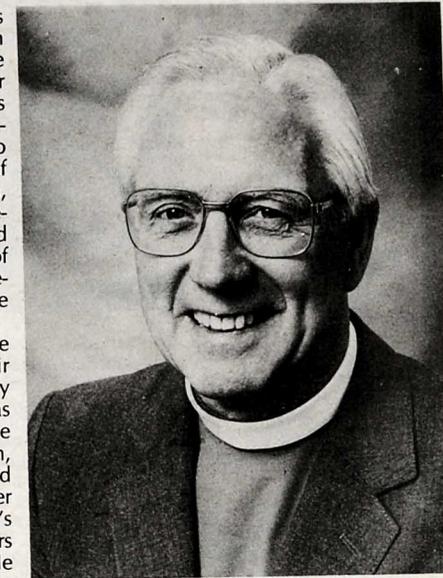
THE REVD NEVILLE AND JOAN SMITH

Neville retires as Chaplain of Queen Anne's School at the end of the summer term. 'Rev Nev' has been friend, counsellor and colleague to several generations of pupils and staff. Joan, as teacher and housemistress, has exercised a matching ministry of care and encouragement to all at the School.

Neville will exercise his priesthood in their new habitat — lucky Bognor Regis! He was one of the first people I met in Caversham, typically as his and Joan's guest at a dinner party at the Chaplain's House — whose doors were open to all. He has a 'special relationship' with the Caversham churches. During many inter-regna, Neville would be the first (usually the only) priest to ask 'Look, here's my diary; can I help?'

□□

St Andrew's and St Peter's have for years valued Neville's ministry. Joan's presence on countless Caversham Sundays (even in term time) was particularly valued. I owe a personal debt of gratitude to this generous, gentle priest for his support, wit and wisdom, both at the School (where he would shimmer alongside after a Governors'



meeting to murmur 'How are you feeling, brother?') and generally his genius for friendship when the going was hard.

Neville's sermons are hallmarked by high principle. He pulls no punches. Once described as 'Caversham's antidote to the Bishop of Durham', he encouraged many and disturbed a few and made us ALL think about the essentials of the Gospel. His meticulous attention to detail, in School chapel or in parish church, kept us on our toes. Yet there was always a twinkle in the eye, humility to entice others to smile in the face of adversity, and

pastoral care of the highest order.

Priests do not retire, though they cease from stipendiary function. In wishing Joan and Neville all happiness in the next chapter of their life, we know they will continue to minister love, warmth and care. We hope they will find time to relax and enjoy each other, as we have so richly enjoyed them, after many years of devoted work at St Anne's School and in our Caversham churches.

Our love and thanks to them both and our confident good wishes for years of 'continuing active service'!

R.J.K.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service

St Andrew's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10.45am Worship at Mapledurham Pavilion

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
11.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Annes Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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MALE VOICE CHOIR COMEBACK!

After their successful fund-raising concert for CARE (communities for the mentally handicapped) the Reading Male Voice Choir returns to St Peter's Caversham 6.30pm, Sunday 8th July (day after the Parish Fete) to offer an evening of choral praise.

Each year the Choir likes to give one evening back to the community, by offering music in praise of the Creator of music. 8th July's menu will include many favourites, especially sacred music, interspersed with some readings and reflections.

Caversham is privileged to be chosen by the Choir as the place to which it would like to return, offering voices in gratitude. No tickets needed! Just book the date and come to worship, with Reading Male Voice Choir at St Peter's, 8th July.



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ROBERT RUNCIE — AN APPRECIATION

by John Madeley

When the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, was asked at a youth mission — "what's the most interesting country you've visited?", he replied "Ethiopia". Ethiopia, said the Archbishop "was the

most beautiful and dramatic, different to any other country in Africa; it is also wonderfully fertile". The reply is fascinating because it gives people a new and fresh picture of a country that is usually in the

news for its poverty and famines. Giving people a "new and fresh picture" is one of the gifts of 68 year old Dr Runcie, who steps down from Canterbury in January next year.

Dr Runcie is one of the most interesting people that I have ever met and this is a short appreciation of a man of whom, like Ethiopia, you can sometimes get a distorted view.

In the 5 years that I have been on General Synod, my love and respect for Robert Runcie has grown enormously. The way that he has carried out his job is masterly and makes him, in my view, one of the most outstanding people ever to lead the Church of England.

He has a rare gift of truly knowing his Synod flock, of giving himself totally, and being able to de-fuse difficult situations. When the issue of women's ordination to the priesthood was bogged down only 2 years ago, he acted, for example, to find a way out. Proposals presented by the bishops are today the basis on which legislation has been prepared.

