

'HE NEVER WALKED ALONE!'

ON A WARM SUMMER SATURDAY the Rt Revd John Bone, Bishop of Reading, met 'The Caversham Five' on his trek through the Caversham Group parishes — climax of a six-week walk through the entire Archdeaconry of Berkshire, over which he has episcopal care.

'Thank you for a lovely start to the day' said John to the wardens and fifteen St Peter's folk who joined him for Morning Prayer. He and his wife Ruth were then rushed to Mapledurham by Revd Christine Allsopp, to meet the wardens, have coffee with the Eystons at Mapledurham House, and then begin the serious walking.

In St Andrew's parish many families with young children greeted him at the Albert Road playground. Revd Bill and Rosemary Carpenter, with members of St Andrew's, walked the Bishop through 'The Heights' for lunch at Piper's Island, centre of Thames River-cruises. Back at St Peter's Bishop John blessed Steve and Julie Chell on their marriage and gave them one of his 'John'll Fix It' medallions. The Rector hurried him to St Martin's Precinct and thence up Hemdean Road to meet Revd Nigel Hardcastle and the glitterati of St Barnabas, with Bugs Bottom activists, with whom the Bishop spent an hour in Emmer Green.

Thanks to BBC top echelons, Bishop John and Revd Phil Abrey dived into teatime shade and secrets of the Monitoring Station at Caversham Park. He strolled on, calling at the Milestone Centre. At the parish boundary, Revd Alan Wilson (in an unnecessarily orange anorak) took over, walking him through St John's parish in time to join the Rector at a hostelry near Caversham Bridge at 7 pm. Bishop John talked with, waved and smiled at hundreds of parishioners in his ten-hour tour of the Group. 'How nice to meet your Bishop', many commented afterwards. Revd Richard Kingsbury disagreed on one point only: 'He is OUR Bishop, YOUR Bishop! That's what Bishops are for — to remind us we are all part of God's one family!'



Outside Mapledurham Church with the Rev. Christine Allsopp and the two wardens, Eric Foster and Keith Knee-Robinson — E.S. Archer



At Bugs Bottom with Nigel Hardcastle and others — E.S. Archer



In St. Martin's Precinct with Richard Kingsbury and Jeremy Anderson — E.S. Archer

TALKING POINT

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

FREEDOM

BEFORE I WENT AWAY for a couple of weeks I took some time in tidying up my garden. The final seed sowing was done, the weeds were cleared away from the beds and the rows of growing crops of peas and beans were adequately staked and tied in. I looked forward to returning to a vegetable patch in the same sort of condition — given a few weeds here and there. The weather must have been kind during my absence with plenty of rain and warmth and perhaps some sunshine since on my return I was faced by an explosion of growth. The peas and beans had overshot their allotted space — the individual rows had merged. The catch crops sown in between had literally disappeared in the jungle of stems. There were weeds everywhere and in places it was difficult to separate these from vegetable seedlings. All the plants had taken advantage of the freedom to grow. Indeed it was a free for all where some vegetables flourished and others perished.

Freedom is a word or concept with which we are familiar in all walks of life. We talk about the freedom of the individual — freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of conscience, freedom to do what one wants (within reason). The government has championed the cause of freedom of the individual to do his own thing unhampered by rules and regulations. The state is no longer the 'nanny' of the individual. He must stand on his own feet. We take these ideas on board and as they are put into practice we find that such freedom isn't necessarily a good thing after all. Like the plants in my garden some individuals benefit, some don't. Freedom has its price. In the realm of transport preference for the private motor car has meant a decline in public transport so that the less advantaged members of our society are deprived of the means of getting around. A bigger price being paid is the contribution of the millions of cars on the roads to the toxic gases which are affecting the ozone layer. Again, in Eastern Europe people clamoured for a change in the political system and now that they have it they are finding it difficult to come to terms with the freedoms they have obtained. Sometimes it's almost easier to have your mind made up for you.

The Church talks about the liberating effect of Christ and how his truth can make a person free. All freedoms have their price and Christian freedom is no exception. Acceptance of the Christian way of life can enable a person to escape the bondage of an existing way of life but his very acceptance demands that he embrace new thoughts, new ways of living. These demands and obligations if not wholeheartedly accepted can become restrictions. If I can return to my vegetable patch my peas provide a more prolific harvest when they grow in the orderly confines of the sticks and stakes which hold them in place and help each plant to reach the light.

Let us not forget that the central message of the Christian Church is that Christ himself paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

There is one other parable I would like to draw from my vegetable garden. It took me quite a time to sort it out when I came home, bringing the peas and beans into some sort of order by providing further staking and then by weeding — a back breaking job if there ever was one — and in the process I realised that I was throwing out plants which had suffered because of the extra growth other plants had made and plants, namely weeds, which were growing in the wrong places. So often in life the price for one person's freedom is not paid by him but by someone else often unconnected and innocent. The effect of our actions can be far reaching and affect others adversely. If we have a free for all, then freedom perishes. Perhaps it's time for Society to look at itself and to develop a sense of self discipline which restrains personal ambition and which considers the needs of others around as equally important.

Remember Christ paid the ultimate price for your freedom and mine.

HONOUR FOR CAVERSHAM RESIDENT

Martyn Allies has been prominent in local politics, standing for election in the Borough of Reading in recognition of the work he has done, as Chairman of the Reading-Dusseldorf Association, helping to break down the barriers existing after the war and encouraging the growth of Anglo-German friendship in the 2 towns. Since his retirement from the RAF Martyn has been an indefatigable worker for the Caversham Community. He has been prominent in local politics, standing for election in the Thames ward several times. He was also responsible for the creation of the Caversham Heights Society, and has been the inspirer of many of the activities based at Caversham Heights Methodist Church where he and his wife are active members. One of his varied interests is the Caversham Bridge award.

SUE RYDER QUIZ

In last month's "Bridge" we printed Audrey Yates old telephone number. Her new one is 476567 and she can be contacted on it for those wanting copies of the Quiz.

