



AN AFTERNOON TO REMEMBER

AROUND four hundred Christians gathered on Sunday 2nd September in Caversham Court, to celebrate their unity in Christ, and commit themselves to a new Ecumenical body, 'Churches Together in Caversham' — and Mapledurham!

A band from the Reading Central Corps of the Salvation Army provided music for our singing. The Revd Alan Wilson opened the service by thanking all who had worked so hard in setting up the service, and all who had come to be a part of the celebration.

We started by singing, with great zest, that great hymn 'Praise my soul the King of heaven,' followed by 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' To hear four hundred voices raised in praise of the Lord will stay with me for a long, long time.

The Revd Christine Allsopp then led a simple prayer, which seemed just right for the occasion. This was followed by us all singing, with great feeling, 'the Church's one foundation.'

Miss Tracey McSween, accompanied by Mrs Dorothy Abrey, sang a lovely hymn, 'How Great Thou Art.' Tracey has such a beautiful voice, it was a joy to hear her sing. This was followed by Reading's Deputy Mayor, Cllr Robert Dimmick, reading a short passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

We sang a pilgrim's hymn, 'Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,' then the Revd Keith Sanders addressed us. He spoke about coming together, not only with each other, but with the Lord. Then he led us in a short prayer of thanks to God for all He had done for us.

Tracey then sang two more hymns, which I greatly enjoyed. Then came an important part of the service; our chance to respond by committing ourselves to God's future together. The Revd Richard Kingsbury led us in an act of commitment, to the Lord, and to one another. To hear those many voices raised as one, responding with such great feeling to our Lord's call, brought a lump to my throat. After this act of Commitment we sang the final hymn, 'City of God, how broad and far,' then Alan gave the blessing.

The thought that will stay with me is that these four hundred disciples came together as Christians — followers of Christ — rather than as representatives of this or that particular denomination.

I really want to thank all who made the service so memorable for me, and hope that we will all come together again next year to re-commit ourselves to the Lord, and to being Churches Together in Caversham (and Mapledurham!)
Mavis Davis



Open Air Ecumenical Service (all Caversham Churches) in Caversham Court Sunday 2nd September

Photo: E. S. Archer

SPEAK UP FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

'SPEAK UP for Tomorrow's World' is the theme this year of One World Week, which takes place from October 21st — 28th. This year is the beginning of the last decade of the millenium, and a good time for us all to think about the state of the earth, the human race and where we are

heading. Thinking about them is good, but even better is speaking up about them!

A CHANCE FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS TO SAY WHAT KIND OF WORLD IN WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO LIVE

The theme invites us to air our views about all the good things which we want to preserve and the bad things which we want to change.

The One World Week event which is being arranged by Churches Together in Caversham will

concentrate on giving the younger members of our churches the chance to think about, and speak for, the kind of world in which they

would like to live when they grow up. On the Wednesday of One World

the children from Sunday Schools and Junior Churches in Caversham will get together at the Baptist Free Church in Caversham for a variety of activities which will give them the opportunity to express their hopes and wishes for tomorrow's world.

Then on the afternoon of Sunday, October 28th, in Caversham Heights Methodist Church, children and grown-

ups will come together when, stimulated by the children's vision of the world of tomorrow, they will think of how it may be brought about, not only by influencing 'them' in high places but by each of us doing our bit in small but important ways. The afternoon will conclude with a short act of worship during which we will express in prayer our hopes for tomorrow's world and confess the failures which make today's world so far from perfect.

Further details of the event may be obtained by phoning Martyn Allies on Reading 472007.

WANTED

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TALKING POINT

Father Thomas Meagher
St. Anne's R.C. Church



PILGRIM (and Tourist) THOUGHTS

A 'TALKING POINT' which is written in the summer holidays for publication in a working season should, I suppose, contain elements of sunlight and autumn shadow, of pleasure and serious purpose.

My thought (and my car) turned to the magic of Rocamadour. At the risk of boring the cognoscenti I will explain that Rocamadour is a spectacularly-sited 'city' in the Causse de Gramat (a Causse is a limestone plateau riven by gorges and valleys — plateaux which proliferate in South-Central France.)

The city (really a village) is built on different levels on the sheer side of the Canyon of Alzou; to the north is Brive, to the south Cahors. The settlement began with a Chateau in a dominating position over the gorge, and a hostel to accommodate and care for pilgrims en route for the famous shrine of St James at Compostella that extraordinary attraction which drew thousands, often on foot, across Europe. Rocamadour was on direct routes both from east and from the north, so it was in a very strategic position. The shrine of Compostella has, of course, a direct connection with us, because the Abbey of Reading held as its most famous relic, the reputed hand of St James, whose body, according to an eighth-century tradition, lay in that north-western corner of Spain to which so many travelled in such discomfort.

Rocamadour, the subject of this article, gained importance in its own right for two reasons. First came a remarkable discovery when footings for a Chapel of Our Lady

were being excavated. A sarcophagus was opened and in it lay the incorrupt body of a man. His origins were unknown, and he was dubbed 'roc-amator' (local dialect for 'rock-lover') which easily became Rocamadour. As a consequence of this sensation, the body was exhibited for public veneration, and many miracles were reported.

Second, the chapel was for housing a beautiful statue of Our Lady, the 'black Madonna', which itself became the focus of great devotion, and which, in its turn, brought more miracles to the place.

The fame of Rocamadour grew to such an extent that it received as many as 30,000 people at once—a vast number relative to the size of the population of France, or even of Europe. Saints and sinners, rich and poor, famous and ordinary, all came to show their love and to do penance. Those repenting of the heresy of Albigensianism were given a public recognition of their forgiveness, as they made the 'amende honorable'.

Among the pilgrims were Roland, who dedicated there his sword 'Durandal', Saints Bernard, Dominic and Louis, King of France; there was Blanche of Castille, Louis' wife and Henry II of England, on pilgrimage after the martyrdom of St Thomas of Canterbury. Often the penitent would be burdened by a cross and chains, always he or she would ascend on their knees the cruel rock staircase on the cliff towards the Chapel, which in our 'softer' times seems impossibly tough now.

What can be found there when we go? It is still a centre of pilgrimage, restored as such by the Diocese of Cahors, while the vast majority of visitors are tourists coming to the third most popular place in France (after Paris and Lourdes). The site itself is magnificent (worth a journey, as Michelin — which grants it three stars—would have it). It is best viewed from the opposite side of the Canyon, but all views are remarkable. The tourist, and still more the pilgrim, will want to get into the place as soon as possible. At the top it has a Chateau with the remains of the hostel. A lift will take the arm-chair tourist down to the religious city, but there is a zigzag path down, dotted with the Stations of the Cross. A fortified gate (as was!) leads one to the centre, and above some steep steps (part of the old pilgrimage) is the Chapel of Our Lady, with its statue and a 'miraculous' bell—the bell, dating from Carolingian times, which tolls when miracles occurred. It is a dark chapel lit mainly by the candles of the devout; the statue wears a beautiful expression. Outside the chapel is the open sarcophagus which held the mysterious body. Here we enter the realm of legend. Not only was he named 'roc-amator', but he came to be known as St Amador, and even Zacchaeus, the publican of St Luke's gospel, was suggested. Truly the stuff of mystery!

