

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?

ARE THEY the refugees in Ethiopia and Somalia, forced to flee their homes as a result of war? Are they the 'Boat People' of Vietnam, scared of what the new government will do to them? Are they the victims of earthquake, famine or flood around the world who have nowhere to go, but who can not live if they stay put?



Yes, of course they are. The homeless of the world are shown by the media as the victims of natural or man-made disaster. They appear on our television screens in hundreds or thousands, and our senses are numbed by the magnitude of the problem. Many of us remember such people in our Prayers and by our giving through such relief agencies as Christian Aid, and, thanks to be God, so do many others all over the world.



When we are then confronted with news of people who are homeless in our own country, we know that by comparison with other countries the problem must be small. After all, we can see houses full of people wherever we go. If some should choose to 'live rough', why should that affect us? (Although we do wish that they would be a little less obvious, and not spend all their time in the town centre putting us off our shopping sprees.)

Recent news bulletins and documentaries have helped to highlight the problem in Britain, especially in our larger cities. But there are few who are yet fully aware of the scale of the problem we face — the number of homeless; their ages; the reasons for their predicament. Behind each homeless person there is a story, usually of violence, broken relationships, or illness. And where most of society 'gives up' the Church has a special responsibility to care.



It was in response to the perceived need in Reading from a growing number of homeless people that the Reading & District Council of Churches set up a Housing Working Party in 1989. On October 1st 1990 a 'Drop-In Centre' was opened at St. Saviour's Church Hall, Berkeley Avenue, with a manager, two assistants, and a number of volunteers who assist on a rota basis. In the space of one month the number of people using the Centre rose to an average of 42 a day. They are young, middle-aged and old, men and women, either sleeping rough or in bed and breakfast accommodation. Some have been in Reading all their lives — others newly arrived.

Clothing, food, utensils and money have all been donated by churches and individuals, and so far the Centre, open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.00am

to 4.00pm, has been able to cope on a hand-to-mouth existence. NOW A FULL PLANNED SYSTEM IS REQUIRED.



Warm, water-proof clothing is always needed — shoes, socks, coats — and underwear and jumpers. Food — tinned meat and fish for sandwiches, packet soup, tea, coffee, sugar — is required on a regular basis. More volunteers to help for one session per fortnight (or more if possible) will ease the load on others, and help cover for illness or holidays. CAN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM COLLECT FOOD AND CLOTHING AND DELIVER IT ONCE A MONTH, REGULARLY, AND FIND FIVE MORE VOLUNTEERS? AND CAN EACH CHURCH PROMISE A SET SUM OF MONEY EACH MONTH TO HELP THE CENTRE BUDGET AND WORK EFFECTIVELY? And can every reader of the 'Bridge' do some serious thinking about other, more suitable accommodation for the Centre. What is really needed is a hall/large room with kitchen facilities, bath/shower room, and two or more small rooms suitable for counselling.



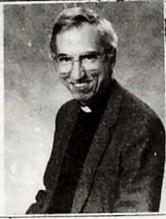
Think, pray, and work for real people who have names and faces, who were born into real families, who now live here in Reading. For they are the homeless put into our care.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

TALKING POINT

By the Rev. David Hastings

Chaplain, Reading Prison



On January 1st I begin my second year as Chaplain of Reading Prison, and as we begin another new year — a year in which we can expect the Wolfe Inquiry Report on the Strangeways Incident and debate on the proposed Criminal Justice Bill — I share with you some thoughts and reflections about my work here in Reading.

Some time last June I spent a fascinating day visiting H.M.P. Pentonville where a friend of mine is a member of the Chaplaincy Team. As we visited various parts of the prison my eye was drawn to a notice in one of the cells in the Punishment Block. It read: "I am not a number I am a free man"

Those words have stuck with me ever since and I reflect that we in the United Kingdom are the most punitive nation in Europe. At present we have somewhere in the region of 50,000 men and women in the prisons of England and Wales, and of that number about 21% are on remand: men and women who are innocent until proved guilty. I find those figures disturbing, and would hope that many share that view, whilst at the same time acknowledging that there are people, who because of the severity of their crime, need to be punished and held in custody.

I believe that all Christians, whether they like it or not, are involved in prisons, for Jesus, whose birth — day we have so recently celebrated, grew to be a man who related to those on the

margins of society and who in His own life knew what prison was like. He Himself was betrayed, arrested, humiliated and accused. His own family suffered the indignity and the agony of His punishment and eventual death of the cross.

Throughout His ministry Jesus had a deep concern for the disadvantaged and the deprived; for the outcasts and dregs of society. So often we read in the Gospels of how His hearers were outraged when he consorted with the prostitutes, the publicans and sinners, indeed the whole murky scene of those who fiddled the system and made their living by immoral means of the expense of the society in which they lived.

Christians have been concerned with the work of Prisons for many years as reformers, as prison visitors and members of Chaplaincy teams, endeavouring to bring to the prisoners the love, care and concern which is at the heart of the Gospel, and which encourages all to lead useful and good lives modelled on the Man who died for others. It is no easy task, but then being a Christian is not an easy task, but we are called to try and do so.

Reading Prison overlooking Forbury Road and the ruins of the Abbey is a familiar sight to all who pass by road, rail or on foot. It stands sentinel-like over that part of town and is of course known as the place where Oscar Wilde was imprisoned and

which he immortalised in his moving poem "The Ballad of Reading Gaol". I often reflect and wonder how many of the many thousands who pass by those famous walls each day, each week or each month, stop and wonder what it's like inside.

Men still endure the indignity of having to "slop out" several times a day and to be banged up for hours on end, sometimes living two or three to a cell which measures just fourteen feet by eight feet. It's a grim existence. Some men suffer the indignity of being on remand for weeks or months (some for well over a year), possibly walking free with no hope of compensation for the time spent inside.

Time inside can be a time when a man may lose virtually everything he has — wife, girl friend, family, home and possessions, job and security. Eventually on release he could face the prospect of having nothing to his name. Add to that the loss of self-respect, of dignity and worth, and that creates a human being who lands up on the bottom of the pile; little wonder then that we hear and read of men attempting, and sometimes succeeding, to commit suicide.

To this strange and almost loveless world the Chaplain attempts to bring something of love and joy, forgiveness and reconciliation into the prisoners world. There is much in the Chaplain's life about pain, suffering and crucifixion and the roles he adopts are

many — guide, counsellor, reconciler, confidant, confessor and friend. His vocation is to spread something of the reality of God's love and forgiveness, and as a priest to offer the prison and all its concerns through prayer and sacrament. It's a tough ministry but in between the moments of pain and suffering there are those moments which can be filled with laughter and joy, and there needs to be in a world where the individual is demeaned and robbed of the right to make his own decisions, forcibly separated from those who he loves and cares for.

So as you begin this new year perhaps you could spare time to think and to pray for all who are imprisoned in Reading prison and for all who work there, and as you drive or walk through Forbury Road, spare a thought for all inside, and remember Our Lord's words — "I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25.36), and remember those words from H.M.P. Pentonville: "I am not a number I am a free man".

Sadly he does become a number.

Sadly he does lose his identity and freedom.

