

# A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE?

A MAJOR planning application, involving the largest single area of land in Caversham since Caversham Park Village was built in the 1960s, has been unveiled by Redland Properties.

The Caversham Lakes proposal will transform the gravel pit off Henley Road into a landscaped water-side park open to the public.

Covering an area similar in size to London's Hyde Park, the scheme will have major benefits for public amenity, leisure, nature conservation, employment, housing and transportation in Greater Reading and South Oxfordshire.

Most of the site is in South Oxfordshire district with a small, wooded area lying in Reading Borough. A planning application and environmental assessment has been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council, Reading Borough Council and also Wokingham District Council where the bridge joins south of the Thames.

In the opinion of Redlands' Dick Chenery: "Caversham Lakes will be an enormous environmental asset for the area as a whole. It gives to the public a water landscape of great scenic ecological value as well as helping relieve Reading's traffic problems with the construction of a new Thames Bridge."

Improvements would be made to existing roads to assist traffic flow away from the site and approach roads to the bridge would be constructed to connect with Berkshire County Council's proposed second stage of the Reading Cross Town Route.

It is forecast that in the Reading urban area the traffic relief provided by the bridge would lead to overall savings in delays at junctions of some 15 percent in the morning rush hour and 32 percent in the evening. Sonning village would

benefit by an estimated 25 percent reduction in rush hour traffic movements.

The traffic flow changes would not prejudice Berkshire's plans for improved public transport services. In addition, as part of this development, it is proposed that minibuses will operate a shuttle service between Reading centre, Reading railway station and the business park, facilitating interchange with other local bus services and improving the accessibility of the site to rail travellers.

#### The Site

Caversham Lakes will occupy Redland Aggregates' 350 acre Caversham site on the north bank of the River Thames where mineral extraction will soon be exhausted. It currently accommodates a private marina and boating club which will remain, but the site as a whole has not previously been accessible to the general public.

#### New Road and Bridge

Reading's two Thames crossings to Caversham have long been inadequate for current traffic volumes and drivers trying to avoid Reading congestion by using the bridge downstream at Sonning have spread the problem. It is forecast that provision of a new bridge would contribute significant relief for Reading itself and Sonning village would benefit by an estimated 25 percent reduction in rush hour traffic movements.

As part of its infrastructure measures, Redland proposes a dual carriageway road from the Thames Valley Business Park, crossing the river on a new Thames bridge to serve the Caversham lakes scheme, reducing to single carriageway and joining Henley Road to the north of the site. The new bridge would do much to improve traffic conditions on the approaches to the

town centre and will be designed, with advice from the Royal Fine Arts Commission, as an elegant, low level structure, discreetly adding to the river view.

Mr Chenery observed "The demand for a new bridge has been spoken of for years and certainly local traffic problems may well have discouraged new businesses from coming to the area. There are many precedents for private enterprise contributing to public services - the A329M extension is one local example - and we believe that this scheme, taken in its entirety, will prove of benefit to a wide range of interests."

#### New Public Amenity

Under the plan, 275 acres of the site will be opened up to public access as a country park and nature reserve, thoughtfully enhanced and managed to attract a wide variety of wildlife and to provide an equally attractive educational and recreational resource for local people. "The park will be a joy to be in," said Michael Aukett, of Aukett Ltd, architects and landscape consultants for the scheme.

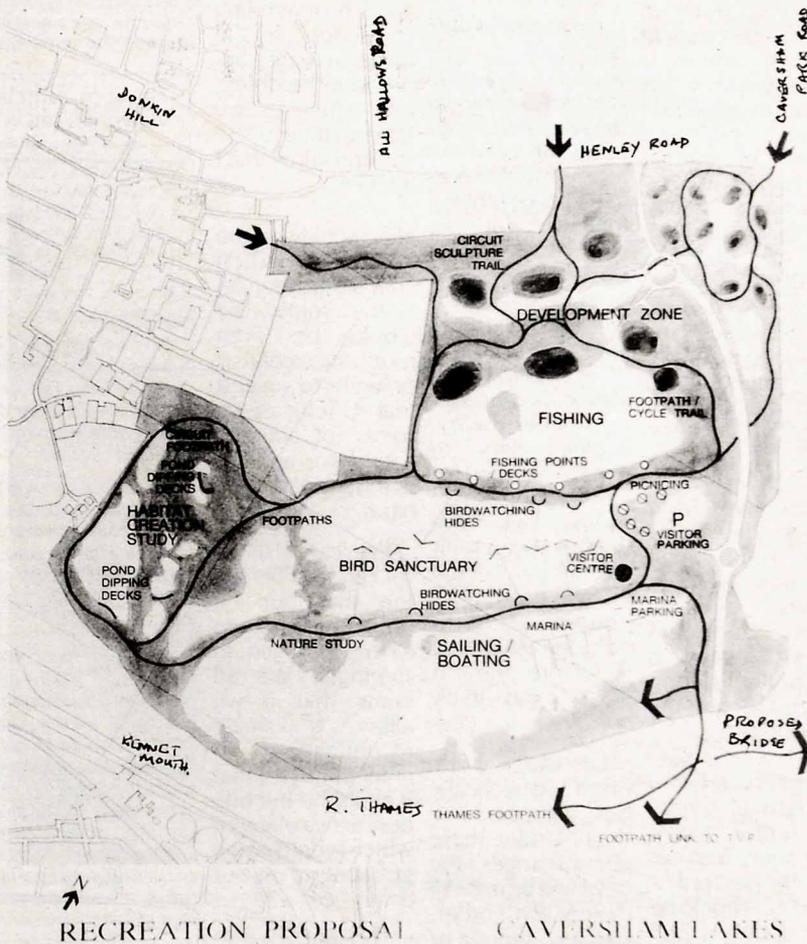
The existing ecology of the site will be carefully conserved. But substantial further environmental enhancement measures are fundamental to the scheme. These include re-contouring the lake and land area to form islands, shallows, ponds, and swamps which will help create a wider diversity of habitats to encourage many different species. The proposals include a field study centre and bird watching hides.

Those with a more casual interest in nature are well catered for with an extensive network of footpaths providing waterside and woodland walks.

The southern part of

Following earlier exhibitions, two further exhibitions, including a detailed model of the scheme, will be staged at two venues in Caversham in April.

They will be on Wednesday, April 17, at Mapledurham Pavilion, Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham Heights, from 3pm until 8pm and on Thursday, April 18 at the Milestone Centre's Youth Wing, Northbrook Road, Caversham Park Village, again from 3pm until 8pm.



A third Thames bridge would dramatically reduce peak hour congestion on both Caversham Bridge (here) and Reading Bridge.

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# TALKING POINT

by the  
**Rev. W. B. CARPENTER**  
Vicar, St. Andrew's



# LOOKING BACK

I WAS sitting in an armchair in a fairly strung up frame of mind, when I caught sight of a photograph of myself taken when I was eighteen months old (signed by Marcus Adams, don't you know). I've just celebrated my 77th birthday, about to have my fifth tooth crowned, and been told by my doctor to knock off a few pounds and keep off saturated fat.

We all look back on our lives from time to time, don't we? The happy memories, some sadness perhaps. The summers always seemed to be hotter during childhood, and the days longer.

It is easy to be introspective. If only this, if only that. If only my aunty had not had to go into a home.... I should be rich! If only I had taken that job.... money for old rope! If only the kids had been sent to that school.... they wouldn't have seemed as dim as they do now, may even had gone to university.

Heck! if only I had known, when the photograph was

taken, what I do now!