A further legend is above this sarcophagus. High in a cleft of rock is fastened a sword, hilt showing, which some imagined to be the very Durandel blessed at the shrine, and hurled by Roland at the ill-fated

but glorious battle of Roncesvalles against the Moors, not in this gorge but in the Pyrenees, a little matter of two hundred miles away. This from a dying knight, however brave and chivalrous, might be thought to be a variation of 'drawing the long bow'. Like all legends, a note of romance is involved, and I love them. But unlike most legends, there is scarcely a basis for anything in them.

Alongside the Chapel, and with access from it is the Basilica, a curious square-shaped building, like all the Edifices, hard against the rock. The town is on a lower level, but there are chapels all round.

So Rocamadour caters for the tourist and the pilgrim, the sightseer and the devotee. I'm sure that many of the readers of this newspaper have been there, especially since the predominant sound there is English. It is such a delightful place that it has become almost a habit with me, since, I think, 1952, when as a student I was bound on two wheels for Lourdes. The religious significance of Rocamadour is important, not only because it had such fame in the Middle Ages. Since then it was destroyed by Henry 'Court-Mantel' Plantagenet, and after the Reformation, so that most of it has been rebuilt.

It also makes one consider the whole question of pilgrimages and devotion. Many of us may well think that these things are unnecessary, but let us pause to think. Pilgrimages were made to show the sense of love and of penance. People wanted to develop their devotion to Our Lady (in this case) and to express their sorrow for sin. They saw Our Lady as leading them closer to Our Lord (and in a minor way St James also) and had a personal love for her too.

Penance was done because, like all should, they believed they were sinners (as did the saints). It does not mean that the times were any better then; man has always been prone to sin from the time of Adam. It does mean that

they had a sense of sin and a consequent need not only to have the sins forgiven, but also the guilt remaining should be cleared.

One of the most worrying aspects of our modern days is the loss of precisely these things, that is, the consciousness of personal sin and the ideas that we do not need forgiveness or to make reparation.

Can it mean, as I think it does, that the sense of the Divine, and the supernatural generally, the opposite side of the question, have also been obscured and in many cases lost? There is a danger that religion is reduced to vaguely understood good works, which should flow from the love of God, and not to be the only motive.

Those who live in the presence of God realise that they are sinners and need God's help. Many of us feel the need for pilgrimage and devotion, as did the Middle Ages for Our Lady of Caversham and Rocamadour, Lourdes and Compostella, and many other places. Such signs and centres of piety may help us on our real pilgrim way, the road to heaven.

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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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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.45am
Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm.
House study groups Sept—June Tel: 475783

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 Nov issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 3 Oct.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 1 Oct.

The dates for Dec will be Monday 5 Nov and Wednesday 7 November.

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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BUGS BOTTOM

HUMAN SIZED bunnies speeding round Caversham in sports cars? Ritual house burning on Highdown Hill? What was going on in Caversham on a hot Sunday a few weeks ago?

by Rudi Walker (of Love Thy Neighbour fame), who spoke about his love for Bugs Bottom and finished with a reading from Shakespeare.

No, it wasn't a fit of summer madness brought on by the extreme heat. It was yet another huge public rally supporting Bugs Bottom. Hundreds of people turned up to listen to speeches, buy badges balloons and watch the antics on display, all proving that the fight for the beauty spot is far from over.

Members from Reading Council, SPISE and local groups spoke out against the development but for the crowd probably the most memorable contribution was given

However the show of support from the theatre world did not stop here. Michael Caine sent a signed copy of his autobiography and Kenneth Branagh, another actor who comes from the area, sent a personally written letter of support also signed by his wife Emma Thompson, and Richard Briers.

Anne McCubbin of the Bugs Bottom Action Group said that the afternoon had been a big success with donations amounting to more than £2,500, but she also wanted to remind people that

there is still a long way to go and loads of activities to get involved in. Anybody who would like to help is more than welcome to contact the group. And for any children who love Bugs Bottom and enjoy writing or drawing, the Caversham Book Shop is running a competition — best picture of, or story about, Bugs Bottom wins a prize!

But the real stars of the show were the crowds of local residents and supporters who concluded the afternoon by linking hands to form a huge human chain reaching the length of the valley. It was a spectacular sight demonstrating once again that there are still many people who are far from ready to give up the fight to save Bugs Bottom.

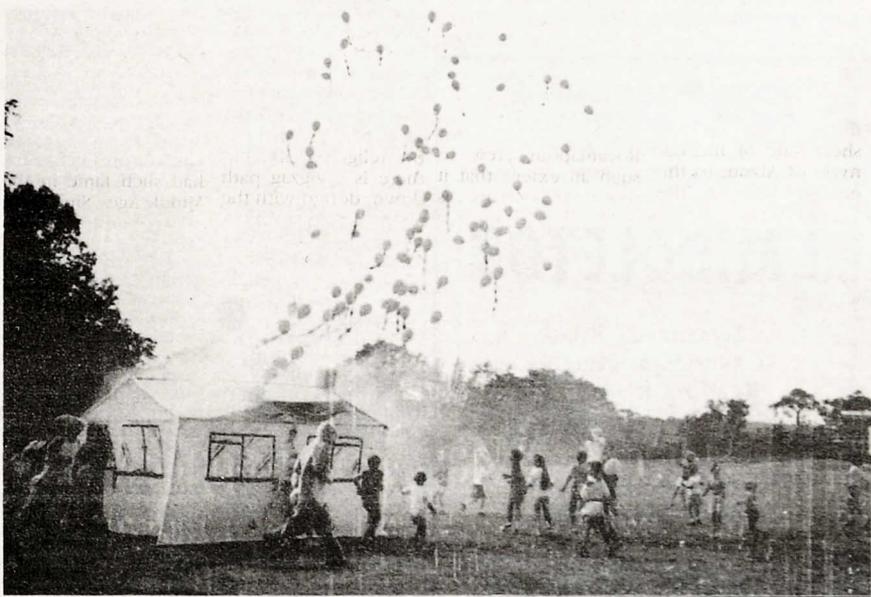


Some tranquil shots of the valley



Rudi Walker addressing the crowd

Photo by Judy Brooke-Wavell



Grey rabbits flee as a "desireable residence" blows up, releasing balloons and streamers

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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 Ikley 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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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT by WATCHDOG

SUMMER DAYS
ANOTHER long hot summer draws to its close and Caversham settles down to the myriad activities that will keep it occupied throughout the months that lie ahead. Drought and sound were its dominant features.

As vegetation scorched in temperatures not far below 100 deg. F and a blade of green grass became a rarity, a second hose-pipe ban was imposed, this time including the whole of Caversham and covering all the Thames Valley. Although a short period of steady rain miraculously restored the green lawns that had resembled worn down door mats, the ban has remained to allow a plentiful store of water to build up. It seems strange that a country lying in the path of rain bearing clouds from the Atlantic should experience water shortages whenever they fail to shed their loads on us for a few weeks. There are plenty of countries that have scarcely any rainfall for the whole

of the summer, the kind that attract thousands of tourists with their extra demands, yet are not thrown into the crisis which are becoming only too familiar here.

