

MAPLEDURHAM CELEBRATES 500 YEARS

In 1490, Sir Richard Blount bought the Manor of Mapledurham Gurney. His descendants are living in the larger Manor House still, and Mapledurham Parish Council thought it a good opportunity to mark this connection with a celebration. This took the form of a tree-planting, a barbecue and bar, an historical display and a general meeting together of the community. This was a great success. Many old faces who had come great distances were to be seen and residents and estate workers mingled happily, all having in common a general delight in the old village itself and the way it has remained virtually unchanged in appearance for so long.

Mr John Eyston, the present owner of the

estate (his great-grandmother was a Blount) was presented by Mr Alf Martyn-Johns, Chairman of the Parish Council, with five Silver Maple trees. Edward Eyston made a symbolic planting of one tree for the occasion. The five trees are now planted at the edge of a field on the left-hand side of the road to the house. Before his speech of thanks, Mr Eyston was presented with a wooden bowl, carved from a piece of 15th Century oak saved from the old Manor when a beam had to be replaced. Mr David Allwright, whose father had been Estate Farm Manager for many years, made and gave the bowl. This surprise gift delighted the Eyston family, all of whom were present, including Mr Tom Eyston, who

himself had played a part in Mapledurham life. The thanks of all the family was expressed by John Eyston, whose hope was that the estate would continue to flourish, and with the help of so many interested and well-meaning folk around, he was sure it would. Mr Martyn-Johns then presented Edward Eyston with a silver tankard to mark his 21st birthday.

After the splendid barbecue, organised by St Margaret's PCC (those bacon wrapped bananas were delicious), the mill was opened and Mrs Cookson the miller showed guests around. Hanging on the Vicarage wall opposite the mill were a series of boards, each prepared by different people showing dif-

fering facets of the life of Mapledurham over the past 500 years, and very interesting reading they made.

Extracts from these boards are given on p.3.

Turn to page 3

Pictures by Patrick Baily



Edward Eyston plants a Silver Maple with Alfred Martyn-Johns holding the tree steady.



David Allwright presents the bowl to Mr John Eyston. Lady Anne looks on with Edward, who holds his presentation tankard.



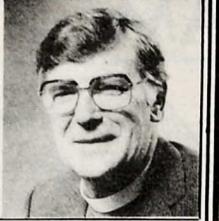
Part of the display outside the mill.



The information boards draw interest.

TALKING POINT

by the
Rev. Keith Sanders
Caversham Heights Methodist Church



WHOSE SIDE IS GOD ON?

I have recently taken part in a religious musical called 'From Pharaoh to Freedom'. Needless to say that I had a speaking part — and the bad-guy Pharaoh at that! You know the story of how Moses led the 'Free Israel' campaign more than 3,000 years ago. He believed passionately that God was on the side of the Israelites; and he assumed that it was God's will that all the Egyptian babies should die by the plague and the Egyptian soldiers be drowned in the Red Sea.

Those feelings of Moses were very human and quite understandable

when you realise how the Israelites were being treated, especially as they saw themselves as the "chosen people". Yet isn't God concerned about every nation? God loved the Egyptians as much as He loved the Jews. Some years later another Jew — Paul, wrote, "There is no distinction between Jew and Greek". God's loving concern is for all people. God doesn't have favourites — although the way some of us pray for our own countries you'd think He was on our side alone. God's deliverance was cause for praise and joy for Moses — but God must have

cared about the parents who lost their babies and the loved ones of those soldiers who drowned.

Now I realise that I'm getting on tricky ground — but some fifty years ago some of us thought that the German people were beyond God's love — and today it is those who live in Iraq, especially when they are non-Christians! I'm sure that God grieves for every one of His children; and although there will always be those who wish to take what does not belong to them — I believe God can bring His wayward children to their senses, we trust in Him and in each other.



Remember some other words of Paul, "Love is never glad when others go wrong." A coin has two sides — my success may be built on another's failure; my well-being on another's suffering — and whenever I'm proved right I need to remember that the loser is as much a child of God as I am, and just as important. This theme has been at the heart of our recent celebration of One World Week.

One last thought, don't forget that when I categorise the other person as a sinner or beyond the control of God, then that puts him or her straight into a class of people for whom Christ died — in love.

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POST BAG

Dear Editor,
I have just read your September issue of the Caversham Bridge which was sent to me by my sister Miss Freda Haines of Gosbrook Road, Caversham, who with our sister Patricia still lives in the little family home where we were all born.

I moved from Caversham to Dorset five years ago and am fortunate to have four sisters still living in old Caversham who regularly keep me in touch with local 'happenings'. It is quite natural to feel proud of one's ancestry and you will appreciate how happy I was to read the front page and recall loving thoughts of my 'Mum', Mrs Lilian Haines, the 'Village Blacksmith's' daughter.

Reading on, I find a photograph of the Eye and Dunsden Village School which brought back memories of my wife, Josephine, who attended the school when she was a little girl. Reading further, what do I find? — a photograph of landing barges on the Thames. My apprenticeship days as a joiner at Elliotts during the war were rekindled and I strained my eyes to recognise the men who taught me the trade; old faces came to mind, wonderful tradesmen.

I recall one funny incident of the mouse found in the tea urn, and the man threatening to throw the

canteen manager in the river. It's remarkable how little things are still remembered, familiar surnames, (regards to co-editor, Bernard Miller who attended E.P. Collier Central School just prior to my attending the school) are there in the Caversham Bridge.

Finally, I thank you all for giving me happy memories and wish you future success for the Bridge in keeping the 'Old Caversham Folk' informed of the 'happenings' in the Village.

Yours etc.
Reginald L. Haines

Flat 5a, Pine Court,
Warland Way,
Corfe Mullen
Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3TH.

PS. My sister will also be sending a copy to my daughter Julie, who is now living in Melbourne, Australia.



Dear Reader,
I am writing to invite you to come and support Traid Craft when a Reading Volunteer brings craft products, clothing, food stuffs etc. to our home to be sold on **Thursday November 22nd 1990.**

Traid Craft is a company who wish to improve the quality of people's lives in the 'Third World' through fair trade rather than aid.

We have heard stories about the poorly paid workers, pickers, and farmers — if we really care, we can show it by paying a fair price and shopping through Traid Craft. You will be amazed by their range of goods for sale.

There will also be a chance to 'Bring and Buy' all sorts of aid in Tear Fund. Our home will be open from 10am-4pm and refreshments will be available.

Hope to see you.
Lis Rout
65 Priest Hill,
Caversham.



To the Editors,
In one week recently I happened across two instances of great thoughtfulness, both in Prospect Street. First at the Post Office where I noticed a small table in the centre of the shop. On it were free copies of Active Life, a magazine for over fifties with a notice — help yourself. A very neighbourly idea Mr Fussell. No doubt many will take one. The other kindness happened to me when visiting the veterinary practice higher up the street. Debbie, the very friendly assistant at the desk not only found a recipe for my poor old cat, who has diet problems, but offered to write it out for me. Much appreciated Debbie. Thank you.

M. Kift



Dear Sirs,
Now that we are winding down from the sum-

mer weddings season, a word about clergy 'fees' since so many people comment 'My, you'll be all right for spending money after all those weddings!'

For many years now, the ruling of the C of E is that a minister officiating at a wedding cannot personally benefit by so much as a penny. **All ministers' fees must be assigned to the Diocese.** The same applies to funerals.

Your C of E clergy who spend most Saturdays officiating at weddings receive nothing financially. It is part of their normal duties, as are funerals. That country clergy with few annual weddings and Saturdays 'off' receive the same annual total stipend as those whose Saturdays are spent in church at weddings is deemed to be of no consequence. Your Caversham clergy 'minister's fees' for weddings helps pay the stipend of all the diocesan clergy regardless of how many or few weddings they do.

