

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

ACTING TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

The theme of the 1991 'One World Week' urged us all to 'Act Together for Tomorrow's World'. What are the issues, though, that claim our action and in what ways can we take it?

Churches Together in Caversham responded by drawing up an Action Charter which called us to act together in regard to six key issues, namely homelessness, Third World debt, racial and sex discrimination, fairer world trading, protecting the environment and the building of a more

peaceful world. The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Robert Dimmick, received the Charter and expressed his strong support of it.

At an Action Charter Fair, held at St Anne's Catholic Church on October 22nd, there was the opportunity to discuss in small groups how action could be taken. The groups were led by local people who had made a study of each of the topics, Bill Montague leading on homelessness, Anne McCubbin on the environment, Gina Tagoe on racial

discrimination and Paul Kingston on building lasting peace.

The complex subject of Third World debt was led by Beth Tickner, and clarified by the Christian Aid video, A Matter of Interest, which demonstrated convincingly how Third World countries have been crippled by the immense debts owed to the affluent West.

Most children are today aware of environmental issues, and members of Caversham junior churches acted together to prepare a giant world map. On it

they pasted pictures which they had drawn, or cut out of magazines, which illustrated good and bad environmental features. This map, a Traidcraft stall and street theatre performed by Mannafest of Woodley, in which his barons forced King John to sign the Action Charter, drew the attention of Caversham's Saturday morning shoppers.

The Action Charter was written by John Madeley, who would welcome queries and comments (tel: 476063).

E.M.A.



Martyn Allies presenting the Charter to the Mayor.

- E.S. Archer

**TOMORROW'S WORLD
Action Charter**

We, Christians of the churches of Caversham and Mapledurham, call on all people of goodwill to take action with us for tomorrow's world. We commit ourselves to promote this Charter and to strive to fulfil its aims.

We call for action:

- 1/ to enable every man, woman and child, in every country, to have a **place to live**;
- 2/ to remove the burden of **Third World debt** from the poor by cancelling debt owed on past aid;
- 3/ to give all, irrespective of colour, race, creed or gender, the **equal opportunity** of employment and education;
- 4/ to **establish an international trading system** that meets the basic needs of all people, enabling them to live free from poverty;
- 5/ to **protect the land, forests, sea and air** created by God and threatened by the way we live;
- 6/ to **build lasting peace**, between nations, peoples and ourselves.

The Board of the Caversham Bridge rejoices in the release of Terry Waite and other hostages. Readers are encouraged to write and pray for those others wrongly in captivity.

FEED THE CHILDREN

The suffering of children touches the hearts of almost everyone and recent pictures of the terrible conditions facing the helpless young of Rumania and Albania have moved many people with compassion to help relieve their plight.

Already the Caversham Bridge has written about the work of Feed the Children, whose headquarters are in Prospect Street, and no doubt readers saw the reports of its work on television; but it seems a good idea once again to bring this very worth while Charity to the notice of the community in which they have set up their GHQ, especially at Christmas.

Feed the Children's philosophy is very simple. "We exist to transport aid to those in greatest need". At the moment much of the help given is channelled towards Romania and Albania.

From their warehouse near Reading they take clothing, blankets, tinned foods, electrical generators, tents and corrugated roofing direct to the projects that require them. There is no bureaucracy and the aid never leaves their care.

A pamphlet from their office in Prospect Street lists the various homes, schools and hospitals they are helping together with their greatest needs.

The Charity's Press release No. 3 for Albania published on September 23 this year makes interesting reading. Four lorries carrying seventy-six tonnes of aid worth £108,000 left for Albania. A fifth truck left on Tuesday 24th. All were bound for shipment from Plymouth. Within ten days the vessel had reached Albania. On September 27th the Feed the Children's first flight into Albania left Vienna and arrived at Tirana Airport. Staff from F.T.C. work alongside Albanian contacts distributing direct to the various projects. Every item is inventoried and later checked. These days, with growing concern about whether or not aid ever reached its destination this is reassuring news.

The Board of the Caversham Bridge send Christmas greetings to the very small band of people running Feed the Children and hope their work goes from strength to strength.

The National Westminster Bank in Bridge Street accept donations.

MK

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. Dennis Weller
Caversham Baptist Church



WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

It happens that I am a minister; I am very glad to be a minister, but first of all I am a man, a person who has found in Jesus Christ the secret of a very full and worthwhile life.

Christ has taught me how to meet the ups and downs of life, the surprises and shocks which can spoil Christmas and every other time of the year unless we've got a faith to hold on to and a great Friend at our side — and I'm still learning.

So I am glad of this chance to testify that when a person is sure of Christ he or she stands on solid ground and can face whatever comes with steadfast faith and hope; and there's nothing better to talk about at Christmas time.

I wonder what sort of picture of Jesus you've got at the back of your mind? When we hear His name (as we shall hear it dozens of times this month in carols), what kind of picture or idea will it bring to our minds? I don't mean the kind of face He had. Nobody knows that. The pictures we've seen in the art galleries and stained-glass windows in church — all these, of course, are imaginative.

I am really asking what sort of a person we think Jesus was. I mustn't put words in anybody's mouth, but I shouldn't be surprised if you were to say that Jesus was very wonderful, quite extraordinary, outstanding, unusual, using those words to suggest that He was different from anybody who has ever lived on this earth.

Well, if we do say that, we are right. He was very wonderful and extraordinary and unusual. He was unique, which means there was never anybody like Him.

However, we can say that kind of thing about Jesus and convey a wrong impression. We can convey the impression that He was so completely different from the men and women among whom He lived, and so very different from ourselves, that He can't really understand what our life is like.

People often say "One half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives"; and some people feel like that about Jesus. I wonder wherever they get that idea from? Certainly not from the Bible. It's St. Mark's Gospel which says that "a large crowd listened to Him with delight".

The people who think that God doesn't understand haven't got that idea out of a hymnbook. The great hymns about Jesus are hymns about His coming down to us on our level, getting alongside us, putting His shoulder under the weight of our burdens..... "Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus our Immanuel!"

For those of us who are having to bear a great deal of pain, with perhaps an uncertain future, it will mean that we know in our heart that Jesus had exactly that kind of experience and found God's presence and help through it all and at the end of it all.

For everyone of us living in this demanding world with all its threat to peace of mind it will mean the presence beside us of One who faced and overcame that world, and could say to His friends, "Take heart! I have overcome the world".

