

# SALMON ELEVATED!

Fish lovers will be scanning the Thames for salmon racing each other to the new Mapledurham Salmon Ladder, formally opened 4th September at Mapledurham Lock.

Trust, helped by the National Rivers Authority. It gives salmon access to the upper reaches of the Thames for the first time.

der. Mapledurham House hosted guests for buffet lunch (guess what was on the menu!) at which a piscatorial Grace was given by the Revd Richard Kingsbury. Guests toured the House and Mill before being cruised back to Caversham.

stewardship of creation by Chevron/Gulf Oil, the river authority workers, and the event's hosts — Mapledurham House.

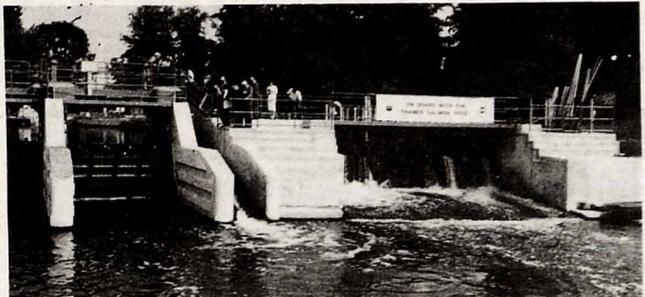
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Jointly sponsored by Chevron UK and Gulf Oil, backed by the enthusiasm of JJ Eyston Esq of Mapledurham House, the Mapledurham ladder is one of several installed by the Thames Salmon

'The Caversham Princess' cast its moorings, carefully negotiated shoals of eager salmon, and — as distinguished guests spotted more and more of this rare Thames species, with each glass of champagne — duly moored at Mapledurham Lock to view the new lad-

This generous venture introduced business-people from all parts of UK to the serene beauty of Mapledurham. It marked an imaginative act of

Afterwards the Rector was unavailable for comment. Mrs Kingsbury reported "I don't know what he's doing, but he's down on our embankment with yards of netting and wooden posts, muttering about glebe and tithe rights...."



Invited guests admiring the new Salmon ladder from the Weir. Courtesy — Chevron UK



The NRA Chairman unveils the commemorative plaque — (Left to right) — Mrs Isobel Smith, Major John Hyslop (Appeals Director, Thames Salmon Trust), Mr Charles Smith (Managing Director, CHEVRON UK), Lady Crickhowell P.C., The Rt. Hon. Lord Crickhowell (Chairman, National Rivers Authority), Mrs Muriel Setchell, Mr David Setchell (Managing Director, GULF OIL). Courtesy — Chevron UK

## The Annual Caversham Holiday 1991 'Still Crazy, after all these years.'

92 enjoyed a week of fun in the sun at Sandroyd School, hear Shaftesbury, for the holiday week. Many itinerant guests were welcomed through the week.

croquet and bowling lawns were torchlit to process tournaments to thrilling finals. Other sports were no less fiercely contested, but 1991's holiday had a quiet friendship sustaining all that went on.

defeated the bright morning Veterans at sunshine. cricket by 16 runs.

The week was organised by Frances Hill, John Kavanagh, and friends. To them all thanks are due. Next year's Parish Holiday ('Group' Holiday?) is 8th — 16th August, Bookings now to Frances (483142) or John (477312). We hope that more from all our Group churches will participate next year. Book now!

Glorious weather, after an overcast start, produced shorts, bikinis and summer clothes. The pool was used from dawn to beyond dusk. The Boys narrowly

During the week the Rector drove 450 miles and replaced his golfing divots. The Boys narrowly

The Girls ran rings around the Ladies at netball. Foul play, instigated as always by John Martin, kept the Water Polo match alive to the last gasp. The final night's cabaret, after celebration dinner, was down to its usual hilarious standard. Three Eucharists were celebrated, the last on the lawns in

## URGENT! ALBANIA ALERT URGENT!

1. Feed the children has already delivered aid to Albania, in June and August of this year, 43 tonnes worth
2. We plan to return just as soon as we can raise the food and funding
3. We deliver to hospitals, homes, schools direct
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5. Many thousands will not survive this Winter unless aid is delivered now
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OR

Send direct to our offices to Feed The Children, Caversham Business Centre, 23 Prospect Street, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 8JB. Our telephone number: 0734 461611.

# TALKING POINT

By the Rev. Trevor Nicholson  
Chaplain, Queen Anne's School



## AN UNFAIR GOD?

Heavy flooding in Bangladesh. Earthquake reduces two thirds of a city to rubble. Hurricane devastates coastal holiday resorts. TV personality dies after a long painful illness. When we read these headlines and the news behind them the question "Why does God, if he is good and all powerful, allow this to happen?" is never far from our minds. Because it is often so urgently put it is all too easy to give pious answers which are usually superficial, unsatisfactory and at times offensive, even if well intended.

When as a priest I have found myself in the house of a parishioner who had just lost someone dear to them surrounded by intense grief, it was quite inappropriate to try and find explanations. In the majority of cases people were more concerned to console each other, rather than question God's motives. It was far more helpful to pray with them, if it was wanted, realising in this prayer that God knew all about them and could and would give strength to live through the days ahead in the knowledge that the person who had left this life was in His hands.

However, the question about why God had allowed the suffering does arise afterwards, sometimes from the bereaved person when passing through the quite understandable period of angry reaction in which the question can take the form "Why did it have to be him or her? What did they do to deserve this? How unfair of God!" More often the question is asked by others who have known of the tragedy.

It is much easier to talk about reasons for suffering when we are on the subject of World Development and Poverty or il-

ness and disease caused through bad living or neglect of one's environment. It is the undesired suffering of a personal kind, suffering caused by human cruelty and natural disasters which prompt the question more keenly. God really does seem to allow some awful things to happen in quite an arbitrary fashion. We have to be very careful not to be trite when trying to help someone who is convinced that God is manifestly unfair by saying something like "I am sure God means it for the best and has some purpose". There is no easy answer. When we apply Christian Theology to the problem of pain and suffering we must do so with all humility, never claiming to know exactly how the other person feels or assuming that the view we take will answer all their doubts and fears. We must not be insensitive fools, rushing in where angels fear to tread.



### A GOD OF HEALING

Nevertheless, in the life and work of Christ, we are invited to see how God relates to suffering. Not only in the art of healing itself, but in the way it happens we see that God wills people to be whole and healthy in mind and body. He is concerned with the healing of the whole person and his relationship to the environment. It is not God's will that a person should be overwhelmed physically and mentally by illness. Thus when Jesus sees the paralysed man brought to him by friends and lowered through the roof of a house He takes into account the faith which surrounded the man and also the mental and physical trouble he had because it was assumed that his

paralysis was the result of sin. He released him from both. When Christ sees the isolated wretched Zacheaus in Jericho his spiritual healing and the restoration of his relationships with people are set in motion when Jesus actually goes to his house rather than demanding a change in the man before he will have anything to do with him.