PETA BAKER

As we go to print we have just heard the sad news of the death of Peta Baker. The Board of the Caversham Bridge sends its condolences to Frank and the other members of the family. A full appreciation will appear next month.

THANK YOU

To arrive at 8.15 am in the morning and find that burglars have stolen goods and a computer system holding all one's files is a business' worst nightmare. Lindsay and John of the Caversham Bookshop suffered this calamity at the end of June. It was a major shock to the system but they would like to offer their gratitude to the many people who dropped in to offer their sympathy and many other gifts of flowers and wine. This really helped them through a most difficult period.

POPPY APPEAL

In 1990 the people of Caversham gave over £4700 to the Royal British Legion Appeal. This year the target is £5000. To attain this amount a few more house collectors would make all the difference. Any volunteers in this area would be welcome. Dates Monday October 28th till November 10th.

Kindly contact Mrs P. Gregson on Reading 473535 or W.J. Hawkins, Reading 475579, Chairman, Caversham Branch RBL.

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 David Moody, 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.
- CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.
- ROMAN CATHOLIC**
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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 October issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 Sept. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 Sept. The dates for November will be Monday 30 Sept and Wednesday 2 October.

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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KEYBUNCH VISITS 3000 CHILDREN

The drama group, Keybunch, which is made up of seven members of Caversham Hill Chapel, Marion Hedley-Lewis, Mark Hatcher and Mike Holmes have recently conducted assemblies in the local primary schools again. This time they were accompanied by four students from a missionary training college in Holland.

tour is very demanding for the Keybunch members who make no charge for their service and fit in their usual jobs around the practices and performances. However they enjoy it and believe it is vital for children and young people to be given the opportunity to hear the good news about Jesus and his love for them.

Spotless". They went to see him, he got rid of the spots and put them in the dustbin "where they belonged".

Marion, who wrote and directed the material, explained to the children the meaning of the sketch. She pointed out that spots were horrid things, like the sins in our lives, but Dr Spotless, who represents Jesus, could remove them.

God. Even though we do mean things at times God still loves us, which is why he sent Jesus to die for us — to take away the rubbish of sin in our lives.

All the children were invited to a free Fun Day, which was held at Mapledurham Playing Fields at the end of the tour. It consisted of games and races followed by a

They initially started doing street evangelism and then the opportunity came to visit the local schools. The aim of the group is to give both primary and secondary school children a Christian perspective on life through appropriate drama and song.

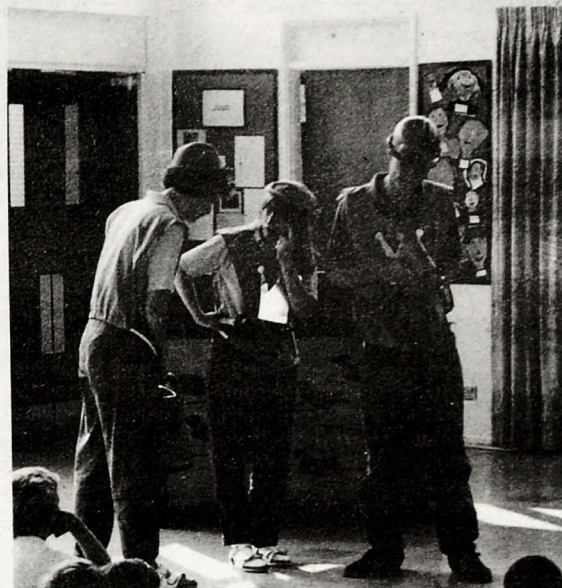
The first sketch called "Dr Spotless", was about a group of people receiving an invitation to "the best party ever!". After their initial excitement, they realised that the invitation stated they could not go if they had spots, which made them very unhappy because they all had spots (very topical due to chicken pox outbreak!). They then met three doctors, Dr Forget'em, Dr Cover'em and Dr Squeeze'em who all tried to get rid of the spots without success. Then the group noticed that there was something written on the other side of the invitation, "in case of spots — contact Dr

The second sketch, 'The Mean Queen', was very popular with the children. The queen did not treat her subjects and staff at all well when one day the dustbin man came in to the palace and started talking to her. Gradually her heart began to melt. He introduced her to the Bible and she began to realise that this was the key for having her "inside yuk" (the horrible things she did) taken away. Mike Holmes (who is also Pastor at Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship, part of Caversham Hill Chapel) explained that the mean things she did was like rubbish which needed to be got rid of because it was in the way of being able to really know

praise party of lively songs and a sequel to the Mean Queen sketch. Over one hundred and fifty children attended.

It was mentioned at the Fun Day that Keybunch hope to set up a club for 5 - 11s, called the Keyhole Club. Each child who attended the Fun Day will be receiving information about this. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the club will be on a Sunday afternoon in September.

If you are interested in the work of Keybunch or the Keyhole Club, please contact Mike Holmes on Reading 474529.



Members of the Queen's staff



The Dustbin Man played by Mike

Their summer term production of two sketches and a song, was seen by approximately three thousand children. They visited all of the state primary schools in Caversham, Woodcote, Stoke Row and Kidmore End and also a school in Slough and the Avenue School for handicapped children in Reading.

Such an extensive

WATCHDOG — continued from page 4

BAD TIMING

Christchurch Meadows, the town's kids and their visitors who were looking forward to having a whale of a time at

the play area were disappointed to find that its main attraction, the pond, with its watermill, raft and suchlike, was out of use as cracks had made its surface unsafe. Repair was scheduled to take the whole of the school's holiday period. A better staffing level would doubtless have uncovered the problem earlier so that the play area could be fully used at its most heavily frequented time.

WOMAD

The WOMAD festival went off without trouble this year and was thoroughly enjoyed by those who went. This time the stay-at-homes did not have their ears assaulted by the noise

which, last year, even its well wishers found excessive. Attendance was down to not very much above half of capacity, most of them seasoned festival followers rather than local people who were probably a little deterred by the high price of a day's, let alone a weekend, ticket. It is a pity separate programmes cannot be booked.