And let me conclude with some words of Oscar Wilde from "De Profundis" which he wrote in Reading Gaol between January and March 1897. "At all cost I must keep love in my heart. If I go to prison without Love, what will become of my soul?"

POST BAG

Dear Sirs,
WHY THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL BECOME TRULY EUROPEAN
Why do I believe that the United Kingdom will become 100% European?

Well, let me take you back in time to when humanity lived in caves. First there was the family unit which progressed into the tribal unit, and humanity began to spread around the world, becoming farmers and hunters. Gradually it began to dawn on humanity that the bigger the tribe then the greater became the tribe's wealth and prosperity, and so nations came into being. In the fullness of time humanity will become one huge worldwide family. This may take a further one, two or five hundred years, but, make no mistake — IT WILL COME, and recently the United Nations have taken the first tentative

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step along this road in its condemnation of Saddam Hussein.

However, because of humanity's avarice and greed, in this process of growing up, wars were inevitable, and became more horrendous with the passing of time.

There will always be disputes between nations, as indeed there are in every family, because of humanity's characteristics, but with common sense

prevailing, these disputes will eventually be amicably without bloodshed.

The United Kingdom can do its bit towards achieving this goal by looking far beyond the narrow confines of its national borders, and realising that it is not a case of "Them and Us", but simply "Us"! Yours etc.
Pete Littlewood

11 Moss Close,
Caversham, Reading.

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 10.30am
Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm.
House study groups Sept — June Tel: 475783

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All contributions for Feb issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 9 Jan.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 7 Jan.

The dates for March will be Monday 4 Feb and Wednesday 6 February.

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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JESUS CAME TO BRING PEACE



HE LEARNT to use the familiar name 'Jesus', instead of the more formal titles of 'Christ' or 'Lord' when living with the mentally handicapped men and women in L'Arche communities in different parts of the world. He is a very tall man, one who has no problems in crowds but who finds that beds are never long enough! He has well defined laughter lines and has spent the greater part of his adult life with the powerless, the wounded, his little brothers and sisters, the mentally handicapped. He is Jean Vanier. Jean was leading a retreat at the Corrymeela centre near Ballycastle on Antrim's north coast. About 170 men and women had gathered for this culmination of Corrymeela's celebrations marking its 25 years of existence. Jean talked of the Jesus who had wept over Jerusalem, a divided city, a city of divided people, a situation which causes individual and collective pain.

Jean spoke quietly and with much humour, his hands ever expressive but never distracting, with eyes which were alive and alight. He spoke gently but with authority from the deep place of experience, with a liberal sprinkling of humour, anecdotes and word pictures which combined to

include his audience in laughter and understanding. He described the hand as a nest, holding a little bird in safety while never crushing the smallest fibril of a feather, security without restriction, this is love. He quoted the words of his father who, when Jean was 13 years old responded to the boy's request to join the navy by saying, 'I trust you Jean, if that is what you want, then that is what you must do.' It meant leaving his home in Canada and coming to England, to Dartmouth. That trust was the open and supporting hand.

Over the weekend Jean talked much about love and about its lack in our world which is so full of divisions and distrust. His four addresses, all given from a sitting position, without a note, a hesitation or correction, flowed like a gift to his diverse and receptive audience. High points were many, every word held a value, and during our meetings in small groups it was clear that we had all been spoken to according to our needs.

From the story of the prodigal son Jean pointed out the great mystery of the waiting God. His vivid description of the despised woman of Samaria who came to the well to draw water in the midday heat thus avoiding



the upright and self righteous women who came in the cool of the morning or evening, or was it that she had simply overslept? And take a look at Mrs. Zeb, a typical Mum who wants the best for her lads. Can you hear the other disciples? 'Momma Zeb interfering again, can't she allow her lads to grow up?' Jean graphically illustrated the displacement of anger. Father comes home having been upset at work by his boss and yells at his wife. She shouts at the kids who kick the cat and the story ends with the death of a mouse.

We looked at two of Jesus' responses to the people of his day. One was to invite them to discard their accumulated baggage which would inevitably slow them down on the journey. Jesus moves along at a goodly pace and if we are to follow we'll never keep up with heavy and cumbersome suitcases, best to sell them or give them away. The other was illustrated by little Zaccheus up his tree, 'I'd like to come home with you, can we enjoy a meal together?' Spare a

thought for Mrs Zacc....' A guest? Why didn't you consult me? I have nothing in the house, not a thing....' Jewish hospitality and the culinary arts are a justifiable source of pride, poor Mrs Zaac is in a flutter! The point was well made. Those of us who have heard the call to follow Jesus are called to be ikons, behind the image lies the reality, things seen and unseen. Growth is stimulated by challenge. One of the most fundamental of all challenges is that of forgiveness. As people we have a fragility and a vulnerability which is born in a history of wounds. Forgiveness, says Jean, is the opposite of separation, it is the recognition that we all belong to the same body and that there is great beauty in both ourselves and in others.

'Jesus is our peace, he has broken down the wall of hostility. Alone we are unable to keep the commandment to love our enemies, we must open the door to new energy, to a power greater than our own which will enable us to forgive. Jesus is our peace, he

gives peace to individuals, and through these ikons peace goes out to our unpeaceful world. Clearly each retreatant will have come away with his or her own impressions, these are some of mine. We were wonderfully united in the simple and profound closing worship which let us out from the mountain top experience. It opened in an invoca-

tion in song, one of the chants from Taize, 'Veni Spiritus Sancte' which was well led and sung in a richness of harmony. Just as the bass, tenor, alto and soprano parts found their place in that harmony, so we, in our diversity found harmony. It is no surprise that the Irish word 'Corrymeela' is often translated as the hill of harmony. Returning to the

plain is difficult, but through the written word that journey has been eased. May I end on a point of sharing, in conversation with Jean Vanier I know that he would claim nothing for himself, rather he would direct my attention to the opening words of the prayer attributed to St. Francis, 'Lord, make me a channel of your peace.'

A.V.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

LORD CADOGAN, VISCOUNT CAVERSHAM 1672-1726

HAVING READ Robert Pearman's book, *The First Earl Cadogan*, to be found in Reading Reference Library, I thought readers of the Caversham Bridge might like to know more about this eighteenth century owner of Caversham Park and his forbears.

A Welsh Prince

The Cadogans came, through the male line, from Cuhelyn, Prince of Fferlys, who lived around the year one thousand. He was a chieftan in Radnorshire, and founded the fifth of the Royal tribes of Wales.

The name Cadogan is a Celtic word that has been Anglicized and means 'Battle-keenness'.

Cuhelyn had a son Elstan Glodrydd and he had a son Cadwgan. From his last name you can see the clear translation into Cadogan.

Cadwgan had three sons, one named Llewelyn Cadwgan from whom the first Lord Cadogan descended. Although Llewelyn was killed in a border feud in 1099 his great nephews continued to rule the land between the Wye and the Severn in the present country of Powys.

From the end of the twelfth century until 1548, some three hundred and fifty years, nothing more was heard of the Cadwgans, but in that year Cadwgan ap Williams was living in a farm house with his wife, Catherine, and three sons at a place called Trosty in Monmouthshire. The property remained in the family until 1670.