SOUND OR NOISE?

FAIRS HAVE visited Reading since time immemorial so the one that occupied a site beside the Thames Promenade for several weeks was nothing new. Its music struck up every evening for as long as the customers were there but, not being amplified, it did not carry too far and was either accepted or tolerated by those within earshot. Then along came WOMAD, the exciting festival of international, mainly third world, music and dance, paying its first visit to Reading. Being an out of doors event, it was not possible to book for a single event, but only for the whole period or a day, but everyone who managed to go spoke highly of the standard of entertainment.

Unfortunately its organisers seemed to have overlooked the need for confining the sound within the site as much as possible, and it was to be heard over a wide area of Caversham and Reading. This particularly roused people's ire when on the first night it continued well into the small hours, resulting in a flood of furious telephone calls. The next night it shut off before midnight. It was a shame that such a venture, new to Reading, should have created this bad feeling, but it seems unlikely that they will err again next year if they make a return visit.

The Pop Festival is now an established visitor to the town and this year they were particularly successful in controlling the sound from all the programmed events. Alas, after midnight a wild cacophony of sound broke out as an improvised concert took place and went on, again well into the small hours, with no effort being made to contain it. Furious phone calls finally resulted in its being stopped, but it took a long time.

The site and roads surrounding it were soon deep in litter, but it was cleared up quite quickly, though without rainfall a

good street washing would not have come amiss. The sanitary provision seemed unsatisfactory this year. The smell from it was offensive and judging from the queues, both on site and at nearby public loos, it was totally inadequate for the number of people it was required to cater for.

Helicopters and light pleasure aircraft seemed to be whirring constantly overhead, making far more noise beyond the site than the Festival itself. St. Peter's bells, not to be outdone, also joined in, making a joyful noise unto the Lord, but they are home grown and will still be there long after the visiting sounds have departed.

CHAZEY COURT

IF THE Chazey Court plans get permission to go ahead, it appears that access will be via the Warren. If this is the case, safeguards will be required to see that this rural lane does not become an urban road. Widening would be unacceptable (except to those who believe nothing should stand in the way of the car) passing places should not make unsightly intrusion into the edges of the road and speed should be discouraged without a plethora of road signs and paint. Construction traffic will also have to be carefully controlled. Meanwhile the fruit farm continues to be well patronised as beans and sweetcorn take the place of soft fruit.

HERITAGE BRICKWORK

AMONGST THE various leaflets issued by Reading Borough Council, is one giving advice on the care of the town's patterned brickwork. Before 1850, local bricks were used in simple patterns of red and grey, but with the development of the railway system coloured bricks from other parts of the country became available, and these were used in conjunction with the local bricks, to produce a distinctive form of decoration which reached its peak between 1870 and 1900. Although it can be found in other towns, its use in Reading is unique because of the elaborate combination of materials, colours and patterns, and the wide range of its use in

commercial and residential buildings.

Much of it can still be seen (go to Katesgrove for some really first class examples), but much has been, and unfortunately still is being lost through modernisation and unsuitable renovation. These houses are characterised not only by their brickwork but also by their doors, windows, gutterings and roofs, and these also are increasingly being replaced in styles that are alien to the character of the house. It is rare, if not indeed impossible, to find now a terrace of houses which has not been in some way affected by these changes.

The leaflet contains useful advice for those whose homes are in some need of renovation, so that it can be carried out in ways that will retain the character of the house and even save the owners money. It warns of changes that can even damage the fabric and others for which less expensive alternatives are available. Under certain conditions, grants may be available. Nowadays a house retaining its period features is more likely to retain its value. The leaflet is available from the Planning Department of the Civic Offices.

THAT AUNGELL

LOCAL HISTORIANS have expressed dismay at errors in the inscription on the handsome marble plaque which Caversham Rotary placed on Caversham Bridge to mark their twenty-fifth anniversary. As described in this column last month, the plaque commemorates the chapel of St. Anne's, which stood on the ancient bridge in medieval times, and goes on to say that it contained the relic of 'an aungell with oon wing that browt to Caversham the spere hedde that Percy our Saviour his syde upon the Crosse', this one winged angel now having been adopted as the symbol of Caversham Rotary.

The well known Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham indeed held that and many other relics which attracted numerous pilgrims, amongst them Katherine of Aragon, to Caversham. It was so thoroughly destroyed in 1538 in the course of the Reformation,

that nothing of it remains. Earlier in this century there was speculation that it might have been in the chapel of St. Anne on the bridge, but it is now known that this was not the case, as contemporary references make clear. It was certainly not on the bridge, though its actual location cannot be ascertained.

The other mistake was in referring to the bridges being built in 1231. This was however the earliest known written reference to the bridge, which also makes it clear that a bridge had been there for some time before that. Exactly when it was built is not known, but C1200 would be nearer the mark.

The words need altering, no small task, something along the lines of the following:

The Chapel of St. Anne stood near this site on the earliest bridge of Caversham. It was visited by pilgrims on their way to the nearby Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham which housed many relics, including 'an aungell with oon wing.....'

It is a pity that mistakes should mar what was a public-spirited gesture on the part of Rotary. Can they be corrected?

THE THROW AWAY SOCIETY

DIARY DATE. THURSDAY 25th OCTOBER at ARTHUR LEGGE CENTRE, WOLSEY ROAD at 8.00 pm.

Caversham and District Residents' Association is organising a public meeting at which the speaker will be John Liddle of Reading Borough Council, who is responsible, amongst other tasks for keeping Reading's streets and open spaces clean and tidy and for the collection of household and business refuse.

Far too much of this is dropped; far too much is produced. Disposal is already a serious problem and will only become worse. John Liddle will describe the extent of the problem and what is being done to deal with it.

BUGS BOTTOM — A REMINDER

THE BUGS BOTTOM Appeal has still not reached its target. Please contribute if you have not already done so by sending your cheque, payable to Bugs Bottom Action Group, to Peter Watsham at 159 Kidmore Road, Caversham RG4 7NJ. It will be returned to you if the appeal is successful or withdrawn.

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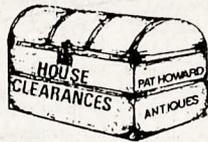
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BOTSWANA...

OUR FIRST African Sunday and it was decided at breakfast that a group of us would try to find the Anglican Church. We knew it existed, we even knew the name of the rector, but no one could tell us **exactly** where it was or **exactly** what time the service started. Even though we had been only five days in Africa we knew the only thing to do was to turn up and wait.

We turned out of the gate at Molepolole College of Education where we were staying for our orientation course and set off down the dusty track at the side of the tarred road. It is spring time in Botswana and the nights are cold, sometimes down to zero, but by nine in the morning we were wearing light cotton clothes and sunglasses. (The day after I wrote this it was cold all day as well as night and we had to dig out thick wool sweaters).