Christ's Presence beside us" — that is the best Christmas present we can have. We can't see Him, of course; we can't hear His voice, but we are sure He is with us.

One of our people said to me only the other day: "I accepted Christ twenty-seven years ago, and I have never been alone since". Just like that! "Closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands or feet". However we express it, the fact is — we know we are not alone.

That extra bit of strength we get when we need it most, that extra resistance to temptation which just turns the scale, that inward peace we have, even when things go wrong, that perseverance to carry on when the going is hard, these are all signs that He is with us.

I once asked a woman who had been following Christ for fifty years what she had gained in that time; and without hesitation she replied "A sense of the nearness of my Saviour" — and after about the same length of time trying to follow Christ and serve Him, I would want to say the same thing. The best thing I have known in life so far is a sense of the nearness of Christ, the friendship of One who once travelled the road I'm on now, and because He knows and understands can help me more than any other. That's one reason why Christmas means so much to those who are sure of Christ.

OBITUARY

Gertrude Louise
Jane Crook

In the late twenties Gertrude and George Crook, after two years in Australia, came to settle in Reading, George being an employee of the then Great Western Railway. They scoured Caversham Heights looking for a "picturesque cottage and garden", ending their search in a large Victorian house in much disrepair with an acre of completely neglected garden.

With very little outside help Gertrude and George transformed the house into an elegant and lovely

home surrounded by a beautiful landscaped garden — a haven of peace and delight for the many relatives, friends and their children who were always lovingly welcomed there.

George died in 1976 and Gertrude bravely lived on alone in their home, happy to entertain all her visitors; and to reminisce with them over the earlier days of her long life. And often to enchant them with a recitation of her favourite poems. All who were privileged to know her well must surely still hear her voice admonishing them with her favourite Long-fellow to

"Tell me NOT in mournful numbers Life is but an empty dream" and so on to "Dust thou art to dust returnest Was NOT spoken of the soul".

Often asked to comment on her many years she would say "Take one day at a time; remember the Ten Commandments and there is nothing to fear".

Gertrude's greatest wish was that she would never have to leave her beloved home. Mercifully she died their peacefully having lived minutes into her one hundred and fifth year.

K.W.

EMMER GREEN YOUTH and COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre. Situated behind the church in between

the doctor's surgery and the school in Grove Road we are not difficult to find.

Green and offers a variety of activities to suit all needs.

Here is a programme of activities currently available.

The Centre is open to everyone in Emmer

Monday:	9am—12 noon 7.30—10.30pm	Emmer Green Playgroup. Parents and children welcome. Youth Club for all young people aged between the ages of 11—21.
Tuesday:	9am—12 noon 7.30—10.30pm	Emmer Green Playgroup. Painting, toys, storytelling and games. Youth Group. Football, pool, discussion groups.
Wednesday:	9am—12 noon 2—3pm 7.30—10.30pm 10am—12 noon	Emmer Green Playgroup. Join in all the noisy fun. Keep Fit with Lis Rout. Creche available Jujitsu martial arts group. Emmer Green Parents & Toddlers group. Come along and meet other parents.
Thursday:	7.30—10.30pm	Rendez Vous Club. A varied programme of entertainment for active adults in Emmer Green.
Friday:	9am—11.30am 12 — 1.30pm	Emmer Green Playgroup. Water play, visits and videos. Social Services Lunch Club for Senior Citizens.

During weekends the Centre is available for hire by individuals or community groups. But be warned, the Centre is booked up quickly, especially for weddings.

On Sundays the Caversham Evangelical Church

meets at the Centre. Their morning service begins at 10.30am or come along to their evening meeting at 6.00pm.

If you have any questions or queries about the activities/groups on offer please do not hesitate

to come along to the Centre and ask away.

If you would like to book the Centre please ring Reading 476794 any morning of the week, or call into the Centre where you will be extended a warm welcome.

Julie Toyne

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel: 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr. M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 472389.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

All contributions for January issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 27 November.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 25 November.

The dates for February will be Monday 6 January and Wednesday 8 January.

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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OPPOSITE WAITROSE

HEALTHY COMPETITION?

In normal times most of us welcome the sight of what is known as healthy competition. But are these normal times, I wonder? The kind of thing which seems to be going on these days bodes ill not only for small shopkeepers trying to make a living, but for most consumers as well. Take the telephone for instance. Not so long ago, with a few pence in my pocket I could ring home from anywhere. Now it seems we are faced with the fact that money isn't necessarily enough; some weeks ago I found myself unable to phone from a certain cafe because they only used Mercury cards. For heaven's sake, what good does it do to be told that we now 'have a choice'. All I want is to be able to make a simple phone call, not spend hours rushing around trying to find the appropriate telephone.

Now that's the kind of thing I mean and for some time now I've been becoming increasingly irritated by that kind of competition. So it didn't please me to find the local public library 'selling' new books, mostly best sellers and this in a district where we have a first class bookshop which serves all our needs. I'm sure the owners will forgive me for saying that it isn't easy for them to make

a living, without unwanted competition from public libraries whose job is to lend books, not sell them. However all is not lost; it seems the idea is not generally popular with the public and I'm assured by the very friendly librarian to whom I spoke that it is more than likely that the books will be withdrawn from sale shortly.

CONGRATULATIONS

A party was held at Hugh Faringdon School recently, when Keith Horne retired after over 33 years teaching. Keith, who has never lost his links with Caversham, was given a splendid celebration when three old pupils of St. Anne's, Gabriele Scicluna, John Power and Roland A'Hearne, rounded up over 500 of his old pupils. It can't have been an easy job getting them together and gathering up messages from all over the place, including a video from an ex-pupil now living in Australia. I'm told the noise was pretty deafening, but it seems everyone enjoyed the opportunity not only of paying tribute to Keith, but getting to know one another all over again, often after many many years.

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

SURPRISE PARTY FOR PAT

And I was glad to see in the local press that Pat Jenkins' 21 years' service as a playgroup leader was not allowed to pass unnoticed. For the past ten years the playgroup has been based at the local Baptist Church and Pat and her helpers have done a terrific job with our local youngsters. It seems she too was overwhelmed with the party given for her — and she well deserved it.

LOCAL CHURCHES

Which reminds me to comment on the many and varied activities currently taking place at the local Baptist Church. The members are fortunate in having such a splendid site, one which other churches might envy. And it has now become a very active centre for all kinds of things, not least being the Friday lunches and teas. They've become so popular recently that it is sometimes almost impossible to get in but for people wanting to catch up with news of

old friends it is well worth the effort. Nor should the pop-in Centre at Church House be forgotten — I'm told it is a great meeting place.