The annual rock festival is the next on the scene. They seem to have overcome the noise problem, but will always attract criticism because of the strange garb and uninhibited street behaviour of their fans as well as the problems of litter which continues defeat them. **DIARY DATE** Monday 14th October. Clr. Jill Parker on major planning matters in the Caversham area. Church House 8.00 p.m.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

BUGS BOTTOM ON THE BOX

With Bugs Bottom the star of a TV film shown nationwide at peak viewing hours, the long struggle to save it from property developers received even more attention than it ever has before, and in the process gained even more supporters. Starting with Steve and Kartina's wedding in an evocatively picturesque Chilterns village church, it moved on to the various ways in which the campaign has been carried on, from collecting signatures to a petition which was then borne to London in a snow storm, to public meetings, walking in the valley and house to house visits by Liese Skull, who knocked on hundreds of doors and collected thousands of pounds for the expected costs of the Appeal Court Case. A nice touch was the sales talk at a similar type of Higgs and Hill development at Frimley, drawing attention to the gold taps in the en-suite bathroom and the artistically chosen natural history frieze in the dual aspect lounge — with the camera switching to the real thing in Bugs Bottom.

There has been some criticism that the serious issues were dealt with either inadequately or not at all. It certainly ought to have been possible to have shown more of the background to the case whilst still holding the audience's attention, but with only half an hour there had to be some selectivity, and the film certainly succeeded in showing the good humoured, determined and carefully planned campaign.

A measure of its success can be gauged by the letters from distant parts of the country received by the campaign, all of them supportive and one from Scotland containing a cheque for £100. The Bugs Bottom campaign was fortunate to have been chosen as part of the series, which was well received and will possibly be repeated. By then it might be possible to tell how the Tale of Bugs Bottom will end.

JCB'S MOVE IN

The very next day, vigilant Bugs Bottom defenders, and there are always plenty of these about, were alarmed to hear the sound of machinery in the valley and even more perturbed when they saw chalky patches appearing whilst orange-coated surveyors set up triangulation points and took measurements.

Alerted to this, the media and Borough Council officers charged up to the valley. The Borough Council was angry but could do nothing as what was being done, taking soil samples and making measurements, was not illegal, although digging a trench would be. The media did a splendid job, the Evening Post coming out with a colour photo on its front page and TVS showing indignant campaigners in the valley whilst Higgs and Hill tried to make feeble excuses.

It is encouraging to know that nothing can go on in Bugs Bottom but someone sees it and reports on it. Higgs and Hill said they were surprised at the reaction, somewhat surprising in itself in view of their claims of concern for the local community. They can expect far more if their bulldozers ever arrive in the valley.

MISCELLANEOUS

An attractive postcard has been produced showing Bugs Bottom in early summer in all its beauty. They are on sale at various outlets, price 15p each, all profits to go to the BBAG fighting fund.

There is also a competition to choose street names if, perish the thought, building ever went ahead in the valley. Suitable names that would nevertheless put off prospective buyers are invited and will be submitted to the Borough Council who have the right to decide on all street names in the town. Bugs Hill and Brian's Bottom are amongst the more printable suggestions. Send any ideas to Watchdog c/o the Caversham Bridge.

UNITED PROTEST

When Michael Heseltine arrived at the National Rivers Authority site at Fobney to open a new laboratory, he found an unofficial welcoming party awaiting him at the entrance. The group had got together at very short notice to greet him, covering three major threats to Reading's environment.

The most recently formed group, FOLK, or Friends of the Lower Kennet, is contesting what at the present is still in the form of a representation to the Council Structure Plan review by a consortium of builders to smother the Kennet Meadows in the Southcote area with 5,000 houses, industrial parks, retail warehouses, and new roads, something that if ever it comes to fruition will be even worse than Bugs Bottom. Another group was made up of objectors to the Cross Town Route which would ruin forever the character of the banks of the Thames from Broken Row to Scours Lane. Standing out from all the rest was a group of rabbits, old hands at protesting, and representing the interests of Bugs Bottom. In point of fact, each of the groups is fully supportive of the others, and if they concentrate on the one nearest to them it is largely because of the time available and not because of NIMBY-ism.

Each group had placed a small selection of relevant material into a folder which also contained the front page of the Reading Chronicle for that week, showing all the current threats to destroy what is left of Berkshire's green spaces.

When the Secretary of state arrived, his car stopped and he wound down the window, presumably the better to hear the cries of 'Save Bugs Bottom', 'Stop the Cross Town Route' and 'Friends of the Lower Kennet say NO'. He took the folder and promised to read it and added that he thought it a friendly and well-behaved protest. Later, speaking to the media, he said he was in Reading to open a laboratory and not to comment on Bugs Bot-

tom but he would consider all the facts and evidence.

It was a worthwhile protest, even if it was finally squeezed off the television screens, but with two recent appearances it would be unreasonable to complain. And it effectively placed Reading people's concerns right into the hands of the man at the top.

CAVERSHAM COURT

Caversham Court needs friends. As was mentioned last month in this column, it is already showing signs of cuts in local Government expenditure. Gone are the days when it had its own gardener who spent all his time there and cared for it as if it were his own.

This is not to decry what the present park rangers do, but few people realise that they are only based there, whilst having responsibility for over thirty parks, twenty six allotment sites and fifty two children's playgrounds. Moreover, there are only four of them instead of the seven or eight there used to be.

Small wonder that even the opening and shutting of the gardens presents problems. Many of the parks in the town are simply not shut at all, the Forbury Gardens for instance, where vandals could manage to get over the walls even if the gates

were shut. In the case of Caversham Court however the gates do act as a deterrent but it has not always been possible to close them and vandalism such as snapping off a memorial tree and throwing a seat into the pond has taken place.

To try to combat this, the Friends of Caversham Court have been formed, and one of their aims is to volunteer for opening and locking the gates when a park ranger is not available. A kind of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has also been suggested, whereby vandalism might be nipped in the bud.

Several people expressed a willingness at the inaugural meeting to help with garden maintenance but there could be problems when the gardens are put under contract maintenance in 1992. It will depend on what goes into the contract arrangements.