Henry Cadogan, the youngest of William's grandsons, married well. His wife was Catherine Stradling whose great uncle, Sir Thomas Stradling, owned St Donat's Castle in Glamorgan. From this marriage came a son, William, born in Cardiff in 1600.

William became a soldier of fortune, spending some time in Ireland and becoming private secretary to the Earl of Strafford. He later became a member of the Irish House of Commons. His first wife was Elizabeth Thring of Drogheda and when she died he married Elizabeth Roberts of Caernarvon. She had an only son, also William.

This William held a commission from Charles I. Becoming

captain he progressed to Major and soon became Deputy Governor of the Castle of Trim in County Antrim. He died at the age of fifty-nine in 1660 and by that time had become a member of the Irish Parliament and Governor of the Castle and Borough of Trim. He died a man of property with a house in Dublin and an estate at Liscarton, County Meath.

His son, Henry, who studied at Trinity College Dublin, married Bridget, daughter of Sir Hardress Waller, a signatory of Charles the first's death warrant. Henry Cadogan was High Sheriff of County Meath and he, too, prospered buying another estate and also the early thirteenth century Adare castle. He and Bridget had five children of whom William was the second eldest. He became the owner of Caversham Park.

William was educated at Westminster School, London; a long way to be sent to boarding school in those days. On leaving Westminster he followed his father's footsteps, at any rate for a short time, studying law at Trinity. However he preferred the life of a fighting man (remember the meaning of the family name) and soon joined the Protestant army to help King William. He was commissioned as a cornet in Colonel Wynne's Enniskillen Dragoons and at the age of eighteen was present at the battle of the Boyne.

The Duke of Marlborough's Man

His career in the army flourished and within a few years he rose to the rank of Brigadier General, his regiment becoming known as Cadogan's Horse. An injury at the Siege of Mons in 1709 forced his military career to cease. By this time he was the Duke of Marlborough's second in command.

Honours and position continued to be heaped upon him. He became High Steward of Oxfordshire, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, Master of the Rolls, a member of the Privy Council and Governor of the Isle of Wight.

Not till he was thirty-one did he decide to marry when Margarethe Munter

became his wife. Their first home was Oakley Manor near Oxford but after a while they were forced to live in exile near the Hague. Lord Cadogan's friend and superior, the Duke of Marlborough, also fled to the Continent, for several years living in Frankfurt.

Queen Anne had only died a little over three weeks when the young couple returned to England and took a ninety-nine years' lease on a property not too distant from London. It was the Caversham Estate owned by the Countess Dowager of Kildare and it included the rent 'One Brace of Fat Bucks and one Brace of Fat Does'. It contained more than a thousand acres with a mansion, then referred to as Caversham Lodge and a deer park of a further two hundred and forty acres.

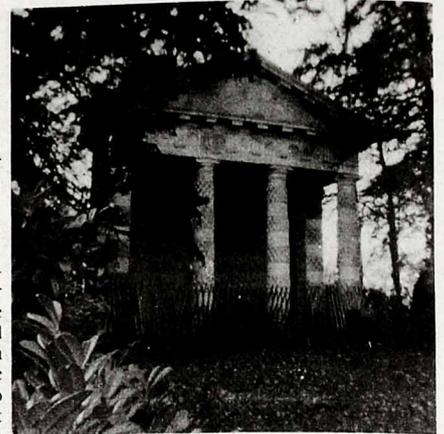
A Newbury Gardener

In April 1718 William Cadogan acquired the freehold interest of the property from the Trustees of the Earl of Kildare. Soon he had arranged for a gardener from Newbury to make parterres, terrace walks with two canals, kitchen gardens and orchards. This cost him over eighteen hundred pounds. The house, too, was made into a mansion suitable for a friend of the great Duke of Marlborough. It may have had three storeys and has been likened to Cliveden, but as it was severely damaged by fire later in the seventeen hundreds and again the following century, this is difficult to ascertain.

Lord Cadogan is reputed to have had a keenness for gambling and there is a story, but how true, that the Duke of Richmond owed him a gambling debt. To cancel this an agreement of marriage was arranged between Lord Cadogan's eldest daughter Sarah, then twelve years old and Lord March aged seventeen, the son of the Duke. Even if this marriage was arranged its outcome was a very happy one. The duchess, as she became, was pregnant twenty-seven times, bearing twelve children. She died of a broken heart in 1751 just a year after his death.

Death of an Earl

Twenty-five years earlier her father died at



An eighteenth century folly in the grounds of Caversham Park. The photograph was taken in 1965.

the age of fifty-four. He had been ill for many months and in a letter from Caversham on September 14th 1725 he wrote '...I have been extremely ill since the last operation of the stone cholic, but am now, God be praised very easy and my wound begins to mend, tho' slowly. I rest well and have a good strength and am allowed to eat chicken every day....'

Later that month he again wrote '...I design to go there (London) as soon as I can bear the jolting of the coach, which, if the wound continues to heal as it has done of late, I hope will be in a very few days....'

He lived almost another year dying on July 17, 1726, whilst staying at 'the fashionable village of Kensington Gravel Pit'.

His death is recorded as follows: 'The Earl of Cadogan dyed in a top dress and kept on him to the last his great wig, imbroydered coat, brocade vest, red shoes, diamond buckles....!'

Four days later he was laid to rest beside his friend the Duke of Marlborough. He was buried at night (a not unusual practice) in the Vault in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, Westminster.

MK

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

HESSA AND THE BOTTOM

Michael Heseltine barely had time to reinstall himself in the Department of the Environment before letters started to drop on his doormat about Bugs Bottom. First of all, taking advantage of modern technology, came a faxed communication from the Bugs Bottom Action Group, followed by another from Caversham Residents' Association, still stuck in the era of the pigeon post. More followed after the public meeting in December and there is still time for anyone reading this to add to the flow (House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA will find him).

Michael Heseltine already know Bugs Bottom because it is part of the valley that extends into his own constituency and which will come under pressure if the Bugs Bottom section just across the county border disappears under 500 houses. If he could be persuaded to re-open the public inquiry, it could lead to the withdrawal of the Appeal Court case which can only be heard on legal grounds.

The Bugs Bottom case itself is meanwhile the subject of a film which will later be seen on Channel 4. As opening shots, a camera crew came to the wedding of Katrina Collett, who with her family, are closely involved with the campaign to save Bugs Bottom. It took place in the lovely Chilterns countryside, of which Bugs Bottom is an extension into the urban area of Reading, before moving to St Andrew's Hall for the reception, into which hopped a group of Bugs Bottom bunnies. Katrina, as a bride should, looked radiant throughout these proceedings.

CHAZEY COURT

The plans for Chazey Court are now ready for submission to the Planning Committee. They are of a very high standard indeed. It would be difficult to fault them on planning grounds. Regret at the loss of what is probably the most ancient farm for miles around, and the loss of the popular fruit farm, are not planning matters and cannot therefore influence the final decision, much as they are regretted.

The approach road along the Warren will need special attention. It is a country lane and few would want it otherwise. It will have to take extra traffic, which is likely to be of a heavy nature during the course of construction. What is not wanted along the Warren are traffic lights and double yellow lines. These spell urbanisation. Passing places may be required but they should be of a discreet nature that will not damage the slope of the escarpment.