FAREWELL TO 'BIM'

I'm always pleased to receive news of some of our local 'heroes'. It seems 'Bim' Jackson

has faithfully delivered milk in the Highmoor Road, Darrell Road area for 28 years and is now being moved to another part of Caversham. I'm told his customers are very sorry to lose him and are anxious to say thank-you for all he did for them over the years.

ANY MORE?

Now come on, there must be a lot of Caversham people whose service to the community deserves comment in this paper. So please, if you know of any, a message, however brief, to the paper's editors, or left at Church House, will be much appreciated. It's has been said before and I'll say it again; this is your paper, so please let us have the news to fill it.

NAZZARENO D. ANGELO

In our local bookshop today I noticed on sale an array of framed paintings of old Reading. They won't be there long but it would be nice if this artist, who comes originally from Alexandria but has worked in Reading for a long while, could find home for some of

his work in Caversham. I suppose it is no surprise that this agent is yet another Scicluna (now where have I heard that name before?). Mario Scicluna Artistic Enterprises if you are interested is the gentleman in question and the bookshop will supply any information about Nazzareno's work.

BETTER SHELVING PLEASE

As I've said before, the staff at our two local supermarkets cope manfully with the hoards of shoppers which bear down on them every week. Until recently it was always possible to find a roving member of staff to give assistance, but I suppose there have been cuts there as everywhere else. And that often means those of us not above average height often have to leave items on the higher shelves because short of shinning up the shelves there is no way to reach them. And when it comes to placing tins high up this surely is a recipe for an accident. The girls and boys in these shops work hard, but somebody should be responsible for seeing items are kept in reach for customers. It should not be left to the good samaritans among customers who often come to the rescue.



Mr Horne presented, with Golf Clubs given by past-pupils by Barbara McNiffe, first Head-Girl at the School.

— E. S. Archer

TRAIL ROUND CAVERSHAM

Reading Civic Society has now published its second Town Trail, this time on Caversham, and an admirable document it is. It gives an outline of the history of Caversham and its development as a place in itself, not just an adjunct of Reading, and should be of great interest to newcomers to the district; even for long established residents it contains some surprises.

The Trail takes us round the middle of Caversham, as it is intended as a walk, but to curious explorers it will open up corners which they might never find by themselves. Many houses in Caversham were, up till the Second World War, occupied by the "gentry", and those that survive, notably in and near Surley Row, are still very attractive, but we have also learnt to appreciate the well built terrace houses and semis in Hemdean Road and other parts of Lower Caversham. I am glad attention is drawn to our much loved Public

Library, a difficult building to "place" architecturally but quite distinguished in its small way.

Caversham was never a picturesque riverside village but it has always been, and still is, a desirable place to live, and it has (so far!) escaped the office block development which has the effect of altering the whole scale of a place.

Much credit is due to all those responsible for producing this leaflet, which gives so much information and must have been long and carefully researched. Perhaps darker print would have helped to show up the exquisite drawings, but the green is attractive and relevant to the work of the Reading Civic Society. One warning should be given — don't set out on the walk without having read the leaflet carefully all through first. It is worth the trouble.

Congratulations, then, to Molly Casey,

John Punter and Janet Tait, and to the typographers. The leaflet can be obtained from the Caversham Book Shop in Prospect Street, Libraries and the Town Hall Information Centre.

VR

The Civic Society apologises that the bus numbers given in the Trail are incorrect. They were all altered as it was being printed.

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PAMELA TOWNSEND RETIRES

I have been invited to write a short article concerning my work as Principal of Chiltern Nursery Training College. It seems a very long time ago that I was offered the wonderful challenge of this position and my photograph appeared in Caversham Bridge as 'the new girl'. So much has happened over the past ten and a half years that I could and possibly should write a book. However don't be alarmed, I don't propose to do so here and now. Life is still much too busy.



Pamela Townsend with one in her care.

Photo: Courtesy of Prudential Insurance Co.

Having spent all my life in Enfield until moving to Caversham my husband and I felt a considerable amount of trepidation and even kept our Enfield house for eight years as a possible escape route. We felt at home so quickly in Caversham that we need not have worried. So many people offered us friendship and kindness. We were welcomed into St Peter's Church and because of my job many people knew me before I knew them. I received smiles and greetings every time I ventured

beyond the boundaries of College.

I have also known the sometimes doubtful pleasure of play-'Mum' and Mentor to several hundred students and children. Although I have gained grey hairs and at times lost sleep, I have felt privileged to enjoy such close contact with so many people.

The children have been a constant delight, throughout my career. I have watched whole families through day care, nursery school and infant schools. Now I find it quite

aging to hear of those children being married and having children of their own. It is wonderful still to have contact with some of them and a sobering thought to know that their lives have, in a very small way been influenced by their early learning in which I played a part.

These days life is so hurried that small children are often given little time. It is easy for parents, sometimes through no fault of their own, to miss out on family life. At Chiltern, and

indeed at all the establishments over the years, it has been seen as very important to make up for this, for both parents and children. We take time and trouble to offer support to parents and loving care to the children. Behind the fence where nobody sees and some are not even aware of, there is a large family of staff, students and little people. Part of our future generation. The care they receive at Chiltern and the memories may be with them for life. The Education through stimulating play will form a basis of their future learning and the love offers more security than some may ever know again.

I am lucky that my retirement will be a gradual process as I shall still be working part-time as recruitment officer for the College. That will mean a lot less hours. Time for home, hus-

band and family. We now have a lovely bungalow in Sonning Common and attend St John's Church at Kidmore End.

I have seen the College through many changes and will be eternally grateful to the Governors and Staff for all their friendly support and loyalty. They are amongst all the special people who have made my career so enjoyable.

Chiltern has given me opportunities and challenges that I would never have thought possible. I have not always been right in my judgement but have certainly done my best.

I have finally learned that faith in God offers strength in any situation. We just have to remind ourselves day by day, and that isn't always easy for those who have had so much less than I to be thankful for.

BY MOUNTAIN BIKE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

by
Kevin Corrigan

Leaving Bordeaux by road on the morning of Tuesday 3rd September I crossed by the Pyrenees into Spain on Sunday 8th September.