So why, therefore, people might say when we have been praying for weeks both in church and round the bedside of that sick person did God take no account of our prayers and just let them die? There have indeed been times when people have recovered in part or completely. Again, it seems to be so arbitrary — some do, some do not. Yet in my experience as a priest of people of dying of terminal illnesses, I do not think there has been any situation where, because, like the paralysed man a person has been surrounded by the prayers and care of doctors, family and church members, there has not been some healing. I have in mind a man of fifty-six who was my PCC secretary and had cancer of the liver. When told there was no physical cure for him he naturally felt cheated by God and wanted to hold on to life, which was ebbing away. By the time of his death he was not stoically resigned but looking forward to new opportunities God would be giving him beyond this world. His own family remarked on the difference and how he had been strengthened through the praying support of the church. Physical conditions were so severe they could not support life any more. Death was seen as integral to the cure so that new life could begin.

### A MAN OF SORROWS

But still, one might understandably protest — how unfair! A good living man like that who did so much to help others! There are plenty of mean, self centred people in the world who get away with it. However, it is not part of the divine economy neatly to award suffering to those deemed to have deserved it and good health to the Godly. If we all got exactly what we deserved from God, most of us would be pretty badly off! As it is all of us have been the beneficiaries of much divine mercy and forbearance. The book of Job in the Old Testament argues at length against such a tidy arrangement of life.

In becoming Man in Jesus God embraced the whole of human life with all its beauty, rough edges, fairness and unfairness. By so doing he took on board suffering as an integral feature of living fully as a human being in this world. It is only those who always want to cocoon themselves with certainties in life who want to polarize suffering, see it as an evil enemy and try to pretend it is not part of human experience. St Paul talked about the earth groaning and travailing in coming to the fullness of the knowledge of God seen in Jesus. There is much suffering at the moment in Eastern Europe and Romania as peoples who formerly lived under totalitarian regimes adapt to a freer way of living and all it implies. There is much fear and uncertainty as well as rejoicing and this can cause tension which causes suffering. The man who assured Jesus so confidently that he would follow Him anywhere was told "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air their nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head". Christ was very different

from the figure of popular expectation — one who would have more easily appealed to all the certainty expressed in deep seated self interest in people. He chose the way of living amongst people, teaching and healing them in their midst. This brought him the suffering of being misunderstood even by his closest friends and the pain and anguish of the Cross. Again — something very unfair. Yet Christ saw the suffering as absolutely integral to his work showing people God's love and bringing people back to Him. In order that people could be released from limited vision which divided and devalued people, he was prepared to pay the price for telling the parable of the Good Samaritan and healing a man in the synagogue on the Sabbath so he could earn his living again.



### SHARING SUFFERING

Suffering in life should not be seen as that which has any glory of its own. After all, only masochists draw attention to themselves by deliberately seeking to suffer. One's own suffering can be used to help someone else. Sometimes suffering is necessary to benefit someone else. St Paul saw his own incurable 'thorn in the flesh' — perhaps Malaria — as a means whereby God reminded him he was not superman but very much a human being who had to learn patience and humility in the pursuit of his work and the understanding of people.

Some years ago, a member of the Corymeela Community whose son had been shot dead in a church in Northern Ireland realised that the way to not being consumed by bitterness and hatred was to convert the pain of her own experience into the energetic work she has done since working with a Community dedicated to reconciliation. She could not and should not have borne her pain on her own. Yet she used it to help untwist some people's minds. What parent has not made huge sacrifices and gone to the ends of the earth to seek a cure for a child with a particular handicap? How often have they

found that converting their pain into hope has also won them many supporters. Suffering on its own can be very destructive and can wreck people's lives and their relationships. It can so easily fuel situations where people fall apart and take their unhappiness out on each other. Life becomes chaotic. However the beneficial faith is one in which God brings order and meaning out of chaos. In the very first few verses of Genesis the Spirit of God is likened to a mighty wind blowing over the surface of the waters of chaos whilst the earth is described as being without form and void. There is darkness everywhere and it is God who brings hope for the future and a sense of purpose in an otherwise unpromising situation by commanding that there should be light. Countless people down the ages have tested the abyss of thinking that their suffering was dark and pointless and have uttered their own interpretations of Christ's cry from the Cross — "My God, why have you forsaken me". Yet as they have sought to draw more and more on the spiritual resources available from God who in Christ knows the depths of human suffering they have not been defeated but have been able to overcome with the power of Christ. This doesn't mean that they have not seen the cause of their suffering as anything less real but something from which they might learn valuable lessons for themselves and to help others.

The physical evolution of the earth is still going on and natural processes have to continue. Volcanoes have to erupt upwards and not downwards. The geological factors which produce earthquakes have to continue. We have to accept this to live on planet earth. But again man has been given resources which he has developed to predict where earthquakes are likely to occur so people are advised not to develop large centres of population in those areas. He has the means through the media of making catastrophes known and enjoying the assistance needed in a very short space of time.

As one who has been given resources to develop and an over all responsibility under God he is also given free will. He is warned in the Garden of Eden of the consequences of forgetting he owes his life and all he owns to God, but man must choose if he is to grow up. He is tempted to play the power game and be like God himself. When he does this it does not lead to Utopia but rather to loss of innocence, loss of trust and loss of unity, all creating a scenario in which further power games can be played and ever more people hurt.

I am reminded of a young couple years ago in Eastbourne who had survived a terrible car accident in which the husband was partly to blame and their small child was killed. It was only through the long and patient counselling of a local Curate who knew them that they were diverted from prising their marriage apart and helped to support each other in their grief.



### THY WILL BE DONE...

But if biblical faith believes in a God who brings order out of chaos then why does He allow dreadful natural disasters to happen which bring suffering to so many? And if the Bible sees God in control then why have so many people

been allowed to suffer and still do suffer at the hands of cruel regimes, particularly in this country? The second creation story in Genesis describes a rather basic and under developed picture of the created order but with all the ingredients for improvement present. Into this setting mankind is placed with responsibility under God of using and developing resources God has provided.

From our minds a kind of "Fairy Godmother God" who makes all things so obviously smooth going for the righteous and condemns the "Baddies" to the Wicked Fairy. Life is not like that and we have been shown this in Christ's experience. God's fairness is more like that of the loving parent or close friend who becomes deeply involved in our affairs helping us to make the best of everything; concerned that knowing what life can bring we are given the strength to see suffering as an inevitable part of life and not to be defeated by it.

## 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 Pavilion

### 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)

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road

11am every Sunday

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading

10.30am Caversham Church House — 3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship 7.30pm.

House study groups Sept—June Tel: 475783

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 November issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 2 October.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 30 September. The dates for December will be Monday 28 October and Wednesday 30 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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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### BUGS BOTTOM TO GO TO INQUIRY

Higgs and Hill intend to appeal against the Borough Council's refusal to give permission for the first phase of the housing with which they wish to desecrate Bugs Bottom. The public inquiry will be held in early January. This is not an inquiry into the outline permission which they finally got from Nicholas Ridley in January 1989 and which is the real stumbling block. It will however be an opportunity for the Department of the Environment to take a closer look at the whole matter than they have since the public inquiry of 1985, and one begs to doubt how closely it was looked at then.