His job has been both



Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, with his wife Rosalind, left, and daughter Rebecca, right, after announcing his retirement, at Canterbury Cathedral.

— Steve Hodgson

demanding and draining. The Archbishop of Canterbury is leader of both of the Church of England and also of 70 million Anglicans around the world. Dr Runcie has thrown himself enthusiastically into the role and paid the price. Those who have served in committee with the Archbishop have spoken of seeing him utterly drained and fatigued by his total commitment.

In synod debates, his sense of humour often stands out. Privately, he has the reputation

of being a marvellous storyteller.

Described by his biographer, Margaret Duggan, as " temperamentally a conservative, intellectually a liberal", Dr Runcie has not hesitated to speak out about government actions where he thought it necessary.

He has criticised the government for cutting aid to the Third world and challenged policies over the unemployed. Recently he warned that Britain was in danger of becoming a Pharisee society.

But Dr Runcie's much publicised brush with Mrs Thatcher, when he preached forgiveness after the Falklands war, is not what it seems. What the popular press failed to say is that the Prime Minister shook hands with him after the service.

He leaves the church stronger than when he became Archbishop. "He has been a courageous and imaginative leader of the church during a difficult time", points out the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt. Rev.

Robert Williamson; "his leading role has been superbly and sensitively exercised."

Dr Runcie is a long, long way from being the weak person that sections of the press have made out. His successor will soon have the job of carrying on the work, bringing to it his own particular gifts. The new Archbishop is being selected by the Crown Appointments Commission (a body which appoints all bishops) made up of 15 senior church people.

Dr. Runcie retires to "swim, take up my interest in Greek history, lecture, I hope, on Hellenic cruises, which I used to do, and to watch cricket". But before he retires, there is one item of unfinished business he dearly wants to see resolved.

In January 1987 his special envoy Terry Waite went to the Lebanon to work for the release of American hostages. Tragically Terry himself was taken hostage and has not been heard of since. Dr. Runcie believes that Terry is still alive. "My dearest wish would be that Terry and I could meet and talk again", he says.

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OUR MAN AT READING PRISON

The Revd David Hastings

THE work of Chaplain at one of H.M.'s prisons may be unenviable. We commit more people to prison than any other country in western Europe. Prison Chaplains' care for inmates and staff is rarely reported, except when a riot begins in divine worship. Their work is vital. We share in it!

H.M. Prison, Reading has a unique history of which Caversham can be proud. Brian Hayday, past Governor of our local 'nick' before promotion to Headquarters, is, with his family, a St Margaret's communicant. Richard Gash, past Senior Probation Officer at Reading Prison, is Secretary of St Barnabas' PCC and Elizabeth Gash has recently been Licensed as Reader — in which we rejoice!

Revd Robin Carter, Chaplain of Reading Prison until early 1990, helped at St Peter's on many occasions. Now a new Chaplain has been appointed and takes

up residence in Caversham in late July 1990. We introduce him to Caversham Bridge readers...

The Revd David Hastings is Chaplain of Reading Prison. He and Vanessa (Deputy Head Teacher) and James (22, working at the National Theatre), Katy (20, reading French at Roehampton Institute) and Justin (18, hopefully going to Sussex University after A levels), look forward to moving into St Peter's and St Margaret's parish in late July.

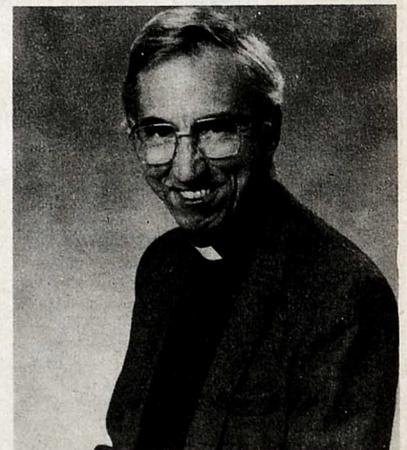
David, an experienced teacher, comes to us from Bicester (whence also will come later this year the new Vicar of Kidmore End) where he was Head of a large Primary School. He was ordained as Non-Stipendiary Minister in 1987 and has worked at H.M. Prisons at Spring Hill and Grendon, before offering himself for full-time ministry in the Prison Service.

David is a 'natural'

Prison Chaplain. This means he is a bit of a 'maverick'. He has an affinity with those on the fringe of society, has a warm, loving personality, is a workaholic with a delicious sense of humour, and loves and serves the Lord whose last words on the Cross included the promise of Paradise for a convicted criminal.