Thereafter I took the old pilgrim route to Compostela, the Camino de Santiago, which follows both modern roads and a variety of ancient tracks and pathways. The latter, while considerably harder work than the former, were generally more interesting and enjoyable, and I finally reached Santiago in driving rain and a gale of wind on Saturday 28th September, tired but exhilarated, having cycled one thousand and eighty kilometres (six hundred and seventy-five miles) and climbed a total of about twenty-five thousand feet.

Northern Spain is surprisingly moun-

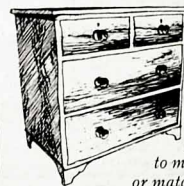
tainous and the Pyrenees, while the first, were not the highest of the four ranges crossed. All, however, rewarded the effort involved with stupendous views and feelings of elation. In addition, my journey took me through many small towns and some quite remote hamlets and villages some of which contained the most magnificent churches and other old buildings. It also included a number of fine Cathedral cities such as Pamplona, Burgos, Leon, Astorga and, of course, Santiago itself with its shrine of St James as the ultimate goal of the pilgrimage. Final arrival there was, indeed, a most moving experience.

Once in Spain, I stayed principally in pilgrim refuges, simple accommodation provided by church

or local authorities, ranging from the very primitive to the quite sophisticated. As a result, I was seldom without the company of like minded people from places as far away as South America and Japan as well as from a variety of European nations. The companionship of these fellow pilgrims, together with the many little acts of kindness encountered on the journey, all helped to make my pilgrimage the memorable and moving experience that it proved to be.

While it was not intended primarily as a fund raising event, I am most grateful to all those who kindly pledged sponsorship. Thanks to their generosity about £1000 should be collected for the work of the Alzheimer's Disease Society.

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST PETER'S

- Sunday 8th December**
9.15am Gifts of toys for needy children
- Sunday 22nd December**
6.30pm FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
- Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS AND CAROLS
- Christmas Day**
8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.15am FAMILY COMMUNION AND CAROLS
11.15am Holy Communion
- 26th December (St Stephen's Day)**
9.30am Holy Communion
- Sunday 29th December**
Usual morning services (No 6.30pm)
- Monday 6th January (EPIPHANY)**
8.00pm Sung Eucharist

ST MARGARET'S

- Sunday 22nd December**
6.30pm FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
- Christmas Eve**
2.30pm Crib Service
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS AND CAROLS
- Christmas Day**
11.00am FAMILY COMMUNION AND CAROLS

ST ANDREW'S

- Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)**
4.30pm CRIB SERVICE (Children especially welcome)
11.30pm FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS (Midnight Mass)
- Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)**
8.00am THE EUCHARIST
10.00am FAMILY EUCHARIST (Sung)
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday — St Stephen, St John and Holy Innocents**
9.30am THE EUCHARIST on each morning
- Sunday 29th December (Christmas 1)**
Services as usual in the morning 6.30pm LESSONS AND CAROLS

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

- Wednesday 4th December, 11th December**
8.00pm Advent Meditation in Church
- Sunday 15th December**
6.30pm Informal Prayer and Praise in Church
- Saturday 21st December**
6.00pm Carols evening at the Vicarage
- Sunday 22nd December**
8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
9.15am Parish Communion (quiet said service)
3.30pm Parade Service (with Christingles)
6.30pm Carol Service
- Christmas Eve**
4.00pm Carols and Christingles
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
10.00am Family Communion
- St Stephen's Day Thursday (26th December)**
12.00am Eucharist (said)
- St John's Day (Friday 27th December)**
12.00am Eucharist (said)
- The Holy Innocents (Saturday 28th December)**
12.00am Eucharist (said)

ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

- Sunday 22nd December**
8.00am Eucharist (1662)
9.30am Parish Eucharist
4.30pm Carol Service
- Christmas Eve**
4.30pm Crib service
11.30pm Midnight Communion
- Christmas Day**
8.00am Said Eucharist (1662)
9.30am Family Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

- Sunday 1st December**
11.00am Communion and Toy Service (toys to Katesgrove)
- Sunday 22nd December**
11.00am Carol Service
- Tuesday 24th December**
11.30pm Midnight Communion by Candlelight
- Wednesday 25th December**
11.00am Christmas Morning Family Communion

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- Sunday 8th December**
11.00am Toy Service. The Revd David Moody
6.30pm Checkendon Church Choir. Mr David Beek
- Sunday 22nd December**
11.00am "Jesus Comes". The Revd David Moody
4.00pm Christingle Service The Revd David Moody
- Christmas Eve**
11.15pm Christmas Watchnight. The Revd David Moody

- Christmas Day**
10.30am Family Christmas. The Revd David Moody

- Sunday 29th December**
11.00am Family Carols. The Revd David Moody.

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

- Sunday 1st December**
10.30am Toy Service — Sister Marion Stanley
- Sunday 15th December**
6.30pm Nativity Play
- Sunday 22nd December**
Traditional Carol Service

- Christmas Day**
10.30am Christmas Morning Service conducted by the Revd John Boakes

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

- Sunday 15th December**
10.30am Family 'Toy' Service
6.30pm Evening Worship
- Sunday 22nd December**
10.30am Family Service
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight and Nativity Tableau

Christmas Day

- 10.30am Family Service

ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

- Sunday 15th December**
11.00am Gift Service — you are invited to bring presents (unwrapped) suitable for children of all ages.
- Sunday 22nd December**
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight followed by Coffee and Mincepies in the Hall
- Tuesday 24th December**
5.00pm Carol singing in the Neighbourhood — meet at the Church.
- Wednesday 25th December**
10.00am Christmas Day Family Service — bring a present with you — and a friend

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

- Sunday 22nd December**
10.30am Family Christmas Service at the Hill Primary School, Peppard Road
4.00pm Keyhole Club for 5-11 year olds at the Chapel followed by
5.30pm Carols for the rest of the family
- Christmas Day**
10.30am Family Celebration at the Chapel

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

- Sunday 22nd December**
Meeting with Caversham Hill Chapel for the day — see their details
- Christmas Day**
10.45am Family Celebration at Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion.

PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST. ANNE

- Reading Deanery Penitential Services as announced. Sunday, 22nd December. Carol Service at St Anne's at 3 p.m.
- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 24th December**
St Anne's, South View Avenue.
Midnight Mass. Carols from 11.30pm. Blessing of the crib before Mass

- Christmas Day**
Mass at 9.00 (Children) and 11.00

- Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road**
Midnight Mass. Carols from 11.30pm.