I do not argue a case of injustice here. I simply want people to know that the Anglican minister at a wedding receives nothing. It is part of his or her ministry for which we are paid at a uniform flat rate.

So, please spare us the jokes about 'all that lovely extra money' for all the weddings we do 75% of Saturdays in the year!

It is part of our job.

Yours till the confetti bio-degrades.

Richard Kingsbury
Rector
Caversham Rectory,
20 Church Road,
Caversham.

CAVERSHAM DIARY

Saturday, 3rd Nov	2pm, St John's Autumn Bazaar, Caversham Hall.
Sunday, 11th Nov	6.30pm St John's Church. Requiem by Len David.
Sunday, 11th Nov	Lord Soper at Caversham Heights Methodist Church 6.30pm
Friday, 16th Nov	Barn Dance at St. Andrew's Hall, £3.50. In aid of Bugs Bottom Action Group. Details Caroline Speer 473834.
Saturday, 17th Nov	2pm Caversham Hall, St John's Road, Autumn Bazaar, Caversham W.I.
Thursday, 22nd Nov	10am-4pm Traid Craft Fair at 65 Priest Hill

St John's Church AUTUMN BAZAAR

Saturday, November 3rd
at 2pm

Stalls, games, refreshments etc.
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Caversham Hall, St John's Road

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 Dec issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 Nov. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 5 Nov. The dates for Jan will be Monday 3 Dec and Wednesday 5 December.

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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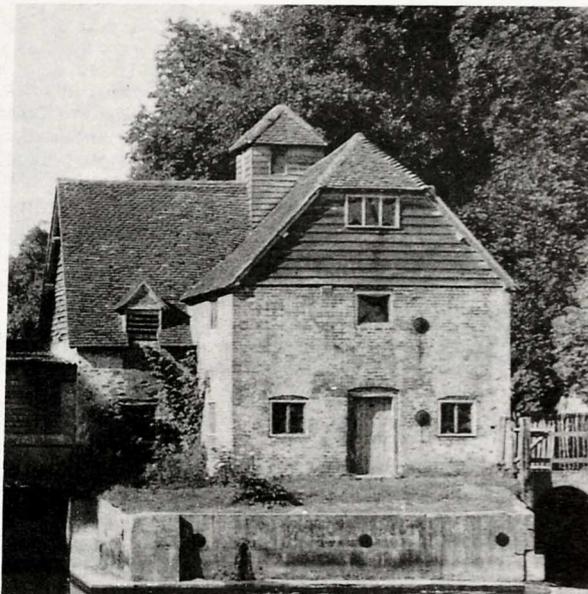
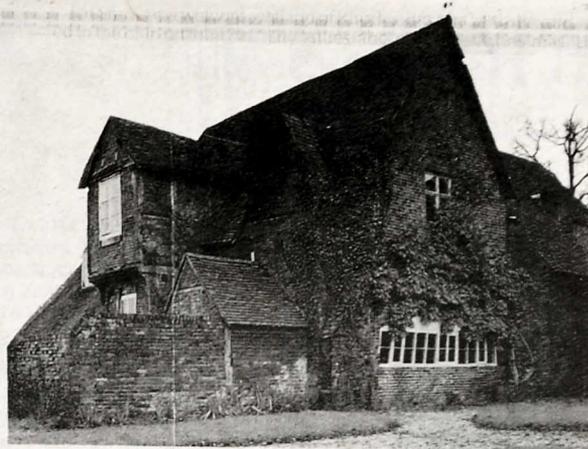
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Continued from Page 1



ABOVE: Present manor house built 1588-1612.
TOP RIGHT: First manor house — basically early 15th century.
SECOND RIGHT: The Mill.



ESTATE
1490 A small manorial settlement, Manor House, Mill, Church, Cottages.
1612 New (and present) Manor House completed.
1643 Civil War and house sequestered by Parliament for 7 years.
1797 Chapel in house dedicated to St Michael.

There were 10 farms, with, before mechanisation, around 100 men working.
MILL
In Domesday book — so working when Blounts arrived. 1670, 1700, 1777 — extensions and additions.
1945 Fell into disuse and cosmetised for the film "The Eagle has Landed."

1980 Fully restored and now the only working corn mill on the Thames.
ALMSHOUSES
Lister's Hospital built in 1629 — six almshouses.
1841 Occupants given 1/6d a week and 2 loads of firewood a year.

KING'S ARMS
Now the White House. This old building, originally the Priest's house, was closed by Squire Blount in 1860 because of noise and bad language.

SCHOOL
1808 3 schools. The Vicar's curate ran one for 12 pupils, the Blounts one for Catholic children and a Dame school for 20 was run by the parish.
1830 Trench Green school opened by Lord Augustus Fitz-Clarence. 90 children at the opening for lunch of beef, pudding and cakes. He provided uniform of green tunics, corduroy trousers and peaked caps for the boys and green frocks with white straw poke bonnets for the girls.
1973 School closed — 14 pupils.

VILLAGE HALL
Land given by Blounts and built by local parishioners in 1926. Was a popular Palais de Danse. Still well used for all occasions.

POST OFFICE
1900 In the lodge opposite the Mill House.
1979 Closed, with Mrs Crocker last postmistress.

TINKERS GREEN
1930s Mains water arrives for this hamlet. Well

damaged by military vehicle in last war and subsequently sealed over.
LOCK
1647 Mentioned in Register (man drowned)
1777 New lock built
1831 Severe winter and all barge traffic halted so no coal to Reading for nearly 3 months.
1840 Railway: and river traffic dwindled.

CHURCH
Building, including Baroloph Aisle (1390) passed to patronage of Eton College.

1551 Plate confiscated to pay for wars between France and Scotland.

1832 William IV gives clock and other gifts including barrel organ which played 12 tunes. Victorian alterations.

VICARS — some 19th Century — mentioned —
1818-1828 Rev. John Sumner, persuaded to leave Mapledurham and later became Archbishop of Canterbury.

1829-1859 Lord Augustus Fitz-Clarence, illegitimate son of William IV. Lively, hardworking and much loved. Died of blood poisoning and buried in churchyard.

1854 Rev. Edward Craven Hawtreay "restored" church. Removed gallery, built porch, heightened tower.

1883-1919 Rev. Francis Thackeray. Describes in his diary the local celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

PAVILION AND PLAYING FIELDS.
Given by Mr C. E. Hewett

as a memorial to Parishioners who died in second world war.

WAR YEARS 1939-1945
138 men and women served in the Forces. The gates to the churchyard commemorate the 7 men who lost their lives. The Home Guard "Belchers Army" patrolled the parish.
39 evacuees billeted. Canadian Royal Engineers trained to build Bailey bridges across the Thames.

GENERAL
1947 Electricity came to the village and the farms.

1976 Film — The Eagle has Landed made.

1977 Civil Parish divided.
1989 With St Peter's Caversham as a separate parish.



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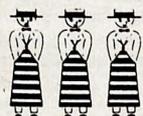
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

JUMPING THE GUN
 For the first time since the original application back in 1984, Bugs Bottom has appeared on the Planning register. Higgs and Hill's application for the first phase of building is for seventy nine or ninety two houses with associated roads and services.

The most disturbing feature of this is its timing. The Court of Appeal case is still pending, but Higgs and Hill have chosen to ignore that. The legality is doubtful; the arrogance is not. Whilst the Borough's legal advisers examine the position before the Planning Committee comes to consider it, the outcome of the application is not known at the time of writing. The averagely informed lay person would have thought the matter sub-judice.