An interesting suggestion that is gathering support is that as a gesture for the extra traffic the Warren will have to take, the footpath through Chazey Woods should be reopened on the days that war games are not taking place there. It should not be impossible to arrange and much of what is consistently a sore point would start to heal.



ROADS

According to Reading Borough Council, the only road works scheduled for Peppard Road is for the provision of a footway on the east side. Berkshire County Council say they have no plans for road widening. If the press report was correct, does it not seem a case of over-strike to re-inforce the roofs of the caves just

because a few more pedestrians will be walking above them? Emmer Green people do not appear to be abnormally overweight.

The Rokeby Drive turn on to the A4064 has been a cause of concern for a long time because of lack of visibility for those trying to emerge and those speeding along the main road. The hedges which partially obscured the view have now been cut back, so it is less dangerous than it was. However, any plans which speed up traffic on the main road would more than cancel out any benefit temporarily gained.



CHESTER STREET CAR PARK

Proposals have once again been put forward for introducing charges at the Chester Street car park. As it is primarily a shoppers' car park, making the first two hours free is an improvement on the last set of proposals, when it was said the technology did not exist to do this. The £5 charge for day-long parking has, however, worried traders who need to park there frequently with vehicles used in their business. £25-£30 a week is a lot to pay out.

The all day commuters, whom this is presumably this is meant to deter, will simply park in neighbouring streets as was noticeably the case when charges were introduced at the Waitrose car park. Some kind of charge for those who work in the vicinity seems fair enough, as after all, it would have to be paid if they worked nearer the town centre. But unless something that is fair to traders and shoppers can be worked out, it could be self-defeating, and it might be preferable to muddle along as has been the case for years.



TREES ALONG THE WARREN

Members of Warren Residents' Association at their very well attended Annual Meeting, heard John Polnik, the Borough Arboricultural Officer, talking about trees along the Warren. Storms and time have taken their toll and much expensive clearance and replanting needs to be done if the escarpment is to maintain its traditional wooded appearance.

Many of the limes along Upper Warren Avenue are approaching the end of their healthy life. Selective replacement would be prohibitively expensive so replacement in

whole sections is likely. This will, alas, mean that present generations will have to look at gaps along what was a beautiful avenue of trees.

For the residents of this delectable area, life is not all a bed of roses. Throughout the summer months they receive the full volume of the rest of the populace taking its noisy pleasures on the opposite side of the Thames. Amplified announcements from regattas and carnivals, the fun fair, the pop festival, and this year WOMAD, regularly blast their ears. The latter, inexperienced in controlling outside noise, particularly raised their ire, with opinion divided between 'ban the lot' and 'live and let live'. On the whole, an insistence by the Borough that the worst faults should be cleared up is probably the best answer.



WHOOPEES

Lending a more welcome sound to those heard along the river is the evocative 'honk' of the whooper swans, now numbering four. These visitors from northern lochs and inlets seem to mingle in a friendly enough way with the large flock of mute swans, whose numbers have been further augmented by some twenty cygnets, a bit difficult to count as they will keep swimming about.



THE CLOISTERS

An unwelcome plan is one regarding the removal of the condition that the Cloisters, a residential development off Priest Hill, should be for older people only, so that the apartments can be sold on the open market. There is little doubt that the fact that this development was to be for the elderly influenced the granting of planning permission. No sooner, however, was it granted, than an application went in for the removal of the Warden's flat and its substitution with a warning system. This also was granted. As soon as accommodation was nearing completion, up went a notice advertising 'Luxury Apartments for the Active Retired'. This is not quite the idea conjured up by 'accommodation for the elderly'. The application is likely to be refused. Parking space would be inadequate if anyone could go and live there. It could also lead to the floodgates being opened to similar applications across the town where selling difficulties are being experienced.

Perhaps the small rooms and close proximity of the dwellings to each other — a case of cramming as much as possible into the available space — have something to do with the sales resistance.

This was the development where two magnificent copper beeches were subjected to harsh illegal treatment during building operations, which resulted in a court case. One of the trees which suffered severe damage to its root system, is now showing signs of permanent damage. Probably, with damaged roots, it was unable to cope with the drought and high temperatures. Only time will tell whether it can make a recovery.



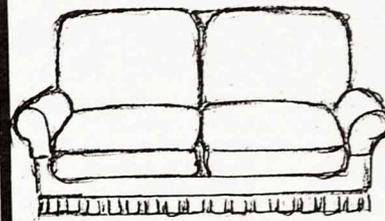
MEMORIAL TO GEORGE

An oak tree was planted in front of the newly restored Mansion House in Prospect Park in memory of George Pigg who was active in the campaign to save it and who died back in the summer. George lived in Caversham for over ten years, coming here in 1915 as a lad of thirteen when his family moved from what was then the remote of Finchampstead where his father kept the village bakery and grocery. He attended St. Peter's parish school, but only for a year, for he then started work at Elliotts, then making aircraft, for it was the First World War. He moved to Tilehurst after his marriage to Elsie who also worked for Elliotts. For the rest of his long life he became known in every organisation in the town that had its aim to the betterment of the conditions in which the human race lives its life. The last days of his life were also spent in Caversham at the Arthur Clarke home. His death was like the closing of an era.

He did not live quite long enough to see the magnificent restoration to the Mansion House that has been carried out. It was a project supported by Caversham Residents' Association as corporate members of Reading Civic Society which spearheaded the campaign for its restoration. Encouraged by this, the Borough Council offered the derelict building to Whitbreads, whose architects have transformed it, with careful reference to its original character, into a restaurant, pub, tea room and conference centre which will be a great asset to the town. Prices are very reasonable and early visit there is recommended. From its high hill you can look across the valley to Caversham, with which it has these links.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES ON ITS WAY TO AFRICA

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

Plans are now in hand to join with other Christians throughout the country in **THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY FROM FRIDAY, 18th TO FRIDAY, 25th JANUARY**. The churches will be open for prayer during the following days or part of the day, and in some cases with particular acts of worship and led devotions.

- Friday, 18th Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Woodcote Road.
- Saturday, 19th St Peter's Church and St Anne's R.C. Church.
- Sunday, 20th Exchange of pulpits at morning service: 6.30pm. United Service at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church.
- Monday, 21st St Barnabas' Church, Emmer Green.
- Tuesday, 22nd St John's Church, Gosbrook Road and St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham.
- Wednesday, 23rd St Andrew's Church, Albert Road and Baptist Free Church.
- Thursday, 24th St Peter's Church and Caversham Park Village Church, meeting at 51, Galsworthy Drive.
- Friday, 25th Gosbrook Road Methodist Church.

Please contact the ministers of the churches if you wish to know more details.

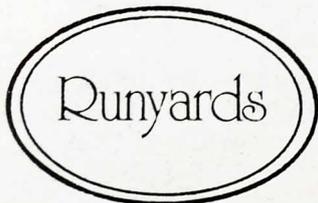
UNITED LENTEN STUDIES

This year Lent begins on **WEDNESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY** and it is hoped that as in the past three years the Churches of Caversham can come together in homes or other meeting places to study God's Word.