It is encouraging to know that there is a lot of good will about and that people are prepared to help. This does not alter the fact that severe cuts in public expenditure lead as often to inefficiency as to greater efficiency. If you would like to lend a hand at Caversham Court get into touch with Richard Haworth or any of the Park Rangers at the Stable Block, Tel. Reading 477917.

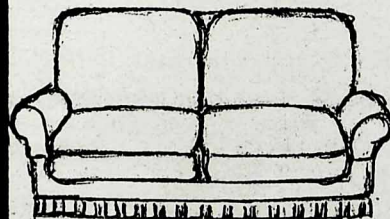
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Keith and Monica Sanders

Such has been the popularity of the Revd. Keith Sanders, Minister of Caversham Heights Methodist Church for the past five years, and his wife Monica, that all church rooms were pressed into service on June 24th to seat 220 member and friends for a farewell supper.

Following the attractively presented and tasty meal prepared by the church ladies, well wishers streamed in to the church for speeches and a presentation. First to speak was the Revd. Phil Abrey, Minister of the Caversham Park ecumenical church, who recalled that when Keith came to Caversham ecumenical activity was moribund. Now it was very much alive: Keith had reinvigorated the inter-church Lenten house groups, encouraged fortnightly meetings of Caversham clergy and, above all, taken the lead in setting up 'Churches Together in Caversham', which was launched last September with a highly successful service in Caversham Court.

Margaret Havers, a steward of the Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit, brought a message from its Superintendent Minister, The Revd. Tom Stuckey. Tom amusingly recalled how he had come across Keith and an elderly church

member prone on the Friar Street pavement. Keith, taking her to an optician's, had inadvertently tripped her up and fallen over himself! He was the first to see the humour of the situation, and Tom Stuckey observed that this illustrated two of Keith's endearing qualities, his concern to help people in a practical way and his ability to laugh at himself. Tom also paid tribute to Monica's lively and outgoing character, saying that she had brought a breath of fresh air into Circuit life.

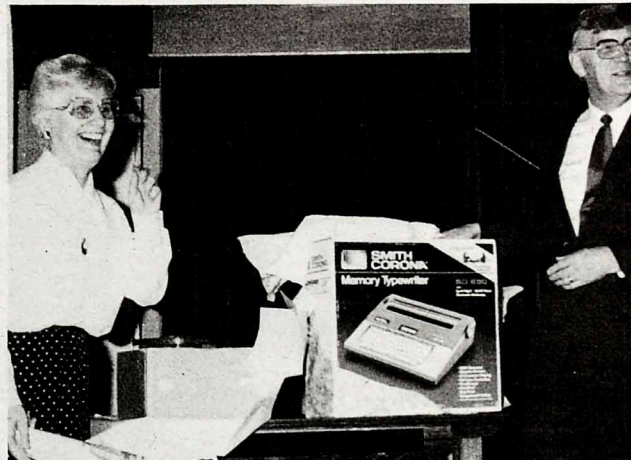
The final speaker was Gordon Adams, the church's Senior Steward. Gordon commented on Keith's passion for John Wesley and Methodism, and drew attention to the dedication with which he had visited the sick and those in trouble, and to the care with which he planned church services — despite the temptation of cup finals and urgent gardening tasks! Monica, Gordon pointed out, had not only been a strong support to her husband but had played a prominent part in many facets of church life, particularly in forming the Girls Brigade and in directing 'Pharoah to Freedom' and other much enjoyed musicals. Gordon then presented two fragile gifts from church members — a typewriter to Keith and a dinner service to Monica,



Keith and Monica with Gordon Adams Photo: P. J. Bean



Presentation of an embroidery to the church Photo: P. J. Bean



Yet more presents to Keith and Monica Photo: P. J. Bean

plus a piece of paper with a respectable number of noughts which 'was not fragile but would not bounce'!

Monica thanking Gordon and church members, said that time went quickly when one was enjoying oneself, and the five years in Caversham had slipped away very quickly indeed. She would miss the many friends she had made, and particularly her Brigade girls. Keith looked forward to friends from Caversham visiting them in Derby, where he will become Minister of the Queens Hall Central Mission and Superintendent of

the Derby Derwent Circuit.

As a memento of happy years at Caversham Heights, Keith and Monica presented the church with an embroidery picture of The Last Supper, beautifully worked by their daughter, Dawn. This will, very fittingly, be hung in the Wesley Lounge, a much valued addition to the church premises which came about only as a result of Keith's initiative.

You will be missed, Keith and Monica, by very many people in Caversham, many whom you barely

know, and you and your family, Dawn, Martin and Stephen, are assured of their good wishes and prayers for the future.

E.M.A.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

Summer's here and it's lovely and warm as I write this, I hope it will still be summer when you read it.

Summer's events at Caversham Methodist church have gone with a swing, the June Fair raised about £250 and was enjoyed by all who came. During June the church welcomed a Cornish group of singers who took part in the Sunday service and shared in a very nice lunch which had been prepared by Catherine and Julia Hackman.

The Junior Boy's Brigade has been to camp in Windsor. 27 boys were taken by a group of dedicated adults. During their time there they had a very full itinerary, with a visit to the castle, a boat trip, a Night Ghost Hunt... (sounds good) a visit to the Railways & Royalty Wax Museum, and some time at the Leisure pool, and they even found time to go to church!.....well done the organisers.

The Sunshine Girls Singing Group held their annual Summer Concert, a full programme entertained parents and friends. The highlight of the evening was a musical play about litter, called aptly "Rubbish". There was some very good singing and acting especially from Tuhina Chakraverty, Sunita Dhillon, Patricia Allan,

Katie Gutteridge and Sarah Guthrie. The play began and ended with a Carnival, and this mood was echoed throughout the evening. Prizes were presented to Layla Cassells, best newcomer, Emily Kemp and Katie Goodings, most progress, Sarah Guthrie most willing helper. Long service awards were presented to Tuhina Chakraverty, Sunita Dhillon, Katie Gutteridge, Geraldine Harris, and Esther Ham. £52 was raised to be divided between the Church Gift Day and The National Children's Home.