All Higgs and Hill will say is that they are confident of winning the case and want to be able to start building as soon as the Appeal Court decision is given. If their case was as strong as all that permission would not have been given to take it to the Court of Appeal. All the groups fighting these plans immediately sent in their objections. They were all more or less along the lines of those sent in by Caversham Residents' Association, the veteran of more than one campaign to save this valley from its predators.

They objected first of all on the principle that they had consistently opposed any development in Bugs Bottom on the grounds of environmental damage and traffic and saw no reason to depart from this.

On tree loss, they pointed out that although the plans showed thirty six trees to go, the accompanying list showed seventy four, which included forty four beeches, four oaks, one Turkey oak, and five horse chestnuts. A further twenty one would be reduced in size for reasons other than remedial and there is a suggestion that after inspection further trees will be felled. The developers say they will plant replacement trees. This is no compensation. Trees take a long time to grow, and, as we all know are frequently

subject to drought or vandalism.

Access for construction traffic was shown on the outline plan as being from Tredegar Road only, a highly unsuitable approach, in all ways. It is now switched to Kidmore Road, which, whilst relieving Tredegar Road of an intolerable burden, only transfers the problem to a more heavily used, if less closely built-on, road.

The houses themselves are close together with high walls in between, twenty four of them are in blocks of six, and the garages are in blocks of eight, all of which are out of keeping with the houses of the valley. The thirty foot high unalleviated side elevations will be obtrusive and there will be little in the way of relief from gardens as concrete slabs, brushed concrete and gravel cover almost half of the space round each house. Some of the houses are five bedded, which were not shown on the original plans.

The number of houses, as indicated in the first paragraph, is not clear as the application is for seventy nine houses but ninety two are shown on the plans.

If this application was unacceptable in 1984 it is even more so now, when increasingly the tide of opinion is moving against green field development, with all its implications of loss of open space and wild life and increase of traffic problems. If the government White Paper, Our Common Heritage, means anything, then Higgs and Hill should not be allowed to have their way.



CROSS TOWN ROUTE IN DISGUISE
 Caversham Road would have to bear the brunt of the extra traffic if Bugs Bottom does fall victim to mass housing, but it does not follow that felling four mature trees and reducing the width of the pavement on either side will get rid of the problem. All that will do is cause even more congestion whilst the work is being carried out and possibly cut a minute or two off the time it takes a

motorist to travel between the Caversham Bridge and Vastern Road roundabouts, whilst destroying what remains attractive in the road for all the people who live along it (and it is a residential road) by removing trees and bringing the traffic nearer their houses.

As for cyclists and pedestrians, so called improvements to roads have always meant the opposite for them. For cyclists, life becomes even riskier and for pedestrians, every minute off a motorist's journey means about five minutes on theirs. But do they get £203,000, the cost of these works, spent on them? Not likely, yet they should be encouraged as they are non-polluting, don't wear out the roads, and don't use up diminishing resources. Instead, they make their contribution to the £203,000.

If the Urban Freeway were enforced, this expenditure would be unnecessary. The cost of employing an extra warden would only be a fraction of that sum, and no harm would be done.

As this plan was pushed through at a County Council meeting with a minimum of publicity, it is difficult to dismiss the suspicion that it was a way of getting the Cross Town Route over one of its most controversial sections without calling it the Cross Town Route. Caversham Road deserves better than this. Turning once again to Our Common Heritage, it speaks of the need to discourage extra road capacity that will encourage extra commuting by car. Again, if the White Paper means what it says, these plans should be scrapped straight away.



CANE END — GREEN DEAN BOTTOM
 Meanwhile out in Oxfordshire, their County Council is working on plans for a Cane End-Green Dean Bottom bypass. The few houses at Cane End certainly lose many of the advantages of being situated in beautiful countryside because of the heavy traffic on the main road which runs past them.

Green Dean Bottom, still known to motorists as the thirteen bends of death, even though the road was widened and partly straightened, is included in the scheme.

There are several options on offer. All of them involve the destruction of woodland. They cover the section of the A4074 from Hook End woods to just north of the Pack Horse. One runs close to the original road in the Cane End half that there seems little point in it. Another seems designed to carve its way through as much woodland as possible, even though it adds to its length, whilst others carve up farmland and another passes close to a different group of houses from the ones the present road passes. The ones through Green Dean Bottom are all to the west of the existing road; those through Cane End are either side of it.

They all raise the question as to whether the cost of the road and the environmental damage it will inflict can be justified for the few houses involved and to allow careless motorists to behave badly on a straighter stretch of road.

Having worked up a good speed on the straightened road, traffic is likely to be travelling much faster as it approaches Rokeby Drive, making exits from there even more difficult than they are now. It is also even less likely than at present to observe the 30mph limit which

starts at the Borough Boundary.

As usual, with each upgrading of the road between Caversham and Oxford, attracting more traffic to use it, Caversham will be the loser as it all ends up here. Yet if the only by-pass possible to Caversham in the form of a new bridge is suggested, Oxfordshire holds up its hands in horror at the extra traffic this will bring to their countryside. Maybe it would, maybe it wouldn't, but why doesn't the rule apply when it comes by by-passes in Oxfordshire itself? Caversham has been on the receiving end without re-dress for too long.

Whilst the road through Green Dean Bottom and Cane End cannot be considered satisfactory, the options suggested give no cause for confidence. It may be better to stay with the status quo. Again it hardly squares with Our Common Heritage.



CLEANING UP READING
 Thursday 25 October
 at Arthur Legge Centre
 Wolsley Road

The speaker will be Ian Keys, Divisional Manager, Environmental Maintenance Services of Reading Borough Council, and not John Liddle, as stated in last month's paper. The organisers are Caversham & District Residents' Association.

If the amount of litter dropped in Reading's streets and piled into its dustbins worries you, come along to this meeting.

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LOOKING BACK

Home to Emmer Green by Air Balloon



The vanished pond at Emmer Green. The row of cottages behind the tree is still there.

One of the attractive corners of old Emmer Green or Emmir Green as it appears on early maps, is the pond. There were, in fact, two ponds: the second was to be found somewhere on the open space in front of the present row of shops and was still there in the very early years of this century. A photograph of it after World War I shows it in a field with a large, old tree beside it and ducks and geese on its bank. The present remaining pond was once a much larger expanse of water from which ran the little brook known as the Swilleys or Swillies. It rushed merrily down through Rotherfield Way towards Hemdean Bottom.

Somewhere near Tudor Cottage was a stile and a few hundred feet or so further down

hill was a second. It was here between these that the little brook ran beside the track in a ditch with water cress growing at its side. When it reached the lower stile the stream vanished under the road which is now Rotherfield Way, then an unmade road.

Here as children my brother, sister and I used to put in sticks and leaf boats and watch them career along between the stiles. This was the old Coffin or Church Way where local people carried their dead for burial because long before St Barnabas' church appeared on the scene all the departed had to be laid to rest in the ancient graveyard that surrounded the parish church of St Peter. Coffin ways are often found: there is one at

Mapledurham used by folk at Nuney Green, way out on the borders of that parish. Recently I heard of one at Benenden in Kent.

In the unfenced waters of the present Emmer Green pond carts were often driven to allow the wooden wheels to swell around their iron rims. Here too, cattle and horses quenched their thirst.

A pump for the use of the local community stood close by and not far from this vital water supply was the blacksmith's forge where a Mr Eynott was the farrier in early Victorian times. He was related to Frederick Eynott who had the smithy in Church Road until it closed in the early nineteen hundreds. An article about Frederick Eynott appeared in the Caversham Bridge this summer.