Although final details are still not available, it is planned to have a series of five sessions based on our approach to the Decade of Evangelism. Each church will have other meeting places to study God's Word.

THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 6th January (THE EPIPHANY)
3.00pm United Service of Epiphany Praise at **Caversham Park Church**, celebrating anniversary of the signing of the COVENANT, for all Caversham and Mapledurham Christians.



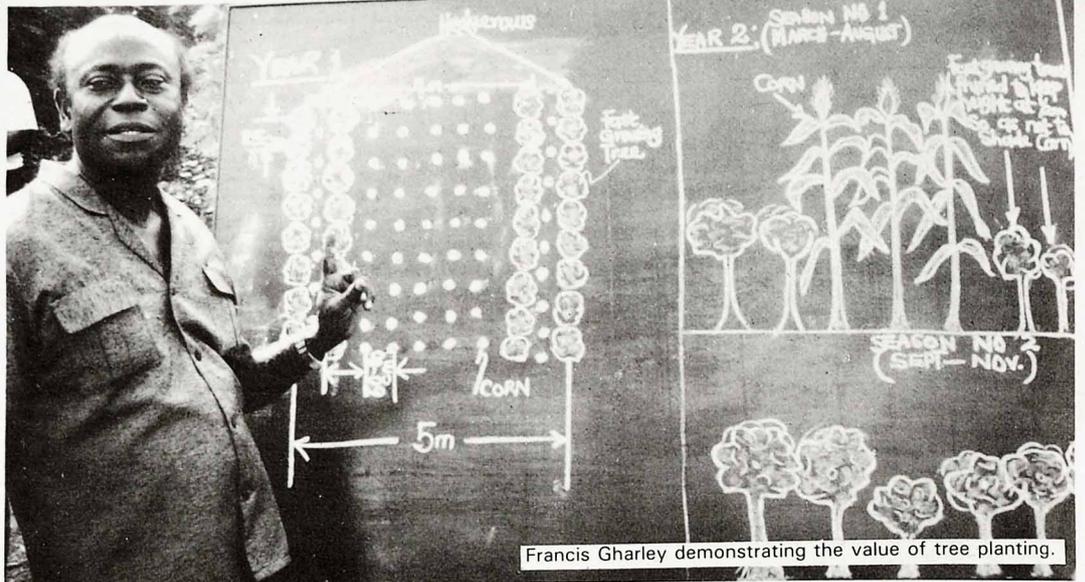
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Francis Gharley demonstrating the value of tree planting.

NOW ON its way in for people who to Africa is \$1700 of scrape an existence help raised by the in the South African Caversham Heights black township of Methodist Church Botshabelo. annual bazaar. Five Six hundred pounds of this will subsidise 25 for the Ivory Coast vegetable producing to train teachers in 'vertical gardens' Junior Churches

which, in a country where political unrest has forced the closure of schools, may be providing the only formal education

which children receive. And, finally, six hundred pounds will enable agriculturists with the Christian Council of Ghana, like

Francis Gharley, to establish demonstration woodlands and persuade sceptical farmers of the benefits of planting trees.

OBITUARY

Miss Joyce Kinchington

MANY READERS of the Caversham Bridge will be saddened to learn of the death of Miss Joyce Kinchington, well known to so many residents of Caversham where she lived, apart from some periods of service abroad, for most of her life.

Joyce was a pupil at Hemdean House and Kendrick Schools, and trained as a children's nurse at the Queen's Hospital for Children in London. In 1941 she changed her career, entering Civil Service and joining the staff of the War Office where she remained until the war was over. She then transferred to the Overseas Development department of the Commonwealth and Foreign Office, a move which led her to take a great interest in aiding the Third World.

A very enthusiastic member of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Joyce served as its treasurer and on two

occasions was appointed National Vice-President.

The wall plaque at Caversham Heights Methodist Church which commemorates the foundation of the hall records that M. J. Kinchington laid one of the bricks on which its structure rose. For these many years Joyce has been a cornerstone of the Church, teaching in the Sunday School, singing in the choir and acting as a secretary or chairman to its committees. For the past ten years she was the much liked and respected secretary of the Caversham Heights Society, of which there are members from most Caversham churches.

As recently as August Joyce enjoyed a visit to the oberammergau Passion Play with a party from her church, but shortly afterwards she became ill and died peacefully in the Sue Ryder home at Nettlebed on November 28th.

THE LINK GROUP

THE LINK Group held its monthly meeting at Anthea Prescott's house on Monday 26th November. Edna Martyn-Johns chaired the meeting.

Vera Scott told Link about her plans for the Christmas Lunch to be held on 13th December for those who attended the tea parties. Twelve to fifteen guests were expected to enjoy a full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Throughout the year at the monthly tea parties these senior citizens have collected money towards a Christmas treat for some of the

many under-privileged children of Reading. This year their money has bought twelve tickets for the pantomime.

The Link Group heard from Suzy Robinson about the hundreds of toys that are collected by the Reading Churches, and other Groups, which are then sorted out by the staff at Katesgrove and delivered to the many children in the area who would otherwise not have a visit from Father Christmas.

Arrangements for the Ecumenical lunch were discussed. The

date for this is February 23rd 1991 at St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, 12 midday - 12.30pm. Tickets are £3.00 and these can be bought from the link Group member at your church or from Veronica Shew (Link Secretary) on Reading 482960. Do come along and enjoy a delicious lunch, meet new friends and listen to Guest Speaker, Mrs Yoder talk about Drug Rehabilitation. It should be a very interesting occasion.

The evening closed after finalising a date for the January meeting.

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IMAGES OF FRANCE

A concert by Pam Chilvers, who is already known throughout the area for her musical evangelism, was given on the 17th November in the Victoria Hall, Blagrove Street to a capacity audience. The pieces were representative of the piano music of the French Impressionist School—Poulenc's "Novelette in C", "Gymnopaedies" 1 & 3 by Satie, "The Submerged Cathedral" and "Reflections in Water" by Debussy. It was a varied programme displaying Pam's versatility and sensitivity on the instrument.

Despite her small figure, the more vigorous pieces were quite as captivating and strong as the more gentle were quietly expressive.

The programme commenced with two contrasting pieces by Grovlez. They were each preceded by a reading in French of the poem upon which the piece was based. Sonya Delamere read and translated the

poems with feeling and scholarship.

The first half of the concert concluded with an amusing piece "Sports and Diversions" by Satie. Richard Line was the narrator and Jeremy Golledge turned the pages with the "smiling and amiable hand" asked for by the composer. Richard delivered with style and polish.

Faure's "Dolly Suite" and Poulenc's "Sonata for Four Hands" involved both Pam and Richard on the piano.

April 26/27 1991 will bring the group back to the same venue with the artist Martin Beek, who has spent a considerable amount of time travelling and working in the New World. This time the theme is IMAGES OF AMERICA. This will be a multi-media event featuring piano music, readings and paintings that capture the unique vitality of North America.

If you wish to know any further details—please phone Sonya, Reading 484398.