It may sound silly, but there is one useful function (besides nostalgia) in looking back over one's life now and again, and that is as a means of looking forward. We can see, if we are positive and truthful, how there will have been times when certain doors have closed, for instance a redundancy, in order to allow another door to open. A new and exciting job, less pay maybe, but more time to spend with the family. To see this we have to be honest with ourselves. We have to ignore the "if onlys" and think positive.

Life can be humdrum and hectically busy all at the same time. Under these circumstances the devil will be in there in very short order. He can offer one or more of a number of temptations.

Firstly, he could tell us we are far too busy to sit down and be quiet, but that is not subtle. The devil is clever enough to know that we would not fall for that one. We all know that we need time to relax.

He is much more likely to lead us astray by reminding us about all the things we are supposed to be doing, and telling us we have no time to "Be still and know that I am God".

He can play on the apathy which comes from routine. With some he would be even more successful if he were to suggest that so long as we were not actually "anti" we are not doing any particular harm.

We can also be tricked into believing that our "if onlys" are a luxury, to be indulged in sparingly. We all know that if we allow a single recrimination to enter our lives, that it could be the one destructive element which would come to haunt us on our death-bed.

This lent, if we do nothing else, let us see if we can carefully work out how a merciful God has brought us, in spite of some devastating setbacks perhaps, to where we are now. We should then be more prepared and able to be guided by him in the time we have left.

## A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

From Page 1

the site, focused on the existing marina, will continue to provide scope for boating and other quiet, water-based activities.

### Business and employment

To enable the environmental enhancement to proceed, and to help finance the associated highway proposals, the Caversham Lakes Scheme includes provision for business and residential use on 75 acres, about one fifth of the total site area.

The scheme proposes 750,000 sq ft of business space within a separate commercial zone in the northeast

part of the site. The buildings and surrounding landscaped areas would be of the highest architectural quality, designed to a low density on 55 acres and creating an attractive working environment for about 2,500 people.

### Housing

The adjacent residential area covers 20 acres. Designed to reduce pressure on existing housing stock in South Oxfordshire and surrounding districts, it makes provision for approximately 200 homes in a quiet, waterside location. Separate vehicular access to this area of Caversham Lakes will ensure that there is no physical link between

the housing, business and country park areas.

flood plan for the river between Mapledurham and Shiplake.

### Flood Alleviation

Caversham Lakes lies within the Thames flood plain and the site is of strategic importance in the control and accommodation of floodwater. Redland's hydrological consultants have proposed a scheme which will preserve the site's flood control function, allowing the artificial storage of flood water displaced from the development area.

This technical solution, which is fully compatible with the site's ecology, has been formulated following discussions with the National Rivers Authority and will form part of a strategic

### Phasing

If planning permission were forthcoming in early 1992, the first part of the business development could be completed during 1995, after completion of the highways infrastructure. The entire development is unlikely to be completed until the end of this decade or possibly early into the 21st century.

It is envisaged that the business park will be built in several phases, the first phase being occupied only when the link road and Third River Crossing are in place. The housing units will be constructed independently.

The above article presents the plans and views of the developers. For a different viewpoint see Watchdog's comments on page 8.

# POST BAG

Dear Editors,

Very many thanks for the superb spread on Feed the Children in the February issue. I really didn't expect front page treatment - you have done us proud.

I am sure that we will get a good response from your readers, both in terms of tins of fruit and other goods and also offers of help that we will accept with much gratitude.

We now have our warehouse - it is the old research and development building at Huntley and Palmers, Gasworks Road. We have three thousand square feet (about the size of two tennis courts) at a nominal rental from Reading Borough Council and I am currently busy fitting it out with donated racking.

We anticipate our work will increase considerably in the coming months. We are about to take on commitments in Bulgaria, where there is also much poverty, no fuel, and serious health problems caused by the Chernobyl incident. I'll report on this later. The authorities in Albania are also making facilities available for our field worker to visit there and I anticipate we'll be

trucking goods there within three months. It is likely that we will be the first Western relief agency to operate there.

Again, many thanks for the publicity. I'll keep in touch.

Yours etc  
Peter Annereau,  
Procurement Support

Feed the Children  
23 Prospect Street,  
Caversham

Dear Editors,  
Melody Radio  
- 104.9FM

In the autumn of last year readers may recall seeing commercials on ITV for the above new radio station which broadcasts for twenty-four hours each day, seven days a week. Long ago I decided never to be persuaded by any commercial shown in TV.

However, on visiting my barber in Gosbrook Road one day for the monthly trim I was surprised to find that he was not playing his tapes of the Big Bands, such as Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, etc (both my barber and myself being Big Band buffs). Instead I listened to a superb programme of golden oldies and not so oldies of both Vocals and Orchestras. When I enquired what was the tape he was playing he told me it was the new Melody Radio station.

This prompted me on my return home to tune in my radio to this new station, and I have been listening to it on and off ever since.

Why do I find this station so popular? Firstly because it plays the kind of music I like - the Vocals and Orchestras of the thirties, forties, fifties and sixties. Secondly because there is no DJ chitchat - simply the announcement of the records played after every four or five records. Thirdly the news headlines are given every hour on the hour, and fourthly there are

only one or two short adverts in each hour.

The music is sweet and melodious with none of the modern pop - in short it is easy listening, especially for the older members of the community.

Yours etc,  
Pete Littlewood  
11 Moss Close  
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The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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All contributions for April issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 6 March.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 4 March.

The dates for May will be Monday 1 April and Wednesday 3 April.

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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# SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

## ANGLICAN

### St Peter's

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 8.00am — Holy Communion  
 9.15am — Procession of Palms from Caversham Court gardens (meet 9.10am)  
 11.15am — Morning Prayer  
 3.30pm — Half hour service for children under twelve  
 6.30pm — Evensong
- Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th**  
 7.00pm — Holy Communion
- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 9.30am — Holy Communion  
 8.00pm — Sung Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar and all night candlelit Vigil in church ending on
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 8.00am — Holy Communion  
 12noon-  
 3.00pm — Three hours' Devotion led by Canon Colin Semper
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 8.00am — Holy Communion  
 9.15am — Holy Communion (sung)  
 11.15am — Morning Prayer  
 6.30am — Easter Praise

### St John's

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 8.00am — Holy Communion (1662)  
 9.15am — Parish Communion (Parade)  
 11.00am — Family Worship/Activities  
 6.30pm — Christian Passover meal
- 25th March — Monday**  
 8.00pm — Eucharist and address  
 Mary — Offering
- 26th March — Tuesday**  
 2.30pm — MU Service in Church  
 8.00pm — Eucharist and address  
 Peter — Denying
- 27th March — Wednesday**  
 8.00pm — Eucharist and address  
 Judas — Betraying
- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 8.00pm — Liturgy of the Day (Concelebrated) Remembering followed by watch to midnight
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 12.00 noon — 3 Hours Service
- 30th March — HOLY SATURDAY**  
 8.00pm — Service of Light, Baptism, and First Eucharist of Easter
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 8.00am — Holy Communion (1662)  
 10.00am — Family Eucharist  
 6.30pm — Informal Prayer & Praise in Church  
 There will be a Eucharist in Church at 12.00 noon on every day in Easter Week

### St Andrew's

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 8.00am — Eucharist & distribution of palms  
 9.15am — Family Eucharist (Sung) & distribution of palms  
 11.15am — Eucharist & distribution of palms  
 6.30pm — Evensong
- Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th**  
 8.00pm — Eucharist with address led by Fr. Damian Garwood CR
- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 8.00pm — Sung Eucharist, Washing of Feet.  
 Preacher — Fr. Damian Garwood
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 9.30am — Good Friday Liturgy, Adoration of the Cross  
 11.00am — Children's Service
- 30th March — EASTER EVE**  
 8.30pm — Easter Vigil and Service of Light (incense)
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 8.00am — Eucharist  
 9.15am — Family Eucharist  
 11.15am — Eucharist  
 6.30pm — Evensong

