

TO PAY — OR NOT TO PAY

THE CHESTER STREET CAR PARK QUESTION

When the Labour Party took control of Reading Borough Council they promised consultation with the people who would be affected by Council decisions and they promised to work in the interests of those same people.

On Saturday 12th October a Council notice appeared at the entrance of Chester St car park. It notified us of proposed charges. I trust this is the first stage in the promised consultation process. I trust also that the final decision will be based on the second promise. I also trust my cynicism is misplaced. Many readers would look forward to an open debate on the traffic problems in our village. We would welcome the opportunity to air our views and listen to those of others. Perhaps together we could solve some of Caversham's traffic and parking problems. Perhaps it is too early in the consultation exercise to suspect we are being subjected to government by decree. We shall see.

The problem of parking and shopping in Caversham is going to get worse. This is especially true if that other example of government by decree, the Bugs Bottom decision, goes ahead.

So what is the answer? Certainly not the punitive charge of £9.00 per day. This will devastate Caversham shops and businesses. Yes, you will be able to find parking spaces. But there won't be many shops left to go to. It will hit hardest those people who are supplying Caversham with its shops and services. In turn it will hurt those who use these facilities. I have heard it suggested that local firms will be able to issue vouchers to employees and even shoppers. If these are to be provided free by the Council then why charge in the first place? If the businesses have to pay, then up will go prices and probably people will be put out of work. Surely the Council cannot be so illogical.

The short term charge of 20p leads to other problems. The Council's own officials have condemned this idea in the past. It would merely deter short term shoppers from using the car park. We shall see a massive increase in on-road parking so clogging up our streets and blocking residents' parking areas. Results! even more congestion and escalating costs in financing more traffic wardens. That should use up most of the income from the car park pretty quickly.

And what about the shops? When a similar scheme was introduced in Woodley sales fell by 10%. Trade will fall and it won't take much of a fall in trade to put many shops out of business.

What a gloomy but unnecessary future for Caversham. Fewer shops, fewer jobs, fewer businesses, clogged up streets and residents not able to park outside their own homes.

We certainly have a problem in Caversham. Is it too late to appeal to the Council? Perhaps together we could solve the problem.

Just as we shall see if we can trust the word of these politicians who promised us consultation let us see if it is in the interests of the people that really drive those at present in charge of our Town Hall.

If you are slightly doubtful as to the reliability, honour and truthfulness of the Council please waste no time and either sign the petition to be found in Caversham shops or write directly to your local County Councillor, Ron Jewitt. Berkshire County Council has the power to veto Reading's decision in this matter. But you only have till November 1st.

J.M.

END OF AN ERA

This is the first copy of the Caversham Bridge to be printed by the Reading Chronicle. For over 20 years, month by month, the Evening Post has produced the paper, but rising costs and changes in their own establishment have made their printing charges prohibitive.

We are happy to say that our agents, Microtype Typesetters in Cardiff Road have negotiated with the Reading Chronicle to print for the future. Microtype typesetters have been setting the type for some years and their staff have always been helpful and accommodating. It will be useful to have them acting on behalf of the Bridge to ensure that the printing continues to the same high standard and within the same time scale, and if these can be improved, so much the better.

KEY PERSON

Xvxn though this typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys. It is trux thrx arx forty-six that function wxll xnough, but onx kxy is not working. You may say to yoursxlf, "Whilx I am only onx pxrson, I won't makx or brxak any plans" . . . but it doxs makx a diffxrxncx. A parish to bx xffxctivx nxxds thx work and prayxrs of vxxy mxmbxr. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson, and your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr this old typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in this parish of God's Church and my support is nxxdxd vxry much". Found in a Church in Snowdonia.

TALKING POINT

By Father Thomas Meagher
St. Anne's R.C. Church



LET US END WHAT WE BEGAN

About this time of the year many people become irritated by the signs of Christmas; decorations; figures of Santa Claus, etc. As soon as the summer holidays are over, it seems, and long before they are forgotten, we are assailed with ideas for presents; anything, in fact, to detach us from our hard-earned money.

Often one hears clergymen of all denominations railing about such anticipation of a festive season; truly this should more appropriately begin with the Midnight Celebration on Christmas Eve (or in Caversham with our excellent Festival for Save the Children — which is establishing itself as a tradition). What may escape our notice is the real distortion of our belief which occurs about now.

The Christian year, as has been dinned into us almost 'ad nauseam' is really a picture of life, as it begins with the preparation for Our Lord's birth on the First Sunday in Advent. We are led through the mysteries of Our Lord's life, Passion, Death, Resurrec-

tion and Ascension to apply the Redemption to ourselves. Then comes the reminder of the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the season following it, which helps us to apply the fruits of that coming to our everyday actions.

Towards the end of the Church's year we are asked to think about what we call the four last things death, judgment, hell and heaven. Here we come up against the problem, not indeed about their existence, but that they get pushed out by thought of the birth of Christ — in other words, we begin a new cycle without reaching the end of the previous round.

Is this because people don't want to think about things that really matter? I know that the word 'death' is often taboo; any euphemism like 'passing away', 'passing across', 'passing over' will do; but not 'death' or 'dying'.

It is vital that Christians should consider the last things. One of

our poster campaigns rightly asked us to 'put Christ back into Christmas'; a preliminary campaign might ask us to hold the celebration of Christmas until 25th December, and its preparation until Advent.

The pagan idea that 'death is the end' has spilled over into our Christian attitude; we have let ourselves be silenced when there is talk of death. We are even more silent when the word 'sin' occurs, and we positively avoid all thoughts, let alone talk, of 'hell'. This is not only a serious omission, but it is also very negative way of looking at things.

For Our Lord 'Life' really means the life that He won for us, a life which begins with our Baptism and grows into eternal life. He used the Parables of the Kingdom to remind us that the Kingdom of heaven begins on earth. So, when He says 'I have come that they may have life...', and 'I am the way, the truth and the life' this is the life

He means. St Paul applied it thus: 'For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.'

Unless we see death as the transition from one stage of life to another, the fullness of life, we will always be left floundering in the face of these realities. 'For those who are faithful to you', one of our Prefaces has it, 'life is changed, not ended; when the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling-place in heaven.'

In my Seminary days, the Martyrology (the Book of the lives of the Saints, arranged according to the Calendar), was read each day. The day of the Saint's death was always described as 'natales', 'the birthday'. Christian education was well described by one Bishop as 'preparation for death.'