THE CORN IS GREEN

The Corn is Green, which the Caversham Theatre presented in November, tells of how Miss Moffat, 'a healthy, unsentimental English-woman of unbounded energy', to use Emlyn Williams' description of her, inherits a house in a remote part of Wales, sets up a school for young mining lads and discovers in one of them, Morgan Evans, genius which she successfully grooms for admission to Oxford University.

portrayal of Mrs Watty, Miss Moffat's cockney servant, and by her daughter Bessie, whose development in two years from a gauche fourteen-year-old, whimpering for her 'sweeties', to a sixteen-year-old pert minx was splendidly managed by Kathy Munns.

Martin Leckie was a convincing Morgan, making the most of his dramatic opportunities, whilst Jackie gave Miss Moffat the driving self assurance which the character demanded. Tony Hales, coached in Welsh by Carol Roberts, was at ease in the part of Mr John Goronwy Jones, and Peter Ludlow did his best with the caricature of a squire. Alastair Fee, Paul Bentley and Helen Garforth, playing lads from the mine, had achieved remarkable fluency in Welsh also, and there was good support from Penny Mason, Julia Marshall and Emyr Roberts in none too rewarding parts.

It is difficult to realise that the action is set in the latter part of the last century when so much of Emlyn Williams' dialogue has the flavour of the 'thirties', when the play was written. It is described as a comedy, so perhaps one should not enquire too closely how the mine comes to be in the hands of a caricature of an English squire who comes out with such gems as 'By Jingo, so you did!' Deuced fine breakfast. . .

It must have been tempting to Bob Green, who produced the play, to 'send it up'. He resisted it, however, conscious that the play has, or at least had, 'a message', and that it has some telling moments, such as when Morgan describes to Miss Moffat his elation on first visiting Oxford. But even played straight the comedy of character is there: indeed the show was stolen by Janet Ward's colourful

REQUIEM REVIEW

A large congregation was presented at St John's, Gosbrook Road, for a Solemn Requiem to mark Remembrance Sunday evening on 11th November. This fine Victorian church was the perfect setting for the service, which took the form of High Mass, celebrated in traditional style from the High Altar, now rarely used, by the Vicar, Dr Alan Wilson, assisted by the Revd David Hastings as Deacon and the Revd Christine Allsopp as Sub-Deacon.

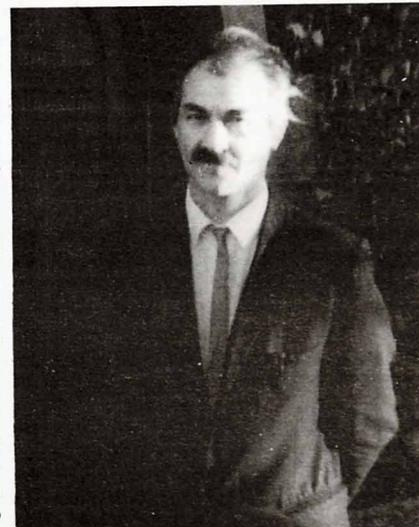
The service was sung by the choir of St John's, with a little help from some friends, to a new setting of the Requiem text, composed for soprano and alto voices, by St John's Director of Music, Len David. It is worth noting that this is Len's first attempt at composing a work of this scale, and he is to be congratulated on producing a setting of the Requiem which brings out his sensitivity to the Liturgy. Having had one public performance, Len David would be the first to admit that his Requiem is far from

complete and a few alterations are necessary, and it would be grossly unfair to attempt to analyse each movement in detail at this stage. However, in general, this work shows great potential; it is pleasant to the ear, and captures the mood of the words throughout, particularly in the Kyries and Agnus Dei, both movements possessing a certain ethereal and plaintive quality, and the choir and soloists are to be congratulated for bringing out these qualities in a very thoughtful, well prepared and polished performance.

together with organist David Sidwell, whose sensitive accompaniment was a joy to listen to, as was trumpeter Lorraine Jarvis's part in the "Liberate me" and "In Paradisum."

It is hoped that this Requiem will be performed again in the new year, both at Reading Minster and possibly at St Peter's Caversham, when hopefully, those unable to come to St John's will be able to enjoy this feast of good music by a most promising local composer.

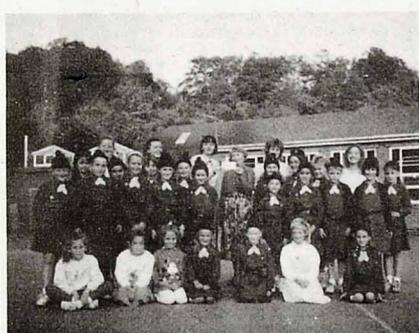
A. Bosley



Len David

E.S. Archer

St. Peter's Brownies



St Peter's Brownies, not a bit hoarse, handing over a cheque to Mrs Buchan of the RSPCA after their sponsored sing. A total of £410 was raised. The Brownies would like to thank, through this paper, all those kind people who sponsored them. Well done!

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BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE THAMES VALLEY

For their next production, which will take place in St Anne's on January 31st and February 1st and 2nd, the Caversham Theatre has selected the relatively unknown play by J. B. Priestley, 'Mr Kettle and Mrs Moon'—an enterprising choice for which they deserve good audience support.

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BLACK CHIFFON

by
The Caversham Players

THE PLAY Black Chiffon by Leslie Storm relies on the maintaining of suspense and this was well achieved by the Caversham Players in their autumn production at St. Andrews Hall in November. Considerable thought had been lavished on the set which portrayed the comfortable life-style of a fairly well-to-do family in the year 1949. There was a glimpse through the two elongated windows at the back of Chelsea Embankment, the subject of a painting hung over the fireplace by John Brissing a name of significance in the play.

Ann Piper as the married daughter Thea Christie, moved throughout with the cumbersome heaviness associated with well advanced pregnancy. While displaying her concern for her mother she refrained from overdo-

ing the tearful passages making her sincerity all the more poignant. Her brother Roy Christie played by Chris Locke, appeared somewhat gauche in the first scene but he gained poise as the play progressed and rose manfully to the trauma of the last scene. Less crumpled casual wear might have been more in keeping with the raiment worn by the son of the house before his beloved and his one ostentatious moment in the dashing dressing gown could have been given more prominence.

By far the most difficult and demanding part was played by Sheila Hodson as the harassed wife, Alicia Christie. Word perfect throughout with variety of tone befitting the occasion she gave the impression of being totally in command despite her conflicting emotions and desire to save her son from em-

barrassment over the theft of the black chiffon nightdress with all its implications. She could perhaps have become a little flustered over Dr Hawkins' announcement that John Brissing had been dead ten years. She was immaculately dressed throughout apart from the dark blue hat perched like a dead crow on her attractive hair for her court appearance.

Charles Croft as Robert Christie rose magnificently to the changes he had to make in conveying vexation, hurt pride, bewilderment and an inability to escape from conventional attitudes. Just occasionally he appeared to be too nice a person underneath and there was hope for him in the end, his despair alleviated by the suggestion of a reconciliation with his son.

Jim McClure as Dr Hawkins oozed re-

assurance and concern for his client Alicia Christie from the moment of his entrance. His air of dependability, common sense and reluctant acceptance of the sacrifice Alicia was to make, came over in a performance free of gestures and unnecessary moves.