### St Barnabas

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 8.00am — Communion 1662  
 9.30am — PALM PROCESSION & PARISH COMMUNION Starting in the hall.  
 4.30pm — Evensong and address.
- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 7.30pm — THE LAST SUPPER  
 Communion in the context of a meal, followed by the WATCH in church until midnight.
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 2.00pm — PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS (no communion)
- 30th March — HOLY SATURDAY**  
 9.00pm — Waiting for the Risen Christ. (Readings from the vigil).
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 8.00am — Communion 1662  
 9.30am — EASTER SERVICE (The services of Light, Baptism & Communion)  
 4.30pm — SUNG EVENSONG & EASTER PRAISE

### St Margaret's

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 11.00am — Eucharist and distribution of palms
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 9.30am — Meditations and Devotions on the Cross
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 11.00am — Sung Eucharist

### Caversham Park Church

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 11.00am — at the Milestone Centre  
 11.15am — at Caversham Park School
- 25th March — Monday**  
 8.00pm — Easter Meditation — 51 Galsworthy Drive
- 26th March — Tuesday**  
 8.00pm — Easter Meditation — 51 Galsworthy Drive
- 27th March — Wednesday**  
 10.30am — Communion and Easter Meditation — at 6 Eynsford Close
- 28th March — Thursday**  
 8.00pm — Passover Celebrations in homes around the village
- 29th March — Friday**  
 2.00pm-  
 3.00pm — 'And with his stripes . . .' (All age activity)  
 8.00pm-  
 9.00pm — 'And with his stripes . . .' (Meditation) at 51 Galsworthy Drive
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 11.00am — Easter Celebration and Holy Communion.  
 Full details of the venues and themes can be obtained from the Minister at 51 Galsworthy Drive (475152).

## FREE CHURCHES

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 11.00am — Presentation of the Musical — "Jerusalem Joy" with distribution of the Palm Sunday crosses
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 10.30am — United Service at the Caversham Free Baptist Church
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 8.30am — Holy Communion  
 9.30am — Church Breakfast  
 11.00am — Family Worship with Holy Communion  
 6.30pm — Evening Worship

### Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 8.00pm — United Service at St John's
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 10.30am — United Service at Caversham Baptist Church
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 11.00am — Morning Service — The Rev. John Boakes  
 6.30pm — Evening Service — The Rev. Bill Mason

### Caversham Baptist Free Church

- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 10.30am — Mr Graham Coldman  
 6.30pm — Rev. Dennis Weller
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 10.30am — United Service — Welcome to Caversham Methodists  
 Preacher: Rev Keith Sanders
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 10.30am — Rev Dennis Weller  
 6.30pm — Rev Dennis Weller

### St. Paul's United Reformed Church

- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 9.30am — Good Friday Service
- 31st March — EASTER SUNDAY**  
 11.00am — Festival Service and Holy Communion  
 6.30pm — Evening Communion Service

### Caversham Hill Chapel

- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 10.30am — Family Worship
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 10.30am — Family Worship  
 6.30pm — Easter praise

### Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship

(Meeting in Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion)

- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 10.45am — Family Worship
- 31st March — EASTER DAY**  
 10.45am — Family Worship  
 6.30pm — Easter Praise at Caversham Hill Chapel

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS — Services as usual

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

### Our Lady and St Anne's, Caversham

- Penance Service** — The date of the Service will be arranged with the Reading Deanery shortly.
- 24th March — PALM SUNDAY**  
 Blessing and Procession of Palms with Sung Mass at St Anne's on Saturday at 5.30pm  
 Mass at St Anne's at 9.45am and 6.30pm  
 Mass at Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Rd at 8.30am and 11.15am. Blessing and procession of Palms before 11.15 Mass (if fine)
- 25th March — Monday**  
 Mass at 9.00am at St Anne's.
- 26th March — Tuesday**  
 Mass at 7.15am in the Convent Chapel.  
 Mass at 10.00am at Richmond Road.
- 27th March — Wednesday**  
 Mass at 9.00am at St Anne's
- 28th March — MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30 pm  
 Washing of Feet, procession to the Altar of Repose. 'Watching' until Midnight.
- 29th March — GOOD FRIDAY**  
 Stations of the Cross and Sermon 10.30am.  
 Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord at 3pm with Readings, Prayers, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.  
 A Day of Fasting and Abstinence.
- 30th March — HOLY SATURDAY**  
 Paschal Vigil, with the Blessing of the New Fire, Blessing of the Paschal Candle, Service of Readings, and First Mass of Easter, with Baptismal Liturgy; begins 8pm.
- 31st March — EASTER SUNDAY**  
 Mass at St Anne's at 9.45am and 6.30pm  
 Mass at Richmond Road at 8.30am and 11.15am  
 Mass at Mapledurham House Chapel at 6pm

**GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION — LEAVES ST. JAMES', THE FORBURY AT 10.30am**  
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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

IT'S fortunate that we have a share of Good Samaritans in Caversham because it seems we have more than a smattering of the other sort - I mean the kind who 'pass by on the other side'. Recently a friend of mine lay in a pool of mud in a quiet residential road with what turned out to be a broken leg and, believe it or not, two men (I'd hesitate to call them gentlemen) passed by without even enquiring if she needed help.

**Don't They Care?**  
And while on the subject of caring, I do wish people who owned pets would always take good care of them. Most people do, I know, but I also know of more than one very hungry cat in our road which a friend is feeding at the moment. Why do people have pets if they won't take care of them? And that goes for people who shut their cats out when they go to work without even a cat

door for the animals to use. And that goes for those dog-owners whose only exercise they give their animals is to walk them to the shops and to tie them up outside, often howling pitifully.

**Caversham**  
The 'Evening Post' recently carried a very good article on Caversham. For somebody who obviously doesn't live in the district, the writer had done quite well. But I wish she had said a bit more about the friendliness, particularly in what she calls 'the village'. For a lot of elderly or perhaps lonely people a walk through this area to do the odd bit of shopping often provides a welcome break in the day! Shopkeepers tend to know their customers. Often two or three with a common interest meet accidentally and hold an impromptu meeting on a proposed development, a fund-raising event or some

other local issue.

The other good thing about Caversham is its easy access to the countryside. I don't walk far myself these days but even I could walk from Lower Caversham through Hemdean Road and Bugs Bottom (while we have it) into the country.

**An Evening Out**  
Like a lot of older people these days I tend to stay in a great deal on winter evenings, so I really enjoyed a visit to St. Anne's recently to see Caversham Theatre present 'Mr Kettle and Mrs. Moon'. Not one of Priestley's best plays and certainly one which drags a bit at times, it was nevertheless very well performed. It's only a pity we don't have more halls suitable for putting on such events. We've got some excellent talent in Caversham and it's a great shame it doesn't get more encouragement.

### Road Up

It's a pity pedestrians don't get any consideration when the powers that be decide to dig up a bit of road. Those of you who know the area will appreciate how angry I was when I walked up Washington Road from the Gosbrook Road bus stop, intending to walk through the alley way and into Cromwell Road, only to find when I got to the alley that it was completely dug up unless one was prepared to crawl up a bank and scramble along, a bank, incidentally, which seem to be well used by local dogs. To return all the way round via Washington Road and across the recreation ground with a load of shopping was just not funny. There were no notices warning people because, as the workmen said, they didn't know themselves until an hour or two before. Of course we got a polite acknowledgement when

we rang the Council offices, but no improvement in the situation for at least a couple of days.

### Bus Passes

Rumour has it that bus passes are to be withdrawn from Pensioners and, according to the paper, Readibus is also in jeopardy. Is there no end to the meanness we have to put up with these days?