Of course the death of anyone is normally a sad occasion; it is perhaps only when it happens in extreme old age, or at the end of a long period of acute suffering, that we might say 'it is a

blessing.' The parting from a loved person, for however long or short a time, is a wrench. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to think only in these terms. 'Do not grieve', wrote St Paul, 'as the pagans do who have no hope.' Death is surrounded by Christian hope.

Preparation for death, then, is an essential part of life. Christians have often seen life as a battle, and death as the laying down of arms. This is a very Scriptural idea. St Paul tells us to put on the 'armour of faith' and asks us to take 'the sword of the spirit'. 'Fight the good fight' begins a well-loved hymn.

So what are we fighting against? The enemies of the soul are classically described as the Devil, the World and the Flesh. All these enemies are very evident today, and often it seems that we are losing the battle. The Devil is active, not only in the obviously revolting form of Satanism, but also in the attractive way in which we can be tempted. The World becomes something to enjoy for its own sake, as does the blandishment of the Flesh. We can become so dulled by these oppositions to our Christian life that we lose the sense of sin altogether.

Even a cursory examination of our conscience should persuade us that sin, although made easier by outside sources, originates in ourselves, and hence we are culpable. It

was refreshing to hear the words 'sin' and 'evil' being used to show what elements were involved in recent inner-city riots. Such things can very rarely be explained away by 'social conditions' however deplorable these may be. Sin and evil exist, and we are guilty of them; they are the opposite to the love of God, and so they make up a very negative concept. The results of sin have been very clearly given to us by Our Lord, who never failed to warn us of the consequences of such actions. It might confuse those who think that hell can be discounted by pointing out that Christ spoke more about hell than He did about heaven.

The individual soul, we believe, will be judged at death on the performance attained in life on earth, and we will be given the stark choice, entirely dependent on our actions for or against God and His Commandments.

'Our homeland', is, however, 'in heaven.' We should see this as the logical end, undeserved, of our recreation in Grace. It is scarcely reasonable for us to reject this wonderful vocation given freely by God- yet so many do.

God loves us so much that He wants us all to be saved, and that salvation includes happiness in this life as well as in the next. We know by our faith, hope and love that the happiness of heaven is something

unimaginable. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man what things God hath prepared for those who love Him'. We ought to go into raptures when we think of our eternal reward, but it remains something undeserved. It is the vision of God, the almighty, the infinite. St Peter, when vouchsafed a foretaste of it at the Transfiguration, could only murmur, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here.'

So it would be wrong to imagine that most people are

destined for Hell. But in order to see God 'nothing defiled can enter heaven' souls should be prepared properly, if not in this life, in the next. The Church's most logical and beautiful teaching on the afterlife includes, then, what we call the state of Purgatory. It is rooted in Scripture and Tradition, and teaches us that we, as members of the Communion of Saints, are able to help these souls to their eternal reward.

The end of the Church's year should never be obscured by such an early anticipation of the coming of Christmas. This could only spoil our appreciation of the purpose of His Coming, which was to enable us to fulfil God's intention in creating us, 'to know, love and serve him in this life, and to be happy with Him for ever in the next.' (The Catechism)

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)

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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.30am

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

House study groups Sept—June Tel: 475783

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 December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 November.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 November.

The dates for January will be Monday 25 November and Wednesday 27 January.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Tel: Reading 471703.

Typeset by Microtype, 149 Cardiff Road, Reading
Printed by Reading Newspaper Printing Company Limited, Portman Road, Reading

HOMELESSNESS: New Initiatives – New Directions

Much has been happening in recent months in the discussions about and provisions for homelessness, rootless and vulnerable people in Reading. As the planning continues amongst the agencies involved, we focus our attention on two organisations which work independently of each other but which are united in their aim to serve the needs of those living without the security of a permanent home.

Churches Together

in Reading have launched a new initiative this year – to ask each of the six areas within its boundaries to commit themselves to providing non-perishable foods for the Churches in Reading Drop-In-Centre at St Saviour's Church Hall, Berkeley Avenue. Each area will be responsible for the Centre's needs for non-perishable food for two months of every year. Churches together in Caversham have agreed to the plan and are collecting now so that by

November and December (Caversham's "Two months") the Centre will know how much has been given and can budget more realistically for perishable foods. The following people are acting as links between their Churches and Churches Together in Caversham to promote the food collecting scheme. Please contact any of them if you have a gift to make, and look out for collection points inside the Churches where donations can be left.

PETER HIGGS (Cav. Heights Methodist Church) 471939

JASMIN MARSH (St Andrew's Church) 471644

SHEILA GOLDSMITH (Baptist Church) 475303

LYNN BAKER (St Peter's Cav. & St Margaret's Mapledurham) 471262

HUGH CARTER (Cav. Park Ecumenical Church) 478112

ROY WESTWELL (St Barnabas Church) 470462

SYLVIA FROUD (St John's Church) 473218

VINCENT KELLY (St Anne's R.C. Church) 479462

It will soon be a year since the Centre opened as a place where a welcome could be given to those seeking shelter, warmth, food, clean clothing, recreation and a listening ear. There is no doubt that over the year, whatsoever the Centre has had to offer in the spirit of love and fellowship, has been used by an increasing number of people. Much still needs to be done, not at least being the continued, reliable commitment, to what has already been started. All the staff are volunteers but the Centre's running expenses have to be met by donations. To provide a more secure financial base, the Centre has launched a new initiative and is promoting a "Friends of the Drop-In" scheme. They are asking everyone and especially members of the Reading Churches, to commit themselves to a regular donation by becoming a Friend and thereby helping the Centre both to continue its present

service and to grow in new directions when new needs are seen. All enquiries about this scheme, offers of voluntary help, or requests for further information are welcomed at St Mary's Centre, Chain Street, Reading (502536)

REAP

Exciting new initiatives have taken place within another local charity, well-known in Reading for its work with homeless people. REAP, the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project, has redirected its resources and are now funding a new resettlement agency aiming to permanently re-house and provide long term support for homeless and vulnerable people. The Keep – the temporary shelter previously run by REAP – has been closed and REAP does not deny that this has caused a large gap in the provisions for homeless people in Reading. However, they feel that they are making the best use of limited resources by trying to break the cycle of homelessness and effect long-term changes. At best "The Keep" could only offer people a few nights' stay at a time – a brief respite from the streets. A significant proportion of the people REAP have seen over the past ten years have had problems in addition to their housing need. These vulnerable people don't just need a bed, they need long-term support to re-establish themselves in the community and cope independently.