David Hastings and his family now live in Caversham. We welcome them warmly and pray God's blessing on his work at Reading Prison. Welcome to Caversham, all Hastings! May your time with us be long and enjoyable. You represent us at Reading Prison. Our love and prayers are with you, David, as you minister at that crucial point of 'success and failure' with all who have offended or are in your care, and no less for the Prison staff charged, on our behalf, with their care and rehabilitation.

R.K.



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MORE VISITORS TO THE GARDEN

WITH the glass window in our french doors coming down to almost ground level, we can sit inside in comfort and watch the birds feeding on the mixed birdseed we have thrown out, some on the near edge and more on the centre of the lawn. A pair of pied wagtails (or dishwashers we called them in my youth, and still used in some parts of the country) with their ever bobbing tails, come daily to feed, one regularly staying on the lawn, the other close at hand. The attitude of the near one to the other is a bit puzzling; with a fluttering run it hustles the other from its feeding to retreat a few feet, then, with amazing speed for so small a bird it runs back to feeding nearby. If they were a pair, male and female, surely the one would not hustle the other; which looks as though they represent two families. They come daily until the

spring, when we see them no more until the autumn, leaving, no doubt, to build a nest and raise a family.

Other birds come to feed, chaffinches, sparrows, dunlocks, a lone robin, a few blue tits, though they prefer to feed at the nutcages hanging around on the trees. Starlings, in small flocks, sail overhead, settle on the surrounding trees, and in ones and twos, to a total of twenty or more, drop down and start feeding, all gobbling up the food as though this is the last they will ever get. Suddenly, for some unknown reason, they all fly up. Is it fear of an impending predator about to pounce, or a "predator" evasion alarm? Sometimes just a single bird remains, squatting close to the ground, looking around fearfully. Then

the dropping down to feed begins again. Magpies, too many for our liking for their habit of robbing smaller birds' nests of the eggs and newly hatched young, fly around and sometimes settle on a post looking for scraps, or strut about in lordly fashion as though they own the garden. But one must admit, they are very handsome birds.

Collared doves visit us most days and trot around, picking up bits and pieces, leaving garden produce alone. Not so the wood-pigeons who, if it were not for our netting all the brassicas, would strip the lot, especially if the winter is at all severe, leading to a shortage of food on which they feed. But there is one elderly and lone pigeon for which we have some affection, he having been around for some years. He is fat, lame, and slowly hobbles about. We have not seen him for some weeks; has he fallen victim to a kestrel, or fox, or has his allotted span come to an end?

Then we have that

"Thorn in the flesh", that raider of nut cages, that thief we have found it impossible to outwit, the grey squirrel, though we have tried a number of ways. We thought our last attempt had beaten him, but read on. We purchased a large plastic sweet bottle from the confectioners, cut a hole in the centre of the base, and attached a wire nut cage to it, filled the bottle with peanuts, the bottle acting as a hopper, screwed on the cap and, with a length of wire, hung it at the end of a low-lying branch of the silver birch. This puzzled the squirrel for a while, but not for long, for soon he had run up the trunk, along the branch, slid down the wire upside down, and landed on top of the bottle. But the nuts were still out of his reach, so, clinging to the wire with his hind feet and stretching down, he was able to reach the nuts. We now have a number of these bottles hanging from the trees, so, with only one squirrel (apparently) there are plenty of nuts available for the tits, plus greenfinches and sparrows who all have

a go, clinging to the wire cage.

With his forepaws he scratches a little hole, puts in the nut, pushes back the soil and pats it down. Or he sits upright on his hind legs with tail erect, covering his back and head, holds a nut in his paws and munches away. But how does he know, when the time comes to need them, where he has buried the nuts? I have come to the conclusion it is by scent, smelling them out, though he doesn't find them all as the little nut trees springing up here and there prove.

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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.

LINK GROUP REPORT

The Link Group held its monthly meeting on Monday the 21st of May at The Rectory. Angela Kingsbury chaired the meeting which discussed the success of the sponsored 'Knit-In', that had been held in St Anne's Church Hall on the 23rd April when approximately thirty members and friends of the Link Group were gathered for one hour of knitting. The choice of location was ideal for what has now become the Link Group main fund raising event of the year. The knitters were kept going with drinks

and light refreshments served by other members of the group and the evening was a great success, since over £600 was collected. Socially, great fun was had by all and a number of new friends were introduced by members to the group. Arrangements were finalised for the A.G.M. which is to be held at Doreen Bennett's home on the 25th June where Link members will have an opportunity to give their Annual Charity Reports. The Social evening will be held on the 16th

July and is the last event in the Link Group's calendar before the Summer recess. Before the meeting closed members present voted for money to be sent to a number of local charities; Berkshire Womens Aid, Victim Support Group and Sphere. The Link Group is always keen to welcome new members and anyone interested in joining should contact the Link Group member at their Church or telephone 479130 and speak to Angela Kingsbury.