Away from the tarred road we were walking in orange sand; occasionally a breeze would blow up and swirl dust round our legs and

Ken Tillman (recently retired from teaching at Kendrick School) and his wife, Marjorie, both keen members of the Caversham Players, are now in Botswana. Ken is teaching for two years and this is the first of a series of articles we have asked them to write to tell of their life there.

into our faces. Either side of the road stretched the bush dotted with clusters of houses, some shacks with corrugated iron roofs, some traditional round, thatched mud huts, few rectangular one-storey bungalows with a bit of garden and, presumably, an inside loo. Which sort will we get when we arrive at our posting in Mahalapye, we wondered.

As we went along the road we greeted everyone we met with "Dumelamma" or "Mumelarra" as is customary. After about fifteen minutes a white pickup truck with PRISONS on the door stopped and the driver offered us a lift. We climbed over the tailgate and arrived at St Paul's in style.

Already the congregation was gathering outside and we met the lay reader who was taking the service in the rector's absence. At 9.30 we followed him in, our hands being shaken by many of the two hundred strong congregation. We were shown to a pew near the front, our welcome was so natural and spontaneous we felt immediately at ease, which was just as well in view of what came later.

We were able to follow the service as

it was printed in English and Setswana. In deference to us parts of the service were spoken in English, but the halfhour sermon was in Setswana. It was obviously powerful stuff, delivered with an occasional glance at his notes and a deep sincerity.

The hymn tunes were familiar, the first one being "Stand up, stand up for Jesus," we sang or hummed along. The singing here is a joy to listen to. As a people, the Botswana have an innate ability to sing and dance, it is completely spontaneous, the harmonies are unaccompanied but rich and full. The peace was very similar to that at home but more prolonged, and for communion we knelt on a semi-circular stone step round the altar.

After the last hymn the choir-master gave an account of a visit the choir had made to another village. Then the preacher approached and said they would like to know more about us. Our colleague at the end of the row rose and made a short speech which we thought nicely covered all of us, but, no, "next" the preacher said firmly and so each of us had to stand and give a potted

biography of past experience and present intentions. This was met with a great round of applause, and we then made a royal progression to the back of the church with many "dumelas" and handshakes exchanged.

By this time nearly three hours has passed since we left the college so we repaired to the "hotel" for some liquid refreshment before the walk back.

As I write this we are in our room at the college listening to Brahms' Second Piano Concerto on our portable

cassette recorder. We hear the World Service on our shortwave radio and we have phoned our daughter in Caversham by direct dialling. So amidst the newness and strangeness of life in Southern Africa we hear familiar music and familiar voices; and amidst the newness and strangeness of going to Church in Botswana among people of a different colour, language and culture we have the familiarity of Christian worship, and so although home is far away we feel that home is here too. Our greetings to all our friends in Caversham, we will write again once we are settled in Mahalapye.

Marjorie and
Ken Tillman

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A NEW REQUIEM

LEN DAVID, the organist at St. John's Church has written the music for a liturgical setting of the Requiem. It will be performed in St. John's church by their augmented choir on Sunday, 11th November at 6.30pm. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

THREE GIFTS FOR GEORGE — Archbishop Designate

SOMEWHERE between Toulouse and Limoges I picked up through the crackling thundery ether of my car wireless the BBC Home Service and discovered that we have a new Archbishop of Canterbury designate. So I thought I'd give today a few words, in his absence, to George Carey (or 'George Cantuar' as he soon will be)... It's been a neat process, worthy of a John Le Carré thriller. Crown and Church threw a smokescreen over the process, playing along with 'favourites' (and allowing punters the sordid and totally out of order freedom to 'bet' on our new Archbishop). All the time, George Carey was their number one choice.

We rejoice with George. One of the newest Bishops of the Church (he came to his Diocesan appointment at Bath and Wells in the last two years), he has gone straight to 'Primus inter Pares' — first amongst equals, as Archbishop of England crowns the Monarch (please God He is good man. A

What would we wish George Carey?

That he loves the Lord, say his prayers, treasures the Scriptures, are known facts. These will 'see him through' what looks like a long term of office at Canterbury and Lambeth. But what more would we wish our new Archbishop? For what it's worth, I identify three things.

1. A 'feeling' for his country and for the worldwide Anglican Communion. So long as the Church of England crowns the Monarch (please God this will be for a long,

Verbatim text of sermon preached at St. Peter's and St. Margaret's on August 5th

long time yet!) Bishop George will need empathy with and for the 'spiritual and cultural richness and poverty' of the UK. The drab uncouthness creeping in to so much of English life, the neglect of our cultural heritage, the insidious slide to secularisation which reduces England to a fifth-rate nation in the eyes of others, the frittering away of God-given resources of art, music, literature, philosophy AND the incredible beauty of our land, over which its people drop litter gaily and to which we seem blasphemously indifferent — our new Archbishop will need to waken us to a sense of pride.

Not to jingoistic patriotism, but to gratitude and respect for all we have inherited. All the good things about this land are gifts from God. Call it, if you like, STEWARDSHIP! English people have grown oddly ungracious, ungrateful, over the past three decades.

Even at the eleventh hour, people might still respond to a call from our spiritual leader to become GRACIOUS again — a gift of the Holy Spirit. I wish George the gift of alerting his people to revert to GRACIOUSNESS — to talk less about rights and more about responsibility. I wish him a MIRROR — to reflect back to us 'how we are' and 'where we've come from'.

2. And I wish him a SWORD. His consecration gives him authority. Please God, he will exercise his as a leader, Pastor, and PROPHET! Our political parties are in the doldrums. Prophetic leadership, denunciation of evil, vivid pointing up of good and Godly behaviour — a Sword for George, in line with St George of England, to fight for the GOOD and to expose the EVIL.

I do not think George Carey will be a 'watered-down' Donald Coggan, as some have predicted. With mirror and sword, with God's help, he

can lead this land FOR the good of all, AGAINST the evil of racketeers — be they squalid exploiters of others in shady dealings, or even members of H.M. Government. 3. My third 'gift' to our 'liberal evangelical' Archbishop designate is a CHALICE. To strengthen his grasp of sword, to perceive clearly what his mirror shows. The chalice, in which the sacred wine of the New Covenant is given, is the most eloquent of symbols. By its shape, the chalice — open at the cup to all God's mighty acts, narrowing at its hub to the Sacrifice of The Son of Man, and broadening again at its base into the Church, the community of the redeemed — the chalice reminds that all our hope on God is founded.

Once he has quelled some of the more ridiculous aspects of the Church of England — including the lunacies of parts of synodical 'government' — our new Ar-

chbishop, if he had to have just one of my little gifts, will surely grasp the Chalice which symbolizes (makes real) God's gracious gift of Himself in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion.

A mirror, a sword, a chalice — my three gift wishes for our new Archbishop. And the divinely daft thing is that what I wish for George, I wish for you and for me! Every Baptised Christian has a ministry as pastor, prophet and member of the Royal Priesthood. The pastoral mirror to say 'Look, this is how life is, this is what we are really like in God's eyes'. The prophetic sword to say 'This is how life should be, under God's rule'. The priestly chalice — to accept humbly that in the final analysis it is God, NOT Mammon, who gives strength, the 'water of life'. So, our new Archbishop's job is really not that far removed from the job of every Christian, not that different from what you and I are called to be and do as England

slides into the 1990s.