Surley Road, was owned by Captain William Montague. He seems to have been something of a Regency Buck, and was one of the stewards at the Reading races held on Bulmershe Heath around 1813, and incidentally, patronised by the indefatigable Mrs Lybbe Powys of Hardwick House, near Mapledurham. William Montague was still at Caversham Hill in 1860 and memorials to him and his family can be found at the back of St Peter's Church.



Another flamboyant character who lived at Emmer Green was a Captain Maitland. He owned Rosehill House in the early nineteen hundreds and caused quite a stir by arriving at his home on Saturday afternoon by air-balloon from Wandsworth.

The land on which the present Rosehill was built once belonged to Caversham Park. The original dwelling place is now Rosehill Cottage. It has Elizabethan origins and still retains part of an old bread oven. Two bricks in the garden wall have the letters L.P.P. and P.H. on them and one has the date 1783. The cedars in the grounds were planted by Mr Richards who owned the property from 1802 until 1837.

Ladies' prize fight

When reading or talking to people in search of even the smallest item of interest in a place one gathers up many tidbits of information. Things that do not take

more than a couple of lines to write about, but which ought really to be set down. So here are a few of them.

From a Caversham Manor Survey dated 1557 comes the following entry — "There breedeth one eyrie of goshawks". This may interest those with ornithological leanings.

According to the Reading Mercury of 1846 there appears to have been a prize fight between two women in Emmer Green. That must have caused chattering and a crowd or too.

Laurie Hunt, who told me many interesting tales of his early life in the district, talked of a mad dog which terrorised the community until it was finally shot on Shipnells Farm. He remembered too, how the local policeman, known as P.C. Pedaler Palmer, tried to catch walnut thieves. He hid near the tree in a sheep feed trough but the lid fell down and he was trapped inside.

Then there was Mr Paxman the farmer who lived at Old Grove farm house and who had marvellous sandy whiskers — and General Crow who had a large house with land where the flats are now found at the top of Grove Hill; he was a tetchy fellow according to Laurie.

Games on a winter's night included a favourite called 'Jack, Jack, show a light' when children careered all over Emmer Green with torches playing a form of hide and seek in the dark. Laurie joined in with this fun. Perhaps there is someone else living in Emmer Green who remembers playing this game. M.K.

National Gathering at The Chiltern

On Saturday, 6th October, The British Association for Early Childhood Education held its AGM at the Chiltern Nursery Training College at which the main speaker was Mr D.C. James, O.B.E. the President of the National Association of Nurseries and Family Care, and retired Director of Social Services for Leeds. Mr James' theme was "Child Abuse — Recognition and its Long Term Effects."

He dealt with a serious subject with sympathy and a good deal of experience. He underlined the need for everyone who comes into contact with children to listen to what they have to say, and stressed the importance of co-operation and communication between all the agencies concerned with children. Mr James said there was a need for everyone to be sensitive

to changes in behaviour in the children we know and to recognise when a problem exists, and for parents to be fully aware of the duty they have to protect their children. He spoke of a child's need to feel safe and comfortable. Mr James spoke of the importance of play in the recovery process, and concluded by saying that our first duty to children is to make them happy.

After lunch members and guests were taken on a tour of the College including visits to the day care department, workplace nursery and nursery school, lecture rooms and grounds.

The day ended with lively views and informed discussions over a cup of tea. A debt of gratitude was owed to Mrs Townsend, her staff and students for hosting the 1990 A.G.M.

The land around the pond was known as Chambers Green and must have been common land for it was enclosed in 1865. Every year several fairs were held on this great open space, part of which is now fenced in as a recreation ground. It was here that a massive bonfire was made to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. The huge pyre was built around a scaffold base in which was a small 'room'. Here two men had to stay guard against would-be fire raisers until the appropriate time for its lighting had arrived.

A regency buck

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

As I write this, the rain is falling at last, and much as it might be an inconvenience, we must be glad to see the grass turning green again, and an opportunity given to plant next years bulbs. . . always a promise of new life.

The Harvest Festival has come and gone. This year was a real joint effort with all departments of the Church taking part. All displays were colourful and imaginative. The Boy's Brigades' 'Harvest of the Sea' stood out with fishing nets and fish which the boys had made, and the Ambassadors with their 'Harvest of Music' had been well thought out. The keep fit group presented 'Harvest of Health', and the Women's Fellowship had a thoughtful display with 'Harvest Of Souls'. Other displays were Harvest of the Hedgerow, Orient, Garden, World, and from the Toddler Group 'God's Harvest', which includes everything. The services were led by Rev. John Boakes and Rev. Keith Sanders. During the morning service The Sunshine Girls sang 'Look for Signs that Summer's done', and some 8 year old Anchor Boys were welcomed into the Junior Section of the Boy's Brigade.

At the Harvest Supper, members of the church presented a "Look at Harvest, Then and Now", which included old songs, and readings of past harvests, and old harvest customs. This was followed by an excellent buffet supper, with plenty for all.

The proceeds from the supper were donated to Christian Aid, for The Gulf Refugee Appeal.

The All Hallows Fellowship Group paid a visit to St. Peter's Church, where they were the guests of the bell ringers. A happy evening was spent learning and watching how things are done. Three brave souls were taken up into the bell tower, and with a little help, two others were allowed at 'have a go' at ringing a bell, which is not as easy as it looks. Our thanks go to the St Peter's bell ringers for giving such an entertaining evening.

It is with regret that we record the deaths of two of our loyal members, Mr. Ernest Bartlett, and Mrs. Ethel Druce. They will be missed both at Church and in the Women's fellowship. Our sympathy and prayers are with each family.

MUSIC FOR GOD

What exciting times there are at St Barnabas as its music group goes from strength to strength. From small beginnings last spring its numbers have now swelled to include several guitarists, recorders, clarinets, drums and latest addition of all, an electric organ, kindly donated by Bob

Anderson, a long serving member of the congregation. The group is led and directed in its efforts by Suzanne Lewis, who has been appointed the new Director of Music at St Barnabas. Suzanne does a grand job, as do all the members of the group. At present they are rehearsing hard for Harvest

Festival and then after that will perform on Bible Sunday, December 2nd. It is rumoured that trumpets have been heard. Is there a hidden talent in the congregation or has the organist taught the electric organ a new trick? No doubt all will soon be revealed.



St Barnabas Church Music Group.

AN OASIS IN EMMER GREEN

Are you a housewife or mother, at home during the day? If so perhaps OASIS is for you.

OASIS started some years ago after a group of wives and mothers from St Barnabas joined a course for women at Oxford. At it we discovered that we all had times when we felt undervalued in our role and despaired a little at talk of nappies or dinner parties. We decided we should form a group, where we could first be ourselves and then share the joys and frustrations of being a Christian wife and mother. We soon discovered that the Bible had a great deal of encouragement hidden in its pages, and not just exhortations about the joys of being a subservient wife or loving mother. We also discovered that the feelings we shared were of course, universal and our friends from other

churches and denominations soon wanted to join us.

We meet fortnightly during the day at each others homes. Our children are made welcome and play (hopefully) while we talk.

Nobody minds the quick dash with a toddler to the potty! But then again not everybody has children and so there is always another pair of hands to help out.



Realising that Bible Study may not answer everybody's needs, we decided to cast our net a little wider, and so this term we introduced a monthly "open house" — an invitation to join us for coffee and chat, squash or play. All females are welcome, from teenagers to granies, great aunts to nieces. . . For our other meetings this term we are using the book of Habakkuk to spark off our discussions. Habakkuk is a handy little book as it only has three chapters. But what a wealth of riches those three chapters contain! Finally to end the term with a bang and not a whimper, we shall have a bring and share Christmas lunch for all.