- Christmas Day**
Masses at 8.30 and 10.30am
Confessions on Christmas Eve at both Churches as announced on the Newsletter.
St Stephen's Day, Thursday, 26th December. Masses for the Altar Servers at 10 o'clock at Our Lady of Caversham, and 11 o'clock at St Anne's.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

- Wednesday 25th December**
10.30am Meeting for Worship

**THURSDAY, 19th DECEMBER. 4.30 — 6.00pm CAROL SINGING AT B.R. STATION
BY CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CENTRAL READING**

ROUND THE CHURCHES

CONFIRMATION — WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23

by
TIM SMALL



The Bishop of Reading and the Rev. Bill Carpenter with the members of St. Andrew's church at the recent confirmation

— E. S. Archer

I've been confirmed! That is what I kept telling myself the day after the Confirmation Service at St Andrew's. It was hard to believe it had really happened.

Recollections of the actual night were a bit vague. Being a member of the choir, I was asked by Philip Aspden if I would like to sing a verse of the Responsorial Psalm, which was a great honour. I was also asked by Bill Carpenter to read the Old Testament Reading (Ezekiel 36, 25a-26, 28) — again an honour.

The service was

started by Bishop John and so were my "Butterflies". After the hymn, I made my way to give the reading (heart pounding); it was then a rush to get back to sing the psalm, then back into the congregation to join the other confirmands.

It was then that I renewed the promises and vows made for me by my parents and godparents at my baptism. These vows made, we moved up to the altar rail to be confirmed by the Bishop. I was one of the last and it seemed like ages before he placed his hand on my head and said,

"Confirm this thy servant, Timothy".

All that followed seemed dream-like and I was glad of the support of my wife and friends in the choir.

The true meaning of my confirmation came on Sunday when I participated in my first family Eucharist — a very emotional time at which I was able to appreciate fully this great moment: a very wonderful feeling.

A very big thank you to all who sent Confirmation cards and best wishes.

ST BARNABAS NEWS

Well, in the words of T.S. Eliot, it is hard to think that St Barnabas' has not been like "the broad backed hippopotamus, resting on its belly in the mud." The summer months seem to have flown by, with members of the congregation flying off on holidays far and near and no sooner does Autumn arrive than it is Christmas once again. But of course the Church does not rest on its belly in the mud, worship continues both publicly and privately. June Harcastle and Wendy Stormont are learning about Liturgical Dancing and have started training a liturgical dance group, which to date has performed on two occasions. The new team of of Pastoral Visitors has been blessed and the Church through them has been asked to look afresh at "Praying Together" as we do each Sunday in the Communion Service.

As part of its contribution towards Evangelism, the PCC and the Vicar have decided to experiment with three non-eucharistic services per annum, in place of the main Sunday Communion. The first was at Harvest, when the whole community, not just of St Barnabas, but also including children and parents from Emmer Green

Primary School, met for a service of music and dance in praise and thanks to God for all his gifts to us. The children of Emmer Green sang some lovely new Harvest hymns, which are sure to become firm favourites with the congregation of St Barnabas from now on. Harvest of course also means communion of another sort, in the traditional Harvest Supper.

This year, by popular demand In House Entertainment was provided with Walter Williams as the inimitable MC. Owen Jewiss, complete with costume and props delighted all, but most especially the children, with his rendering of Betjeman's Harvest Mouse. The beautifully prepared slides, shown in conjunction with the overture to Iolanthe, were not only a joy to see, but once again showed another facet of David Page's talent. Musical and poetical renderings all of high standard, culminated in a Family Sing-song around the piano.

By the time this article appears in print, the congregation of St Barnabas will have held its Annual parish Conference, and preparations will be well in hand for the Christmas Fair. But more of that next time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

Christmas is coming! The shops are full of all the good things we enjoy at Christmas-tide and everyone looks forward to a few days of jollification. This is fine, but for Christians the focus of our faith is Easter and the reality of the Resurrection of Our Lord. There is an urgent need for all of us to know more about Christmas, Easter and all that took place between these major events and to try to extend our understanding of the mysteries which lay behind them.

In Caversham there is a concerted effort by quite a number of Christians from all Churches to discuss aspects of our faith in small groups during Lent which in 1992 begins on 4th March. Preliminary planning has already begun and details of a recommended course will be available before the end of the year. Our immediate

need is for extra group leaders. The main task of the leaders is to encourage the group to discuss and explore. A friendly approach, willingness to learn and the enjoyment of the company of others are qualities many Christians have and these are the qualities that are suitable for the leaders of our troops. Training will be available in February, probably in Caversham.

If you feel able to lead a group, would you contact the clergy or minister of your own Church or your Churches Together representative. The time commitment is one evening each week for five or six weeks from 4th March next. Alternatively contact Church House (tel. 471703) and your name will be passed to the Steering Group preparing for Lent 92.

WB

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

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

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

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

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

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

BAPTIST

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

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

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

UNITED REFORMED

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

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

"WOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM"

Three years ago "Women Together in Caversham" was born! On Tuesday afternoon, November 5, one hundred women and four men from all the Churches in Caversham came together in St Andrew's Hall. They came for fellowship and to share their love for Christ in a short act of worship. The high spot

of the afternoon was a talk by the Revd Vernon Muller on his hospital chaplaincy and a good question and answer session was followed by a cream tea.

Such a rewarding afternoon! The next one is at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church at 2.30pm on February 25th 1992.

Wedding Photography

by Michael Blackburn

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Dear Editors,

I write as an artist of fine art, a preacher of the gospel since my youth, now a senior citizen and still going strong, happy to see the move of Churches together in Caversham. Like communism the dividing line of denominationalism is being moved; it is not scriptural anyway. The prayer of Jesus must be fulfilled: 'Father that they may be one'.

Many Christians like sheep are happy to be led by leaders often op-

POST BAG

posed to change, not so much by Bible truth. The woman of Samaria was Sectarian. She said to Jesus 'You say we should worship in Jerusalem, we say we worship in this Holy Mountain'. Jesus said 'The time is coming when you will worship God in Spirit and Truth'.

Pope Gregory got the message; he advised Augustine not to destroy the temples,

but dedicate them to the true service of God. It is impossible to eradicate all the errors and misjudgments of a lifetime. Make careful study-selection of those who name Christ and by the Spirit call Him Lord. Try to profit by their experience. They can be nearer to the Kingdom of God than we believe. George, Archbishop of Canterbury, carries on the same wisdom from

above. 'Stop', he said "battering down the hatches around the lay ministry, God needs labourers for the harvest is come". Thus the Anglican Church is moving out of her wilderness state into tomorrow's renewal.