The Women's Fellowship held an open afternoon when several new ladies attended an enjoyable afternoon organised by Mrs. Doreen Boakes, and a lovely afternoon was also enjoyed by everyone when Mrs Gladys Alderman held the annual Garden Party.

We look forward to new events some with keenness, some with mixed feelings and some with sadness.

We record here our best wishes and love to Keith and Monica Sanders as they go on their way to Derby. It's been nice having "Uncle Keith" up the road, and we shall all miss him very much. We wish them every happiness, and as we sit or work in our gardens we will think of Keith enjoy-

ing his...God bless you both.

September sees the start of Rev. John & Doreen Boakes' sabbatical, and we wish them well with this, there will be study courses, visits, time to relax, time to regenerate, best wishes with this John and Doreen. While they, as it were are "Not In Service" our needs at Gosbrook Road will be looked after by Rev. George Simmons Tel. No. 666301, and we look forward to working with him.

So while John and Doreen are away the Harvest Festival will be celebrated. The Sunday Services will be taken by Rev. Bill Mason at 11 a.m. and the superintendent minister Rev. Tom Stuckey at 6.30 p.m. On the Monday evening there will be a Harvest Supper with entertainment by The Reading St. Andrews Scottish Country Dancers...and we look forward to that.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Once again St Margaret's Day turned out fair and fine and once again many friends were welcomed from around Caversham to the Patronal Festival Eucharist on Sunday, July 21, at Mapledurham. It was good to have them for this service and afterwards at the Shared Lunch at the Old Vicarage. It was a very happy event and Bridget and Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce are sincerely thanked for allowing the use of their garden for the occasion.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



A group from Caversham Heights Methodist Church with their cheque for the Blue Peter appeal

- Peter Bean

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

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am 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 Pavillion

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road

10.00am 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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St. Andrew's Fellowship

Unforeseen circumstances necessitated a quick change of plan for the Fellowship's afternoon outing on 10th July. Fortunately the very helpful coach driver had an inspired suggestion to make and thirty-three members and friends set off in brilliant sunshine for Birdland at Farnham.

The party rapidly dispersed on arrival to look at the beautiful (mostly!) birds in immaculately kept surroundings. The flowers and well kept lawns

alone were a pleasure to look at.

One of the most interesting effects was the seashore section where the sea was realistically simulated. Another impressive building was the tropical house, at the end of which was a special section for free flying birds.

After the party had refreshed themselves in the tea room or at the ice cream bar, they left for home, and everybody was lavish in their praise for the splendid and enjoyable afternoon.

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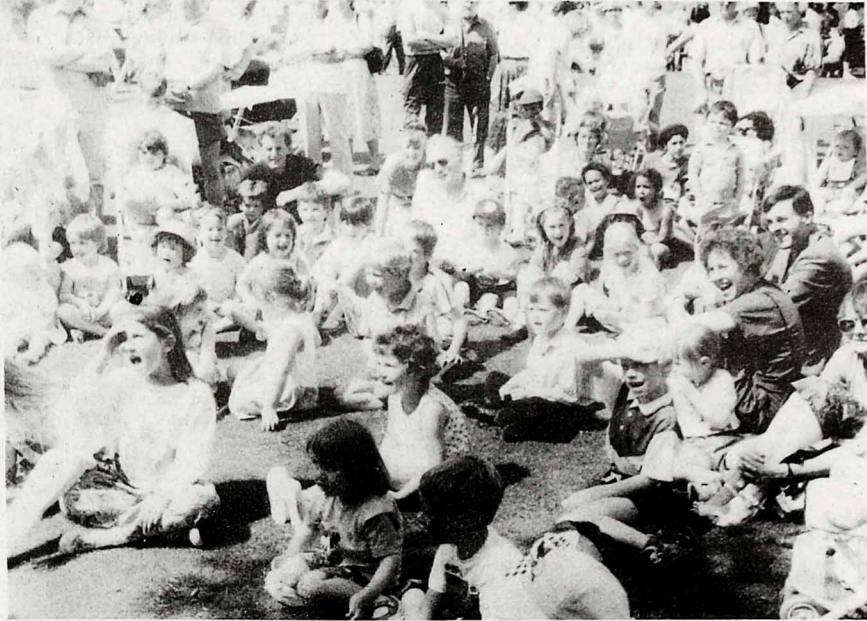
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ROUND THE CHURCHES

ST. PETER'S AND ST. MARGARET'S SUMMER FAIR

A brilliant summer day contributed to the success of the Fete and a splendid total of over £3,500 was raised. Our photographer was busy and highlights from the afternoon's entertainments can be seen below.



"Oh no he didn't!" and the Punch and Judy show always has a rapt audience

- E.S. Archer



- E.S. Archer

The Rector opens the Fete (and the St. John's team in the background had a mercifully quiet afternoon).



Caversham Primary School turns up trumps with many pretty maypole dances

- E.S. Archer

LOUD AND CLEAR AT ST PETER'S

To welcome the 'Decade of Evangelism', St Peter's Church has installed a SOUND-INDUCTION Loop System for those who have impaired hearing. Supplied and fitted by New Tech, a Hampshire firm of specialist systems for the hard of hearing, the system allows those with hearing aids to switch into the magnetic induction system and to hear every word from the four microphone points. Also, those who have impaired hearing but no hearing aids may collect on entry a discreet portable amplification set and hear in full technicolour. In the first weeks of the systems installation, many have commented appreciatively.

The Revd Richard Kingsbury notes a special advantage users of this new system can enjoy: 'Unlike the rest of us, those using the system can now switch off during the sermons!'



The miniature train ride was always on the go

- E.S. Archer

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**"AND WHAT DO YOU DO,
HELEN?"**

Nowadays, in answer to that awful question, "And what do you do?", I say I work at the Citizens' Advice Bureau, and I certainly say it less apologetically than "Just a housewife" or "Just a secretary". I know you're not supposed to be apologetic, but I was.