If anyone is interested in joining the group please ring Juliette Holland on R. 484690 for further information. We look forward to seeing you.

DECADE OF EVANGELISM DAY OF PRAYER

Saturday 8th December
10am-5pm

Greyfriars Church
More details next month

THE LINK GROUP

The Link Group held its first meeting following the summer break at the Rectory. The meeting chaired by Sandra Owen heard reports from the charities supported by Link.

The main activity during the summer recess had been an outing with a group of youngsters

from Heathcroft to the Child Beale Trust on Saturday 15th September. A number of Link members and some staff from Heathcroft took ten children for the day to the Bird Sanctuary in Pangbourne. It was a beautifully sunny day for the outing. The children had great fun playing on the swings and slides in the play area, and riding the train around the centre. After a healthy picnic they walked around the centre looking at the birds and enjoying the farmyard animals.

The business side of the meeting completed, Sandra welcomed David Wallace from Yeldhall Manor, Wargrave, who had been invited to come and speak about the work carried out there. He told the group that the Manor is the home of 'A Christian residential programme for male drug and alcohol dependents'. It caters for up to twenty-two residents between the ages of twenty and forty, who come from many different social backgrounds and who have been involved in drug and alcohol abuse. The average length of stay is one year and the

It was the night of St Michael and All Angels and the long awaited and most welcome rain was pouring steadily down, for the first time in weeks, on the roof of the Parish Hall. Inside all was warmth and light as a cheerful gathering from St Margaret's celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving with their usual supper.

Some fifty members of the church enjoyed the wonderful refreshments, so renowned. Afterwards local talent, organised and compered by John Meston, provided the evening's entertain-

ment. Alf Martyn-Johns recounted another adventure of Albert Ramsbottom, Joyce Grenfell appeared in the form of Lorraine Vallance, Amy Plank read Pam Ayres, Liz Nealon gave a wonderful demonstration of shirt lifting and Claire Dunn danced most enchantingly. Much more followed and everyone joined in with a game, a competition and Old Time Sing Song.

It was the usual very happy evening and many thanks to all who helped in any way to make it so.

treatment is divided between the "care" staff who look after the therapeutic programme and the "support" team who are involved in administration and housekeeping etc.

It was felt that a large measure of their impressive success rate could be put down to the support given to the young men from Christian Support Groups once they are back in society.

After answering many questions from the group David Wallace was presented with a cheque as a donation to this very worthwhile charity.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

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Sunday 9.30am-Noon

ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST. ANDREWS Fellowship

A gratifying number had to go to another meeting, gave a very lively and amusing account of the vicissitudes of the journey of a party from St Andrew's who had just been to Oberammergau. Owing to the tour company's having been swindled over tickets for the play, no one was able to see it, but this did not dampen their spirits, and when they finally arrived in Austria after a horrendous journey, they all enjoyed themselves immensely.

Flower Festival

During the 21st and 22nd and 23rd of September St Andrew's Church was the home of the Ecumenical Flower Festival. The theme the "Life of Christ in Flowers" was interpreted by all the Christian Churches in Caversham with talent, love and inspiration to produce a spectacle both emotional and breathtaking. Christians from the Roman Catholic Churches, the Baptists, Methodists and Anglicans, all joined together to show in a practical way that this is the year of Churches Together in Caversham, and, in the same way organists came to play throughout the festival and accompanied young choristers. The Caversham Heights Towns-

women's Guild, the Cubs and Brownies and all the organisations belonging to St Andrew's Church, contributed their displays, telling the story of Christ from Advent, through some of the parables and emiracles, to the Crucifixion and Ascension.

Ann Gray, who with a small committee, organised the festival, expressed a wish that all who visited should derive pleasure from the beauty in the Church, a wish which was fulfilled many times. Many came to see, many came to stay for a while, to visit the hall for refreshments and to visit the Craft Stall. £1,200 was raised by the visitors for Cancer Charities.

Harvest Supper

Following the beauty of the Flower Festival, which on Sunday September 23rd was joined with the Harvest Festival, the Harvest Supper seemed rather special this year. On Michaelmas Day a stalwart band of helpers worked cheerfully together to prepare the Hall and the buffet supper to which many had contributed tasty savouries and sweets.

In the evening St Andrew's folk gathered in happy mood to enjoy good fellowship, wonderful food and wine (or soft drinks) and entertainment. Instead of a Grace, the Vicar encouraged all to sing a verse of the favourite Harvest hymn, "Come, ye thankful people, come". After the splendid meal Mr Frank Terry and the Elizabethan Singers provided a varied and

most enjoyable programme of songs. In the interval Mr Eric Aspden, MC for the evening in his inimitable way, related the story of Albert Ramsbotham's return from inside the lion! The applause showed how much this monologue was appreciated, as was the encore in similar vein about a golden sovereign which was swallowed! Mr Aspden deputised for Mr Norman Kent who had been laid low with a heavy cold.

The Vicar voiced the feelings of all present when he thanked all who had contributed to the enjoyment of the evening and the saying of the Grace before the party broke up to wend their homeward way, reflected the family feeling of the occasion and the deeper awareness of God's gifts.

VISIT OF THE REVD. LORD SOPER TO CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



On Remembrance Sunday, 11th November at 6.30pm you have the opportunity of hearing one of the most outstanding Christian leaders of this century. Lord Soper, perhaps better known as Revd. Donald Soper, at the age of 86 is still to be found each Sunday afternoon at Hyde Park Corner relating the Christian Faith in modern terms. He has had a wonderful ministry in the Missions of Methodism and is a regular broadcaster and writer.

CHURCH HALL TUMBLING

Not the sort of news region of some that any church is £250,000 at present fond of hearing, but prices. However, all was not despair as it was not despair as it would appear that structural repairs would not be imperilously outwards and is at the moment being propped up with a piece of rather undecorative timber scaffolding. At a meeting of the PCC it was decided upon the evidence available that a new church hall was out of the question, down and not the costs being in the

Through its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 17th, Caversham Heights Methodist Church aims to put £1,500 'In To Africa' in the support of three special projects.

One of the church members, Dr Chris Garforth, took part earlier this year in a conference in Ghana at which Methodists from nine West African countries shared their concern over the spread of desert conditions as a result of the increasing destruction of trees. Adopting the slogan 'Trees Mean Life', the conference ended with a commitment to extensive tree planting programmes in all the countries. A third of the money raised at the bazaar will go towards setting up village tree nurseries, showing farmers the benefit of trees, digging wells to water the nurseries and sending local technicians on courses of agro-forestry.

Also at the beginning of the year the church was visited by Hazel Nash, a young Methodist missionary worker in the Cote d'Ivoire where, despite the President spending £108 million pounds on the largest basilica in the world, the people are facing extreme hardship as a result of the slump in the commodity markets, particularly coffee and cocoa which are two of the Ivory Coast's prin-

INTO AFRICA!

cipal products. Hazel told us that, because of political unrest, schools have been closed, and the work done in the Methodist Junior Churches may be the only formal education that some children receive. Part of Hazel's job is to go out into the villages to help with the courses which train the Junior Church teachers.

Finally the bazaar will help victims of South Africa's apartheid system living in Botshabelo, the largest black township outside Soweto. 800,000 people from rural areas were resettled here on plots of land too small for them to continue their agricultural life. Now they work in factories

on low wages, and despair and defeatism prevail. For Botshabelo we hope to raise \$500 to subsidise 25 vertical gardens. A vertical garden works on the principle of a hanging basket: a vertical metal mesh column is filled with soil and vegetable grow out of its sides. In a very small space a vertical garden can grow 120 cabbages, although they will be used to grow a mixture of tomatoes, lettuces, cabbages, spinach and peppers.