Why didn't they submit a scaled-down version instead of appealing on any application that was turned down on a whole list of faults? It's hard to say, but if any profit is to be made from developing that site it can only come from squeezing in the maximum number, so fewer more spaced out houses would not be acceptable to them. Those who are defending the valley on environmental grounds would also not find it acceptable as even low density housing would ruin it, though those whose concern is mainly

traffic would find fewer houses less unacceptable than the original five hundred.

At about the same time that this was announced an application was also put in for landscaping and creating parkland in the valley. This has always been part of the application, the sugar coating on the pill, so to speak, and as such is bound to raise less opposition. After all, the valley does contain dead and dying trees and planting new ones, as long as they aren't ornamental cherries which would be totally out of place, can only be a good thing. If permission is granted for this, it does not mean that it would be granted for housing. Nevertheless, the application must be regarded with the utmost suspicion. It could be the first step towards the urbanisation of Bugs Bottom.

### OPPOSITION TO CROSS TOWN ROUTE GROWS

Another public inquiry will be underway by the time you read this. Again, protection of the environment is at stake. This time it is Kings Meadow and the Kennet's Mouth area, threatened by the Cross Town Route. As was explained in this column in the August issue, only the land exchange of King's

Meadow for Scours Lane can be contested at the Public Inquiry, as the County Council has already given permission for the route itself, but it is a crucial point and must be challenged. So far, no environmental impact assessment has been carried out, a requirement under EEC law. Slowly the view is growing that there is more to planning a road than drawing a convenient line on the map. The Department of the Environment called a pre-public inquiry meeting on this occasion, a most unusual step, because of the large number of letters of protest that had been received.

### THE COAL

Between the river and the railway line and right beside what will be the C.T.R. if it is constructed, lies a strip of land popularly known as 'The Coal'. This is where waste products from the coal fired gas works used to be deposited. When coal was no longer used it became derelict and in spite of contamination, was soon covered with small bushes and wild flowers, particularly evening primrose. This is now giving way to nettles and brambles making much of it inaccessible to even the most dedicated trespasser. Grants from the Department of the Environment for the reclamation of derelict land, matched by a similar contribution from the Borough Council, mean that this land will be upgraded for informal public recreation. The only snag is that it is peaceful and quiet now though it looks a bit of a wreck, but if the C.T.R. goes there, in spite of looking much better it will suffer from the noise and pollution of a dual carriageway.

### ROCK FESTIVAL

Noise from the Rock Festival was more pervasive this year, but most people seemed to take the attitude that it was not unbearable and did not last long anyhow. There was a far less off-site litter. An ordinary Saturday in Caversham Road can produce just as much from the natives of

the place. Smoke from camp fires burning green wood and plastic rubbish was a particular nuisance on Saturday night when atmospheric conditions trapped it over a large area stretching from the railway lane to St. Peter's Hill. It cannot have been pleasant for people living in the area. The fans themselves seemed a well behaved lot on the whole and clearly enjoyed this annual get together. They'll doubtless be here again next year.

### HIGH TECH

The unsightly camera perched high above the traffic at the Church Street-Church Road-Bridge Street junction is presumably operating. Has anyone noticed any difference? A car shot over the red lights in front of me. Was he ever caught? Cars park on double yellow lines so that enormous lorries (which shouldn't be allowed in urban areas anyhow) hold everything up as they try to manoeuvre between them. Giving credit where it is due, their drivers are enormously skilful at doing this. The traffic continues to pile up

at peak periods, which of course it will because there is too much of it. The camera can record all this but does it actually make any real difference to the situation? How often is what it shows acted upon? Does anyone know?

### LOW TECH

A minor local diversion is seeing what time the library clock shows. It's most misleading when it is nearly right. When it says 9.25 in the middle of the afternoon we know it is wrong. Apparently there is not enough money available to mend it (it is, after all, getting rather elderly) so it will join the rest of the public clocks which are no longer working, even if it cannot stand at ten to three and boost local sales of honey.

### SHEILA CLIFTON

Sheila Clifton, well known to many Caversham people, is now in a nursing home in Gloucestershire. She was the first secretary of Caversham Residents' Association, was very active in the Liberal Party and its successors, and a governor of Thames Side School, ran the creche at the Reading language

centre and taught dress making besides being a gifted needlewoman and cook herself. She had never enjoyed robust health but did not let this interfere with her zest for living.

However, during the last two years her health worsened to such an extent that she was spending as much time in hospital or rest home as out. When her daughter Miranda moved from Scotland, from which great distance she had been making frequent visits to see her mother, Sheila moved to a nursing home close to where she now lives. She has all her friends' best wishes.

### AUTUMN MEETING

Cllr. Gill Parker will be speaking about major plans for Caversham on Monday 14th October at 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Church Street. Bugs Bottom, Redland Gravel and the Cross Town Route as well as proposals in the Borough Plan will be discussed. Cllr. Park is Chairman of the Borough Planning and Transport Committee and the meeting is organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association.

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# CHANGE-BUT NO DECAY

The Board of the Caversham Bridge is very happy to announce that Mr. Mark Staunton has taken over as Distribution Manager for the Caversham Bridge newspaper. Mr. Staunton saw the plea for help in last month's paper and responded immediately and now, having seen what is involved in the monthly distribution, has agreed to take over this responsible job. This gives the Board's Directors the opportunity to give thanks in three directions.

First of all thanks go to Mr. Robin Kitcher, who has shouldered the distribution burden for so many years. He picked the papers up from Tessa Road on the

day they were mentioned above, printed, not always as easy as it sounds, for different staff at the newspaper office hid them in different places and even sent them off in a van for a joy ride round Reading before returning to base. He has had to organise his trips at the next stage to find people at home to accept these deliveries, all this on top of his own busy job. He has cheerfully "got on with it" all these years as is to be applauded. We wish him well in his retirement not too far away from Caversham, although he will be in his shop for a few months yet. He has relinquished his seat on the board. Secondly, thanks to Mr. Staunton, as

mentioned above, for his kind offer which has been accepted. Last but by no means least we must thank the noble army of distributors. It can do no harm to re-mind readers of the way in which they receive their papers. Once printed and received, they are bulk delivered to about a dozen area churches, each covering a specific area in Caversham. These good souls then divide their papers into the number of sub-areas that they cover and take them on for the next step, anything from 10-20 deliveries. Then comes the street distributor, who ac-

"WOMEN TOGETHER"  
It is literally that  
No Committees, no agendas, no labels!! Christian Women just being together — talking, praying, having tea!!

The next meeting is in St Andrew's Hall at 2pm on November 5th when it is hoped that members of every Church in Caversham will meet together for an interesting talk by a guest speaker and a cream tea. A very happy occasion with good fellowship! Do come — all are welcome!

## CAVERSHAM DIARY

Wednesday,  
9th October

7.30pm Mapledurham Pavilion Talk and slides on the history of Royal Doulton in aid of Barnados.

Monday,  
14th October

8.00pm Church House Cllr Gill Parker, Chairman Borough Planning & Transport Committee: Major plans affecting Caversham.

Saturday,  
19th October

7pm Caversham Baptist Church Caversham Acorn Christian Healing Prayer Fellowship: Preacher Sister June Hardcastle.