What I needed was part-time work that would be interesting and stimulating. It had to be people-orientated and it was more important to me to feel I was doing something worthwhile than to have a salary. CAB work sounded like something that might suit my grasshopper mind and keep my budding social conscience happy too.

I had timed my approach to the CAB well. It was September and they were interviewing possible trainees. The

more I found out about work and the training, the more enthusiastic I got. Far from handing out leaflets and bits of information, I found that a large part of the training was on basic counselling skills, learning about personal development and crises (my own as well as other people's!). The training was spread over several months, mostly in intensive Thursday morning sessions with the bureau's Training Officer and a small group of trainees.

I became an avid newspaper reader, and sometimes it seemed that every other TV or radio programme mentioned the CAB, or something relevant. When they talked about marriage breakdowns, unemployment, I

could relate it to bureau clients. The shape and size of my world was changing.

Following on from that, I got involved in Social Policy work, reporting to the National Association of CABs on particular cases of difficulties and injustice we came across in the bureau. This "bureau evidence" contributes to reports submitted to government ministers and is an effective way of influencing policies without getting involved in party politics.

Another aspect of CAB work here in Reading had been the development of a Training Service. This runs one-day courses for people from other organisations and local businesses, so I now find I'm a tutor on some of those days. Even more surprisingly, I find I really enjoy it and now have another string to my bow.

VISIONS

In the early summer of 1989 "Circuit Productions," a group of enthusiasts, mainly from the Reading and District Methodist churches, staged a highly successful musical "pageant" written and composed

by Helen and Jeremy Rawson, called "I AM," and based on Christ's sayings as reported in St. John's Gospel; - I am the Way, I am the Bread of Life, etc. "I AM" was staged at Reading and repeated in places as far apart as Milton Keynes, Brighton and Southampton.

Circuit Productions is now broadening its scope to become a truly ecumenical society embracing all Christian groups in the Reading area. This society is to be known as "VISIONS". VISIONS is open to any member of any church or of none. Its aim is to promote all worthy forms of Christian worship through music and drama with suggestions, props, technical assistance etc.

VISIONS is currently preparing to stage a new and exciting musical, again written by the Rawsons, called "INFINITE LOVE" and based on the Nicene Creed. The first perfor-

mance should take place towards the end of June, 1992 with rehearsals on Monday evenings starting on 4th November 1991 (orchestral rehearsals some Sunday afternoons, some Monday evenings.) On Monday, 16th September, at 7.45 p.m. at Wesley Church, Queen's Road, (just by the new Watlington St./King's Road one-way system,) there will be a very important meeting to learn more about the format of the new musical and to cast soloists. ANYONE who is interested in playing any part in the production: -

choristers, soloists, actors, stage hands, technicians will be most welcome. If you cannot get to the meeting, or if you read this after the meeting has taken place, please get in touch with Jeremy on 0734 426602, with Tony Vallis on 0734 416531, or in the Caversham area with Sally Hallett on 474460.

The tutoring is paid work, as is some of the advising I do now. All advisers work one day a week as volunteers, with, on average, an additional half day of meetings, on-going training and reading time. After two years' experience, they are offered paid sessions as well, usually one day or a half day a week. The work is exactly the same, but the cheque at the end of the month does make you feel more professional. The bureau is not entirely altruistic in offering this: pay cheques help them to hold on to some of the advisers they've turned into confident, marketable people!

I am usually tired at the end of the day, sometimes indignant, saddened or amused by what I have seen and heard. Behind all that, however, is the awareness that I have been listening to people talking about the things that really matter most to them. Sometimes they are surprised to find themselves telling you things they have never told anyone before. It really is an enormous privilege to have people confide in you. This kind of trust is probably the biggest bonus of all, though most days have their minor victories of one sort or another -

untangling some red tape, perhaps, or keeping the creditors at bay.

So now, nearly four years later, where am I? I think I know myself better. You can't help someone with personal problems without facing up to some of your own. It has not always been a comfortable process, but it has been one of growth undergone in a warm supportive environment.

My family, too, has willy-nilly gone through a watered-down version of the CAB training with me and we have all learned a lot. Sometimes they'd mock me - "Mum's got her CAB hat on" - because I am likely, quite automatically, to switch into CAB mode at the first whiff of a crisis. Quite early on, after pouring her heart out one day, one daughter suddenly said accusingly, "You're counselling me, aren't you?" Now, either nobody notices or nobody minds. I can happily say that life will never be the same again.

If you would like more information on training to be a CAB adviser write to: Helen Watson, Reading CAB, 12 Station Rd Reading RG1 1JX.

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OBITUARIES

W.E. SCOTCHBROOK (BILL)

Bill was born in 1902 in Marston, Bedfordshire, the son of a village schoolteacher, and was educated at Bedford Modern School.

He was articled to Thimbleby and Shorland in 1918 and started his own business as an Estate Agent and Auctioneer in 1934. He practiced in both The Forbury and Friar Street.

Right from his early days in Banbury and Reading Livestock Markets he enjoyed the thrill of a deal and with his bonhomie would hope that the other party had as much fun from the transaction as he did. He had a fantastic memory and would recall land deals of over fifty years ago with the right prices and the right dates.

He was Secretary and subsequently President of the Reading and District Fatstock Society. As President at their annual dinners he would give his official speech which was very rarely a speech but usually reminiscing about times gone by and stories of the cattle market and various characters in the agricultural and auctioneering world. These reminiscences were enjoyed by all.

He loved the laughter of youngsters and

always tried to persuade people of all ages to smile with him.

Although he and Cynthia had no children of their own they provided a haven and home for many young people over the years. There are nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and many others who will cherish the sanctuary they provided perhaps, if nothing else, as a change from the discipline of their own parents. He always remembered family birthdays.

He and Cynthia acted as friends/helpers/carers to many people in their neighbourhood over the years. They were extremely considerate to both of Bill's sisters before their deaths.