### Volunteer Drivers

And having got all the moans and groans off my chest, I really must pay tribute to the drivers who have recently taken me to hospital and back for a course in physiotherapy. All the ones I had were from Caversham - does that say something for Caversham people? Anyway, they've all been extremely helpful and I take my hat off to them. It's not an easy job, with difficult schedules to fit in and, more recently of course, the problem with the road works in Cow Lane.

## CAVERSHAM THEATRE

THE Scandalous Affair of Mr Kettle and Mrs Moon, presented by Caversham Theatre on January 31st - February 2nd, is one of J.B. Priestley's less well-known plays and at present languishes 'out of print'. Nevertheless this light hearted commentary on how the human spirit may long to break free from the chains of conformity and respectability shows no lack of evidence of Priestley's craftsmanship.

Bob Green, whose initiative gave Caversham the opportunity to see this rarely performed comedy, played George Kettle, the bowler-hatted bank manager of Brickmill, a drab industrial Midlands town. On his way to work on a wet Monday morning, Kettle realises that he can no longer face the treadmill so he returns home, changes pin-stripes for corduroys and indulges in a child's

shooting game which he has bought, reliving the enjoyment he gained from it when a boy.

Bob portrayed very successfully not only the release of Kettle's youthful spirit but also his pent-up amorous inclinations towards Mrs Moon, delightfully played by Julia Marshall, whose red sports car gave Kettle the hint that behind her sombre suited respectability a kindred soul was repressed.

Bewilderment, anger, resentment and incomprehension were the reactions to the transformation of George Kettle. Jackie Case engagingly conveyed the bewilderment of Mrs Twigg, Kettle's brusque, matter-of-fact housekeeper, and Geoff Ward expressed convincingly the anger of Alderman Hardcastle that Kettle was not properly attending to that worthy's business ambitions. The somewhat sinister, and certainly suspicious, Superintendent Street of Jonathan Bown was resentful that Kettle failed to conform to the behavioural norms that policemen expect of the general public, whilst Kettle's superior, played with cool urbanity by George Byers, found it incomprehensible that any employee of the London and North Midland Bank could wish to escape the clut-

ches of that big, happy family.

As for the transformation of Mrs Moon, Richard Stainthorpe nicely reflected the humourless, self-righteous character of her husband who found it quite inconceivable that she should wish to throw over the steady Brickmill traces - and herself into the arms of George Kettle!

Only Monica Twigg, the glamour girl daughter of Mrs Twigg, understood Kettle's urge to 'drop out': she herself was on the look-out for any means of escaping from dreary Brickmill. Monica was played by Helen Garforth who, to judge by her relaxed stage presence, sensitive timing and effective 'Brickmillspeak', should earn herself a place next year in the Cambridge Footlights.

When a right hook from Superintendent Street laid George Kettle out on the floor, the calm bedside manner and sparse psychiatric skills of Dr Grenock, played by John Evans, should have returned George Kettle to his former mental state but, to our delight, failed to do so! Indeed it was altogether a delightful evening, thanks to a good play, appropriate casting and effective direction by Peter Ludlow.

E.M.A.



## The Children's Society

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# OBITUARY

## Mrs. Barbara Chapman

BORN at Beaconsfield on the 3rd August 1921, Barbara moved with her family to Surley Row in 1930.

She attended St Peter's Hill School and then The Abbey and after leaving school took a secretarial course with the idea of pursuing a commercial career. However, the 1939-1945 war intervened and throughout most of the war years she was connected with the Land Army, first at farms at Holyport and Thatcham and, after suffering an injury to her back, as Assistant Warden at a Land Army Hostel near Wantage.

The war over, she

resumed secretarial work until her marriage to Tom at St Peter's in July, 1948. Together they built themselves a house at Tokers Green and subsequently settled down at Kidmore End. During this time Barbara's commercial training was put to good use in assisting Tom in his building business.

In September 1975 Tom and Barbara moved to Hemdean Rise and her association with St Peter's was re-kindled. She played an active part in the life of the Parish being a member of the PCC from 1979 to 1985 and Secretary of the District Committee during 1980/81.



She also assisted with the behind-the-scenes work of laundering and running repairs of church vestments. A regular supporter of the annual Christain Aid Walk, she always opted for the longer twenty miles route. Her service to the Scout movement is

well known. When an Akela for the 3rd St Peter's cubs was needed she took over this responsibility and carried it on for twenty years until her reluctant retirement in August 1986, having taken her Cubs to camp earlier that year. Barbara was awarded the Medal of Merit for her service to the Cubs — a well deserved honour. There can be little doubt that her influence over the hundreds of boys who passed through her hands during those twenty years remains alive today.

She was uncompromising throughout the long months of her distressing and debilitating illness which she met with indomitable courage.

In this she was staunchly supported by Tom and sustained by her Sunday by Sunday attendance, until finally prevented by her frailty, at the family Eucharist at St Peter's. Notwithstanding her increasing immobility she maintained her lively interest in all about her until close to her end. She was admitted to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed where she died on the 16th January, 1991.

To use the Rector's words — "She was a dear friend, an outstanding Christian, a devoted Akela, a lovely lady with sparkling eyes. May she rest in peace".

The Bridge extends to Tom, his two sons, two daughters and three grand-children heartfelt sympathy.

## IN AID OF THE HEARING

THE Audiology Department of the Royal Berkshire Hospital have become the proud possessors of a Mini-Cam Recorder purchased from the funds raised by the members of the Rotary Club of Caversham in memory of their Co-Founder and Past-President Dr Graham Tait, who died in August last year.

The presentation of the Recorder was made by Mrs Mary Tait to Carol Town, Co-

director of the Reading Hospitals' Audiology Unit Appeal and a



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Hearing Aid Therapist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Unit.

Carol who suffered appalling ill health since childhood, has

overcome her disabilities and has helped in raising some £200,000 in aid of the Audiology Unit Appeal.

In December 1989 Carol was presented with the Paul Harris Award by the Rotary Club of Reading in recognition of her wonderful efforts and fortitude in the cause of the community.

The mini-cam recorder can enable a deaf person to send

## VENTURE SCOUTS AT THE GUILDHALL FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

ON 24th November three hundred people plus one hundred and thirty Venture Scouts stand as the Chief Scout, Garth Morrison, and Mick Stocks, Chairman of the National Venture Scout Advisory Board, enter and walk up the aisle between the standing company to their places on the stage.

Also on the stage are the various dignitaries, both uniformed and lay, and the Ash Vale Scout Band which has played a selection of tunes while the families have waited for the proceedings to commence.

An address is given by Mick Stocks and the Venture Scouts are called one by one; name, unit and County. They ascend by one set of steps towards the Chief and are given their Royal Certificate, pose for the official photograph and leave the stage by another set of steps.

tures are taken with the Chief and old friendships renewed.

After about an hour they return to the main hall where an act of worship, lasting about three-quarters of an hour, takes place. For this they are joined by another one hundred and thirty Venture Scouts and their families; the total number being in the region of six hundred people.

At the end of this everyone departs, pictures being taken, coats retrieved and out of the Guildhall to the various car parks, or shopping in the West End, or a visit to the impressive St Paul's Cathedral, or just to return to their minds and at least two very proud and happy families return to the Thames Valley.

Tony Cleare, D of E Adviser



Mrs. Mary Tait presenting Carol Town with the Mini-Cam Recorder, with them is Caversham's Rotary Club President Jim Hancock.

**Picture**

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Among the names are two from Reading Thameside, both from the same unit, 3rd Reading (St Peter's), David Cleare and David Rumble. Among the guests are four members of their families.