Tuesday,  
5th November

2pm St Andrew's Church Hall, Caversham: "Women Together".

Saturday,  
9th November

2pm Caversham Hall, St John's Road: St John's Autumn Bazaar.

Saturday,  
16th November

7pm Caversham Baptist Church Caversham Acorn Christian Healing Prayer Fellowship: Preacher Revd Roger Greene — Minister Silchester Methodist Church.

Saturday,  
16th November

Caversham Heights Methodist Church Bazaar in aid of Vellore Hospital South India.

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**THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CAVERSHAM** would like to say a very sincere 'thankyou' to those people who so kindly responded to their request for wool. They can now carry on knitting this winter for their various Charities.



Busy Knitters in action.

# POST BAG

Dear Sirs,  
I refer to your Watchdog column and the section entitled 'Encroaching Jungle'.

Whilst in general agreement with the sentiments expressed I believe that the writer should not have suggested that individuals cut back as required.

This could be illegal and should be checked with Reading Borough - Environmental Health? - who may need to be told about the growth and if the clearances are not correct height etc. will need to come and do it themselves. How long it will take and if they come remains to be seen.

Yours etc.  
I.J. Delman  
3 Picton Way  
Caversham

Dear Reader,  
"He never walked alone"  
- how about you?

It occurs to me that many readers are Christians from churches other than those mentioned in the Caversham Bridge and some are those who do not normally attend a church but are interested in local events.

You may be interested to know that we who meet at Argyle Chapel in West Reading have invited Bristol Football Chaplain - Derek Cleave - to speak to us during the first week in November. I would like to invite anyone who is tired of walking alone to hear how Jesus can make a difference to your loneliness and to all of your life, to contact me.

It really is good to be a member of God's family whether you are in Caversham or elsewhere. My daughter has a favourite song:

"Anytime, anywhere  
Whoever you are  
Whatever you wear  
You can be a member  
of God's family"

If you would like to know more about being a member of God's one family then please contact me on 471738 or call at 65 Priest Hill. I would also like to share with you the events that have been arranged for the 3rd-8th November in various parts of Reading.

Yours kindly  
Lis Rout  
65 Priest Hill  
Caversham, RG4 7RY

## A WEEK OF DISCOVERIES

"There's a snake. sometimes saw, the family of 'yaffles', one excited, out-of-breath Brownie. We all hurried after her in time to watch the adder leave the warm concrete and seek refuge in the undergrowth.

That was just one of the discoveries made during the week St John's Brownies spent in "The Countryside" (this year's theme) of the New Forest at Ibsley, near Ringwood.

Every day they heard,

Forest Owl Sanctuary at Crow, near Ringwood and were taken round by a very knowledgeable young man. Favourites with the Brownies were the Barn Owls and Snowy Owls.

The heather-covered hills above afforded many different routes for walks during the evening cool. Yes, because after a miserable cool summer the week's holiday was really warm and pleasant.

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# ROUND THE CHURCHES

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

'Churches Together' are alive and well and kicking. The movement was launched a year ago. Although it is a national set-up, from the start those leading Churches Together in England were determined that the mainspring of activity should be the local association of Churches and other Christian bodies. Caversham is part of the regional groupings based on Reading and Berkshire.



We aim to promote the fulness of unity in the Church; to facilitate united worship, witness and training; and to respond to matters of social and other concerns in the community. A primary objective is supporting each other in our concern to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ but each individual Church will seek to do this in the way best suited to it.



The Baptist Church in Caversham has decided to conduct a special evangelistic campaign between 28th

September and 30th November 1991. To find out more just contact any member of the Baptist Church you may know or call into the Baptist Church in Prospect Street, Caversham where a warm welcome awaits you. All Christians in Caversham by their prayers can add their support to this major effort to make the Gospel of Christ more widely known.



Caversham Churches renewed their commitment to the call to Unity set out in the Swanwick Declaration 1989, at an outdoor service in Caversham Court on Sunday 1st Sept. Around two hundred people attended but many more heard the Gospel proclaimed as they enjoyed the brilliant sunshine on both sides of the Thames. The call to unity proclaimed our conviction that, as a matter of policy at all levels and in all places, our Churches must now move from co-operation to clear commitment to each other, in search of the unity for which Christ prayed and in common evangelism and service to the world.

This call to unity has been accepted by over fifty Churches throughout the land including all the main-line Churches.



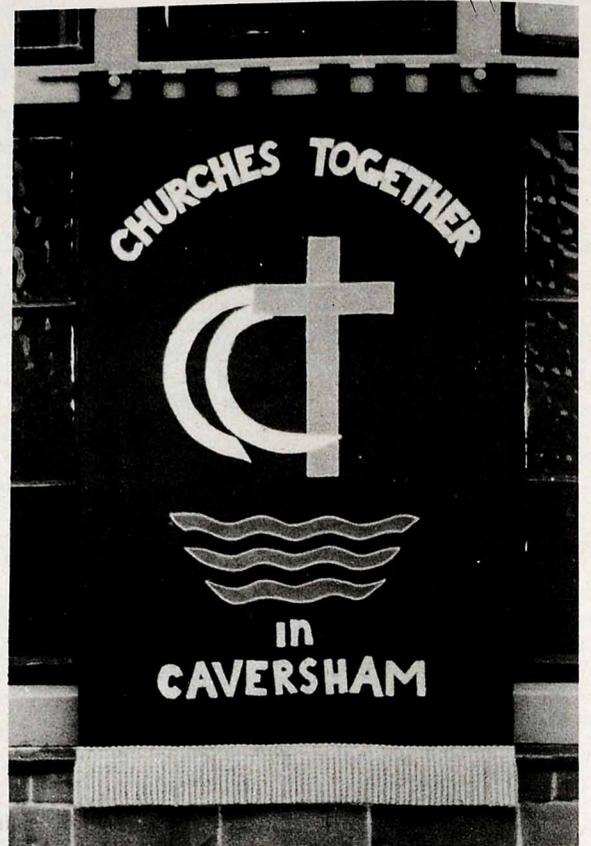
An innovation in the service at Caversham Court was two sketches by the drama group Mannafest from Christ Church Woodley. We are very grateful for their contribution to our worship and the performances were much appreciated by all present. Mannafest is a young persons' drama group which has shown us that there are many new ways of presenting the Gospel to those around us.



A welcome surprise was the splendid new banner showing the "Churches Together" logo. This was the work of Mrs Sally Hallet of Caversham Heights Methodist Church and we would like to thank her for the devotion and skill which have gone into the making of the banner. This banner and the logo will figure prominently in future activities of "Churches Together".

Spreading the Gospel means being involved in the community. All the constituent members of "Churches Together" play their part in a variety of ways and in Caversham the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Link Group have been providing valuable witness and service for many years. A more recent problem has been the increase in homelessness in Reading generally. Churches Together in Reading have established a daytime drop-in centre and Caversham Churches are making a special effort to provide support during the months of November and December. Fuller details of our efforts will be reported in the autumn, but if you can help, your own Church should be contacted.