Among his many interests he was a long time member of the Athenaeum Club; a prominent member and subsequently a life member of the Caversham Bowling Club; a Mason with the Greyfriars Lodge and founder member of the Tilehurst Lodge and he was made a life member of the Caversham Workingmen's Social Club. He was a one time member of the Sainsbury Singers. He used his voice to good effect as a first class auctioneer. Records do not tell

us of the standard of his singing!

One of the last things he talked about was horse racing which, together

with many other sports, was of great interest to him.

His last appearance in St Peter's was, in fail-

ing health, but great dignity, for his wife's (Cynthia) funeral just four weeks before his own.

ERIC GEORGE CRUTCHLEY

"The Caversham Bridge" and Gosbrook Road Methodist Church have both lost a very good friend with the passing of Eric Crutchley on July 5th at the age of 86. Eric was a keen supporter of "The Caversham Bridge" from the time of its original conception and he became well known to many people in Lower Caversham when he distributed it each month, as he did for many years.

Eric was born in Cove near Farnborough but later moved to Reading where he worked as an accountant for H & G Simmonds. During the war he was in intelligence with the Royal Air Force. He was stationed in Iceland where he became ac-

quainted with H.E. Bates, the well-known author who novels include "The Darling Buds of May" and "Fair Stood the Wind for France." During this time Eric was mentioned in dispatches.

An excellent sportsman, Eric could have been a professional footballer, indeed he was invited to play for Aldershot Football Club. He was very good at cricket too and later in life he became a keen bowls player with the Caversham Bowling Club.

Eric had a very happy marriage and he and his wife Kathleen were stalwarts at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church for many years during which time he helped in the

Sunday School, served as a Trustee and as a Church Steward.

Eric was keen to be involved in the wider community and his work with the Citizens Advice Bureau must have helped many local people.

The death of Kathleen was undoubtedly a bad blow for him but he bravely managed to pick up the pieces of his life and retain his cheerfulness and spirit. Unfortunately, ill-health dogged the last months of his life but through a difficult time he was greatly helped by a wonderful friend and companion, Babs Chambers.

Eric leaves sons John and Roger and grandchildren Michael and Jonathan.

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The cast of Hiawatha presented by the members of Thameside School's Dance and Drama Clubs at the end of the summer term - E.S. Archer

DUNSDEN'S "ROYAL" FETE

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on
Saturday 7th September 1991 to
raise funds for the Parish
Churches.

There will be the usual wonderful teas, fantastic bargains, lots of stalls and fun for all with as many "Royal" visitors (ancient and modern) as we can persuade to come. We hope to see lots of princes and princesses in the children's Fancy Dress parade at 2.15 pm. Please come and join us.

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Maplewood

WI

At the July meeting an interesting talk was given by Mrs Rixon on 'The History of Dolls' in which she told the story of dolls from the 16th Century, illustrated with a display of her varied and colourful collection.

The Flower of the Month competition was won by Mrs Gwenda New with a rose.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, Chairman, welcomed members to the July Meeting at the Baptist Church Hall and also welcomed back Mrs Beardmore and Mrs Haffenden, both of whom had been indisposed. Apologies were read from members who were either on holiday or otherwise committed. Birthday cards were distributed after which the Minutes of the June meeting were read by the Chairman in the absence of the Secretary who was on holiday.

Members were reminded that a Mystery Tour had been arranged for Tuesday 17th September with a tea at the Chiltern Chase Restaurant on the way home. It was then time to introduce Police Constable Dean from Thames Valley Police Crime Prevention Team, who gave a most enlightening talk on this subject, asking members how they safeguarded their homes against break-in, giving his advice on what to do to protect their property, and showing many devices that could be used for safety. Members showed much interest and P.C. Dean was warmly thanked by all who had enjoyed a most interesting talk on the precautions that could be used to make homes and persons as safe as possible.

Teas were then served after which the Chairman reminded

members there would be no meeting in August. The Annual Harvest Home was to be in September and absent members would then be able to put their names on the list for the Mystery Tour on the 17th. In all a very happy afternoon had been spent.

Caversham Heights TG

There have been talks of different kinds at meetings lately. A light-hearted one given by a member of the Royal Military School of Music was preceded by a more serious talk about arthritis and rheumatism. There followed an evening visit to listen to military band music performed at the school's headquarters at Kneller Hall. The chairman of social studies group arranged an outing to Leeds Castle, and federation organised a visit to the Museum of Rural Life and the Harris gardens in WhiteKnights park.

In June the birthday party was held; in the same month motions were debated at the National Council at the Royal Albert Hall in London. At the most recent meeting of the main guild Mr C Cole gave a most interesting history of hotels. Mentioning the pilgrims and merchants of centuries ago, he went on to describe how in Tudor times people followed Queen Elizabeth in carriages for longer distances and more inns were needed for the crowd. The 'George' in Southwark puts on playlets in the summer, a reminder of those times; many people are supposed to have slept on the great bed at Ware. The first building in 1760 to be called a hotel was French in origin.

the CLUBS

He dwelt on the golden era of hotels around 1900, and said there used to be temperance hotels. There has never really been a trade union that represents hotel workers. In more recent years British Rail have sold their hotels, Lyons' hotels were taken over by Trusthouse Forte and American style hotels appeared. Now holiday Inns have been bought by Bass Charrington. So where next?