Help us to put trees, teachers and vertical gardens 'In To Africa' by coming to the bazaar in the church hall in Highmoor Road on November 17th at 2.30 pm.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

- ANGLICAN**
The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.
Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
The Rev Nigel Harcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road, Tel: 478239.
The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road, Tel: 472070.
- CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT**
The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 475152.
- BAPTIST**
The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.
- METHODIST**
The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.
- UNITED REFORMED**
The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.
- CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL**
The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.
The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue. Tel: 474138.
- ROMAN CATHOLIC**
The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

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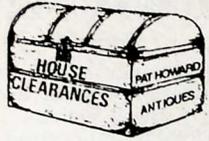
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CORRYMEELA LINK

IT IS IMPORTANT. . .

"I think that it is very important that. . ." is probably one of Ray Davey's most used phrases!

Rev. Dr. R.R. Davey O.B.E. is the founder of the Corrymeela Community. He is a retired minister of the Irish Presbyterian Church and a gentle man of great power and humility. Many words have been both written and spoken about Ray over the years and this year more than ever as Corrymeela celebrates 25 years of work for reconciliation in the midst of Northern Ireland's painful divisions.

This summer Ray spent some days with Alan Bestic, a freelance journalist, who was searching for an article for the Sunday Telegraph. Earlier in the year he spent many hours with cameramen, sound technicians, producers and the like who were putting together a documentary film for television. Ray is by nature a quiet, private man, so this degree of limelight is not his scene. But, he has come to realise that it is important for Corrymeela to have good publicity and therefore the founder must have a high profile.

Ray's own story is very important to the story of Corrymeela.

Don't Fence me in
 A son of the Manse in a village south of Belfast, he followed in his father's footsteps and studied for ordination into the Presbyterian mini-

stry. His studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the second world war when he joined the Y.M.C.A. and was sent with a team to Tobruk in North Africa. When it fell to the German troops Ray was taken prisoner and was POW for two years in North Africa, Italy and near Dresden. On his return to Northern Ireland he wrote a book about his experiences, taking his title from a popular song of the time, "Don't fence me in." He was referring to the sectarian nature of the Christian Church in his home country, so different from the power of Christian community which he had experienced in the prison camps. Twenty years passed, some which Ray spent as Chaplain at Queens University in Belfast. His energy and vision built up the Presby centre were generations of students have found a sense of work, they were valued and therefore valuable.

It was out of this work that a concern for Ulster's divisions was born. The wind of change 60's saw students travelling in the long vacation. Some went to Taize, to the Iona community and to Agape in Northern Italy. They experienced the reality of collapsing sectarian walls — Protestants and Catholics not only working together, but also worshipping together! In this they found enrich-

ment. . . "Don't fence me in", it is very important!

And so, as the cliché has it, the rest is history. A small group of inspired idealists, in 1965, raised the few thousands of pounds needed to buy the large wooden house and site on Antrim's wind swept north coast, part of the kingdom of Dalriada, there the young Corrymeela Community set to with hammers, nails, paintbrushes and the like to make the house habitable. Always, in the background was the wise guidance of Ray Davey.



I Feel Ten Feet Tall

Everyone is important to Ray — his ability to communicate that message is amazing. That single quality, in my opinion, is the greatest gift which Corrymeela offers, many of us feel helpless in the face of events, even in our own lives, but we are important and we do need to be affirmed. Ray's own deep knowledge comes from his assurance that our heavenly Father knows of the death of the small bird and has numbered the hairs on each of our heads.

For 25 years Corrymeela has welcomed vast numbers of men, women and children for short

and long stays. They have come from far and near. . . some from Caversham. . . with a wide variety of gifts and needs. It is certainly true that everyone receives, and everyone gives, and God is in the encounter.

"I'm really glad that you are here this week Ann, because. . . 'I feel ten feet tall when Ray aid that to me this summer, his quiet, deliberate words hold much weight. I share that feeling of worth with so many.

And so, Corrymeela begins its second 1/4 century. It has never claimed to have the answers, but in the words of Tulio Vinay of Agape, who officiated at the opening of Corrymeela in 1965, it is a question mark to individuals, to the Church and to society.

Ray Davey is a tall, upright man. His strength is both spiritual and physical. . . having played rugby for Ireland. . . he 'grew' in the prison camps of war torn Europe, and planted, nurtured and inspired a community of Catholics and Protestants in Ulster.

Ray's wife, Kathleen, has an influence which is not easily defined. It is as all pervading as it is self effacing, it is at the same time wonderfully practical and deeply spiritual. The individuality and unity of this partnership speaks volumes in a divided world. The on going life of Corrymeela, the evolution of its programme, its involvement in all facets of life, its influence which stretches the world over is a constant source of amazement and thankfulness to the man who would be the first to admit that it is in the knowledge and acceptance of his own weakness that the strength of God can be manifest.

Anne Varma
 For speakers, information etc. about Corrymeela apply by telephone or letter to: Corrymeela Link, P.O. Box 118, Reading RG1 1SL. Reading 589800.

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. . . and for the love of it. The Caversham Players gave a delightful evening of Poetry reading under the general title of "The Seven Ages of Man". St. Peter's church was the venue. This series of poems could easily have been read by half-a-dozen of the Players, but to show their complete support of the venture, a full complement turned out.

A trio — Lesley Hammond, Tom Hammond and

Margaret Pearson charmed with their playing before the readings and also in the interval.

Ken Etherington set the evening's entertainment going with the famous speech from As You Like It on the Seven Ages of Man. Thereafter the poems were read in sections — Infancy; Childhood; Growing Up; Courtship, Love and Marriage; The Soldier; Growing Old; Death. . .

Pathos and humour played their part and it would be invidious to single out any one of the contributors. All spoke well and clearly and with feeling — and that's what it's all about.

The proceeds of the evening went to help support the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed. It was just disappointing that so few were in the audience. Here was something different to try. Wake up Caversham!

MOURNING IS NOT PERMITTED

Leslie Wilson is a new Caversham author whose first novel strikes a very topical note, coming out as Germany is reunited. **Mourning is Not Permitted** is the story of a half-German woman's attempt to reconstruct her German family's history and make sense of the Nazi past. Though not strictly autobiographical, it does come from experience, for Leslie is herself half English and half German, and had to face the legacy of the Second World War very early in her life.

two ways — firstly, by identifying fiercely with my German background and refusing to be ashamed of it, telling myself my mother's people had produced Beethoven, Goethe, and Dietrich Bonhoefer — secondly by asserting loudly that Nazism had nothing to do with myself and my family and reminding myself and anyone who raised the topic that Germany did not have a monopoly on evil. But in fact I shrank from the reality of the Holocaust and the questions it poses."



she was running were mild, that she began to understand what it must have cost to take the incomparably greater risk of standing out against Nazi dictatorship.

What made her re-examine the issues was her growing involvement in anti-nuclear action, which led to her civil disobedience, arrest and prosecution. It was then she found out how hard it was to stand in the dock even when the risks

"People have always suggested to me that the Germans must have wanted the whole package of Nazism — and known everything that was going on. But it's too easy, when you have never been in a situa-

tion, to assert how other people ought to have acted. I had been writing and garnering rejection slips ever since the birth of my eldest daughter. One day I found myself slipping the novel I had been working on into the bin, sitting down at the typewriter, and becoming this other self, Karin, the narrator of my book. The most important thing seemed to be to use imaginative sympathy, to try to understand."