Homelessness is a debilitating and degrading experience and many people need help to rebuild their confidence, both in themselves and in their social contacts which may have been lost whilst they were struggling to survive. Reap's resettlement staff will be helping their clients to re-build their skills in areas such as budgeting; to make the move into their new home successfully; to support them in home management; and to provide them with benefit advice and referral to other specialist agencies where appropriate. All this support will

be offered to the client wherever he or she is housed.

"The Keep" nighshelter provided thirteen beds in shared rooms. People staying here had no private space and conditions were poor. REAP are working to gain access to a wide range of good standard accommodation for homeless people in the private sector, with Housing Associations, through the Borough Council, and with other Local Housing groups. They currently manage three small shared houses, where homeless people can stay in security for twelve to eighteen months and receive support whilst relearning skills and tackling any problems they may have. REAP also has access to permanent accommodation in the form of cluster flats and a quota of bedsits and self-contained flats.

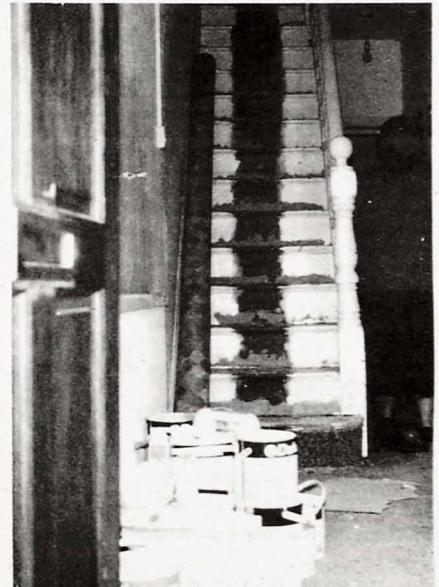
The development of REAP's resettlement role is a key part of Reading Borough Council's Single Homeless Strategy and therefore close cooperation takes place. Continued voluntary support from the wide community will also be needed as new needs arise out of REAP's change of direction. Our response to those needs will play a very vital part in the suc-

cess of their resettlement work.

Over the years many local Churches have given food, clothing, money and man-power to "The Keep". Since its closure there is no longer the pressing need for food and this opens the door wide for generous donations of non-perishable food to be made to the Drop-In-Centre. The types of support that REAP will be seeking are regular financial commitments to help launch a rent management scheme. Gifts in kind too will be needed – whenever clients are helped to move into

permanent accommodation. There is an immediate need for "starter packs" to enable them to basically equip their new home. REAP's aim is to have available such packs, containing kitchen utensils, crockery, cutlery, non-perishable food, bed linen etc. in their office so that they are available as soon as the need arises.

The REAP Resettlement Agency staff welcome enquiries and all offers of help at their new office in OXFORD HOUSE, 2 CHEAPSIDE, READING. Tel. 567210.



Refurbishment under way at one of REAP's small houses obtained through the privately rented sector. Accommodation is offered to six men on a 12-18 month stay basis.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

HIGGS & HILL MEET PROTESTORS

It is no secret that three of the directors of Higgs & Hill, the construction firm intent on building in Bugs Bottom, recently met a group of protestors from the Bugs Bottom Action Group and Caversham & District Residents' Association. The idea had originated at the annual shareholders' meeting when a dozen campaigners, having bought a minimum holding of shares, turned up and asked some pointed questions about the development. Higgs and Hill are naturally keen to show that they are a socially responsible firm who are prepared to listen to local residents and that the plans for the valley will actually improve it.

The residents were able to convey to the three directors, Sir Brian Hill, the chairman, himself, his director of the housing section and the head of communications, something of the enormous opposition the plans had aroused and will continue to arouse. Even revised and improved plans will still be unacceptable because the valley's whole character is dependent on its unspoilt rural nature.

To be fair to Higgs and Hill, they have many good developments across the country and in other parts of the world, but if they insist on going ahead with this particular development, it will remain a blot on their name. As they drove through the streets of Caversham they could hardly have failed to notice the green window stickers and the notices, some of them outspokenly unflattering to their firm which gave an indication of the widespread opposi-

tion they will have to face if their bulldozers move into Bugs Bottom.



NEW PLANS

The present position is that a new set of plans have been produced and will be on exhibition at the Civic Centre, probably by the time you are reading this column. Go and look at them, make your comments, and attend any meeting that might take place in connection with them. They can only be objected to in detail and not on the grounds that no houses should be built there at all. However, their suitability to their site could be queried. The struggle to save the valley is by no means over yet.



BUSES

For some time now it has not been possible to identify a bus by its colour, as Reading Transport vehicles have been appearing in a variety of hues. It is now also not possible to recognise a bus by its number as the old familiar numbers have disappeared, along with the old timetable and, in many cases, the old routes.

The time was certainly ripe for a major shake-up and perhaps these changes will sort out some of the most minor but none the less intensely irritating faults have been waiting to be dealt with for years. All the same the changes in themselves have caused problems for users who at least knew where they were with the system.

One particularly annoying thing was

the timing. Hardly had the improvements to the station forecourt been unveiled, with their newly sited bus shelters all neatly labelled, than the numbers and routes all changed. Once more, the left hand did not know what the right was doing. There are other changes, though not on the Caversham routes. It will be possible to hail a bus at any point as long as it is a safe place to stop. There are also some new buses in which design changes suggested by the travelling public have been incorporated. These include roomier seating, and ease of boarding and alighting for the less able or those with young children or parcels. Public transport still has some way to go before it becomes an attractive alternative to the car but ultimately it is the only answer if our towns and cities are not to seize up or have their centres torn out.



ROAD UP

Caversham Road, beyond Vastern Road, after a summer of disruption now faces a winter of discontent as an extra lane is pushed into it. The previous work was to relocate underground services. It lasted longer than planned because pedestrian power asserted itself, as these second class citizens flatly refused to keep crossing and re-crossing the road to get on the side where there was a pavement. Even so, they still had to pick their way across rough uneven surfaces, but they had made their point, that pedestrians deserve as much attention as motorists.

CHAZEY COURT

No work has started on the rehabilitation centre at Chazy Court, in spite of all the preliminary processes that were carried out. It is understood that the plans have either been postponed indefinitely or abandoned. The future of the farm and its buildings is therefore still uncertain.



GETTING BETTER

All her friends and customers are pleased to see Mrs. Pickersgill back in her shop after her bad accident caused by uneven paving. She supplies a cheerful and much needed service for all those Caversham people whose interests and activities require a quick and efficient photocopying service. You will always meet someone you know in her shop. She was much miss-

ed during the time she was recovering from her injury.