And, as a postscript, would it not be a wonderful climax to Archbishop Robert's term of office, to hear this autumn that Terry Waite — along with the other hostages — is not only alive and well but is RELEASED! I have seen Robert Runcie, over the years, weighed down with grief most of all for his and our brother Terry Waite. Our prayers for his release must be the more fervent at this time. It would be a beautiful gift from God for Archbishop Robert, and a no less beautiful launch into his new office for Archbishop George, who — from my knowledge of him — would interpret prophetically and graciously such a Providential Act. Pray for Robert and George as the baton is exchanged, that God may yet intervene and reward the one and launch the other with this little miracle on which we, with George Cantuar, may build again a grateful and gracious nation.

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MENS HIRE SERVICE

We do apologise to the Holbrooks about the gremlin which crept into the printing of their photograph in last month's Bridge. It does, however, give us another opportunity to wish them God speed!



Photo: E. S. Archer

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

SEPTEMBER brings girls and meets on Sun- new beginnings, for days at 11 a.m. and is many young people for children of 3 years starting new schools and over.

and colleges, and for us The Ambassadors in the churches, a Band is for older special time when we youngsters, and give a can begin to celebrate full programme of the forming of The musical interest all Churches Together in year round.

Caversham. The under 3's are Harvest, Gift Day also well catered for in and Church Anniversary are events to look which meet on forward to, and a visit Tuesdays and Fridays. from The Praise For adults there is The Women's Fellowship, Makers will be an added source of Keep Fit, Prayer anticipation. Groups and House

For people living in our area of Gosbrook Road, The Methodist Church offers many youth activities where neighbourhood Methodist Church children can be catered for. For boys there is The Boys' Brigade which caters for boys aged 6 to adult, for girls The Sunshine Girls Singing Group offers fun and friendship, any girls aged 5 and over are welcome. The Sunday Club is for boys and

Dates for you Diary
Saturday 13th October — Gift Day
Sunday 14th October — Church Anniversary
Saturday 27th October & Sunday 28th October — Visit of the Praise Makers from Truro

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CAVERSHAM DIARY

- Wednesday, 10th Oct St. John Ambulance Open Night Church House, Caversham.
- Saturday, 13th Oct 10am Autumn Fayre in Church House. Caversham West Brownies, Guides and Rangers.
- Saturday, 20th Oct 2pm, St. Peter's & St. Margaret's Autumn Fair, St. Andrew's Church Hall.
- Saturday, 20th Oct 7.30pm HIGH GAIN rock band in Caversham Baptist Free Church. Details 479434 or 477076.
- Thursday, 25th Oct 8pm Arthur Legge Centre 'The Cleaning of Reading' Speaker — John Liddle, Environment Dept. Reading B.C. Organised by Caversham Residents' Association.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST BARNABAS NEWS

INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN

WOMEN'S issues have been much in the news in recent years: women's rights, women's liberation, women clergy, women at work, women carers. Is there no end to the problems of being a woman? Or do we just make too much of them?

Whatever the truth of the matter, one fact which has become apparent in this hectic lifestyle which we all seem to lead these days, is that women tend to feel increasingly isolated. It matters not whether they choose or need to be at home, or conversely whether they choose or need to be at work, shortage of time, energy and community spirit, all contrive to cut us off from one another. Colleagues at work remain just colleagues, neighbours hidden behind boundary fences and frilly curtains remain virtual strangers.

Thus, in an attempt to answer this need for companionship and true fellowship, June Hardcastle has initiated what she terms a WOMEN'S BRIGHT HOUR to meet at a local hostelry on the second Tuesday of every month, when female members of the congregation can gather in congenial surroundings for a relaxed evening of social chat and good fun. An opportunity perhaps to polish up their darts and shove ha'penny skills prior to challenging the men-folk to a return match.

For the more serious minded members of the congregation there is also a BOOK GROUP, to meet on the fourth Thursday of every month. At the first meeting members are asked to bring along a book, which they have read recently, fact or fiction, religious or otherwise, and to talk about it for just a few minutes. The first meeting will probably also determine the nature of the future programme.

With meetings only once a month it is hoped that even the busiest of women will have time and energy to participate. Meanwhile, anyone interested in finding out more please ring June Hardcastle on Reading 478239.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

YOUTH EVENT 90

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST Free Church is expecting an 'invasion' of teenagers for the weekend of 19/21 October, when we are holding our 'almost annual' Youth Weekend. The weekend is a time of meeting old friends and making some new ones, having organised fun and games, music and arts workshops, and most important of all, a programme of Christian teaching. This year's teaching theme is "How Human Can You Get?" (Maybe we'll be able to tell you the answer in a future issue.) We aim to provide an environment in which the young people can grow more mature as Christians, or — for some — discover for the first time what being a Christian means. There will be opportunities for praise, prayer and worship, and the

chance to talk over problems and ask questions.

There will be a good number of Caversham Baptist youth on the weekend, plus some we hope from other local churches. By the time this is published there may still be few spaces left on the weekend, so if anyone is interested please phone one of the numbers below for details.

A highlight of CBFC Youth Weekends is always the Concert on Saturday evening. This year local Christian rock band HIGH GAIN are playing, and ALL are welcome to come and hear their music and message, starting at 7.30 pm on Saturday 20th October.

For Concert tickets (donation £1 per ticket) and/or more details of the Youth Weekend phone Reading 479434 or 477076.

TWO FIRSTS AT ST PETER'S



On July 21st 1990 the Reverend Christine Allsopp conducted her very first marriage ceremony between Miss Denise Tuggey and Mr Bruce George. A little history was certainly made that day as it was the first time a lady had officiated at a wedding in St Peter's.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CALL

At its last Assembly, in Vancouver, the World Council of Churches called for study and action on its programme of 'Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation' before its next Assembly in Australia in 1991.

Caversham Heights Methodists have responded to this call by organising a weekend conference "JUSTICE IN CREATION" on December 7th and 8th. The Methodist College at Luton will be running the conference for the local Church and so will provide the

speakers. The College is acknowledged as expert in the field of conferences and courses relating the Christian faith to everyday life.

The Principal of the College, the Revd Harold S. Clarke, will introduce the subject of the conference at 8pm on Friday 7th December, and after a soup and roll lunch (bring extra if you wish) on Saturday 8th at 12.30, Arthur Fairhurst of Maidenhead will speak on "The Christian Balancing Act". Arthur has world-wide experience in the

chemical industry and is concerned about the Church and its attitude to the environment. He is seeking a new balance between economic and social issues. Following tea (again provided) the final session will be a talk by the Revd Stephen Copley on "The Integrity of Creation". Stephen is also on the staff of the College, and for some time has been associated with the W.C.C. on their programme of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

The inclusive fee for the conference will be £10 and for catering purposes, those intending to participate are asked to contact me (Reading 472140) or Martyn Allies (Reading 472007) if possible by November 18th. I have copies of the detailed programme of the conferences available.