The Chief then gives his address and thanks everyone before departing. The Venture Scouts and guests then move to the Library where a ploughman's lunch has been laid on together with coffee and fruit juice. Informal pic-

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## BISHOP'S VISIT TO ST PETER'S

ASH Wednesday, despite snow and frost, was a landmark for St. Peter's. The Bishop of Reading (The Right Revd John Bone, accompanied by Mrs Ruth Bone, and in the presence of The Revd Tony Good, Rector of Wallingford and architectural consultant, with Mrs Yvonne Good) formally dedicated the refurbishment of the Vanderstegen Chapel to God's glory and the well-being of future generations, in a moving solemn Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist.

Young and old, 140 braved the elements for this historic occasion. Many lingered to admire the exquisite wood-carving in memory of Denys Birtwhistle — and the shining chandelier — in memory of Bob Gamble (both past churchwardens of the parish) in the spacious new choir vestry and meeting room, carpeted, glazed in, for choral rehearsal, for meetings, for all ages to listen, pray, study and learn.

Most of all, the 'new' Vanderstegen Chapel restores restful balance to the building, reminding us of nine centuries of worship at St Peter's. Bishop John applauded 20th century craftsmen's skills (especially carpenters and stonemasons) which now beautify the oldest part of St Peter's parish church.

He graciously noted the satisfaction of the present Rector on completion of a project for which a former Curate, Revd Peter Mullins, justifiably claims first 'visionary copyright'.

It was a typical, nicely understated St Peter's event, with fine choral music, resonance with the past and optimism for the future. Much of the preparatory work has done voluntarily by St Peter's members, notably Tom Chapman, Leslie Coward, Eric Smith and John Stratford.

The work was funded by generous bequests in memory of Denys Birtwhistle and Bob Gamble, and by interest accrued from the Balmore Hall sale fund with full backing of Oxford Diocesan Trustees.

St Peter's had a good start to Lent. A former Bishop of Reading preached the first of his Lent Course sermons four days later and — in the words of Bishop Eric Wild — 'It all looks very good!' St Peter's thanks all who made this minor landmark possible and memorable.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST PETER'S

CANON Colin Semper, from Westminster Abbey, will lead Good Friday's 12.00-3.00 Three Hours' Devotion this year. Previously head of BBC Religious Broadcasting, Canon Semper's warm personality and gift for the spoken word offer a fruitful time of personal re-commitment on the first Good Friday in the decade of Evangelism.

Palm Sunday's 9.15 am Eucharist will, weather permitting, start as traditionally established, with Procession of Palm Crosses from Caversham Court gardens (meet 9.10 am). Every night, Monday to Wednesday there will be a quiet, solemn Holy Communion 7 pm at St Peter's. Maundy Thursday (9.30 am quiet Communion) climaxes with 8 pm Sung Eucharist, Stripping of Altar and all-night candlelit Vigil in church, ending with sombre administration of Holy Communion on Good Friday 8 am. Also on Good Friday at St Margaret's at 9.30 am — Devotional Hour.

This year Easter celebrations at St Peter's, Caversham will include a Service of Easter Praise at 6.30 pm on Easter Day. Members of St Peter's

and St Margaret's Youth Group (PYGMYGS) will assist in leading the worship. All are welcome to join in this celebration of Easter which is for young and old alike.

These, plus other services publicised in this paper, will help meet all needs and tastes in March, the month which ends with so much drama and the Springtime of the Church at Easter.

## St. Andrew's Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP members were delighted to welcome an old friend, Miss Jean Sawyer, to speak at their January meeting. Miss Sawyer decided on her retirement from teaching to go to Tonga for two years to teach there. She gave a most interesting account of her life there, illustrated with slides. The islands are very

welcoming and used to be known as the Friendly Islands. Any excuse is seized on to have a feast, and Miss Sawyer brought examples of work done by local people. Before fabric was imported they made their own by beating leaves to make them soft and durable, and a ceremonial apron/skirt worn by the women was one of the exhibits. Failure to wear one when royalty is present would be considered an insult.

Miss Sawyer used a bicycle to get round the island where she was living and told how, when she was going to see the doctor, a dog attacked her so that she had a bitten heel to be dealt with as well!

A trip round the world, organised by herself, is Jean's next project, which the Fellowship will look forward to hearing about on her return in a year or two's time.

## "SING HOSANNA!"

Last Supper and Cross and out again into Easter!

Songs, activities, palm crosses, but chiefly for children to catch something of the wonder and glory of Holy Week and Easter.

Remember Christmas Eve Crib-Christingle service? This will have the same atmosphere, but will go with Jesus into Jerusalem and to the world!

## LINK GROUP REPORT

SIXTEEN members of the Link Group met at Anthea Prescott's house for their monthly meeting. Anthea, who chaired the meeting, introduced Mr Hill from Cancer After Care (C.A.C.), an organisation started over twenty years ago in Bristol which supports patients and relatives of patients with cancer. There are over forty branches of C.A.C. primarily in the S. East. The local branch which cares for sufferers from Windsor to Hungerford is a self supporting group whose link with pa-

tients and relatives is mainly by phone. The help they offer ranges from talking on the phone, to driving patients to and from the hospital during radiotherapy treatment and some financial help and advice with mortgage repayments etc.

The forty members of the group who are mainly ex-patients, offer their help and support the C.A.C. for a few years following their own treatment for cancer.

The talk was much enjoyed by all present

and after a vote of thanks to the guest speaker the meeting continued with final arrangements for the ecumenical lunch to be held in February. Arrangements were also made The Link 'Knit-in' which is to be held at Anthea Prescott's house on April 22nd. If you would like to participate in a very enjoyable fund raising event, do please telephone Anthea on Reading 478865.

The meeting closed after finalising the next meeting for 25th February 1991 at 8pm.

## BISHOP TO PREACH AT HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

**THE Caversham Acorn Christian Healing Prayer Group and the Acorn Christian Listeners' Group are pleased to announce that the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd John Bone, will be the preacher at the ecumenical service of prayer for healing to be held at Caversham Free Baptist Church on Saturday 27th April 1991 at 7pm. We hope many friends will join us on this occasion.**

## CAVERSHAM CLERGY

### ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road, Tel: 479130.  
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)  
The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue, Tel: 471814.

Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road, Tel: 478239.

The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road, Tel: 472070.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

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

### BAPTIST

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

### METHODIST

The Rev Keith Sanders, 72 Highmoor Road, Tel: 472223.

The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham, Tel: 482530.

### UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road, Tel: 471909.

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road, Tel: 474529.

The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue, Tel: 474138.

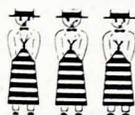
### ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue, Tel: 471787.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

# UNITY: PRAYER, PEACE AND MISSION

IN this week of prayer for Christian unity we pray for the unity of our churches because we know that *together* we can be a more effective witness to the faith than we can apart. And we thank God for the movement of the Spirit, especially noticeable in the last few years, that has brought us closer together. This evening, I would like to consider 3 other aspects of unity — unity between God and those who follow him, unity between nations, and unity between Christians and non-Christians — but returning to church "togetherness" at the end.

Firstly, consider unity between God and his followers. Our sin has alienated us from God, it stops us from being the people that He wants us to be. There is disunity between God and his people. How can we be more united with him? "This sort of thing can only be achieved by prayer" said Jesus about something else but it seems totally appropriate in the search for unity with God. For prayer is the key to this kind of unity. People sometimes say "yes but I'm not very good at prayer". You may have said or thought this yourself sometime — most of us have. Yet to view prayer like that is to suggest that it's a kind of "perform-

ance" in which we pray to a God who is sitting in his heaven with a notebook and pencil awarding us marks out of 10 for artistic merit, style and content and so on. Yet God loves us *far* more than that!