LATE NEWS 500 - 174 = 326

The new plans for Bugs Bottom have now appeared on the Planning Register (91/0879/RM/MD) and are for 326 houses with garages, car parking, roads and footpaths. This is a considerable reduction from the original 500 and is an acknowledgement of the strength of opposition it provoked. The houses themselves are better looking and better spaced than in the previous detailed application. Nevertheless it is a large number, larger than previous applications over the years which were turned down at public inquiry, it would still cause serious traffic

Turn to page 11

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WHEN ROYALTY CAME UP MAYFIELD DRIVE

Until the middle of the 1930s there was, just along the Henley Road past the turning into Grosvenor Road and on the same side, a drive leading up to a fine old house called the Elms. It was a Dutch style residence, probably built in the time of William and Mary, early in the 1700s as several of its windows were blocked up because of the window tax.

It took its name from a single row of elms bordering one side of the straight drive which led, between fields, up to the house. Up until just after the First World War it was lived in by an elderly lady called Miss Lovegrove. She did not use the fields which surrounded her house and garden, and leased one field in the front and an orchard at the side of the property to a Mr May, who was at that time farming at Dean's Farm on the Crawshay Estate. He often helped the

old lady in various ways and knew her well, being a tenant of some of her land.

When Caversham Park was sold up in the very early 1920s Mr May was unable to buy Dean's Farm, which he only rented from the Crawshays. However Miss Lovegrove had arranged that on her death Mr May should have the first offer to buy the Elms. It so happened that she died just around the time he was due to leave Dean's Farm because of the sale of the Crawshay Estate, and he promptly took up the offer to buy the Elms. He lived there with his family until 1935 when they moved to Highmoor Road, Caversham and the Elms became Mayfield Drive Estate.



MICKLANDS
Beside the en-

trance to the Elms was the lodge known as the Round House. Mr May kept sheep, poultry, calves and other young cattle as well as a Guernsey cow for the cream. He also had a small holding called Micklands, comprising a cottage and a few acres in Micklands Lane. The cottage is still there beside the drive entrance to Micklands School. There they kept two horses and at harvest time one these used to walk round and round the cornstack working the elevator. There was no pond on this holding but two hand pumps.

In 1926 the Royal Show was held on the fields at the Elms and attended by King George V, Queen Mary and the Prince of Wales.

Mr May's family first started farming at Exlade Street, near Checkendon, when they had a tiny cottage small holding. Then at the turn of the century they became tenants of Park Farm, the home farm at Caversham

Park. Miss May can remember having to make butter for the Crawshays. Every day fresh pats had to be taken up to the "Big House", and each day of the week a different decoration was stamped on.

She can remember some of the designs. There was a milk churn, a stork, a cow's head and an acorn. What the other three were is long forgotten. Some readers may remember the picture of the pond in one of the Park farm fields published in an earlier edition of this paper. Miss May can remember getting in the ducks from the pond every evening. She and someone else had to walk on opposite sides of the water with a tape held out between them, and guide the birds in for the night. During severe frosts in winter the pond made fine skating.

Just before World War I the Mays moved to Playhatch Farm, still on the estate and later to Dean's Farm,

where there was supposed to have been a haunted room. It was the drawing room and its french windows would never open; they had never been opened for years and years. One day a little maid, Emily, went into the room and found them undone. She closed them up and after that they could never be undone again. Later Mr Miller, who bought Dean's Farm after the Mays left it, told of someone passing him on the stairs, yet seeing nothing.



TWIN HOLDINGS

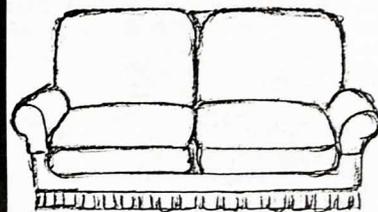
Lowfields was a smallholding farmed along with Dean's Farm, and it had an identical cottage to that of Micklands and was just opposite it across the Henley Road. In fact the Henley Road cut right across a track leading from the Micklands Cottage to the Lowfield Cottage. Was this once an ancient road to a ferry across the Thames?

There were two other lodges along that same side of the Henley Road. A second one was just past Grosvenor Road as you went towards Playhatch and the third one was at the back entrance to Caversham Park and known as Tiveradge Lodge. It stood at the turning into the village and many in the district must remember the little one-storey home pulled down not so many years ago.

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Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
The Rev Nigel Harcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
The Rev Christine Alsopp, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.
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The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

ROUND THE CHURCHES

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

The Bible has been described as the world's least read best-seller. Year after year its sales outstrip those of any other publication. Most churches have pew Bibles; Bibles normally occupy the biggest single section in Christian bookshops; you will find Bibles in hotel rooms, prisons, hospital wards and in countless homes throughout the country. It's not as if we find it hard to find a copy, and yet a vast number are hardly, if ever, opened and actually read. For many the Bible has almost come to be seen as an 'optional extra' and non-essential to their Christianity.

However, the good news is that this appears to be changing, albeit slowly. The Decade of Evangelism, which has now begun, has caused many to stop and think: if we are able to share our faith with others we need, first of all, to get to grips

with it for ourselves. Where better to begin than with a fresh (or perhaps even first) look at the Bible and what it has to say. It tells us about God, about his relationship with his people, about his son, Jesus Christ, of his love for us and, most significantly in these turbulent and uncertain times, of the hope and security for the future that God offers us, if we can come to him and put our trust in him.

You may already read the Bible regularly. If you do, why not make a point of sharing with others why you do this and what it means to you. If you haven't opened a Bible, why not make a start now? You'll find there's lots of help available to get you started. In January next year The Bible Reading Fellowship celebrates its seventieth year of producing notes and other resources to help people with

their Bible reading. BRF's New Daylight notes offer a Bible based thought for the day, with a printed passage, brief comments and prayer or meditation. Guidelines notes offer more in-depth weekly running commentary designed to be read alongside a Bible. And for younger readers First Light notes involve them in the Bible with puzzles, activities and quizzes based on the ASB Sunday readings. For more details ask your minister, or write to BRF, Peter's Way, Sandy Lane West, Oxford, OX4 5HG.

Last summer Bishop Michael Marshall had a marvellous idea. He said "Why not make the whole Church a Bible Reading Fellowship". Just think of the impact we would have on the world if that were true. Let's open the Bible and let's allow God to speak to us, transform us, and enable us to do his will.