WB



### DAVID AND SYLVIA COOPER

A long and industrious term came to an end this year with David Cooper's retirement from the office of Churchwarden at St. Andrew's.

It is difficult to find an area of Church life in which David and his spouse, Sylvia, were not involved at some time. Behind the smokescreen of concentration on for-

mal Church business David was extremely practical acting as honorary electrician; computer whizzkid; chorister; occasional organist; Diocesan Synod representative; lay solicitor; chalice administrator and boiler technician amongst others.

Meanwhile Sylvia

tireless role in leading the Working Party, catering and fund raising charitable events.

They can both look back to service well spent and appreciated by all the congregation and the several priests who passed through St. Andrew's in their time.

The wheelhouse has not however lost its

helmshmen completely for both David and Sylvai will continue to be involved, albeit at a perhaps less demanding pace than before. Their successors are left with a high standard to maintain.

Thankyou again David and Sylvia.

AJC

## Gail Spence Antiques

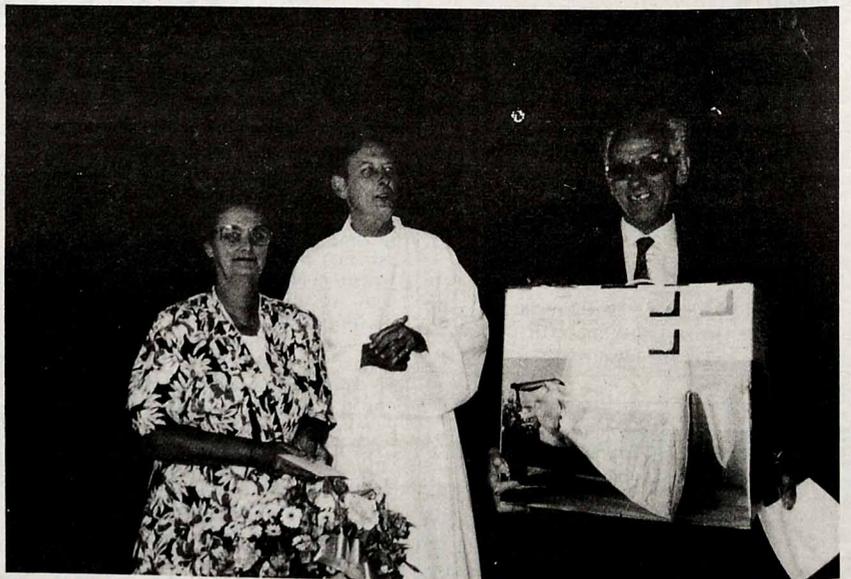
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David and Sylvia Cooper.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

# PAINTING ON CHINA

## A Day Learning the Skills

An ability to paint on china requires meticulous attention to detail, an understanding of the application of paint — water colours or oil — on to porcelain or bone china — and a realisation that many of the ingredients are toxic... Absolute cleanliness and a through cleansing of brushes and other materials is essential. Add to this, persistence, enthusiasm and endless patience before one can achieve the standard set by Mrs Linda Clarke whose exquisitely decorated plates, brooches, eggs and plaques to commemorate special occasions, grace the walls and shelves of her house in Woodcote Road, Caversham.

On a hot day in August several of us

gathered round a specially laid out table where everything needed for an initiation into painting on china was to hand — brushes, water, oil and water-based paints sufficient for each individual. On square white tiles we practised strokes, learning the correct way to hold a brush — upright as in Chinese painting. We achieved feathery effects, swirls, veins on leaves and flower petals gaining confidence as we progressed towards real

designs. Changing to oils we experimented with other colours building up from light to dark. We were meticulous in removing deposits from fingers — there was a warning too about using china in one's own home in cases where the top surface of glaze has been washed away leaving paint exposed beneath!

We learned something of the various types of glazing, of Sgraffiti, the method of scratching out paint to

form a pattern, that "wipe out" is using a brush dipped in limidex or a rubber pointed tip to wipe out a pattern from a coat of paint which has not dried out. So much to learn — that we marvelled at the skills of our own Staffordshire china and pottery workers, of Wedgwood, Worcester and many others, being delighted that from initial blobs we could create interesting flower and foliage shapes. Some using clear colours, achieved quite striking Art

Deco designs in bright, clear colours. As we graduated to working on plates mugs and brooches we learned the difference between bone china and porcelain — the latter derived from the Portuguese workshop, to be distinguished from the former by a slight grey tinge.

The simpler the design the more effective in finished product — in our inexperienced hands any way — twining ferns and butterflies

for instance — the most difficult of all being roses. Finally, quite proud of our day's efforts we handed them over to Linda Clarke for them to be consigned to the kiln in her immaculate workshop, to be fired for some four hours at a temperature of 750 degrees.

Always artistically minded, Linda Clarke first completed a three-year course on flower arranging which embraced a study of botany and hor-

ticulture but then fired by enthusiasm after a special course in china painting at Great Missenden some six years ago, she began to decorate her own plates and china pieces, making up her own designs and gradually learning more and more about this difficult art. Her next project she hopes will be to design her own dinner service. She stresses that china painting can be enjoyed both by those who have never held a paint brush and those with some artistic ability.

Linda Clarke will be holding more china painting sessions, so anyone interested should telephone her at 481271 for further information.

E.M.F

### ST. ANDREW'S MOTHERS UNION

In brilliant sunshine on Tuesday, 4th September, thirty-eight members and friends of the Mothers' Union set off for a wonderfully enjoyable afternoon. The coach went through leafy lanes and byways eventually to reach Wantage, where the passengers made for the beautiful church and the Museum and the shops. Tea was available at the Museum under sun umbrellas or in

the airy restaurant, though some people sampled the cream teas available at a local hotel.

The journey home took a more direct route, though a stop was made at a fruit farm where ice cream as well as fruit was available. The party reached home soon after five; all agreed it was a splendid outing, and thanked Molly Sidwell for organising it.

### NEW MINISTER FOR CAVERSHAM

At the beginning of September the Rev. David Moody began his ministry at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. David with his wife Joan came to Caversham and indeed to the Reading Methodist Circuit from Purley Circuit in Croydon where he was minister at Sanderstead Methodist Church.

He studied law at Manchester University then trained for the ministry at Handsworth College in Birmingham. He spent his early ministerial days in the North West looking after churches at Stafford, Longleton and Manchester before embarking on a new

career when he became a personnel manager with I.C.I. in Teeside. 5 years ago, having taken early retirement, he resumed his ministerial life when he went to Purley. His wife Joan trained as a secretary. They have 2 grown up daughters who live in other parts of the country.

David looks forward to sharing the work at Caversham Heights Methodist Church with the local leaders but concentrating on his ministerial role as the evangelist. His aim is to present the Christian gospel in terms which the person outside the church can understand.

We welcome David and Joan to Caversham and hope they will soon feel at home with us and very much a part of the local community.



Joan & Rev. David Moody

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## OBITUARIES

### PETA (Gerda Erika) BAKER 1925 - 1991

PETA (Gerda Erika) tank crew from which she later escaped.

The Rt Revd Eric Wild, R.I.P.