Instead of praying to a God "out there", might I suggest that we pray to the God "within" us. For this is what is so amazing about God's love. With all our sins, God wants to dwell *in us*. God's plan for the nations, St. Paul told the Colossians, is "Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you, bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come". Pray to the God that dwells within you, inadequately of course because of your sin, and never, never give up. And although set periods of prayer are essential — and for most of us should probably be longer — prayer cannot be confined just to those set times. God is everywhere and with us at all times, in all places. We can be sure that prayer will not go unheard, even if it seems that way at times. But all these prayers for peace in the last few weeks, you ask, what has happened to them? God wants us to pray for peace, not least because He wants to see if we are people of peace.

This brings me to my second point, unity between na-

**SHORTENED** version of address by John Madeley to the ecumenical service at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church on Sunday 20th January, to mark this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

tions. At the moment we are facing a tragic dis-unity between nations. And the Gulf war is a tragedy. I wonder if could put this into a little historical perspective. When world leaders met in San Francisco at the end of World War 2, they were united about the way ahead. Two world wars had convinced them that there are better ways of solving international disputes than by the use of force.

□ □  
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So the United Nations began; its charter says that member states "are to settle international disputes by peaceful means and without endangering peace, security and justice. They are to refrain from the threat or use of force against other states". This has much in common with the Christian view of peacekeeping. It's much the same as the way we treat the people who live next door. If they do something that annoys us, we seek a peaceful solution — we don't blow up their house. If a member state breaks the UN charter — as Iraq clearly did by walking into Kuwait — the UN Security Council calls on members "to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force, to prevent or stop aggression." The council is given power to take military action against an aggressor, but very much as a last resort.

What worries many about the Gulf crisis is that military action is effectively being used as a first,

not a last resort. Sanctions could not be expected to work *completely* within 6 months. And never have any sanctions worked like these! By the beginning of 1991, Iraq's imports and exports were down by over 90%. But it is likely to take at least a year to show Saddam Hussein the damage that economic siege is doing to his country. It's strange that sanctions have been given up half way through.

War has now started and we're told that it's only a matter of time before we "win". But will there be any winners in this war? Iraq stands to be decimated — and what happens then? Eventual peace could bring anything but peace or justice? There is a real danger of a rise of extremists — and of Iraq's neighbours moving in to try to carve up the country.

There are those who claim this is a "just war". Some 700 years, when things were a little different to today, Thomas Aquinas coined his just war theory. One of the requirements of the theory is that the damage done by a war must not exceed the good. But the huge ripple effects of a war in such a sensitive region as the Persian Gulf make it likely that the damage done could greatly exceed the good. For beyond the Middle East, the war could push up the world price of oil to such levels that poorer nations would have to cut back sharply on their purchases. And that could mean there is not petrol to drive agricultural

machinery, for fishermen to take out their boats, for vehicles to collect and distribute food. Hunger and starvation on an even wider scale could be the unjust results of A Gulf War. Hardly justice here for the people who would suffer. The damage done would be far more likely to exceed the good.

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All this is not to forget the direct suffering caused by the war, the people killed and disfigured, the relations who mourn. And history is likely to remind us that the 1991 Gulf war was made possible by the sales of armaments to Iraq by Western countries. "You do not solve international disputes by the use of force" stands out more clearly than ever as a principle on which nations should operate, a principle consistent with Our

Lord's words "blessed are the peacemakers".

Thirdly, unity between Christian and non-Christian. The whole question of unity with people of other faiths, Moslems, Hindus, etc. is difficult for us — but for God?

Whenever we are with people of other faiths, we might just offer ourselves, what we say, how we act, etc. to God, just letting His love shine through us as much as we can, leaving the rest to Him. Gandhi, a Hindu, said that if Christians in India lived out their faith properly, Hinduism would disappear. It's worth thinking about.

In Caversham we do, of course, have more people who profess no faith rather than another faith. I wonder just how often, the people who profess no faith are challenged or comforted with the Christian message. A few years ago I visited the Nigerian city of Ibadan. Driving down the streets, it was common to see messages from the Gospels on billboards, lamp-posts, in windows, on buses — everywhere! I doubt if anyone could get through a day in Ibadan without being presented, com-

forted or challenged by some thought about the Christian faith. And the churches are blooming — I went to one "normal" Sunday service, attended by about 1600 people.

□ □  
□ □

By contrast, many people in Caversham could happily get through a year without seeing anything very much about Christianity! The Decade of Evangelism is now here. And here's where I come back to our churches working together. Could we not start preparing for mission to the area, that will aim to make sure that everyone in Caversham knows about God's love? By working together in the power of God's love on a high profile mission, taking Christianity out onto the streets, we would be giving the Spirit the chance in our community.

We have much to do together and we do it with the power of God dwelling in us. We can be sure that He helps us, as St Paul told the Corinthians, to live in peace. We can be sure that in His service, the God of love and peace will be with us.

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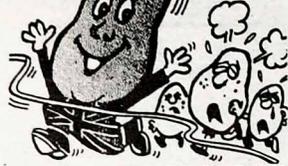
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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### THE COST OF A THIRD BRIDGE

A £10m third bridge, operative in three years' time solving the worst of Caversham's and much of Reading's traffic problems, with a leisure centre, country park and nature reserve thrown in for good measure and all provided by a property company instead of from the Poll Tax is surely an offer that cannot be refused. But hang about. It is not usually in the nature of property companies to be as altruistic as all this. Perhaps it would be better to look at the small print. And it is there, of course, that the real reasons for this upsurge of generosity and its real cost are to be found.

Redland Properties (i.e. Gravel, as was) who own the large site between the Thames and Henley Road from which over some thirty years they have extracted gravel, leaving a series of water-filled pits in what were formerly meadows, is the company concerned. With the site now exhausted, they want to build on it a business park, housing estate and a new marina. The business park will, it is claimed, bring 2,500 new jobs to the town, hence the need for the bridge. A rapid calculation indicates that these jobs, together with two hundred houses, could easily produce anything upwards of 2,000 extra vehicles, and that is almost certainly an underestimate. As is the case with most developer-funded road schemes, the new road would be practically filled to capacity by the associated development and actually contribute little to the relief of existing traffic congestion.

There are other reasons for disquiet. On the opposite bank of the river is Speyhawk business park which brought urbanisation to the former meadows that lay between Reading and Sonning, only the width of the river away from this proposed similar development. Most of the site is in Oxfordshire, a rural area

designated as of limited growth, but constantly under pressure from developers. If permission were granted for this site, the chances of building further out towards Sonning Eye and Dunsden would be increased.

South Oxfordshire, already totally opposed to a third bridge of any kind, is unlikely to grant permission, but remembering Bugs Bottom, anything could happen, whilst Reading is unlikely to give permission without a bridge being provided. Yet even when we look at the funding of the bridge, there is some fudging about who actually pays. A 'contribution' and 'negotiation' are the words being bandied about.

If Redland Properties are really concerned about working with care and sensitivity for the benefit of the local community, as they claim, they might remember that they had already gained as much value out of that site as they had expected when they acquired it for gravel extraction, and instead of trying to get a second lot out of it they should as far as possible restore it with back filling and landscape any of the rest which had been particularly despoiled. Natural regeneration would complete the job, something foreign to the urban mind, which fails to see the difference between 'manufactured' and natural countryside. They would still be able to make a modest profit from water sports on the lakes and the marina.

This proposal must be strongly opposed. Do not be deceived by the glossy brochures, protestations of good will and pretty pic-

tures. It is too high a price to pay for a third bridge, even with a few more titbits thrown in.

### CHAZEY COURT FARM

The Chazy Court application is, at the time of writing, still to come before the Planning Committee so its outcome cannot be certain. It is unlikely that plans of such a high standard would be rejected, even though the preferred option if it existed, would be for the site to continue as a farm preferably run by the same family.