Richard Fisher

ST. MARGARET'S NEWS

Harvest Supper
Saturday, September 28th, and the Harvest Thanksgiving had come round again. Once again it was celebrated by some sixty members of St. Margaret's and their friends in the usual customary way, with a shared meal in Trench Green Hall. The atmosphere was warm and friendly, the traditional buffet sup-

per, renowned for the home cooking, was as good as ever, and the fellowship just what it ought to be with a group of people enjoying lots of fun and laughter.

After the repast came the entertainment, ably compered by John Meston. Alf Martyn-Johns showed a short film (by courtesy of Clifford Blackwell) of the

pageant held on St. Margaret's Day twenty nine years ago, when the last vicar, the Rev. Eric Woods, was welcomed in to his new parish. Before our eyes we saw the history of Mapledurham unfold, enacted by some eighty people to an audience of over four hundred on a beautiful July afternoon. To those of us who remembered the

occasion it brought back a lot of memories.

Then came the local talent — poems, a dance display, a short singsong and the show piece from Robert Avis, in a perfect rendering of Bernard Miles. To all those who helped to make the evening such a happy one, especially John Meston who organised it, a big thank you.

M.K.

ST. MARGARET'S AND THE DROP-IN CENTRE

Like St. Peter's, St. Margaret's is taking a very great interest in the St. Saviour's Drop-In Centre in Reading. These two churches have been asked to supply food for the Centre during November and December and each has decided to have a special Sunday each month when the

Centre can be specially remembered and helped. St. Margaret's has chosen the first Sunday of every month when Family Communion is held. Do please bring along tins of meat and fish for sandwiches, and tea, coffee, sugar and soups, in fact anything that could be used for

providing a meal for the homeless. All non-perishable goods will be stored if necessary, so please note the sell by date before purchasing.

There is ALWAYS a basket at the back of the church for gifts of food for the centre and John Meston or Mary Kift will

always be pleased to tell you more about it and the help that is needed.

All proceeds from the sale of Harvest Supper tickets together with a retiring collection at the Harvest Festival service made over one hundred and thirty-five pounds for the Centre.

LINK GROUP

The Link Group held its monthly meeting at Pat Jenkins' house on the evening of Monday, 23rd September. The meeting was well attended and Anthea Prescott was in the Chair.

The business part of the meeting was made up of reports from the various charities, with a special request from

Lynn Baker for a small fridge needed by REAP for one of their flats. Anthea Prescott put in a plea for any old fur coats which could be sent to Poland by the Sue Ryder home.

Arrangements for the next meeting were finalised and the evening concluded with a Communion Service conducted by the Rev. Nigel Hardcastle.

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ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

There was an encouraging attendance for the AGM when the Vicar was in the chair. Members received reports on the activities of the Club from the Secretary, from the Treasurer and from the Chairman. The Committee were willing to continue in office with the addition of Mr Thomas Evans to fill the

vacancy caused by the sad death of Ruby Amor. Mrs Moore agreed to take over the office of Treasurer as Mrs Denning wished to give it up.

After tea and biscuits Mrs Rosemary Carpenter gave a short talk about her visit to Tunisia earlier in the year.

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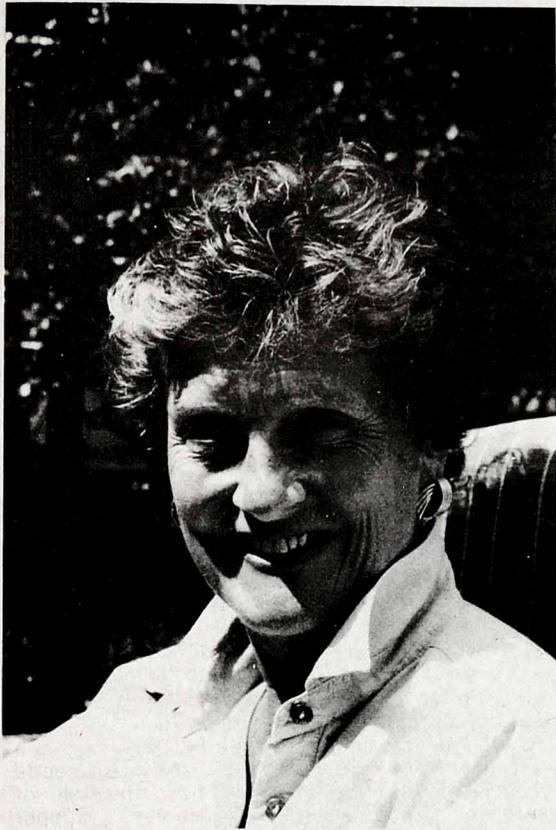
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ROUND THE CHURCHES

OBITUARIES



BRENDA JOAN GODDARD

1938-1991

Brenda Goddard, who had spent the past five years showing and encouraging others to live healthy and active lives, died peacefully at her home on 28th September. She was only fifty-three.

Most people became acquainted with Brenda when they came to the Treatment Room, and later on, to the Balmore Surgery for what is called an M.O.T. Everyone who met her professionally would immediately warm to her relaxed, friendly and confident manner. They felt they were in safe hands, which indeed they were. Her colleagues admired her for her dedication and willingness to go that extra mile,

especially with anyone who had a particular need or personal worry.

Brenda rejoined the nursing profession in 1974 as a nurse with the Berkshire Area Health Authority. She had a lovely way with children. Cutbacks found her without a job locally, and the Balmore doctors quickly snapped her up to continue as their practice nurse. However, Brenda's first love was pre-

ventative medicine, especially in the prevention of stroke and heart disease. As this began to take on a high profile, so she grew with it. As if to prove the point, she had an article published in the Nursing Mirror.

September 1990 saw the grand opening of the Health Promotion Department at the Balmore Practice with her as the founder and head. The Department will never be the same now,

because as one member of the Practice said: "There will never be another Brenda."

In spite of all the energy and enthusiasm Brenda put into her work, she was very much a family person. John, her husband, and their three daughters, Joanna, — married with three children, Jill, married only a few weeks ago, and Emma, were everything to her. Although John sometimes found himself getting the supper because Brenda was spending extra time with a patient, she never neglected those who were close to her. She loved the open air, and family holidays, especially in Walberswick in Suffolk. These, with John, and with any of the girls who would like, were her relaxation. As a fun loving person, with a very keen sense of humour, she made the very best of her times of freedom in the open air.

There is no doubt that Brenda will be missed terribly, and not just by her nearest and dearest. As one lady put it "We all feel a little better for having known Brenda." With the passing of Brenda, the people of Caversham will be all the poorer, and not just in healthiness.

Bill Carpenter.