With a narrator from her own generation, she could show how the traumas of war and dictatorship affect successive generations.

"It was the stuff of my own life I was dealing with. It also brought home how close my generation was to the war. And yet the last eighteen month's events in

Eastern Europe make it clear that we are only now emerging from a post-war society."

It has proved an intensely painful experience, but also extremely worthwhile.



"The book is not specifically Christian, indeed, Karin has great problems with religion, especially the Catholicism of the grandmother she writes about, but it does come from the heart of my own religious belief. I became a Quaker because it seemed to me that the most important thing in life is to keep searching for truth. It is also, as Karin experiences, one of the most difficult."

Mourning is Not Permitted is published by Women's Press on 8th November, at £5.95.

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A STAR SHINES FOR THE OVER-60s

Mrs Jean Thompson brought with her to the recent Community lunch figures and information about the Reading branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) — known as STAR locally — Students of the Third Age, Reading. Mrs Thompson is its Chairman.

She was speaking at the lunch organised by Kathy Munns, the Community Librarian, at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church's Hall. The Rev. John Boakes had kindly offered hospitality and his wife and other church members provided the

generous and attractive refreshments.

Early Beginnings

As its name implies, U3A is for "students of mature years". It began in Toulouse in 1972; the French not having such good opportunities for adult education as in this country, and started at University level, researching into age. It came in contact with Eastern Europe and was an important voice at World Health level. The UK arrival was in 1981 as broadly educational — taking its line from the

medieval universities, which provided a sense of community, with all willing to learn, and to teach, and all to contribute.

Statistics

This dull sub-heading does contain useful and interesting figures. At the age of 65 and over, the percentage of the population was:

in 1901	2%
in 1951	7%
in 1989	20%

and the numbers are rising, so that by the end of the century it is predicted that one third of the population of this country will be over 65. Life expectancy is so much greater now, and the birth rate is dropping and this is world wide. The fastest rise is in Japan, and China will also have problems now that only one child

per family is allowed.

What is Age

The actual word "age" carries a negative stereotype. Yet as has been said earlier, more and more people will be joining this already large group and it is up to those members of it to keep the image bright. The message is — keep active and energetic — if you don't use it, you'll lose it! The fourth age of decline will come around then only too quickly.

STAR in Reading

Membership fees are £5 per annum. This gives a monthly lecture in one of the fine rooms in the Old Town Hall, together with the opportunity of joining any of the other activities and participating in any of the other interests now on offer. There are 15 of these

groups — walking, holiday interests, art, and many more. The aim is to be a self-help organisation. Most of the meetings are held during daylight hours and Caversham is fortunate that some of the meetings are held in the Retirement Centre in School Lane.

The meeting was informed that Mrs Jean Thompson had just been appointed National Secretary of U3A in England. She is a lady full of enthusiasm and realises what tremendous potential this organisation has to offer.

There are great opportunities for growth and enrichment in what should be the crown of life.

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OBITUARY

GLADYS WEAL

A well known personality in Caversham, Gladys Weal, died on 4th September in her 81st year and will be sadly missed by her husband, son, two daughters and many friends. Gladys and her husband celebrated their Diamond wedding earlier this year. Member of the Caversham Baptist

Free Church, member of Caversham Community Association until her resignation in April this year, member and Vice-President of Caversham Ladies Club, Gladys' pleasant ways and kindly nature will be remembered by all who knew her.

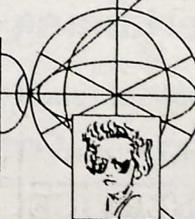
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the CLUBS

Caversham Community Association

At the meeting on September 3rd, the members were given the opportunity to relate events of interest in their lives to their fellow members. George and Maida Feast commenced by describing a memorable holiday cruise they enjoyed in 1984. They boarded a Russian liner — after they arrived in Genoa and visited many places on their cruise, including Elba, Naples, Athens, Cairo, Malta and Palma. Beryl Latcham then related her childhood memories of when she lived in a village in Norfolk. There was no electricity and water was obtained from a well. When the snow came sleds were used for getting provisions. Margaret Cameron then followed and explained that she was a twin and how this relationship affected herself and her twin sister, Jean. Olive Howard completed the evening by telling of her great interest in the theatre. She spoke of her visits to the Old Vic theatre in Waterloo Road, London, during her schooldays and later, to see the performance of many famous actors.

The Arts and Crafts exhibition on the 10th September was well attended. The judges of the various sections were Doreen Meadowcraft for cookery, Cheryl Pilgrim for flower arranging,

Dorothy Maskell for knitwear, crochet and art and Stephen Waite for photography. First prizewinners were as follows: —

COOKERY

Fruit pie — Beryl Latcham.
Victoria Sponge — Evelyn Cook.
Fancy cakes — Ann Wright.
Biscuits — Ann Wright.
Preserves — Monica Suggett.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

General Arrangement — Patricia Haines.
Jam jar — Patricia Haines.
Miniature — Patricia Haines.
Anniversary — Wendy Colton

GENERAL ART

Wendy Colton

KNITTING

Adult's garment — Muriel Waite.
Child garment — Wendy Colton.

CROCHET

Margaret Cameron.

SOFT TOY

Dorothy Osborne.

EMBROIDERY

Elsie Prett.

POT PLANT

Barbara Whitaker.

PHOTOGRAPHY

View — Dorothy Osborne
Animal — Alan Osborne.
Humorous — Betty Petherbridge.
Portrait — Doreen Meadowcraft.

In the flower arrangement class Wendy Colton was awarded the Joe Rampton bowl and Patricia Haines received the Muriel Rampton cup for her jam jar arrangements.

Pat Snow was welcomed to the club on the 17th September and brought a fine display of plants and spring bulbs for the members to purchase. Mrs Snow was, as usual, ready to answer members' questions on gardening problems and gave them good advice during the evening.

A happy meeting was enjoyed on the 24th September when Harvest Festival was celebrated. The members came bringing gifts to make a colourful collection of flowers, fruit, vegetables and food stuffs. Captain Ken Redmile, from Reading East Salvation Army Corps, was invited to speak before the harvest supper and led the members in the harvest hymns. Nancy Nelhams accompanied at the piano. The supper of sandwiches, scones, jam and cream, followed by apple pie and cake was enjoyed by everyone. Maida Feast, the Secretary, then auctioned the gifts in aid of club funds. At the end of the meeting Mrs Feast thanked the committee and members who had baked and prepared the delicious meal.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

Life has not been dull at the Club since my last report in March. Talks, sometimes accompanied by slides, on Scotland (Mr Frew), Wales (Mrs Beek) & America (Mr Ebbs). Songs from Fred & Ralph, The Rondevous Singers & The Firtree Singers. An enlightening peep in to the Dept. of Social Security and a totally different view of life — that of a House of Commons Toastmaster (Mr Ted Smith). Miss Tyler told us very entertainingly about her lovely holiday on the

Island of Rhodes and Mrs Lily Allies about her interesting holiday in Turkey. Thank you to all these kind friends for giving up their time. Outings to Bagguize Gardens in the Spring and Littlehampton in the Summer were all undertaken in very good weather as was the Garden Party in July. Unfortunately a coach breakdown rather marred the Littlehampton trip but we had tremendous help from several Littlehampton inhabitants and we found it to be a very pretty, friendly place. One of our long-standing members Mr Mott celebrated his 90th birthday a few weeks ago. A beautifully decorated and delicious cake was made by a friend and shared by the members. Another highlight yet to come is the presentation to Mrs Dora Smith (Club Committee member) of her W.R.V.S. Long Service Medal. Our love and thanks to Dora from all the Club members for her devoted service to the Club. We have had several new members, bringing our members to around forty. Sadly we have to record the sudden death of Mrs Weal recently.