Any Church or meeting interested in knowing more about the work of the College and the facilities it has to offer to all denominations, may like to know that I am available to give an illustrated talk.

John Frew

MEN OF ST ANDREW'S

ON A lovely summer evening in July the 'Men of St Andrew's' drove across the pleasant countryside to Sandhurst Parish Church where the older members renewed their acquaintance with Roger Packer, now Rector of Sandhurst but formerly Priest in Charge of St Andrew's approximately twenty years ago.

Roger took the party round the church, showing the historic items, the Norman font, and the oldest

part of the Church, and also, rather more modern, the stained glass. In Church the 'Men' used the modernised form of Compline, singing the office hymn unaccompanied, when their singing skills were put to the test.

The party were then shown round the Community Centre, opened just over a year ago by HRH the Princess Royal. This Parish Centre was made possible by a generous donation of land and money and by the response of the

Congregation. The Centre consists of a large assembly hall, a meeting lounge, offices, kitchen etc. It is obviously a great ecumenical facility for the Community and is a wonderful example of Christians working together.

A short car journey brought the party to The Royal Oak, Yateley, a neighbouring parish, where Roger's health was drunk in the garden of his favourite pub, and so ended a very pleasant visit.

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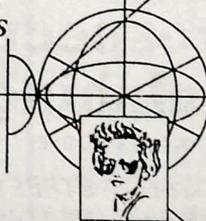
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PAM CHILVERS IN CONCERT

Pam in Caversham
BORN IN Grimbsy, Pam won a scholarship to study under Fanny Waterman in Leeds and Ivey Dickson at the Royal Academy of Music. Here she completed both Teacher's and Performer's Courses and gained her GRSM Diploma, the Professional Certificate for Performance and the LRAM (Licentiate) in Piano Teaching.

Pam's connections with Reading began in 1974 when she came to the University for her PGCE. This allowed her to take up a teaching post which fortunately Caversham, was at Highdown School as Assistant Director of Music.

As a committed Christian, Pam joined in the active life on our local Christian community. Very soon she became a freelance musician; performing, composing and teaching. It was now that Pam embarked on creating the three part music drama 'Acts'. Many readers will remember this musical portrayal of life in the early Church. The performances took place over three consecutive years and brought together Christians of all denominations. It was a unique and uplifting spiritual experience for the people and churches of Caversham.

Giving living witness to Christ in the community through music is Pam's way of using her talents. Pam and the Music Group from her Church can often be seen and heard around Caversham proclaiming the Gospel Message. Remember the Carnival of Praise, The Precinct

Outreach, the St Peter's Day Celebrations at Caversham Court, the theme song for the SCF Carol Concert last year — Pam was deeply involved in all of these.

At present Pam is co-writing a Music Drama based on the Seven Ages of Man. We are asked to look at the 'man in the street's' journey through life and his changing attitudes. Most importantly it poses the question, what difference does it make being a Christian?

A Public Concert — 'IMAGES OF France' — Pam's latest venture and will be performed at the Town Hall in November. The show gives a taste of Parisian life at the turn of the century. The café scene was then in full swing with artists, writers and musicians as friends and competitors. It was a prolific period of artistic creativity. The impressionistic qualities of Debussy and Ravel view with the eccentricities of Erik Satie and later with one of 'les Six', Poulenc.

Pam has also included Grovlez, a lesser known composer of piano miniatures. Fauré too is represented though he is more in line with the late Romantics, albeit lighter in style.

Pam says she loves French music — it is transparent, delicately beautiful and elegant in tone and touch.

Since it is an evening of readings as well as music, Pam will be joined by Richard Line. A graduate of Oxford University and a fellow musician, he will be making a guest appearance as Narrator. He will also be joining

Pam in the Fauré Dolly Suite and the Poulenc Sonata for Four Hands.

Pam has been an active member of our Christian community for over fifteen years, so do come along and support her on this evening.

The concert takes place on Saturday 17th November at 8pm in the Victoria Hall, part of the Town Hall, Reading. Tickets are available from the Caversham Bookshop, and 'Modern Music' in the Butts Centre at £3.00 and £2.00 for Senior Citizens, Students and children.

J.M. Pam Chilvers



ROTARY CLUB GIVES TEN THOUSAND HOURS

THE ROTARY Club of Reading President has changed and the incoming President, Stewart Scotchbrook, says that his Club hopes to build on the support it has been given to the local community over the past twelve months.

Last year its members and supporters gave some ten thousand hours under the guidance of Stewart's predecessor, Charles Butler.

Stewart Scotchbrook, who has been in Reading for twenty seven years, now lives in St Peter's Hill, Caversham and is a Chartered Surveyor and Magistrate. He is a co-director of the Audiology Appeal of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The projects Rotary are supporting this year, says Stewart Scotchbrook, include interviewing techniques for school leavers and a

Treasure Hunt for Brookfields, theatre trips, a carol service and tours of Reading for Senior Citizens. On

the international level there are donations to Eye Camps in India and clean water wells in the Philippines.



Reading's Rotary Club's new President, Stewart Scotchbrook

READING EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

MOST PEOPLE take their homes for granted, but for single people on low incomes in Reading, high rents and house prices mean that a secure affordable and comfortable home of their own can be little more than a dream. Some stay on in substandard and over-priced accommodation and others end up sleeping on the streets or in emergency accommodation like the Keep.

Now REAP, who have run the Keep for six years, have begun a second stage: providing resettlement accommodation in the form of a six-bedroomed shared house for

men at 72 Southampton Street.

The house, owned and developed by Cherwell Housing Trust and managed by REAP, provides accommodation of a high standard with a support worker visiting regularly to offer advice on matters such as welfare benefits and budgeting and offering support and referral to other agencies where this is appropriate.

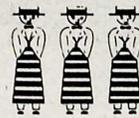
Many of the residents have been homeless for some time, and their spell in the house provides them with a breathing space of about a year so they can make plans for the future

before moving on, hopefully to a permanent home of their own.

The House opened in early June, and the residents have settled into their new home, organising the cleaning and cooking and seeding a lawn and planting a vegetable patch in the large back garden.

If you would like to visit the house and talk to the residents and the worker, please telephone Grace Scrimgeour on Reading 567619 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays after 1.00pm, or the Keep on Reading 574020 at other times, to arrange a visit

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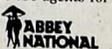
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OWLS AND PUSSYCATS

CAVERSHAM'S WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

SEVERAL YEARS ago David Chandler's photograph appeared in The Caversham Bridge in connection with his Wildlife Sanctuary in Caversham. Wondering how his Sanctuary was faring, we went to visit him, and found him busier than ever. In fact our visit had to be postponed as he had seven swans in his garden which he was helping to re-introduce to Dinton Pastures Nature Reserve!