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At the July meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild the speaker was Mr R. Snailham, a writer, lecturer and worker for Operation Raleigh. His talk was entitled 'Lucky to be Alive' and concerned a preliminary expedition in 1976 to Mount Sangay in Ecuador prior to a main expedition planned for the following year which in the event did not take place. Mount Sangay is the world's highest and most consistently active volcano, being seventeen and a half thousand feet above sea level. The British Vulcan Expedition hoped to collect rock and gas samples. The reconnaissance trip was to take only six weeks and consisted of seven people including a geologist from Ecuador. Mr Snailham is no stranger to this kind of expedition and had some fascinating slides showing the type of land to be traversed and the inhabitants who lead a very hard life just in order to survive. The journey to establish a base camp was hard going and not all the travellers were acclimatised to

the altitude, four of them having gone from sea level to thirteen thousand feet in one day. Leaving one man behind at the camp they set out to ascend Mount Sangay. It is not a difficult mountain to climb but the expedition was plagued with bad weather and poor visibility; orange markers were placed at regular intervals to assist in the return journey. No one was roped and all were climbing slowly, zigzagging back and forth when there was a sudden terrible noise and the whole mountain shook. Red-hot rocks came tumbling out of the clouds as the mountain erupted. All were hit by the falling rocks and all except Nick Cook were injured, sliding two thousand feet down the mountainside after which only three were able to stand. Two members walked back to base camp and although taking a wrong direction eventually managed to summon help. Nick Cook remained on the mountain to care for the gravely injured. One died, the other two he put into sleeping bags and a survival cover and held onto them all night to prevent them sliding further on the ice and snow. In the morning when help had still not

come he stuck his ice axe firmly into the ground, tied the two men to it and set off for help himself. Eventually all were brought down to base camp although another died on the way down. Mr Snailham himself had three bones in his right arm smashed but counted himself 'Lucky to be alive'. Nick Cook was later awarded the George Medal for outstanding bravery.

The ramblers sponsored walk gave an excellent result, raising over £200 for 'Rooting for the Future' to be administered by the Woodland Trust.

The T.G. garden at Chelsea was awarded a silver medal and another T.G. garden is to be on show at the Hampton Court International Flower Show.

A full account of the N.C.M. at the Royal Albert Hall in June was given to members and the results of the voting for the four motions were reported. News of the mother and baby clinic at Dhaka was also given, as this was built with money raised by the Townswomen's Guild and although run by the Save The Children organisation is still paid for by the T.G. Members were delighted to hear that the clinic had escaped the recent floods and continues to flourish doing good useful work.

Mrs E. Fuller was thanked for her hard work organising the

Turn to page 11

WE LEAD THE FIELD!



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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARCUS

In our May issue we reported details of the problems which had befallen Marcus Harvey, a young employee of Barclays Bank, and the efforts being made to assist his rehabilitation. Mark, as he mentioned was made of the sporting gesture being made by another member

of Barclays staff, Mr. Chris How, who was seeking sponsorship in the London Marathon. We are delighted to reproduce the following letter from Mr. How and to note that Mark, as he prefers to be known, is making good progress —

Having completed the London Marathon course in the somewhat pedestrian time of 4 hrs. 10 mins I am pleased to be able to advise you that thanks to your generosity, we have collected upwards of £6,000 by way of sponsorship.

On behalf of Marcus and his family, I would like to thank all those who participated for their contribution towards this appeal.

When I called to see Marcus at his home recently it was encouraging to see what good progress he has made over the last few months. I handed him a cheque for £6,000 and it is his intention to use his money to help purchase a car which will need to be specially adapted to suit his particular need.

Thank you once again for your generous support.

C J How
Business Centre Manager
Barclays Bank PLC.
Camberley



From page 10

Caversham Afternoon Townswomens Guild

annual outing, this time to Cadbury's at Birmingham where a good time was had by all.

There will be a break in August and the chairman wished everyone happy holidays and looked forward to seeing them all in September.

At the July meeting, Mrs H. Adair the Chairman, spoke of matters in hand. Mrs A. Deane, the delegate this year at the National Council Meeting held in the Royal Albert Hall, read

the notes she took there. The main issue raised was how to save the environment. Through various projects the TG will have five woodlands planted; a good achievement. One guest speaker, who is known on television, Mr A. Titchmarsh, said everyone could do their share, by preserving wild life, through their own back gardens. Other important issues were voted and carried forward.

Afterwards Mrs S. Openshaw, a colour analyst, gave an entertaining display of the many colour scarves she had brought. A member was chosen as a model, to decide which season she came under. Each of the many shades of scarves was held in front of her, to decide the colours flattering to her. The season of spring was best and she should wear any of the chosen colours. Also an analysis of hair, skin tone and eyes helps a person to wear the right colours.

The Committee worked hard to make it an enjoyable afternoon for the garden party. They were fortunate to have a fine day for holding it out of doors. Various competitions were organised, with small prizes. Also the committee supplied a nice tea, followed by fruit and cream, which was served to the members on the lawn. The hostess Mrs D. Smith was presented with a gift on behalf of the members by the Chairman, for again lending her house and lawn which ended a lovely afternoon before the August break.

Caversham Community Association

On July 1st members who wished to take part in a walk from Emmer Green to Playhatch were able to enjoy fine weather for the occasion. Other members gathered at the clubroom for indoor games. As it was the first Monday in the month, there was a stall for the nearly-new goods with Evelyn Cook ready to sell some bargains.

A social evening was held the following week and was well attended.

A visit to the television studios at Teddington took place on Friday, 12th July. The programme being made was 'Never the Twain' featuring Donald Sinden and Windsor Davies. The club members were given a fascinating insight into the making of a week's episode and everyone enjoyed the evening outing.

On the 15th July a games evening was arranged when members could take their choice of friendly competition at shove-ha'penny, Scrabble and various table games. Ted Howard, the clubs' President, had previously ordered fish and chips, locally, for the members and kindly collected and distributed the tasty meal to them. This annual event is always enjoyed by everybody and thanks were expressed to Mr. Howard for his willing help in making the

evening a success.

Mrs. Ellaine Campbell was welcomed again to the club on the 22nd July to demonstrate Yoga exercises. The members were keen to participate and later were taught gentle massage actions to alleviate stress and relieve tension in the muscles.

An evening outing occurred on the 29th July. The weather was warm and the trip through the lovely countryside was appreciated. The coach driver made an interesting tour through Hindhead, Dorking and Guildford. The members saw the Devil's Punchbowl and the beautiful villages of Shalford, Chilworth, Albury and Gomshall. A stop was made for refreshments before the journey homeward at the end of a very pleasant outing.

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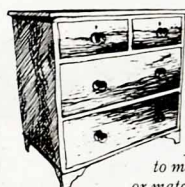


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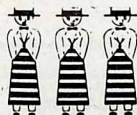
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