Bishop Eric Wild died 10th August 1991 and was laid to rest in Stockcross Churchyard, near his Newbury home, on 16th August.

Obituaries in the national press express his deep love for and his commitment to his clergy and their families during his time as Bishop of Reading.

The Caversham Bridge expresses the love, gratitude and appreciation of Bishop Eric's unrivalled care for his parishes, both as Archdeacon of Berkshire and Bishop of Reading.

Eric Wild was a great and prayerful man, uneasy with quasi-parliamentary new-style Anglican government by Synod. His death marks a dividing line for the Church of England committed to Synodical democracy yet brought up on nurtured by Episcopal governance. Bishop Eric bridged this uneasy division by the sheer quality of his care, his prayer, his love for all in his charge. He knew and loved his people. We know and continue to love him. May he rest in peace and may we be worthy of his example and discipleship. (A Solemn Requiem Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Eric was held at St Giles Reading on 3rd September. There was also a Thanksgiving Requiem, attended by Moyra, his wife, Hilary and Patrick, his children, at St John's Newbury on 23rd September.)

Peta Baker was a very private person who, nevertheless, accepted personal exposure when her life and times seemed to demand it. She knew the holy despair that is not resignation because contained within the despair is the hope, even the knowledge, that things could be different. In that spirit she shouldered family responsibility when, at age 14 with her Father serving on the Russian front in World War II, her Mother had a complete mental breakdown. With that conviction she fought postwar officialdom in occupied Germany to win her Father's release from wrongful internment and later, with the breakdown of her parents' marriage she battled with German and British authorities to secure her Mother's discharge from a mental institution and to gain entry for her Mother into this country where Peta led the family in loving her Mother back to health. In 1990 her revealing autobiography 'Shadow of War' was published in which she concluded, 'As I look back with deep gratitude, I see how tenderly I have been protected and how lovingly led, and know that the joy and happiness that has been mine is as nothing compared to that which is still to be'.

Born in East Germany in 1925, she spent the war years mainly in Austria where as a medical student she met Frank, then a Lieutenant RAMC with the Occupation Forces. They were married in London in 1947. Peta's war-time experiences commenced when she was 13 years of age and these very formative years left her with a deep hatred of war. She saw how often innocent civilians suffered most. On ambulance duty she brought in wounded women and young children; rape victims were among these. She herself was captured by a Russian

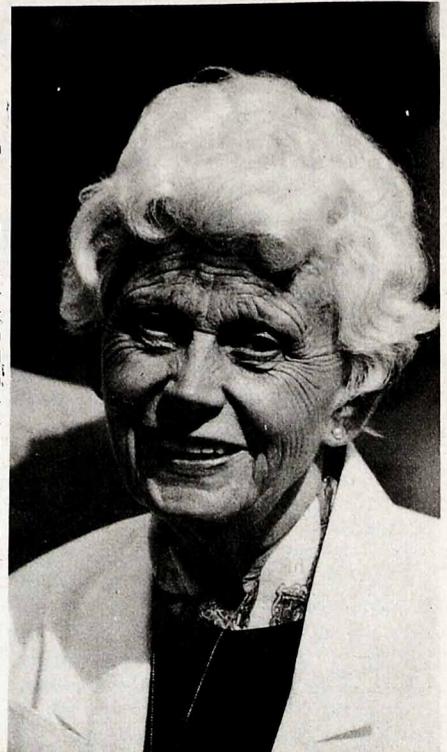
In this country Peta followed a distinguished teaching career, retiring as Senior Lecturer on a post graduate diploma course. The RSA and LCCI Examination Boards used her services as chief examiner and she helped to pioneer a new Anglo-German examination for 1994. She held a BA London and MA Nottingham.

A deep Christian faith followed Peta's healing at the Church of Christ The Healer, Burrswood, Groombridge, Kent and after a long period of preparation, with Frank, she felt called into active healing prayer ministry in Caversham, elsewhere in the UK, more recently, for extended periods in Portugal. She helped to pioneer training in healing ministry through the Acorn Christian Healing Trust of which she and Frank were founder Trustees. She was committed to the renewed partnership between Church and Medicine which affirms that prayer facilitates healing and, with Bishop Morris Maddocks, believes that 'Christian healing is Jesus Christ meeting you at the point of your need'.

Peta was essentially a family person; her first and last prayers were always for them but she shared with Frank an extended ministry of intercession. Her readiness to enter into others' pain as well as their joy, her warm sympathy and sincerity led to constant requests for help to which she always faithfully responded. Through all of this ran the conviction that she daily repeated in the words of Psalm 16, 'You, Lord, are all I have and you give me all I need my future is in your hands...'

FB

\*Shadow of War  
Gerda Erika Baker  
A Lion Book



Peta Baker at Burrswood, 3 weeks before she died.

Gareth Tuckwell

### Peta Baker R.I.P.

The funeral service for Peta Baker was in bright sunshine and a flower-decked St Peter's on 20th August 1991. The Church was full; many who came to celebrate her life, faith and courage, drew together links with Frank and Peta over many decades and from many countries.

Bishop Morris Maddocks, in his address, spoke movingly of the unique ministry of healing love shared by Peta and Frank over many years. Her funeral was, literally, a CELEBRATION, for that is how Peta would have wished it. Those who had the privilege of being with her in her last days with us on

earth will speak of her calm, despite the pain, her love for Frank, Philip and Leslie, despite the separation of which she was aware, and of her faith in the Lord, whom she served with us and with whom she is now at peace. It was a wonderful service of celebration and St Peter's was privileged to be the place where her body was committed to God, her soul commended with gratitude, and our temporary 'adieux' were said with tears of joy, love and thanks. To Frank and the family, our love and thanks for sharing your lovely wife, mother and grandmother on a sunblest day in the season of Pentecost.

RJK

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# AMONG THE TOMBSTONES AT ST PETER'S

Sometime around 1977 I became interested in looking at the gravestones around St. Peter's Church and wrote the following article now reproduced.

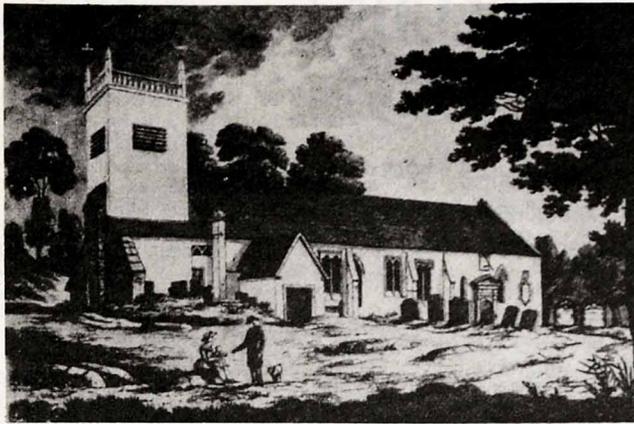
## Honest Robert

I began in the South East corner against the old stables of the former Caversham Court. There I found three carved upright slabs, to unreadable, but the middle one to a "Mr Robert Towerly, a Truly honest man who died 1808 aged 52". How nice to have that for an epitaph. I wonder where Robert Towerly lived and what was his occupation. Could he have been a shopkeeper? In the next row I was able to read the tomb closest to the crinkle crinkle wall; this was "Sacred to the Memory of Mrs Elizabeth Jemmett who departed this life November 28, 1813, aged 48 years".