David Chandler's interest in wildlife began, when as a boy of thirteen, he rescued an injured bird, which died in spite of the care he gave it. He was worried by this and began to read magazines and books about birds and so learned how to handle birds successfully when they needed help. His serious interest and work began about thirty years ago, and his success rate in treating birds has increased with his experience. David emphasized that it is important to get to know the habits of birds. Owls for instance, talk with their marvellous eyes; a slow blink means they are happy to meet you — we were glad to see that his Tawny Owl greeted us in this way! He would have blinked rapidly if he had been nervous, or clicked his beak if he was angry. There is also a Little Owl in residence, which greeted us with soft 'Who' 'Hoo'. Owls would slash at an outstretched hand with their very sharp talons, so they must be ap-

proached from above. Tawny Owls stay with their parents for about a year, and if you should find a baby owl, place it on a post or a low branch (they can climb a tree) and the parents will collect it in the evening. Should you decide to feed an injured bird, never offer milk — it is a killer! A good food is scrambled egg, broken up small and put on the ground — never in a dish. David feeds his birds with 'Chow' Dog Food, which is first soaked in water and is ideal for birds.

Besides the owls, David Chandler has other permanent residents — gulls which have been injured by fishing lines (two of them have each had a wing amputated); one gull, Sethi, has been with him for about eleven years. Other birds, once patients, still visit him, including Jim Crow, who once lived indoors and was well known in the area. Whilst we were there he had a visiting blackbird, who knew where food was to be found. He has looked after Nightjars, Woodcocks, Barn Owls, Missel Thrushes, and rarest of all, a Hobby (a type of small falcon) which was released at Bix Reserve some years ago and is reported still to be there! He has also helped to return Barn Owls to their natural habitat in Berkshire, through co-operative farmers with useful barns. Owls released into the wild need help in feeding at first, dead

day-old chicks bought back from a famous hatchery being used for this purpose. Each owl has its own call, and David knows each of his old friends by name. 'Outsiders' often join in the feeding sessions!

Animals also visit David — foxes, badgers, roedeer and munjak deer amongst them. One vixen (a wild one) has visited for many years — we hoped to see her but we were too early!

David Chandler's work is full-time, 365 days a year (he can only take a holiday if he can find a 'stand in'). Apart from being time-consuming, it is a 'money-consuming' hobby, but he says it is enough reward to have the 'wild-things' come to visit him at his call. We are lucky to have men like David, willing to devote their time and money to the welfare of our wildlife!

THANK YOU,
DAVID CHANDLER.
J.A.



Photo: E. S. Archer

FOOD FOR CATS AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT

AT LEAST five cats are known to have died of a BSE-like disease that the experts assured us could only be contracted by herbivores. How many more, one wonders have been undiagnosed victims, perhaps lacking co-ordination ending up as road casualties and had been buried in the back garden. There is little doubt that Meat and Bone Meal — the mashed up carcasses of animals that have died from all manner of causes and beef from cattle fed on this muck are the causes of the spread. Yet we have still not been told anything about the diet of the cats affected. Perhaps the share prices of the manufacturers have to be protected.

So what can the cat owners of Caversham or anywhere else to do. We can avoid the tins actually marked 'beef', but some labels are vague — 'meaty chunks', 'heart' (animal unspecified) and a specified 'flavour'.

Caversham & District Residents' Association decided to add help for Caversham's cats to its efforts to help Caversham people. Letters went to six leading cat-food manufacturers asking for specific information. SPILLERS - (Choosy, Purrfect, Kattomeat). Beef used from Britain and USA.

No beef origin products in Whitefish and Prawn or Chicken and Turkey Purrfect. All products heated to 260°F (127°C) with steam or super-heated water.

QUAKER - (Felix, Delikat). Only British Beef Products used are liver in canned pet foods and bone and tallow in 'Minced Morsels'. No material from UK bovine sources in Meomix (all varieties) and Delikat (all varieties). Canned foods are heated to 127°C (wet heat), Meomix to 100°C dry heat and Delikat and Minced Morsels to 100°C (wet heat).

TOWN AND COUNTRY PET FOODS - (Highlife) All foods are manufactured abroad and so contain no British Beef. Fish varieties contain no animal (sic) products. 'Beef', 'Breakfast Platter' and 'Turkey Treat' are manufactured in Canada. All meat varieties contain Canadian beef — BSE is unknown in Canada.

FRISKIES - (Gourmet, Go-Cat). Specific questions not dealt with but assurances, beef meets high specifications, use only MAFF standard suppliers, quality checks throughout, dry products heated to well over 100°C, for wet products retort processing conditions adequate to minimise

risk of contamination. Do not use cattle brain, spinal cord, spleen, thymus, tonsils and intestines. Refers us to Fifth Agricultural Committee Report on BSE which gives positive reassurances about the safety of British Beef.

PEDIGREE PET FOODS - (Whiskas, Brekkies, KiteKate, Kitbits — claim to feed half of all the cats in UK). No answers to specific questions but use no brain, spinal cord, thymes (sic) or tonsils, all animals inspected and declared fit for human consumption, food is thoroughly cooked, Katkins Mariner contains no beef, monitoring and quality control are second to none.

THE NESTLE CO. - No reply so we assume the postal service has let us down again.

Two cheering facts — Spillers state that they use no whale, seal, or horse or kangaroo and all the manufacturers seem to have banned suspect offal voluntarily before it was banned for human consumption and none use Meat and Bone Meal — Friskies banned it in 1983. It is ironic that the stuff is still being fed to chickens and pigs which we are going to eat. Perhaps we should all do a bit more protesting. D.T.

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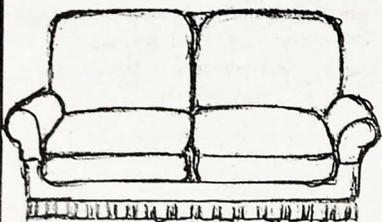
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I'VE JUST been reading the latest copy of the 'Bridge' — incidentally I was very pleased to see an appeal to would-be readers to leave their names and addresses at Church House. There have been some hiccups recently over delivery, so hopefully things will sort themselves out during the coming months; I can't stress enough the fact that the people who deliver the 'Bridge' are crucial to the continued success of our paper.

But to return to the September issue. On the whole I thought it quite good, containing a number of photos — always guaranteed to provoke interest — and one of Mary Kiff's articles on old Caversham. But where, I wonder, are all the little items about the doings of the people of Caversham. Some of those connected with one of the local churches or groups rate a mention, but the 'Bridge' is not just about events and organisations and those who belong to them; it is, or should be, about people, the ordinary people of Caversham.

TED FULLBROOK
 Those of you who knew Ted will have been saddened to hear of his death. He and his wife, Kathy, lived for many years in Hemdean Road, and

CAVERSHAM DIVISION OF ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
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CAVERSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

AN OLD People's Luncheon Club meets on Mondays and Thursday to give the old people a good meal at a modest price. They sit at tables for six, and the chatter that goes on before and after the business in hand, is a joy to hear. Most of these live on their own, and much enjoy the chance of a chat. The helpers receive the hot meals ready to serve, then there is washing up to do and clearing of the tables. It is a couple of hours well spent. Monday in particular is short-handed, and needs a couple more helpers. If you feel you could help, just turn up about 11.45 at the Baptist Church, Prospect Street, and you will be most welcome.