After the licensing at Caversham Park Church.

E. S. Archer

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note — change of date for September copy.
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Caversham W.I.

A lively discussion took place during the May meeting of the Caversham W.I. when Mrs Fricker, VCO, came to introduce the Resolutions for the Annual Meeting in the Albert Hall. Members also enjoyed Mrs Fricker's amusing account of the opening Day of the Berkshire W.I. Federation House in Mortimer.

The competition "May Bargain Buy" was won by Miss Margaret Cameron. The beaded evening bag which she had brought very cheaply, was much admired.

Swan Lifeline

For all those interested in the above — the A.G.M. of Swan

Lifeline is to be held in the River Room at the Caversham Hotel at 7.30 p.m. on the 11th July. This will also be the occasion for the 'Launching' of the inflatable boat so kindly provided by the recent Caversham Hotel Raffle and also donations.

Caversham Ladies Club

There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting which was opened by Mrs Harwood, Chairman, who welcomed members if her usual way. They were looking forward to their afternoon's entertainment which was to be 'Decorated Eggs'. No, not chocolate eggs but real eggs, and Mrs Harwood the introduced Mrs Simpson, who was 'The Egg Lady', and had brought along a box full of different blown eggs used in her work. There were shells from budgerigars, chickens, ducks, quail, goose and a black egg of the emu (which Mrs Simpson said was its usual colour), and ending with an ostrich egg. She had also brought along a selection of her tools to show how she worked on her intricate and delicate designs. Members were very interested and asked lots of questions.

It was then time to see a selection of the finished work Mrs Simpson had brought along. The ostrich egg on opening the two doors showed a full orchestra with figures about one and a half inches high, all made by hand. There were musical eggs, cradles and hanging eggs, while the smallest eggs were made into open pendants on chains. The shells were very hard after various treatments, so not delicate to hold. Members gave a very warm appreciation at the end of her talk and

show, but time was catching up very quickly.

Refreshments were served and Mrs Harwood closed the meeting with a reminder to members of the time the coach was leaving for Worthing, and the hope of fine weather.

Maplewood W.I.

At the May meeting the resolutions for what could be the last AGM in the Albert Hall were discussed and voted on. Mrs Christine Ingram (VCO) led the discussion.

The Flower-of-the-Month competition was won by Mrs N. Ogden and the raffle winners were Mrs E. Harden and Mrs T. Aldiss.

The President, Mrs Joan Baddeley, and Mrs Eileen Clarke had attended the official opening of the W.I. House at Mortimer by National Chairman Mrs Jean Varnam.

At the Group Meeting on May 16th the Speaker, Mr Monty Moss, gave an interesting and often hilarious talk on the founding and growth of the famous firm of Moss Bros.

The Speaker at the June meeting was Mrs Kruschelnykyj on Women of the Ukraine.

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Yoga and Dream Analysis.

The monthly OPEN MEETINGS are where friends are made and varied topics discussed while welcoming many guest speakers. Interesting visits and occasional coffee mornings are arranged.

All activities are included in an annual subscription of three pounds (£3). This low rate is possible because of the distinctive U3A philosophy (a University in the Medieval sense of the word), a community of people who both learn and teach. Now that Thiridagers number more than twenty per cent of the population, it is felt the time has come for self-help groups to draw on all their resources. A monthly newsletter keeps members informed.

Come and join us! Enquiries to: Mrs Jean Thompson, Chairman, 26 Riverside Court, Caversham. Tel. Reading 477968.

Caversham Heights T.G.

BEATING AGGRESSION

There cannot be many people who do not already know that the Lamplugh Trust was formed after the tragic disappearance in Fulham in 1986 of Suzy, a 25 year old, in the course of her work as an estate agent.

Some members of Caversham Heights TOWNSWOMEN's guild heard Diana Lamplugh, Suzy's mother and director of the Trust, when she addressed an audience which included the Mayor at Rivermead centre in early May. She said that the Trust aims to prevent aggression at places of work and to help relatives and friends of missing persons. It believes in assertion rather than confrontation, produces training courses and commissions research. Mrs Lamplugh's listeners were impressed by her energy, composure and self-control together with an evident wish to try to help people to take care of themselves.