So far these are the first two gravestones on which I have found the words Mr and Mrs.

Interesting. Next to Mrs Jemmett was a lovejoy grave "In memory of Elizabeth Lovejoy of this parish who died on November 20, 1808 in the 102nd year of her age". One wonders if she really reached one hundred and two or if the date of her birth was mistaken. Perhaps the parish register of births and deaths could prove it. The Lovejoys were a very old local family, for in Henry the Eighth's day, according to an old document "the manor called Farm Place...and a tenement called Woodachys at Canons End is let to Thomas Lovejoy, Simon Lovejoy and his wife Beatrice and a son". Canon's End was of course Cane End.

Not far from the Lovejoy grave was another interesting recording from the eighteen hundreds "Ann, the beloved wife of James Hrude who looked well in the management of her household and careth



not for the bread of idleness who died aged 41". From further writing on the slab it seems that James marries again. He probably couldn't bear to be without a well run home and a good table. This was easy wording to decipher and perhaps the surname Hrude could have been Arude or even a mason's error as I certainly found several of these.

Then there was young John Hill? who died in September 1742. He must have been of an early age according to the accompanying verse, which took a great deal of unravelling.

*Who passeth by and do  
this stone behind  
Take notice that this  
grave doth here  
enfold  
The body of John Hill?  
His soul we trust  
Is wafted to the regions  
of the just.  
In youthful vigour he his  
Lord adored  
And left a virtuous  
pattern on record.*

The last line was under the earth and the best preserved.

By a tree against the pathway lies Ann Parritt who died on February 15, 1876 aged 62. She had sorrow in her early married life for she lost a son John and a son James aged seven and three respectively in the spring of 1849 within ten days of each other. Probably they had some form of illness in the family. However she did have a third son, whom she named John James, to comfort her. He died in 1881 aged 25.

Close to Ann's sad recording is a partly legible stone. "Sacred to the memory of William Wright, Clerk of this Parish aged 95 years. The rest is unfortunately unreadable. Also a grave "Sacred to the memory of Andrew Burnside, E.S.Q. formerly of Caver-

sham Hill who died in 1808.

Another old Caversham family were the Freebodies who lived beside the river building boats and owning barges. They were well known Thames watermen. There are several monuments to their memory. One to Mr Will Freebody who died November 23, 1820 and near this another to "Thomas Freebody who departed this life June 10, 1842 aged 61 and also to Mary wife of the above who departed this life November 25, 1857 aged 77 years. Also Thomas son of the above". Another member of the family is recorded nearby, Matthew Roach Freebody, who died March 12, 1852 aged 28 years.

## The earliest so far

One early gravestone which was fairly easy to decipher says "Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Flood who departed this life on October 12, 1728 aged 51". No doubt her grandparents or even her mother would have had firsthand knowledge of the battle for Caversham Bridge between Roundheads and Royalists if they had lived in the village on April 25, 1643.

Yet another eighteenth century gravestone was close by. "In memory of William Stevens, yeoman, late of Wargrave, Berks, who departed this life 6th July 1786, aged 33 years". The Stevens seem to have continued connections with Caversham for there is a coffin tomb inscribed on one side "To the memory of Ann relict of John Stevens who departed this life July 31, 1826 aged 82. Ann's side of the monument faces South West and is

much more worn, although she was buried last, the prevailing wind and weather has obviously worn the stone away whilst John's side, sheltered by the church wall is still very clear. Any lettering is usually well preserved if it gets protection, under the grass or overshadowed by a tree, as was one by the old elm in the churchyard, and now gone. It was on the early Stevens' grave stone that spelling mistakes were found. In some cases the mason had tried to alter the letter.

## Two of a Kind

Several children were buried on this side of the church. Poor little Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bowery is remembered. He died aged 8 in 1792. Nearby is another sorrowful recording "George Lewis Neathe, son of James and Elizabeth who died March 20, 1835 aged 13 months and 10 days. Also of Susan Neate (spelling fault) who died August 20, 1839 aged 6 months". Again the one in 13 is formed as a J. It is very probable that the same person carved both graveheads. A twin headstone close

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## the CLUBS

### Caversham Community Association

Miss Pat Tyler was welcomed to the club on the 5th August to give a talk on her holiday in the Far East and said it was 'Orchids all the way'. When she arrived on the Thai Airways plane she was given a spray of orchids and received more in hotels during her tour. Hong Kong was the first port of call and Miss Tyler described it as busy and noisy with skyscrapers, speedy taxis and lovely sands. There were fascinating side roads with stalls and shops with very cheap goods. Miss Tyler and her friend visited a revolving restaurant and had a trip at night round the harbour to see the many boats. People exercised in Victoria Park bring their pet birds in cages which they suspended from the branches of the trees. A visit was then to China, via Macao. Miss Tyler described walled villages with friendly people, the paddy fields with ducks and geese gleaning the rice. After returning to Hong Kong the destination was Bangkok in Thailand, where the buses and taxis were

painted in bright colours. There were many lovely trees including palms, banana and rubber trees — with pineapples planted between the latter. 'Longtail' boats transported people to the floating market. Miss Tyler saw the Royal Palace, the Temples and the Emerald Buddha (made of jade). On then to Singapore, very humid, but a lovely city with hundreds of shops and a modern underground railway. The party then returned to Thailand and home to England. Beryl Latcham (the Chairman) thanked Miss Tyler for a very interesting talk.

On the 12th August a musical evening was held when those excellent singers, Freda Clarke and Frank Terry, visited the club. They sang duets and solos from popular musical operettas including songs from the Lilac Domino, the Merry Widow, Maid of the Mountains and the Vagabond King. Excerpts from Ivor Novello's Dancing Years and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Phantom of the Opera were all applauded enthusiastically, and invitations from the singers to join them in some of the choruses were readily accepted. Kathleen Robson, their

able accompanist at the piano, was given a well deserved round of applause. George Feast, on behalf of the members, thanked the visitors for a much appreciated concert.

The following week the members brought articles to be auctioned at a Bring and Buy evening. A selection of groceries, cosmetics, toiletries, household items and books was ready for the highest bidder. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, and Maida Feast, the Secretary, were the auctioneers and a total of £34.57 was raised for club funds.

As the club meetings are on Monday evenings, there was no gathering on the 26th August as it was a Bank Holiday.