The problem of extra traffic along the Warren has been the other major area of concern, and both residents' associations have always emphasized this in all comments they have made. The extra traffic itself, unless it is going to be of overwhelming proportions, as in the case of Bugs Bottom, or likely to produce hazards such as existing on to a busy roundabout, is unlikely to be a deciding factor in reaching a decision, so the emphasis has been on the need for preserving the rural character of the Warren. Traffic lights, double yellow lines, formal passings bays, are all the kind of things to be avoided. Construction traffic could be damaging and noisy. To that end, both Resident' Associations have had meetings with developers. Some disturbance is unavoidable, and in itself is not grounds for refusing permission.

The developers have appointed a construction manager whose job it will be to reduce this to a minimum and to receive any flak going if there is cause for complaint. It is expected that the whole construction will take place over nine months and that the first two months will be the most intensive. The most disturbing bit of putting in and laying the concrete will take ten to fifteen days. Quite a lot of the con-

struction traffic will go through the estate and not along the Warren, though there must be some doubt about the fitness of the estate roads to take it. The workforce will number a maximum of thirty to forty, some of whom will doubtless use their cars even though transport will be provided.

Once the development is complete, traffic will be limited mainly to staff movement, with very little from patients or their visitors as the intensive form of treatment which the centre is to provide will leave little time for socialising. One possibility that could increase traffic movement as if day patients should number more than the intention is at present, but residential treatment is at the core of the whole project.

This will probably still not please Mr. Warren of Warren Court, the Warren, who thinks I, and by implication, the Resi-

dent' Association, have gone soft on the issue. (See Postbag, February.) What we have been aiming to do, and not without success, is to see that this development fits in as well as possible, rather than wasting effort opposing change, which is bound to come. This project is far and away better than anything else that might happen on that site, both in itself and the effect it will have on traffic.

It was not all that long ago that the Residents' Association protested at the proposal to build a block of flats in the Warren in a disused chalk pit, on the grounds of incompatibility with their surroundings and the traffic generated. When it became apparent that permission was likely to be granted, the Residents' Association pressed for conditions, such as the flats being no more than two floors high and with a pitched roof, not a flat one. As a result, Mr. Warren now lives in what has matured into quite a pleasant little

Turn to page 9

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# READING EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PROJECT

## Appointment of a Resettlement co-ordinator

DURING the eight years that Reading Emergency Accommodation Project has been running the Keep, we have been aware that there are long-term homeless people who are unable to find or keep permanent, secure accommodation. Part of the reason is the lack of affordable housing here in Reading, but for some, chronic problems with alcohol, drugs or mental health means that when they do find a home they lose it within a short space of time due to

rent arrears, or simply being unable to cope on their own.

REAP realised that what was urgently needed was a Resettlement team to help find suitable accommodation for the homeless and to support them with advice and visits when they moved in. REAP already manages a Resettlement house in Southampton Street, but much more supported housing is needed. In 1990 REAP was allocated funding by the Department of the

Environment to appoint a Resettlement Co-ordinator for Reading, and in September Sarah Gee took up the post.

Sarah came to us from Reading Single Homeless Project, where she had been a Project Worker for four years, so she is familiar both with the needs of homeless people, and with the Reading area. Her job falls into two parts.

Firstly, she is trying to make more accommodation in Reading available to homeless

people, including working with the Borough Council and local Housing Associations and developing projects in the private sector.

Secondly, she is actually helping to house and support people in available accommodation. When they move into their home, residents often need advice on how to get furniture, grants and benefits which they may be entitled to, how to get the gas and electricity sorted out, and in the longer term

may need someone to talk to about problems, or advice on where to turn to further help. Sarah is also starting up a group of volunteers to 'befriend' those people moving into places on their own.

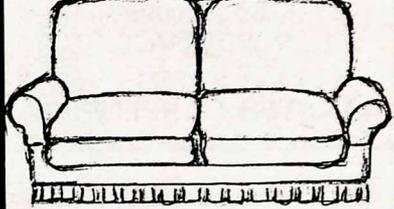
REAP has already seen the value of this work, and is trying to find funding for more Resettlement Workers to extend the service to meet the need that exists in Reading.

If you would like any further information, please contact Sarah Gee on Reading 567210.

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From page 8

development, even if it makes for cars in the Warren and removed part of the habitat of creatures that used to live in the chalk pit.

### Road Closures

For three weeks traffic between Richfield Avenue and Portman Road had to find alternative routes, causing congestion in other parts of the town, whilst a drainage system was being laid to prevent the flooding that frequently blocked Cow Lane. The bridges which still cause delays are the responsibility of British Rail, not the local authority, and they rightly claim they were there before the road. The other closure is the footway over the Clappers, a popular route for those wishing to walk from Lower Caversham into Reading, but as everyone knows, pedestrians are only

second class citizens, so not much fuss was heard. The Clappers have been closed to pedestrians whilst the gates were replaced by fully motorised ones and the decking was repaired. They should be open again by the time you read this.

### BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

The unsightly TV camera perched on an equally ugly pole which towers above the Church Street - Church Road junction is intended to control traffic flow by reporting back to base when trouble occurs, so that steps to sort it out, such as by re-phasing the traffic lights can then be taken. Let us hope it works and is not just another bit of high tech to make it look as if something is being done. It dominates the

listed cottages behind it, does nothing to enhance the immediately adjacent Conservation Area, and does not make the best of impressions for those approaching Caversham from over the bridge.

### BUGS BOTTOM

One of Paula Collett's last actions before leaving for Australia was to set up a delightful exhibition in Caversham Library showing Bugs Bottom in the four seasons. Suitably captioned with literary passages, the pictures showed the Valley in all its beauty, and although it made no campaigning points, those looking at it must have wondered however permission could have been given to build 500 houses in it.

The appeal fund now stands at over £17,000, well on the way to the £20,000 required to finance the Appeal Court hearing which has been set for 1 and 2 July. Fund raising offers and cheques (returnable is the case is won) and made

payable to Bugs Bottom Action Group, should be sent to Caroline Speer, 228 Kidmore Road, Tel. 473834.

A group of South Oxfordshire residents, for whom the Bugs Bottom plans are as unwelcome as they are to Caversham people, are to call on Michael Heseltine at his March surgery. They will be speaking to him as their M.P. rather than in his capacity as Secretary of State, but he is still one and the same person. There has been disappointment that his response to receiving a petition bearing 20,000 signatures was little more than the routine reply sent out to letter writers, in other words 'Noting I can do'. Actually there is, but that apart, a petition that size on a subject he must know is of long standing concern,

merited a more considered reply.

### CLEAN FOOD

Caversham and District Residents' Association is holding its Annual Meeting on the first day of Spring, 21st March, at the Baptist Centre, Prospect Street, at 8.0 p.m. After the formal business of the meeting, Marian Shepherd of the Borough Environmental Services will speak on Food Safety. We all have to eat and should not have to wonder how safe our food is, so this is of concern to everyone.

If you think you would find it interesting to work more closely with the Residents' Association, you may like to consider joining its Committee. Phone the Secretary on Reading 472300 for details.

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Friday, 7.30pm Arthur Legge Centre. Caversham Horticultural Society AGM.

Thursday, 8pm Baptist Centre Prospect Street. Caversham & District Residents' Association AGM.

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## the CLUBS

### Chazey W.I.

The life and times of a University Lecturer entertained Chazey W.I. in January when Dr John Hardy of the Geography Department of Reading University tried to convince them that the life of a lecturer was not just two lectures a week and very long-holidays! An insight into Dr Hardy's own field of study was given by slides of aerial photography and, more recently, satellite photography.