The future programme will include outings to the Devils Punchbowl at

Hindhead and a Christmas Luncheon at the White Hart Nettlebed.

Caversham Ladies Club

It was the harvest meeting and Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opened the meeting with her usual warm welcome hoping members had all enjoyed the summer break. She then announced she had some very sad news that Mrs Weal had passed away suddenly. She was one of the founders of The Ladies Club and had been vice-chairman for a number of years. Mrs Harwood said Mrs Weal would be sadly missed and members stood in silence in a tribute to her memory. Flowers and a letter of condolence had been sent on behalf of the Club.

Mrs Harwood then reminded members of the time and venue for their trip to Stow-in-the-Wold, and although rain was badly needed, all hoped for a dry day to enjoy the lovely countryside they would pass through.

Turn to page 11

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Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Berkshire

Launch of new Award group
in North Reading

The Award Scheme will soon be opening its second new Award Centre in the Reading area this year, making it easier for more young people to participate in the programme of activities offered by the scheme. This new group will be based at the Milestone Community Centre, Northbrook Road in Caversham Park Village. It will be open to all young people (aged fourteen to twenty-three) in the area. The group will meet on Monday even-

ings from 7.30 to 8.30pm approx. The first meeting of the new group will be on Monday 29th October at the Milestone Centre (Youth Wing) at 7.30pm.

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic team of volunteers to run this new Award group and further details can be obtained from either: Mr Peter Batley (Milestone Award Leader): Reading 472982.

Mrs Margaret Nelson (Reading Area Field Officer): Reading 412305.

the CLUBS

From page 10

It was then time to start the sale of harvest goods. There was a lovely display of vegetables, fruit, flowers etc. that members had generously brought along, but all too soon it started looking very forlorn when the regular 'auctioneer' member Mrs Brenda Strong got into her stride with her ready wit.

The usual light refreshments were a very welcome sight after club business had been concluded and members agreed it had been an enjoyable afternoon, though tinged with sadness.

The Jubilee Club

Yet another year draws to a close. For the Jubilee Club it has meant a change of club leader. In April they said goodbye to Carole Barbour who had led them for some three years and welcomed Betty Smith to take her place. Sadly they have lost two of their older members, but happily have three new ones in their place and they look forward to seeing more new faces in the near future.

The glorious summer meant that the three outings all took place on wonderful sunny days. In May, at members' requests, the Club spent an afternoon in Windsor, everyone doing their own thing including, for two, a trip on a river steamer.

July saw members on a day trip to visit Carole Barbour at Ragley Hall, near Stratford, where her husband now works. They both gave the Club a marvellous time, and everyone enjoyed the beautifully stately home and its grounds. It was lovely to see Carole and Michael again with two of their family.

Even in September the sun still smiled on members and they had a perfect early autumn afternoon at Avebury where everyone wandered off to enjoy various interests.

In August the Club spent a few happy summer hours at the home of Mrs Joan Skinner at Cane End with tea and a bring and buy stall in her lovely garden. Members are most grateful for her year-long kindness in inviting them all to Kempwood. Only the June picnic in Caversham Court was cancelled because of a cold, blowy, grey afternoon when they sought the shelter and warmth of Trench Green hall and entertained themselves.

Now winter is upon us and once again the Club will be indoors. In November there is an Open Afternoon on Monday the 12th. Do come along anytime after 2pm and join members for a cup of tea and buy some of the good things on the two stalls. You will be most welcome at Trench Green Hall.

No Christmas party this year. The Club is breaking

with tradition and go to the matinee of an Old Time Music Hall at the Mill at Sonning theatre with lunch beforehand. It should be a great change and success. After all they have been going to Windsor pantomime for several years.

The committee has been busy this autumn working out the new programme for 1991 and it promises to be as good as the one in 1990.

Caversham W.I.

A distinctly nautical flavour to the evening was enjoyed by the Caversham members at their September meeting. Mr Berry, a speaker from the Royal Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen told of his work as organiser and fund raiser. The Mission has twenty-two centres in ports around the coast, and Mr Berry explained some of the dangers which fishermen face at sea. He illustrated his interesting talk with slides.

The vote of thanks was given by Miss M. Cameron, and the competition, "Something from the Sea" was won by Mrs Butcher.

A most enjoyable barbecue also took place during the month to celebrate the W.I. Founders' Day.

St Peter's Wives

Saturday July 21st was the day of the Sue Ryder Fete at Nettlebed and St Peter's Wives were selling refreshments in the House. All cookies and biscuits were supplied by members and over £250 was raised on the stall, a sum much appreciated by the Hospital and the Committee thanks everybody for their contribution and help on the day.

August saw the Wives boarding an 'Old Reading Transport Bus' for a Mystery Tour. The

Bus caused a few curious glances as it made its way through Caversham and a few anxious moments when members wondered whether it would make it up St Peter's Hill! The trip took the party south of the river and they did justice to a supper at Englefield before returning to Caversham at 11.00pm after a very enjoyable tour.

At the September meeting the speaker was Chris Shearer from the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall. He told of the history of the School and how it was started to coordinate the standards of British Army Bands which at the time of George III could hardly play the National Anthem properly.

Students spend a year at the School studying all aspects of music and their own particular instrument with instructors who include some of the leading professors from the London Schools of Music. Carefully selected bandmen can return later to take a three year course as a student bandmaster. Chris was in the last year of this course during which he has to learn all the instruments of the band, as well as composing, arranging and conducting skills. He concluded his talk with a video film on the work of the School.

It was a fascinating evening, enjoyed by everyone present and it left most present resolved to go to Kneller Hall next summer to one of their Evening Concerts.

Caversham Heights T.G.

Hopefully these notes may meet with Katy's approval, who has said the 'Bridge' should be about people. Mr Ted Burnell gave the lecture that he had in mind at the guild meeting in April about the history of the Great Abbey of Reading in

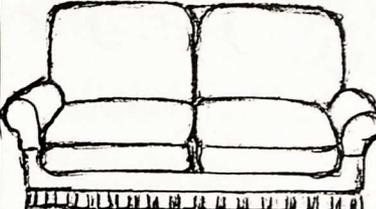
September at the Abbey Gate, when some members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild were among the audience. He said that he would like to see the ten paintings that are at present in the Gate, which illustrate the rise and fall of this spiritual house, hung to better advantage in the recently refurbished old Town Hall. Members signed a petition that he had organised.

Mr J Taylor ARPS loves Africa and has lived and worked in association with tea planting in Kenya, which he describes as a land of contrasts. Once again he delighted the group with his pictures of scenery, birds and animals. At September's meeting he said that tea production in the Rift Valley had now doubled. Heather, groundsel and papyrus grow there to giant proportions and poinsettia is a marvellous sight. In spite of its being an equatorial region snow lies on Mounts Kenya and Kilimanjaro, although global warming seems evident. There were more animals seven to eight years ago and the white rhino is disappearing quickly. The men of certain tribes used not to work, and still devote time to ornamenting their hair.

At social studies later in the new Wesley lounge at Caversham Heights Methodist church, the Revd Keith Sanders sketched a history of the Holy Land and showed slides from visits made there in a group from different churches. He was interested to think that a group from St Andrew's might be forming. It was a moving experience to see the ancient trees still growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, and to note that a church stands where Jesus stood and wept, as he foresaw the coming destruction of Jerusalem and all that was going to happen there.

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