### Caversham Darby and Joan Club

Spring and Summer have passed pleasantly at the Club this year. Members have been both entertained and informed by our many kind friends who continue to drag photographic equipment up the stairs of Church House. The talks and slides have covered such diverse subjects as Tonga, Walking in The Chilterns, Scotland, Ireland, America, Malta and Egypt. Health was not forgotten when we spent three Wednesday afternoons 'wriggling our toes' in gentle keeping fit with Mrs Pat Priest. Herbs for Healing was Mrs Diana Faulkners interesting subject and we had

some useful information from Mrs Jean Roberts of Age Concern. The Firtree Singers, The Network Singers, the Silver Liners and Mr Colin Ferguson cheered several afternoons with their programmes of songs and poems. Sadly it was wet for the scheduled annual Garden Party in July but the In-house impromptu Beetle Drive and excellent tea provided the silver lining. The highlight of the May Outing to Broadway was a delicious lunch at The Grapevine at Stow-in-the-Wold. The weather was fine but windy for the Summer Outing to Southsea in July. After the August break the Club opened on Wed Sept 4th and continues to meet every Wednesday from 2pm to 3-30pm at Church House Caversham. An outing to the New Forest is planned for the Autumn, with Hong Kong, Wales, and Australia as some of the

places to be visited in our imaginations. We are sad to record the death on Sunday August 25th of one of our members Mr Ernest Lemon.

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in September after the summer break, to enjoy a social evening and an exhibition of members' own craft work. The exhibition showed what a wealth of talent the Guild has with beautiful patchwork, florentine embroidery, knitting and crochet, embroidery, water-colour painting, painting on silk and decoupage cards and pictures. Some members had worked pictures of their homes

Turn to page 11

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## AMONG THE TOMBSTONES

From page 9

to the church porch and garlanded with ferns has much writing on it. "Here lyeth the body of Eliz: the daughter of Nicholas and Eliz: Jenkins who departed this life Jan: y9, 1750 in the 16th year of her age. Here lyeth the body of Elanor y wife of John Hayter and niece to Nicholas Jenkins who departed this life January y 30th 1750 aged 28". Again both young women died the same month. Could it have been some sickness that struck their family? The sad tale is accompanied by the following verse:

*They spring like  
flowers for day's  
delight,  
Which flourish at*

*noon and fade at  
night.*

This was quite exciting, for when reading some gravestones at the North end of the churchyard a couple of years ago I found the same verse on the memorial to Harmen, infant son of the Reverend Maneth, who died around the middle of the last century. I have not yet discovered if Harmen's father was at any time a curate of Caversham. If he was he had probably read the verse on the twin tombstone which would have been much clearer then, liked it and used it on that of his little child's about 100 years later. By now I had reach-

ed well into the South West corner of the churchyard and crosses were in evidence, there were none to speak of at the South East end. The memorials were now becoming more recent, but still interesting. On one or two in the last century there was the vogue for red lettering for all first letters. A grave dated 1803 was the earliest to be embellished in this way.

The afternoon had passed all too quickly and I suddenly realised I was rather weary and in need of cup of tea. The gravestones on the North, East and West sides would have to wait before they too told me their tales.

M.K.

# the CLUBS

From page 10

and gardens in a form of tapestry. The initial interest in some of these crafts has been started at Guild Arts and Crafts meetings and then continued, sometimes at Adult Education classes.

The Ramblers took part in a nationwide T.G. Sponsored Walk to provide trees for woodlands devastated by the gales and hurricanes of the last few years. They raised £212.25 and were congratulated on their marvellous effort. They had continued with their walks during August and Mrs Prentice had arranged an unusual outing, a horse and cart ride around Crocker End and Nettled Woods with a pub lunch laid on. Members enjoyed themselves so much that they would be happy to repeat the ride at some future date.

A busy programme of events was planned with a Jumble Sale on September 28th and the Guild birthday party on October 30th, in addition to the monthly meetings. The Social

Studies and Arts and Crafts groups also have interesting programmes to look forward to and several theatre and museum visits are being arranged.

Three new members were welcomed to the Guild and a very enjoyable meeting came to a close. In October members were looking forward to hearing Mrs J. Thompson talk about "The Potential of The Third Age".

## Rosehill W.I.

The President, Mrs Weller, welcomed members after the August break. They had enjoyed a coffee morning at Mrs Coombes' and a Ploughman's Lunch at Mrs Weller's home during the month. A trip to the W.I. House at Mortimer combined with a visit to The Vyne near Basingstoke was enjoyed in late July.

Dates were made for the autumn activities of Rambling, Crafts, Scrabble and play reading.

The talk by Mrs Debney "Tracing Your Family History" and was very cleverly shown by her efforts in connection with her own family, starting with "Uncle Bert", continuing from there to her grandparents and their children.

Buttonholes were given to members who had birthdays in August and September and there was an exhibition of amusing photographs, mostly of children and animals.

## Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opened the meeting with her usual warm welcome to members returning after the summer break. It was harvest time once again and members had been very generous in bringing such a lovely selection of fruit, vegetables and flowers the tables were a delight to see. Club business concluded, Mrs Harwood reminded members that the coach for their Mystery Tour would be leaving at 12 noon, usual place in Hemdean Road, returning later to Chiltern Chase for the meal ordered.

All hoped good weather would continue for their trip.

Mrs Harwood then announced she had some pleasant news to give members. The Ladies Club was forty years old that month (September). Mrs Locke, the Committee member, had been one of the founders and had told the news at a meeting earlier that week. Unfortunately it was too late to arrange any celebration so it was decided to approach the Head of Leisure Parks to see if the Club could arrange to have a tree planted in Caversham Court to commemorate the date. The Ladies Club already have a tree planted there which has grown into a lovely large bushy strawberry tree. This was given by the Club in "Plant a Tree" year. An answer to the request is awaited.

Mrs Locke had brought along the very first minute book. The first meeting was held

on September 27th 1951 at the Boys' Club, School Lane. There were twenty joined up members, plus three visitors. Subscriptions to include refreshments were set at sixpence per meeting. Ten shillings had been collected and after expenses that left a balance of 3/9d. Mr and Mrs Mander had passed this book on to the Club in 1965 in "appreciation of friendship", and to this day there are still a few of the original members attending the Club.

Unfortunately time was catching up and the sale of goods had to commence. Mrs Brenda Strong in her usual capacity of auctioneer, took over, and in her capable hands soon many spaces appeared on tables, but members' shopping bags started to bulge with their purchases. Finally it was time for that very welcome 'cuppa' before leaving for home after a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

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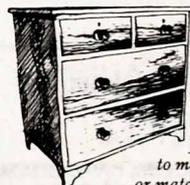
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## CHILTERN EDGE ANTIQUES APPRECIATION SOCIETY 1991/92

This established Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month from October to May (except January) at the Chiltern Edge Community Centre, Reades Lane, Sonning Common at 7.30pm. Lectures are usually illustrated; subjects this season include the pictures in the Marianne North Gallery, The Ivories, Carpets, Painting, Collections of the Her-

itage, History of Embroidery and the History of glass of wine. Stonor. Two outings are arranged, the winter trip being to the Anglo-Saxon Art exhibition at the British Museum in November. The Annual Membership fee is £8.50. The October meeting starts at 6.45pm to give members a chance

## HEIRLOOMS of the FUTURE



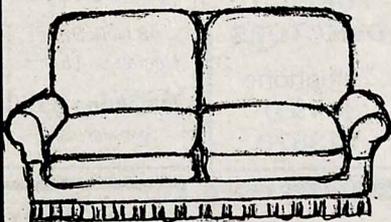
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