It was evident he considered her plea of guilty would result in a prison sentence and his admiration for her self sacrifice was expressed in restrained fashion. It was a faultless performance.

Louise Fletcher as the young bride-to-be was played by Louise Mander with just the right combination of suppressed excitement

and adoration for her young fiance. After delivering the statement that she had been wearing a black chiffon nightdress when she was visited in the night by Alicia she could have paused for the shock to register — it was after all what all the fuss was about!

Nanny in thick lisle stockings and flat heeled shoes was convincingly played with a suitable amount of restraint as the faithful retainer by Marion Thwaite.

Placing father and son and daughter together on the settee in the final scene gave the impression of a united trinity about to hold its head up against the harsh criticism and the barbs they would encounter while Alicia serves her prison sentence. A fitting finale to a good play well directed by Jessica Gilbert.

E.M.F.

READING ACCESS OFFICER JOINS CAVERSHAM CLUB

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Caversham gather round to welcome Neil Kirk after his initiation into the Club by President Jim Hancock (Seated right).

Neil Kirk (41) is Access Officer to the Reading Borough Council, being responsible for seeing that all building plans cater for the needs of the disabled.

He studied at the Hull School of Architecture, then joined the R.A.F. and gained his wings eventually returning to civilian life and qualified as an architect at the North London Polytechnic. Diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis in 1975 he has been in a

wheel chair since 1976.

Neil Kirk moved to Reading in 1980 and designed and moved into his own house to suit his needs. He set up his own practice and was appointed Access of-

ficer to Reading Borough Council in 1987.

Married, he lives with his wife Murial and daughter Katrina at Great Lea Common, Three Mile Cross, Reading.

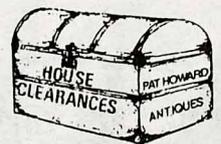


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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

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Prospect Street

It has changed a lot in recent years. One wonders if we rally need so many take-aways and I must say I chortle when I read adverts saying that there is a good car park in Chester Street. Have you ever tried to park there? It's officially called a Shopper's Car Park — surely it's time it was renamed Commuters only Car Park.

Hairdressers

It doesn't seem long ago that we were welcoming Pauline as the new owner of Suzette Renee, hairdresser. Now, alas, Pauline has had to

give up as she hopes before too long to be moving from the district. She has given us good service for many years and it will be sad not to see her around any more.

But all is not lost. Barbara Butler, who has worked in local hairdressers for many years, will have taken over by the time you read this. Now, trading under the new name of 'B.B.'s, and with the assistance of Wendy and the young trainees, Fiona and Claire, the business will continue as the happy establishment it already is. Barbara and Wendy are great, not only at hairdressing but at making everyone feel welcome and bringing a lot of fun into the place. If you don't already have a hairdresser and heaven forbid I should entice anyone away if they are already settled — why not give it a try?

Flowers and Snooker

Another bit of news which delighted me is

that Pat Taylor, our very friendly and helpful florist, has been asked to arrange the floral displays for the snooker at the Cafe Royale in London in December. It is a new venture for her, though many will be familiar with her displays at the Hexagon, so it is nice to hear that her fame has spread further afield. With the assistance of her girls who do their very best to help customers, her shop is one of the brighter spots in the area.

Residents' Association

Recently I was sad, and perhaps a bit annoyed, to hear somebody remark that "the Residents Association has let us down". Mind you, one can understand in a way since the gentleman in question and his family have been subject to the most appalling hassle over a particularly nasty piece of development. But it's not fair to blame the Residents Association who did all they could to help.

One must remember that the Association, like the UN, has no teeth and cannot force the local Authority to do anything. They do, however, have an enormous influence locally and on the whole there is a great deal of friendly cooperation between the local Authority and the Association, so it is well worth joining. The Caversham Association charges a mere £2 per household for three years; they are able to do this as all the work is done voluntarily, one committee member spending hours every week at the Planning Office, checking planning applications, while the Secretary is dealing with the plethora of problems that affect the people of Caversham.

And it must be remembered that both Caversham and Emmer Green Residents Associations did all the spade work in the fight against the Bugs

Bottom development, until the Bugs Bottom Action Group came along to take this particular problem off their hands to a large extent.

PETER KIFT

Those of us who work and write for the 'Bridge' are a close-knit group as it were, so it was with sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Peter Kift, brother of our well known contributor, Mary.

As he worked in London as a stockbroker, we did not always see a lot of Peter but it was always nice to see him when he was able to get to church with Mary. He was a keen fly-fisherman and spent most of his holidays out of the district, but he and Mary came from a very old Caversham family. They were very close, so it must have been a great shock for Mary and we do sincerely offer her our deepest sympathy at this time.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

ANOTHER interesting lunch time was passed at Caversham Library when Roy Burgess, Senior Youth and Community worker, talked about his work in Caversham. A Christian family man with children of 7, 12 and 15, he was an admirable choice to do

work where his faith could play its part. This he does not push, but the cross worn on his ties shows that he is more than willing to stand up and be counted.

Roy Burgess has been connected with youth work for more than 20 years, starting in his own

church. He is responsible for youth work in the whole Caversham area and is based at the Milestone Centre. He oversees the Emmer Green Youth Club's activities and meets up with all sorts outside clubhouses; wherever the young congregate, he tries to be there. He has close relationships with Highdown school.

He sees his job in a dual role; developing youth work and liaising with the community. At the Milestone Centre he has senior and junior clubs, has a Duke of Edinburgh award scheme going (and is desperate for helpers) and a girls' work night. He is endeavouring to integrate those with special needs, and told of early problems of a girl in a wheelchair, suffering from cerebral palsy and with great difficulty in being understood.

Although he and his staff were doubtful whether to admit her, she now has been welcomed and joins in as much as possible with trampolining, discos etc. From this and other instances — a Downs Syndrome sufferer has recently joined — Roy Burgess has the impression that WE are the handicapped.

self discipline and stability. Roy Burgess keeps them involved. He himself tries to work with parents of difficult children — no easy task. He is to be congratulated and encouraged in his work.

Thanks to all the library staff for organising these occasions which endeavour to show more fully what Caversham has to offer.

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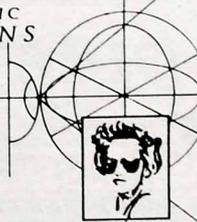
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Caversham Community Association

MR. WALTER DICKSON, the manager of the Haberdashery department at Heelas department store in Reading, was the speaker on the 5th November. Mr. Dickson had some interesting stories to relate of the early days of the haberdasher and was ready to give good advice on purchasing articles that are available today. On display, for the members' perusal, was a selection of haberdashery from Heelas, including some unusual items such as needles that were easy to thread. At the end of the evening Mrs. Feast, the Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Mr. Dickson for his informative and helpful talk. During the refreshment break Mrs. Evelyn Cook was in charge of the Nearly New stall.

On the 12th November, a Mini-Bazaar took place for the members. There was also a suitcase sale when, for a small fee, any member could sell their unwanted goods. Many useful articles exchanged hands and some good bargains were obtained by the eager customers.