MRS. MARJORIE WHITEWAY

Marjorie sadly died on Sunday, 30th September after being in failing health for two years. She was greatly loved and will be sorely missed. She came from a Caversham family with strong Christian beliefs but she herself was drawn into the church by the Young Wives' group, joining the Mothers' Union in 1948. Twelve years later she became enrolling member taking over from Mrs. Nunn, the first non-clergy wife. At the end of her term of office she became secretary and she served until her death. She worked tirelessly for the Union and the Church, soon correcting any steps out of line. She must have made a few thousand

knitted garments, master-minding both the handicraft and the cakes stalls at the church autumn bazaars on behalf of the Mothers' Union. She also organised the various trips for members.

Marjorie was a true Christian friend to all and helped her neighbours extensively at all times.

In great respect to her, members of the Union joined the choir and took part in the prayers and reading with the Mothers' Union cloth on the altar at her funeral. Our great love

and friendship is extended to Bunny, her sister and the family.

Members of the Mothers' Union at St. John's are fund raising to meet the high cost of having their banner re-embroidered to celebrate their fifty years' service next year. As Marjorie did not live to see the new one it was decided to have a separate collection in order to replace the Lady Chapel carpet which she had very strong thoughts about. Anybody wishing to contribute in her memory may contact Mrs. Sylvia Fround 473218 or Mrs. Ann Deane 473798.

A.D.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I'm sorry to have been out of touch recently. No, I've not been on a world cruise, just caught up in an unusually busy summer. The furthest I've been was on a university-based SAGA visit to Dundee which we took mainly because, unlike so many tourist trips it offered single rooms. And it really is time tourist agencies got alive to the fact that there are a lot of single people who want to travel but don't like the idea of sharing rooms or being ripped off for the cost of single rooms. However, I know many of you have been on the most fascinating holidays this year — our photographer and his wife are currently enjoying the colours of New England in the autumn — so I won't bother you with all the details of my holiday except to say that it was excellent value for money and everything taken care of. But prospective SAGA trippers to universities would be well advised, before undertaking any particular one, to try and find out details about the one they want, whether it is close to the town, out in the country, whether it is difficult to negotiate all the steps which might be involved and so on. They do vary considerably.

OUR LOVELY DAY

But by car the most enjoyable day a few of us from Caversham had was on 14th September when we gathered with the Shaylor family and a few other friends at their home in Lasham to celebrate Bindi's recovery from his very serious operation, and his 85th Birthday. Doreen Bennett was busy with her camera, as you can see, and I'm sure if any of Betty and Bindi's old friends would like their own special picture, she will be able to have some copies taken. Such a lovely couple they are and they gave so much to Caversham when Bindi was curate here; needless to say, although the numbers had to be kept down at the picnic lunch, neither Bindi nor Betty seem to have forgotten a single person they knew in Caversham and demands for news came thick and fast while we were there.

ISN'T CAVERSHAM GREAT

A few months ago I found myself in the most delightful village, not far from here — can't think why I've never been there before — nestling among rolling hills and containing all the ingredients of the kind of village many of us would like to retire to. But do you know what I missed? It was the

tra charge. They will also collect the car from the owner's home and return it when the work is complete. The problem is that, like ARMS, they are in the compound behind the gates so you normally wouldn't see them and, like ARMS, these young men just don't have vast amounts of money to pay for advertising.

So I happily acceded to



Betty and Bindi Shaylor at home

Doreen Bennett

friendliness of Caversham. Apart from the hosts at the local pub where we had lunch, just none of the people we saw wandering round the village gave a greeting or even a smile. What a contrast to a stroll into Lower Caversham.

IN NEED OF A GARAGE

Some time ago I had a request from our old friend Liz Cheyney who works at the ARMS Centre in Patrick Road, to give a blurb to the small garage which recently opened up opposite the Centre. To quote Liz, it is run by two super young chaps who are very hard working and brilliant mechanics. They do mechanical and body repairs as well as servicing and offer a full valet service on the car, inside and out, for no ex-

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Liz's request to give publicity for 'them over the way'.

CONGRATULATIONS

I'd be very sorry if the 'Evening Post' did have to give up, as was rumoured, because it does supply news many of us would otherwise miss. I was delighted to read, for instance, of the local British Health Care Award to Dr. Kemp of Emmer Green surgery. Nominated by patients his was a well-deserved award for all the care he has given in the practice and his money-raising efforts through various sponsorship schemes. And I'm sure Ian Kemp would like me to quote what he himself told the press — that he considered the award as being as much for other members of the surgery, doctors, nurses, and so on, as to himself. Having collected his prize in the shape of a week-end break, he now goes on to the finals, so I'm sure we shall be hearing more about him in the future.

And I've heard that Kevin Corrigan has just completed his cycling

pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in aid of the Alzheimer's Disease Society. So those of you who sponsored him will be getting a call — a most welcome one I'm sure — from some of us in the near future. I'm hoping he will some time be able to provide us a report, however short, of his journey and his adventures.

owner of the money. I witnessed a rather nice act in Waitrose recently which I feel needs a comment: A young man leaving the shop had the misfortune to drop and break a bottle — I think it was wine — right at the exit to the shop. Even in the short time I was at the check-out the staff had sprung into action and cleaned up glass and liquid, whatever it was, and handed the young man a replacement. I've dropped things like that myself and do know how embarrassing it can be, so say nothing of the loss.

AREN'T YOU A LOVELY LOT?

ANIMALS CARED FOR

And I do feel it is time we gave our local Vets an enormous thank-you for their willingness to take in injured animals, even when nobody knows who they belong to, in an emergency. The main reason we don't use this firm ourselves so much is because of the difficulty of making — and keeping — appointments. Anything else but cats and we could manage it, but three cats take a lot of coming to heel when it is time to go to the vets. They seem to know instinctively when it is time and disappear. But it is good to know that we can still — as we did recently — get attention when it is urgent. They are very caring people.

BRICKBATS

And now for a few brickbats. And while on the subject of animals,

Turn to page 9

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A YEAR IN NEPAL

SCHOOL TO COLLEGE VIA PAKHRIBAS AND VELLORE!

"Such a friendly people and so anxious to help you" was the way that Helen Garforth, a young member of Caversham Heights' Methodist Church, summed up the people of Nepal, where she spent four months this year being helpful to the Nepalese after saying farewell to Kendrick School.



Last February Helen flew to Delhi, sought out the cheapest flight to Katmandu, and then thumbed a lift to the Agricultural Research Station at Pakhribas — from its English director who happened to be in Katmandu at the time! After seventeen hours in a Jeep and an hour's walk because the road had come to an end, she arrived in Pakhribas where she taught English, not only to the children of the Nepalese staff of the centre but to the staff themselves.