KATY'S JOTTINGS

for a long while they helped to keep St. Peter's Church clean and tidy. There is little in the way of maintenance that Ted couldn't turn his hand to when called upon. He worked for the Post Office and British Telecom, was a keen gardener and caravanner for many years and, as anyone who visited their home will know, a great D.I.Y. man. Above all he was kind and a friendly and helpful neighbour who will who will be much missed, most of all by Kathy and their son and daughter, Sarah and Andrew.

RUTH MITCHELL
 Having noted the death of this lady through the columns of the local paper, I was surprised to receive a letter from her niece shortly afterwards, asking if I could possibly do my best to make sure all Ruth's old friends in Caversham were informed of her death in Sheffield, where she had been living for the last two or three years. She lived for some time in Oakley Road and worked as a language monitor at the BBC Monitoring Service for many years. A member of the local Bridge Club she had many friends in the district and I am only too pleased to be able to respond to her niece's request. She tells me Ruth died "quickly, peacefully and independent as

always". It is always sad to lose old friends but the loss is made easier when some friend or relative takes the trouble to let us know what has happened.

A.R.M.S.
 I was particularly pleased to see the article about the Reading branch of Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis, having attended several of their quarterly 'sales' and been most impressed by the cheerfulness of the members. I should have mentioned this some time ago when I heard of the appointment of Liz Chaney as assistant administrator at the Centre. Our readers will remember her gallant work in putting together and selling recipe books for various causes, the last being to fund new wheel chairs for the local hospital. I met Liz recently and she tells me she is delighted with her change of employment, finding a great deal of satisfaction in being able to help M.S. sufferers and being encouraged to talk over problems with

them; and she has so much admiration for the sufferers themselves and the cheerful way they cope.

FEED THE BIRDS
 Alas, as I've said before, I'm no longer able to keep up regular reporting, visiting etc., and though I often think of the many good people in Caversham I've

reported on in the past, I was never able to keep up with what happened to them. So I was delighted to talk to some ladies in North Street today who told me that Phyllis Weston, who lives at 25, still feeds the birds on the river regularly and is still glad of donations of bread, cakes etc., left on her doorstep.

ANY MORE NEWS?
 So please, if you do have any news of people like this we really would be so glad to hear — even if it is only a few lines scribbled on a postcard and left at Church House or the Bookshop, Caversham, for the editors.

OBITUARY
ERNEST EDWARD COWLARD

THE esteem in which "Ernie" Cowlard was held by his many friends in railway and horticultural circles, particularly in Caversham and Reading, but also throughout the South of England, was shown by the size of the congregation at his funeral at Greyfriars. Joining the G.W.R. in '34 he was BR(WR)'s Planning Assistant when he retired, having had close involvement with much of the post-war modernisation of the Region. His aptitude for planning also led to his becoming "Mr Reading Show" from the early 70's until its demise some five years ago. Ernie loved Flower Shows and their folk and was often at Chelsea and Vincent Square helping with the stand of a nurseryman or Horticultural Society. We shall remember most of all, with great affection, his tremendous determination to carry through any undertaking on which he had promised and we can understand how badly Mrs Cowlard and their family will miss him. Our "thoughts which grow into prayer" are with them.

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St Peter's Wives

ST PETER'S Wives' Grop met on July 17th at Church House to hear an illustrated talk by Mr Crozier from the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust.

He explained the historical use of the canal as a waterway from Bristol to Reading before the arrival of the Railways which then took away its commercial viability. Over the years it declined and the canal became disused and a repository for all sorts of rubbish. The Trust, a voluntary organisation of enthusiasts, was formed to clean up and repair the canal and its locks, so that today it is open for its whole length. The talk was illustrated with many "before and after" slides and the beauty and tranquility of the canal was appreciated by the members who were present.

Pitts of Yateley Industries tell about the sheltered workshop and housing providing employment for disabled people in a fabric printing industry.

Barbara Rhodes gave her report as delegate to the AGM which she had found a very interesting and moving experience as it celebrated seventy-five years of W.I.

The raffle was won by Mary Burke and the competition by Catherine Molineaux.

Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society

THERE are still some vacancies in this Society for new members. The first meeting on Wednesday 3rd October starts at 6.45 pm to give members a chance to meet each other. The subject on this occasion is English Silver.

Chazey WI

JULY saw forty-two members meet at Mapledurham Pavilion to hear Mrs

Other subjects covered will be Nineteenth Century Paintings, Antique Maps, English Drinking Glasses, Country Furniture, John Ruskin. Two outings are arranged each winter for those who wish to widen their interests.

The fee for members is £8.50 for the seven meetings, which are held in the lecture theatre at Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, normally at 7.30pm.

Rosehill W.I.

MRS WELLER opened the September Meeting by asking for two minutes silence in memory of Mrs Peggy Fisher who died recently, a victim of motor neurone disease. Part of the proceeds of a coffee morning and ploughman's lunch will be given to research for this disease. A garden party will be held at Mrs Gillings' and a coffee morning for ACWW at Mrs Burtenshaw's home.

The speaker was Mr Richard Luff on "Life as a Tea taster". He told the history of tea

and about his travels overseas; slides were shown of tea growing. Then members were able to taste different types of tea. Mr Luff owns a shop in Wallingford, and helped by his wife, sells tea and coffee.

Caversham Community Association

A SOCIAL evening was arranged for the 6th August and members were invited to come dressed in gypsy costume. The evening commenced with a barn dance, to get everyone in a party mood. A quiet period followed with a quiz, when everyone was engaged finding the answers. Several games were played before refreshment time, when the committee provided various types of sweet and savoury tarts which were enjoyed by the members. Later, the competition for the best gypsy costume was judged. The judges had a difficult task, the costumes were very good, they decided to award George Feast

first prize with Dorothy Osborne in second place. During the break Evelyn Cook was busy selling items from the Nearly New stall for the members, who gave a small percentage of the takings to club funds. After a final game it was time to return home after a pleasant evening.

Mrs. Barbara Kay, with her assistant Mrs. Sybil Bloomfield, visited the club on the 13th August to teach the members how to decorate tablets of soap. Firstly, pins were placed evenly into the soap, then narrow ribbon was intertwined on the pins. Next, silver cord made a dainty trimming ready for the final decoration of lace and small artificial flowers. The resulting article was hard to recognise as a tablet of soap and made a fragrant decoration for the bathroom or anywhere in the home.

Doreen Crawley was in charge of the whistdrive held the following week. The player with the highest number of points was Betty Colton who received the first prize. This was the final meeting for the month due to the Bank holiday falling on the following Monday.

THE DUCKS ARE BACK



Photo: E. S. Archer

AND THEY seem to be settling down on their 'new' pond! Hard work has been taking place for many months, and now, thanks to Commercial Union Insurance and Reading Borough Council's Green Plan, Emmer Green has a much improved pond.

Not only the pond itself, but the surrounding area has received attention - dead trees removed and others trimmed and more planted. There is a new fence, definitely more attractive than the old dilapidated one, a new bench and litter bin (which we trust will

receive good use!). It has now been officially opened by the Mayor of Reading, Cllr. Geoff Canning, at a ceremony attended by representatives from Commercial Union and Reading Borough Council. A commemorative plaque has been erected.

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