The following week everyone was ready to hear the latest information on the Oracle development in Reading from Ian McCauley, the Oracle Project Manager, from Reading Borough Council. Mr. McCauley showed slide films of the plans of the 12 acre site, which is ringed by Mill Lane and Bridge Street and divided by the River Kennet. During his talk Mr. McCauley explained in detail that arcades and walkways, leading to the many shops, a leisure centre and carefully planned riverside walks, with restaurants alongside, will be provided. Assisted by Mark Thackeray, the Development Control Manager, Mr. McCauley was ready to answer questions from the members when he had described the plans. Many members were keen to make suggestions and query various points, so the two council officials had a busy time. Finally, Mrs Beryl Latcham, the Secretary,

brought the meeting to a close by thanking Mr. McCauley and Mr. Thackeray for a most interesting evening.

Barbara Kay made a second visit to the club on the 26th November, this time to demonstrate Christmas decorations. The members were asked to bring candles and artificial flowers etc., to make their own arrangements, but various items were available to purchase if required. By the end of the evening many attractive decorations had been made, thanks to Mrs. Kay's helpful instructions.

Caversham Heights T.G.

MRS M SUTHERLAND, who is well-known for her interest in needlework, said that embroidery was always acceptable to ladies of all classes in her talk at Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild in St Andrew's hall in November, and defined it as ornamentation of fabric with needle and thread. She said that a knowledge of it in former days would have meant that a skivvy's work in the kitchen could be exchanged for that of looking after a lady's linen.

There was a wonderful era of embroidery in the British Isles in the thirteenth century, designed and brought to an end by the Plague. The embroidery displayed on copes used by the clergy in churches showed symbols which could be understood by the illiterate congregation. In Tudor times business was sometimes conducted from bed, so bed hangings might be pleasingly ornamented. Slides which gave glimpses of beautiful embroidery were shown, including some "Opus Anglicanum" from the thirteenth century. Examples of work done by Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth of Shrewsbury are to be found at Hardwick Hall, where Elizabeth lived. Embroidery follows a social development, Mrs Sutherland said. The art almost vanished, but in Walthamstow after

Chazey W.I.

FOR THEIR November meeting Chazey W.I. had Sergeant Markland of Thames Valley Police Marine Section as their speaker. He gave an insight into the workings of the River Patrols and their types of boats, but more importantly, covered the activities of the Diving Team of which he is the Officer in Charge. The Sergeant showed all the apparatus used at the meeting.

Turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

From page 10

worn by a diver, gave details of his extensive training, and showed slides of the team at work.

The President gave a report on the Autumn Council Meeting and told members that Chazey came ninth in the planned walk competition.

The evening's raffle winner was Liz Nealon and the Christmas card competition was won by Helen Hudson whose patchwork card was a very worthy winner.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

AT THE November meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild Miss Titchener of Johnson Matthey came to talk about the use of precious metals in the home. She began by giving a brief history of their building at Sonning Common and showed slides of the beautiful grounds. There has been a

house on the site since 1400 although the present one dates from around 1700, and at one time the Peel family were resident there.

Miss Titchener spoke on the many varied uses of platinum, seventy-five per cent of the world's supply comes from South Africa and it is the most expensive of the precious metals. It is used in catalytic converters for cars and for coating spark plugs, also in the treatment of cancer, the making of electricity, being noiseless and pollution free although extremely expensive and of course in jewellery. Gold and silver mines are more plentiful and spread throughout the world. Gold does not corrode and is very malleable. A three inch cube, when converted to a gold leaf, would cover about an acre and one ounce of gold would produce about forty five miles of gold wire. There are many familiar uses of gold in the home as well as jewellery and the decoration of glass and china, namely in dentistry, medicine and for coffee filters to show the variety. Silver too is widely used in the home building at Sonning Common and showned slides of the beautiful grounds. There are very many more items using these metals either in

their familiar state or in the manufacturing processes.

The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Hutchinson and the flowers were received by Mrs Stickbells. Guild members responsible for arranging the birthday party were heartily thanked for a splendid evening and for all their hard work. The Arts and Crafts, Social Studies and Rambling groups continue to go from strength to strength and are greatly enjoyed.

Caversham W.I.

'COMMUNITY POLICING IN CAVERSHAM' was the subject of a most interesting talk given by P.C. Michael Todd at the November meeting of the Caversham W.I. P.C. Todd has been 'on the beat' in Caversham for the last five years. He accompanied his talk with the video "On the Safe Side", which highlighted the common methods used by thieves on unsuspecting households.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs S. Taylor, and arrangements were made for the Christmas dinner and party. The competition was for a Christmas table decoration.

Maplewood W.I.

AT THE November Meeting the Speaker was Mrs Eileen Byner whose subject "I know what I like — Modern Art" was illustrated with slides.

There was a colourful collection of spoonbills, cor-thirty-six Christmas Parcels for the Caversham old people's luncheon club Christmas party. The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs V. Housedon. The display of Victoriana at the

Autumn Group Meeting was very impressive and Mr K. Sands' talk on the early days of the Music Hall was much enjoyed.

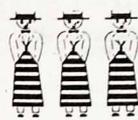
At the Autumn Council Meeting members heard that £3000 had been raised for children's charities at the W.I.'s seventy-fifth Birthday celebrations held throughout Berkshire. The profit of £1072 from the Spring Bulbs went to the W.I. House Fund. The Speaker at this meeting was Mr Preston Lockwood, Radio and Television Personality who used to play Denis the Dachshund in "Toytown" series on Radio Children's Hour.

Caversham Ladies Club

THE MEETING was opened by Mrs Harwood, Chairman, who welcomed the members present. She then reminded them of the Christmas lunch in December and also that the next meeting was their Christmas lunch. She then introduced Mr Taylor of Caversham who was going to talk and show slides of East Africa; very soon there were breathtaking views of Lake Nakuru on the screen with wonderful formations of clouds above it. Lake Nakuru is one of the largest lakes in the world. In the past it was dreadfully polluted, but thanks to World Wild Life it was now a beautiful sanctuary for more than a million flamingos, and many many other birds. Members were shown slides of spoonbills, cor-morants on tree branches, different from ones in this country. At weekends there would be two to four hundred great white pelicans and green-backs, herons, kingfishers (over there they are only the size of the wrens

in this country), sacred Ibis, python and a crocodile. Mr Taylor said a crocodile keeps his mouth wide open for hours to trap birds and insects. Crocs cannot chew, hence the open mouth temptation — then snap. The python, as long as its tail is held high above ground is unable to attack. Members all agreed they would take Mr Taylor's word for it but they preferred seeing it on screen! Finally slides of an African tribes were shown. Members gasped when they saw pictures of the women with enormous articles attached to their ears in order to bring them nearly to their shoulders. Their arms were very swollen through wearing tight bangles on their upper arms, but all looked so happy that perhaps they are immune to the pain on reaching adulthood. The men had wonderful earrings and large collar necklaces made from bright coloured beads. There was a large murmur of regret when Mr Taylor brought his exciting show to an end, but time had caught up rapidly. It was a very entertaining afternoon and Mr Taylor was warmly thanked by all present.

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