Carry on getting together,
Yours for Christ's sake,

Ted Burnell

11 Bristow Court
Caversham

ROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL NEWS

Recently the two congregations of Caversham Hill Chapel and Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship met together for a church weekend. In the past it has been customary to go away to a Christian Conference Centre for a residential weekend, but this year it was decided to "stay at home".

The speaker for the weekend was Mike Pusey, the Pastor of a church in Newport, South Wales. Mike was born and bred in Reading and his wife Margaret grew up in Caversham.

Friday night was spent at the Chapel for fellowship, wor-

ship and ministry. Mike reminded us that the Church is a people who know Jesus as Lord by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus must be central in the Church and we, as the body of Christ, need to be outward looking, with a mission to go to the people with the good news of Jesus.

On Saturday morning, after a time of worship, Mike talked about how important it was to recognise the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit makes spectators into participants.

During the morning, the children aged

5-10 had their own "Praise Party" which was held at the Hill School. This was very enthusiastically led by Derek and Linda Medd, who enabled the children to have a great time.

The 11-14's had their own meeting at the Hill School. This was taken by Ian Plumley from Kings Church in Reading.

After a picnic lunch together on the school field fun and games for everyone was organised at Peppard Common, including a ramble around the common. A barbeque in the evening rounded off what was a

thoroughly enjoyable day.

On Sunday the morning ministry held at the Hill School was again taken by Mike Pusey. Preaching from Matthew 21:12-17, he pointed out that the Presence of Jesus brings Purity, Prayer, Power and Praise.

After a picnic lunch together it was time for the weekend to end. One of the best things about the weekend was how the two congregations were able to spend time together, getting to know different people and enjoying relaxing in the beautiful weather that God provided.

"ONE WORLD WEEK"



Stall next to the Library organised by Martyn Allies — See story on page 1

— Peter Bean

The Keyhole Club

As regular readers of the Bridge will know, Keybunch is a local drama group (based at Caversham Hill Chapel) which spends much of its times conducting assemblies in the local Primary and Secondary Schools.

Following a tour of the Primary schools last summer and a successful fun day for the children, Keybunch decided to start a club for five to eleven years old called the Keyhole Club to meet once a month.

The idea behind the club is to give the children a great time and also introduce them to Christianity and to encourage them to live a Christian lifestyle.

At the time of writing there have been two meetings. Before the first

meeting on Sunday 29th September, invitations were sent to all the children who attended the fun day (about 150) and posters placed in most of the schools. The big question was; how many people would come? Special badges were made, membership cards were printed, games and activities were worked out, the keyhole club band prepared, Keybunch rehearsed their sketch, various props and equipment was accumulated, drinks, sweets and a registration team were organised, the church prayed.

When the big day arrived there was much expectation and excitement; organised chaos as the hall was set up and all the other preparations were made. Then the

children began to arrive, who were issued with their keyhole club badge, membership card and password ("God Cares"), which was the theme for the afternoon). On entering the hall (they needed to know the password), they were able to make their own badge with a special badge making machine which had been hired for the occasion. This was followed by games for different age groups, a break for a drink of squash and then a praise party. This consisted of christian songs accompanied by a band, a sketch and a time of prayer.

To Keybunches delight, 75 children turned up.

But would they come back? Had they enjoyed it enough? The answer



to this last question was plain to see at the next meeting on 20th October, when 93 children came along.

If you have a child of Primary School age who you think may be interested in this club give Mike Holmes a ring at Caversham Hill Chapel, 474529, or come along to the Christmas Party at 4.00pm at the Chapel on Dec 22nd. There is an annual membership fee of £1 and a sub of 30p to help with the costs.

Mike Holmes

CAROL CONCERT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14th

Gosbrook Road
Methodist Church

7.30 p.m.

CAVERSHAM BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.00 p.m.

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

CHANGE OF VENUE TO
CHURCH HOUSE, CAVERSHAM

CAVERSHAM DIARY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday,
7th December | 7.30pm. St John's Church, Caversham: Concert by Reading Male Voice Choir |
| Sunday,
8th December | 12.30pm. Charity lunch with cabaret at Caversham Hotel in aid of Terrence Higgins Trust. Information - A. J. Smith 472578 |
| Sunday,
8th December | 3.00pm. Ecumenical Carol Concert for Save the Children Fund. See notice on page 10. |
| Thursday,
12th December | 7.30pm. St Paul's United Reformed Church Hall: Carol Concert by Highdown Singers |
| Thursday,
19th December | 4.30-6.00pm Carol Singing at B.R. Station by Churches Together in Central Reading. |

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1 PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM

PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

326 TOO MANY
The new plans for Bugs Bottom, as most readers will be aware, show a substantial reduction in the number of houses from the original five hundred to three hundred and twenty-six. As a consequence the layout has been much improved and most of the faults which resulted in the rejection of Phase 1 of the former application have been removed. It will also mean a reduction in the traffic, though it is difficult to calculate how much, as larger houses could mean more cars per home. With outline consent already won, the Borough planning Committee is going to find it difficult to refuse this application.

Nevertheless three hundred and twenty-six is still a large number of houses, more than any of the earlier applications which over the years had all been rejected and produced enormous opposition. The resultant traffic will still bring serious problems across a wide area, and as far as the valley itself goes, it will be damaged as soon as a single house appears, let alone three hundred and twenty-six.

It is therefore important to look at the plans — there is a formidable array of them, so select the most important — and write a letter to the Planning Office saying what you do not like about them or pointing out areas which you think should be looked at particularly carefully. Are trees and established hedges being destroyed? Do you get a view of blank walls or serried ranks of houses? Will lack of facilities within the estate result in unacceptable pressures in the rest of Caversham? Is the gradient into Tredegar Road too steep for access/egress? Can the houses be built without severe damage to the valley sides?

The number of letters received for such an application does strengthen the Borough's hands. There is still time, but try to write something by the beginning of December. In the present economic climate Higgs and Hill are not likely to be in a hurry to build, so time is still on our side.

CROSS TOWN ROUTE

The Public Inquiry into the Cross Town Route differed from

most, where an applicant is appealing against a local authority's refusal to grant planning permission, in that the County Council was pleading its case for developing whilst arrayed against it was an army of local organisations and individuals eager to show the County was wrong. Reading Borough Council did not appear at all because of the agreement known as the Transportation Accord whereby they had withdrawn their objections to the Cross Town Route though they had not gone as far as actually supporting it.