The guild's main meeting in St Andrew's hall saw the return of Mr K Sands who showed more photographs of stars of the music-hall and played more songs. Gus Elen, Florrie Forde and Sir Harry Lauder were among the artistes described. It was interesting to learn about the generosity of Florrie Forde, who paid for the grave of a seaman on the Isle of Man, and a pleasure to note Gus Elen's number "It's a Great Big Shame" or "I'm Blowed if 'e can call 'isself 'is Own". And what about the appeal of "Two Lovely Black Eyes (no more politics for me)"?

Turn to page 11

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From page 10

Rosehill W.I.

The May meeting was held on the 2nd on a beautiful afternoon. Most activities are curtailed during the Summer, except rambling which has continued all through the winter and interesting walks are planned for this summer.

As usual in May the intute was visited by VCO, Mrs Baxter, who went through the resolutions for the AGM next month at the Albert Hall. Rosehill's Delegate will be Mrs Jane Stockhill.

Many members went to the Group meeting at the Bluecoat School at Sonning. They very

much enjoyed the evening, with an entertainment of old fashioned Music Hall.

There was an exhibition at the meeting of wonderful old postcards, kept for many years.

Caversham Community Association

On May 14th Jim McClure, from the B.B.C. Monitoring at Caversham Park, visited the club to give a talk on the work of this organisation. The Monitoring Service began at Evesham in 1939, intercepting and classifying news from foreign broadcasts

from many countries. It transferred to the 19th century mansion at Caversham Park in 1943 and has remained there to this day. Illustrating his talk with a video recording, Mr. McClure, explained how summaries of broadcasts were documented in daily and weekly reports and supplied for use by the B.B.C. Other clients supplied included the Government, commercial users, libraries, embassies, colleges and leading national daily newspapers. At the end of the evening members were able to see copies of reports of famous events over the last 50 years that had been recorded by the Monitoring Service. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked Mr. McClure for his informative and interesting talk.

At the next meeting, on the 21st May, there was a good attendance and the members enjoyed a social evening. Plans were discussed for an evening tour later this summer.

Reading and District Gardeners

The Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association has begun its Summer programme of excursions. The first visit was on May 16th when members went by private cars, in the evening, to see the gardens at Englefield House at Theale. Mrs Benyon joined the party to see some of the large woodland garden which has splendid mature trees, some very lovely spring flowering shrubs and, especially on the terrace adjoining the house, interesting herbaceous perennials. There is an excellent garden centre which was opened specially for the visit,

for the purchase of plants.

On June 2nd a full-day excursion was held, when members travelled by coach to the Cotswolds to see, first, the well-known and splendidly planted garden of Mrs Rosemary Verey at Barnsley House near Cirencester. Mrs Verey joined the party for some of the time. The garden is famous for a laburnum walk underplanted with tall alliums, a delightful knot garden and a vegetable garden based on the 'potager' at Villandry in France where fruit and vegetables are grown decoratively. In the afternoon the party went on to the Batsford Park Arboretum and garden centre, near Moreton-in-Marsh. Here is an unusual and splendid specimen trees and lovely views: some good plants were available in the sales area.

The next excursion was on June 20th when an evening visit, again by private cars, was arranged to see the garden of Mrs J. Atkinson at Thame Cottage, Warborough, Oxfordshire. Mrs Atkinson came earlier this year to talk to members about her lovely garden, full of interesting plants, when she showed slides of her beautiful roses and foliage plants. The visit was a most welcome follow-up to her lecture.

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St Peter's Wives

The speaker at the April Meeting was Mr Martyn Allies from the Reading Dusseldorf Association. He told members how the link had been started by the Mayor of Reading in 1947 and showed photographs of some

area covered has altered considerably, but most of the helpers still live in Caversham and thoroughly enjoy the "Country run" - though Path Hill can be a bit dicey in bad weather. The first meals delivered were 1/6d - rather more in 1990 - though still under £1. Not bad for meat and two veg., plus a pudding and door to door service.

TWENTY YEARS ON!

On 24th April 1970, a meeting was held at Lilley Farm, Mapledurham, to inaugurate a Meals-on-Wheels service in the Mapledurham area, and on Wednesday 16th May, this year, Mrs Joyce Beacroft hosted a Buffet luncheon at Lilley Farm to celebrate Mapledurham Meals-on-Wheels twentieth birthday. Some twenty two ladies attended, including at least two who were on the original rota and still helping, the County Organiser from Oxford WRVS and the Home Care Organiser from Henley Social Services.

Five of the ladies who were in the original Meals-on-Wheels team with Mrs Hall (back left) and Mrs Beacroft (back right) who are still helping.



With the change in the borough boundary several years ago the

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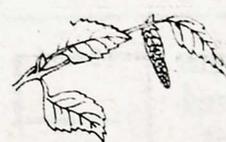
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