The Centre, which was established in 1972 by the Overseas Development Administration, is concern-

ed mainly with research into relevant improvements to methods of agriculture and agricultural extension in the Eastern Hills. This includes introducing the growing of fruit trees and horticultural crops, as well as the breeding of small animals, for example rabbits for wool as an added source of income.



Whilst at the Centre, Helen came into contact with Voluntary Service Overseas workers and members of the American Peace Corps Volunteers, and at the end of the month began travelling around the country seeing the tasks on which they were engaged, such as urban planning, teaching and midwife training. Work of particular interest to Helen was that done by the Britain Nepal Medical Trust, which was working with 'traditional' healers to reconcile their healing methods, some of which were beneficial but some positively dangerous, with modern medical practice.



Helen returned in June to Delhi and then made

a train journey to the south of India which lasted 59 hours! She was now bound for the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore, founded by Dr Ida Scudder in 1900. When, as a young girl, Ida was visiting her missionary parents in South India, she was asked to help three women struggling in difficult childbirth because custom prevented them being attended by a male doctor. Ida, having no training, could do nothing, and on the following day she learned that all three women had died. She decided there and then that she must herself become a doctor and must set up a college where women nurses and doctors could be trained. From the College developed the Hospital, which now has a variety of roles. Helen experienced some of these.



First she worked in the Physical Rehabilitation Centre, helping paraplegics to pass the long hours by playing board games with them. One patient at the Centre was a man who had lost both arms and legs in an electrical accident. He was a Nepali, and was delighted that Helen was able to converse with him in his own language. She was surprised to find that



Helen Garforth

P.J. Bean

all patients were treated as if they were children, — an approach so different from that at Borocourt Hospital where Helen worked for a while before going to India. Finally she visited the New Life Centre, where lepers are rehabilitated, being trained to do useful jobs instead of being obliged to beg to keep alive.



"Vellore is a very good and well staffed hospital", said Helen, "and patients come to it from all over India. So the more support that it receives, the more of In-

dia's many, many sick people it can treat". There is an opportunity for supporting Vellore Hospital on November 16th, for on that Saturday afternoon at 2.30 pm the Caversham Heights Methodist Church will be holding its Annual Bazaar, the proceeds of which are embarked for it. Helen is not likely to be in Caversham on that day, however. She will be studying anthropology at Queens College, Cambridge, and hopes that one day she may be able to use her studies for the benefit of India's people.

E.M.A.



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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

From page 8

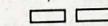
it would be nice if all so-called animal lovers in Caversham paid more attention to their welfare. Most people do, I know. But, as a confirmed and unrepentant animal-lover, I would ask the owners of cats to make sure they can come and go through their cat door. Judging by the number of wandering cats I see, there must be

many who have no access to their homes when the owners are out at work. And a special plea for dogs at this time. Far too many are still left wandering, sometimes without collars and chains — and it just doesn't help when owners of big dogs say, as one did recently, "Oh yes, he's got a collar and chain — it's in the kitchen".

And as to motorists, I do have a big grumble about thoughtless

motorists who clog our streets by parking on double-yellow lines and often on pavements. Prospect Street for instance, is difficult enough to negotiate — and, alas, there are some shops which have of necessity to allow unloading outside the shops — and it is difficult enough to get around without having to cope with cars on pavements. I'm sure I told you how I was once followed down Prospect Street by a motorist hooting me to get out of the way as he was driving on the pavement. Move? I should Coco!

And cyclists, particularly those dressed in black and often without lights, really should help motorists to avoid them. I'm sure no motorist gets a kick out of depleting the cycling fraternity.



ROBIN KITCHER

May I, on behalf of those of us who only write for the 'Bridge', thank Robin for all his yeoman service as circulation manager for so long; he deserves his retirement. Without

people like him and all the others involved with circulation, production etc., the drivel we write would never see the light of day. These jobs are often carried out faithfully, often almost anonymously, and we owe a great debt to those who do them. So many thanks, Robin.



JUDITH MILNE

I've been chasing up Judith, who lives at Woodley and who, trading under the name of MIART, has been producing the most beautiful cards which I've purchased recently from our local bookshop. They really are lovely, many of them paintings of our nearby Windsor parks. At 99p. they don't come cheap but, lacking the somewhat sloppy words so many cards contain, they make a lovely gift for any occasion. And apparently she also produces pictures with accompanying gift tags so, for anyone interested, her phone number is 690388.



FRIENDS OF BUGS BOTTOM

The campaign, the

outcome of which is not yet settled, seems to have brought friends from all over the country. I wonder if anyone remembers Dr. McHarg who lived at Kidmore Road from 1927-1938 and who now lives in Dundee. He was so moved by the Channel 4 programme that he sent a donation of £100 to the funds and says he used to love Bugs Bottom dearly and remembers a nightingale singing there every night in the summer. I believe a lot of the money has had to be returned to people who sent in, but whatever happens it is great to know that Bugs Bottom still holds memories for so many people.

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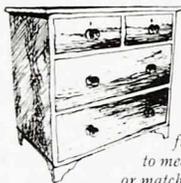
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the CLUBS

Caversham Community Association

A visitor from Australia, Mrs. Hazel Hinton, was welcomed to the club on the 2nd September to give a talk and photographic slide show. Hazel was staying in Caversham with her mother, club member May Plant, and was greeted by many old friends in the audience. Hazel lives about 10 miles south of Sydney and is a member of Bexley Uniting Church. The slides were taken on their annual outing, on this occasion to Thread-bow Village, via Gundagai, Tumut and Cooma etc. One of the church members, Mervyn Peake, was the photographer and the slides showed a happy group enjoying stops at various picnic spots, which were provided with tables and benches. On the 5 day trip the party travelled south and then back to Sydney up the coast, staying at Motels on the way. One sight of interest to the travellers was seeing trees shedding their leaves in Autumn, as the trees are evergreen in Sydney. After the talk Hazel was pleased to answer any questions on life in Australia to complete a very interesting evening. The members then went home, each taking with them a toy koala bear which Hazel had kindly given them as a souvenir.

The annual Arts and

Crafts evening was held on the 9th September when the members brought examples of their work for display. Judges were — Cheryl Pilgrim for flower arrangements, Monica Suet for cookery, Dorothy Maskell for Knitwear and art and Stephen Waite for Photography.