In the event, the Public Inquiry went on for a month, far longer than the expected one or two weeks. This was because of the large number of objectors and, particularly in the case of organisations, their well researched and argued cases which they stoutly defended against the county's efforts to demolish them. All the county had to support them, apart from their paid expert witnesses, was the Chamber of Commerce, who thought the road essential for the town's economic well-being and the RTF who naturally wanted more road space for their HGVs to fill.

The main argument is over the land exchange. It would be difficult after that constant stream of objectors, for the Inspector to conclude that Scours Lane was a fair exchange for Kings Meadow. However, he did look for himself, both before and after the Inquiry.

A lot of time was spent on the question of noise. The expert witness came up with scientific measurements of the present noise and the predicted noise. His figures were doubtless correct but no one was convinced, because although noise can be measured in L10's and dB(A)'s, it produces in fact a very subjective response and it is, after all, people and not pieces of measuring equipment who have to listen to it. This was gone over time and again, with the Inspector patiently listening as each side reiterated its points.

The objectors certainly got a good hearing and the Council's case looked progressively thread bare and outdated. But roads have their own momentum and once the planning process starts have, like

juggernauts, a habit of trundling on regardless. Will this road, so dear to Berkshire's heart, be an exception.

Caversham's District Residents' Association was represented at the Inquiry by Doris Thomas who put their case together and presented it with admirable clarity. She attended practically every session, a mammoth undertaking in itself, kept tabs on all the points made by the county and provided responses to their rebuttals of the case she was putting. She certainly deserves the thanks of everyone who sees the Cross Town Route as an outmoded and costly way of solving Reading's traffic problems whilst irrevocably damaging its riverside heritage in the process.

IN THE PIPELINE

The meeting addressed by Cllr Gill Parker, Chairman of the Borough Planning and Transport Committee, was well attended in spite of the first damp chilly night of the Autumn. Her subject was major plans affecting Caversham and she spoke specifically about four of them.

As the new Borough Plan will affect life in the town for the next decade, she urged people to make their comments on it. Caversham Residents' Association, the organisers of the meeting, have already done this in considerable detail. Of three points that came in for special mention, one was the provision of jobs. This summer there were twenty-eight job vacancies for seven hundred school leavers. Even if they went off on courses for a year or two, what real hope will there be for them as next year more school leavers join the queue? On housing she wanted to know what people's reaction would be to the Council buying houses to let for rent to help solve the problem of those who were never going to be able to afford the deposit or repayments on a house of their own. Thirdly, are out of town shopping centres a good idea or not? They have the attraction of plenty of free parking but Cllr Parker thought town centre shopping, which surveys showed people preferred, should be encouraged.

She also spoke about Redland Gravel, which, taken at face value, has

many advantages, but also contains many hidden snags. On the subject of the Cross Town Route, she said the Borough's policy was that better public transport was the longterm solution, and that the A33 relief road would ease town centre congestion. Speaking of Bugs Bottom, most of what she said is in line with what is contained in the first section of this column.

Many questions followed, showing Caversham people's awareness of the issues affecting their area. In the course of replying, Cllr Parker said speculative developments in the town had largely come to an end because of the economic recession, and although this could not be expected to last, she did not expect to see a return to the frenetic rush of the '80's to build anywhere however unsuitable, so that small gardens were the subject of planning applications and small terrace houses were be-

ing turned into even smaller flats, something that for a time plagued Lower Caversham.

CAR PARK CHARGES

The scheme to introduce charges for the Chester Street car park provoked a barrage of hostility, not surprising as it showed little evidence of having been thought out properly. There can be little objection to the principle that long term parkers should pay for the space they occupy. The £9 day long charge however, will not be paid by day long commuters, the main cause of the problem, as they will move off elsewhere rather than pay. This will leave space for shoppers, but the traders who need their vehicles to run their businesses will be faced with something in the region of £50 a week to pay. Shoppers making short calls will also resent paying 20p to

Turn to page 9



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REVIEW PAGE

THE CHALK GARDEN

The Chalk Garden by Enid Bagnold performed by the Caversham Players in early November at St Andrew's Hall was a brave effort but not the best choice for this talented group. The play required a larger stage and the presence of an Edith Evans type to carry off the role of Mrs St. Maughan a larger than life character self-opinionated and worldly. Lyn Butler did her best with this difficult part switching her moods of dominance, dignity and wheedling, finally becoming an object of pity whose only hope of salvation lay in the hands of the woman intended to be her granddaughter's governess.

The play gathered pace as it progressed with moves well thought out except possibly for too much backstage action and an irritating straight line in Act 3.

A fine performance by Maggie Stokes as Miss

Madrigal kept the audience guessing as to when the crime she had obviously committed would be revealed. Her wary look and upright stance spoke of prison regime and her composure remained intact until the last scene when her inhibitions were dissipated by drinking wine — incidentally if she had really consumed so many glasses would she have been quite so coherent? Her final decision to stay with the selfish woman whose parallel lay in the barren garden outside came across well — after all what had she to lose? If anyone could cope with Mrs. St. Maughan's self-centred nature indicated by such remarks as "Ask for me, ask for me" to her daughter, and "Love can be had any day. Success is far harder", one felt Miss Madrigal could. Her tone is decisive when she sums up

Mrs St. Maughan by her remark "You have not a green thumb — with a plant or a girl."

Louise Mander as Laurel gave a fine portrayal of a lost petulant teenager demanding attention and longing for affection, especially from her mother. Her reliance on Maitland the man servant with whom she plays games of reconstructed trials fills in the gap in the meantime. The girl's mother played adequately by Sheila Hodson was too short to establish an opposition to her mother demonstrated an age-old feud.

Ray Hammond as the man servant timed his exits and his entrances well switching his moods for the occasion and expressing his hate of the long established man servant Pinkbell (how callous Mrs St. Maughan was over the latter's death — a further indication of her shallow nature). However he could have been made to look older and more careworn. The Judge on the other hand could have appeared not quite so decrepit. It was enough to hear him repeat that he was old but by the way he moved he would never have made it up the steps to the Court. His carefully modulated tones came over well with every word audible.

Small parts were well played by Ann Bliss, Val Watts and Alexandra Thwaite.

The set could have been made to look more opulent — a few ornamental hanging rugs on walls, brocade cushions and some impressive vases as befitting one who still insisted on two glasses per person at lunch time.

Curtains would have taken the bareness off the windows and a bit of the garden could have encroached — even if only weeds.