The competition — Hand Writing — was won by Tricia Stringer and the raffle by Dorothy Churcher.

### Caversham Ladies Club

The Club met in the Baptist Church Room on 11th January when Mrs Harwood in the Chair welcomed members with wishes for a Happy, Healthy 1991. This was followed by the announcement of the sudden death of Mrs Tait which was received with shock before members stood in silence to her memory.

Owing to the illness of the Secretary, Mrs Nan Nelhams, no minutes of the December meeting were available, with the exception of the report on the Christmas Lunch held on 20th December at Chiltern Chase Lodge at Woodcote and voted by members attending as a great success and a very happy occasion. The meal and decor, beautifully presented, during which music was provided by Barry Strong and his two friends George and John played Old Tyme songs ending

with carols, were warmly appreciated and gave a welcome prelude to Christmas.

Discussions then started; two outings were proposed, one for a day outing to Portsmouth in May and a half day in September to be a mystery tour, followed by tea at Chiltern Chase Lodge at Woodcote.

It was decided to approach the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed for a collecting box into which members would be able to contribute to this worthy cause; this has now been applied for.

The Easter Party this year would be in April with tea and a competition for an Easter Bonnet to be made by members.

Other business was discussed after which tea served by the tea ladies was most welcome after so much talking.

### Maplewood W.I.

Maplewood's January meeting was their thirty-sixth Birthday Party to which the President, Mrs J. Baddeley, welcomed Mrs Gillian Fricker, County Chairman, and guests from Earley, Woodley, Winnersh, Sonning and Chazey Institutes.

When the business part of the meeting had been disposed of members enjoyed a Quiz in which all the answers were the names of flowers. This was won by a visitor from Sonning. A delicious tea was then served followed by the cutting of the Birthday Cake which has been made by Mrs M. Jeffrey. The Flower of the Month

was won by Mrs St Alphonse and social chat completed the afternoon.

### Caversham Community Association

The first meeting in 1991 was the 7th January when members gathered for a cheese and wine party. Everyone came ready to pay their yearly subscriptions and to enjoy the company of their friends. A fine selection of cheeses, biscuits and wine, or fruit juice, was served to everyone and partaken of with appreciation. During the evening the entertainment was provided by The Reading Studio Accordé Accordion Orchestra, led by Bob Brown. They gave a sparkling medley of songs and well loved pieces of music. The members were invited to dance to some of the tunes and community singing was also included. The orchestra was reminiscent of the one, led by Marie Hyde, that was well known in earlier years. Indeed, one of the members of the orchestra was the daughter of a member of Marie Hyde's orchestra. A pleasant evening which went all too quickly.

On the 14th January Mrs Grainger, from Southern Electricity Board, explained the basic principles of microwave cooking. She demonstrated the ease of cooking in a microwave oven and the safe cooking of frozen or chilled meals. Mrs Grainger cooked an appetising winter meal of a leek and ham bake, with vegetables and an apple pudding. The members were then given the opportunity of asking questions on microwave cookery before Mrs Grainger left after giving a most informative talk and demonstration.

The whistdrive, which took place the following week, was well attended and

supervised by Doreen Crawley in her usual capable manner. The member with the highest number of points was Joyce Roddy, who received first prize.

A Bring and Buy evening was held on the 28th January when members brought their unwanted articles for auction in aid of club funds. Many members attended bringing a wide range of goods including groceries, perfumes and cosmetics, vases, a picture and lampshades. The bidding was brisk and at the end of the evening the total cash raised was £51 — an amount which will help with the many expenses of the club.

### Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The speaker from the Reading branch of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, secretary Mr G Horn, said that at the January meeting of Caver-

sham Heights Townswomen's guild that the canal is really three waterways that were brought together as one waterway in 1810. A founder member of the Trust, John Gould, delivered a petition to Buckingham Palace nearly 40 years ago in order to try to save the whole canal from being abandoned and closed. Now together with statutory owners, the British Waterways Board, the Trust has worked for some thirty years to restore the canal to full use so that boats, fishermen, walkers, birdwatchers, naturalists and families can benefit from it. Local authorities have also helped. At Claverton pumping Station, at the other end of the canal, Bath University of Technology gave assistance to volunteers from the Trust in the late 1960's and 1970's, to mention only one example of co-operation. Descriptive slides belonging to the Trust were shown to an interested audience.

Both funds for and public awareness of

Turn to page 11

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## ABBEYFIELD VISIT

THEIR Worships the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Canning, recently paid an official visit to Abbeyfield St. Peter's, the supportive care home for the elderly in St. Peter's Avenue, run by the Abbeyfield Reading Society. The distinguished visitors spent some considerable time talking to the residents, staff and committee before moving on to the Society's other home in Maitland Road, Reading, where one of the residents was celebrating her 91st birthday.



The Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr and Mrs Geoffrey Canning visiting the Caversham house. Miss Gwen Gardiner and Mr. Jim Pilgrim are also in the picture.

— E.S. Archer

## CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

THE Caversham Good Neighbours 26th A.G.M. was held at Church House on Tuesday, 22nd January. Proceedings opened with a short prayer by the Rector, Rev. Richard Kingsbury.

The Chairman then addressed the meeting, welcoming those who attended and reading apologies for absence. He then asked the Secretary to give a report on the year's work.

The Secretary reported that, as usual, providing transport to Hospitals, Doctors' Surgeries, Dentists etc. formed 75% of their workload. Regular trips were also made to take the elderly to various Clubs such as Darby and Joan. It was interesting to note that during the year the majority of runs to Battle Hospital were to the Chiropody Department; from these, together with many similar runs to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and a few to Queen's Road Clinic, it would appear that the elderly people in Caversham have well-cared for feet! In connection with this fact, at a suggestion from one of those attending, it is intended to investigate the possibility of a Caversham Chiropody Clinic once a month. The introduction of parking-meters and provision of permit discs, has made life

easier for drivers when visiting both hospitals. The Secretary then mentioned the posters around Caversham, asking for volunteer drivers. The number of drivers available has dwindled sadly and those remaining were in danger of being overloaded. She then finished by thanking all helpers — the Committee, the Office helpers, those who drive, visit, granny-sit, shop etc.

The Treasurer then gave her Report and the balance sheet was perused and adopted. Finances were shown to be in quite a healthy position.

The Speakers of the evening, two MacMillan Nurses, Janet Hodgson and Jackie Whitney, were then introduced by the Chairman. They explained the work of the Macmillan Nurses, mainly to teach people the traumas (and how to cope with them) of developing a cancer in any of its various forms — a possibility of one in three it seems — a sobering thought! This was followed by a video film showing aspects of their work. They were thanked by the Chairman who also gave them a donation to the MacMillan Nurses' Fund Appeal from Caversham Good Neighbours.

The Chairman closed the meeting by repeating the thanks expressed by the Secretary, and added special thanks to the two Mr Kents, whose help in looking after the Good Neighbours in Church House was invaluable.

## the CLUBS

From page 10

this valuable amenity were raised through the various activities which took place along the canal last year. Her Majesty the Queen reopened the whole canal by the opening the Queen Elizabeth II lock at Caen Hill, Devizes last August. She greeted John Gould and Trust officials during her visit to the canal museum.

Choosing from a basket of food, community dietician Lauran Vokins BSc SRD gave guidance towards healthy eating to a good gathering of

members of social studies group. She recommended the use of different types of beans including baked beans. Some leaflets issued by dietitians and a Health Education department showed how a few changes can be made and your life brightened at the same time.

**CORRECTION**  
IN last month's paper we gave a wrong figure for the St. Peter's Wives carol singing collection. They did in fact raise £102 and not £10 in aid of the Sue Ryder Foundation.

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