First prizewinners were as follows —

Cookery
Tea Loaf:-
Maida Feast
Mince Pies:-
Margery Absolom
Shortbread:-
Catherine Snaith
Swiss Roll:-
Catherine Snaith

Flower Arrangements
General Arrangement:-
Wendy Colton
Arrangement with
figurine:-
Wendy Colton

Garden on a plate:-
Beryl Latham
Arrangement in jam jar:-
Patricia Haines

Knitting
Adult garment:-
Wendy Colton
Child's garment:-
Margaret Cameron
Soft toy:-
June Goddard
Gloves:-
Margaret Cameron
Baby Garment:-
Joyce Roddy

Photography
Animal:-
Freda Haines
Humorous:-
Nancy Nelhams
Portrait:-
Freda Haines
View:-
Peter Snaith

General Art
- Wendy Colton

Men's Class
- George Feast

Wendy Colton retained the Muriel Rampton rosebowl for the best flower arrangement and Patricia Haines retained the Joe Rampton cup for the best floral arrangement in a jam jar.

A gypsy party was held on the 16th September when members were asked to

dress in traditional gypsy costume. Entertainment was provided by the Reading Accordion Group, Tony Bates was the Leader and Musical Director. Their programme was varied and included Spanish Eyes, Edelweiss and Amazing Grace. Old Tyme dances and community singing were also provided. Members of the group were asked to choose the best gypsy costume and chose Margaret Cameron, in first place, with Betty Colton, the second prizewinner.

Refreshments included home-made jam tarts to add to the enjoyment of a successful party.

The Harvest Festival supper took place the following week. Members arrived with their harvest gifts which made a colourful display. The Rev. Chirstine Allsopp was invited and addressed the club after the opening Harvest hymn. Another well loved hymn was sung, accompanied by Nancy Nelhams at the piano, then the supper was partaken by the members. The committee had worked hard at making the sandwiches, scones with jam and apple pie with cream, also laying the tables attractively for the meal. The harvest gifts were auctioned later by Beryl Latham, the Chairman, and Maida Feast, the Secretary, in aid of club funds. A happy evening, always looked forward to by the members, then came to an end.

Mr Charles Moss was welcomed on a return visit to the club on the

30th September. His talk and photographic slide show was on streets and buildings of old Reading. As usual, his photographs of a bygone age were fascinating and his informative commentary most interesting. Alas, many of the fine old buildings have now been demolished and roads changed out of recognition. George Feast, the Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked Mr. Moss for a pleasant evening.

St Peter's Wives

The summer passed very enjoyably with the Group meeting each month.

In April the speaker was Mrs Crozier who spoke on "Life of a Bargee's Wife". It was a most interesting evening and thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

In May the Group held a Beetle Drive. A smaller number than usual arrived but a most hilarious meeting was enjoyed by everyone.

A Strawberry Supper was held in June and this was a pleasant and quiet meeting with opportunities for social chit-chat.

The July meeting on H.M. Customs and Excise was a very interesting and informative meeting which was well appreciated by the members.

An evening walk along the Thames was the group meeting in August and was very

Turn to page 11

CAVERSHAM DIARY

Thursday, 8pm Caversham Players
31st October "The Chalk Garden"
Friday 1st, St. Andrew's Hall
Saturday, Tel: Ray Hammond
2nd November 476877

Friday, Save the Children —
8th November Open Afternoon at 68,
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Saturday, Abbeyfield St. Peter's,
9th November 62, St. Peter's Avenue,
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Coffee Morning 10.30am
to 11.45am Bring and
Buy

Tuesday, 10.30am-4.00pm
12th November Bring & Buy in aid of
the Church Missionary
Society, 23 Priest Hill.

Saturday, 2.30pm Caversham
16th November Heights Methodist
Church Annual Bazaar
(in aid of Vellore
Hospital, India)

Saturday, 10am - 5pm Thameside
30th November School Reading
Caversham Academy Art
Centres. Fair. Art Show.

Saturday, 2.30pm St Barnabas'
7th December Christmas Fair, Church
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the CLUBS

From page 10

much enjoyed by those who did the walk. An interesting and fascinating evening was given by Mr Dixon of Heelas on Haberdashery. It was interesting to see all the articles which many

people do not now use but are there for the buying.

As is evident, the Group provides a varied and interesting programme and all ladies are welcome to our meetings at Church House on the third Tuesday each month.

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The purpose of the Associate Membership is to enable you to become a member and helper of our Group. We have a great need for people who might like to get involved in an up and coming centre right in the heart of Caversham. We'd welcome you to come to our Centre at any time, both to help in it and also to be involved with our members, help with our Centre Sales and all the other functions we get involved with.

What do I get for my £3.00 p.a. subscription?

You'll get a copy of the Group's Newsletter published every two months. This is brim full of interesting articles in connection with the Centre. Also a chance to

get involved and perhaps help with one or other of the various functions etc.

The opportunity to belong to a charity which actually DOES exist in your midst and is not just a name on paper and MOST OF ALL the chance to meet some really terrific people in our super lively Centre at 26, Patrick Road, Caversham (off Gosbrook Road - by the Spud Shop!)

So all you members of the public out there - do join us at Reading ARMS. We'll be delighted to have you - just ring Liz Cheyney on 0734 482072 for details.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Cheyney
On behalf of the Friends of Reading ARMS Public Relations Committee.

Watchdog Continued

From page 4

problems, and would ruin the valley.

Presumably the appeal to the Secretary of State over Phase I will now be withdrawn. Perhaps it was only lodged to play for time. This new application must still be opposed. As far as Bugs Bottom itself goes, there can be no compromise. No houses at all is the only acceptable solution.

CROSS TOWN ROUTE

It is encouraging to know that Sir Gerard Vaughan has come out as opposing the

Cross Town Route, which is the subject of a public inquiry which could possibly still be running by the time you read this. There has been massive opposition from groups and individuals to the scheme.

CAVERSHAM TRAIL

The second of the Civic Society's Town Trials is now available at Caversham library and bookshop, as well as at outlets in the Town Centre. It covers part of Caversham, is well illustrated and costs 50p. A review will appear in next

month's issue of the Caversham Bridge.

ENCROACHING JUNGLE

I.J. Delman, in last month's Postbag, appears to have missed my remarks in August's issue. I suggested that people should cut back their own hedges and branches encroaching on the pavement, not other people's or anything sprouting from publicly owned trees.



Many apologies are due to Joan and David Moody for the poor reproduction of their snapshot in last month's paper. This was put in at the last minute and your editors did not see the proof. Walton Adams (photographers) have taken the official portrait of David Moody, and it is reproduced here.

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