A difficult play well directed by Jessica Gilbert.

E.M.F.

EAST LYNNE

Most painstaking — and highly successful — efforts were made by Caversham Theatre with both set and costumes to achieve the required Victorian ambience for their recent production of East Lynne. However, despite effective casting, the action of the play was less successful in evoking a convincing Victorian atmosphere.

The play is an adaptation of the novel by Mrs Henry Wood, a serious but sentimental tear-jerker which today tends to jerk smirks rather than tears. It is melodramatic, but not a knock-about melodrama like Maria Marten or The Drunkard. It has sincere, intense and moving speeches which resist all attempts to 'send them up' and if the lines which evoke a smile are played for guffaws then the play is thrown out of balance.

East Lynne needs careful, well-paced and positive diction to achieve a mood of Victorian dignity, with sympathetic and subtle pointing up — but not parodying — of the naive, priggish or sinister qualities of the characters.

Peter Ludlow, as the unscrupulous villain Francis Levison, and Jackie Case as the hero's domineering sister,

WATCHDOG

change a library book or call at the Post Office and are likely to take a chance on yellow lines in the street.

There are all kinds of ways in which these charges could have been made fairer without bullying the wrong people or transferring the problems elsewhere. People would still not like paying them, but at least they would not cause more problems than they solved.

NO 12 BUS

Reading Transport Ltd has assured the Resident's Association that there is no intention, contrary to rumour, of taking off the No. 12 bus. Word has gone round that because most of the users in a

both relished their roles and gave strong performances, though their tendency to overplay contrasted a little too starkly with the underplaying of some other members of the cast, who at times lapsed into a conversational style more suitable for a modern play.

Liz Martin gave an attractive performance as Lady Isobel, even if her transmogrification into governess became a trifle grotesque. Martin Leckie, who leaves the company on moving to Yorkshire, seemed less happy with the hero Archibald Carlyle, than other parts which he has played recently. Emyr Roberts was suitably gracious and avuncular as Lord Mount Severn, and Maggie Wild, as Joyce the upper maid, nicely blended servility with authority.

Sue Stainthorpe won our sympathy for Barbara Hare, the woman who had the misfortune to break up the happy home, and two newcomers to the company, Lorraine Dickenson and Duncan Rozzier, made effective debuts as Wilson, a maidservant, and Barbara's brother Richard. The play was produced by Bob Green.

E.M.A.

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high car owning area were pass holders it was not paying so was due for the chopper. For many users this would have meant a long walk to the next nearest bus route.

LOO OF THE YEAR

The Victorian loos, formerly at Caversham Bridge and now at the Chiltern Open Aid Museum, will be fully operational when the museum re-opens after the winter closure. Caversham people will be pleased to know that they are being entered for the Loo of the Year Awards. A visit to the museum solely to renew acquaintance with them, restored to their former glory, will be worthwhile; the museum is at Chalfont St Giles.

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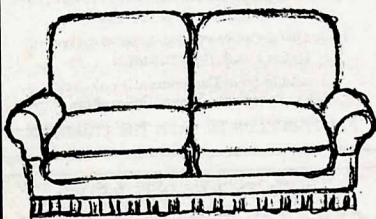
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Maplewood W.I.

At the October meeting of Maplewood W.I. members enjoyed a Ploughman's lunch, followed by the meeting at which the speaker was Mrs Lee on 'Old Customs and Events'. Mrs Lee gave an interesting talk illustrated with slides on the many traditional events which take place in the locality. The audience was intrigued to discover the wide range of traditions observed throughout the year from a van horse parade at Easter to a candle auction in December.

The Flower of the Month Competition was won by Mrs Heather Baker with a geranium.

talk on a Solicitor's Brief. He recounted how his interest in Law has been kindled by attending lawcourts as a boy and when old enough he had been articled to a firm of Solicitors.

Most of his work at present is in the Magistrates' Court which he enjoys. He explained the somewhat complex process of briefing a Counsel and brought a weighty brief with him. He also brought a number of historic deeds for the interested audience to look at. He answered many questions and gave useful advice on making a will.

Caversham Inner Wheel

Members of Caversham Inner Wheel recently held a 'plant and produce' sale in a member's home to help local and overseas charities. It was a very happy occasion and very well supported. Everyone who came to buy the goodies enjoyed tea and cakes and a time of friendship.

As a result of the sale which raised £312, cheques were presented to R.E.A.P. (Reading Emergency Aid Project) and the Miriam Dean Trust (Overseas Charity).

St Andrew's Fellowship

An interested audience was present at the October Meeting to hear Rodney Oliver

Rosehill W.I.

On 2nd October there was a Harvest Lunch before the monthly meeting. Members partook of homemade savouries, salads and sweets with a glass of wine or fruit juice. The meeting commenced at 2.15pm with Mrs Weller welcoming everyone.

Mrs Tomlin will have three crochet classes for beginners during the month. Other activities as usual. Contributions to the W.I. House at Mortimer were made as a result of the coffee morning and ploughman's lunch in August.

Mr J. Taylor then entertained with slides on 'African Wildlife'. These were mostly of birds on Lake Nakuru in Eastern Africa. Such beautiful pictures were really appreciated and the lecture had to end only too soon.

Mrs Weller welcomed members to the November meeting. Mrs Stockill read last month's minutes and Mrs Mann gave an interesting account of the Autumn Council Meeting, especially describing the Fashion Show, which was excellent. There will be an outing to the theatre this month.

Mr G. Wyatt gave the talk on Switzerland, with slides, starting at Interlaken and travelling all the way to the high mountains that dominate this region, Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau, by train, cable car and funicular, taking pictures all the way, so giving beautiful views of the scenery.

There was a bookstall which did a good trade; the surplus will be taken to a hospital. There was also an exhibition of about nine unusual key rings.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong opened the meeting in the absence of Mrs Harwood, Chairman, who was away on holiday. It was the Club's Autumn Fair afternoon, and there was much bustling and hurrying around to prepare in readiness for the members to explore and purchase. Arts and Crafts, Bric-a-Brac, Nearly New, Groceries, cakes etc.

made a colourful display when completed.

Club business was soon settled and the Fair then officially opened. It was a happy atmosphere as members started looking for bargains and novelties. All too soon tables were beginning to look 'spare'. Mrs Brenda Strong then started auctioning various articles, helping to clear the few remaining items. It was a happy and successful afternoon and the sight of that well known English 'cuppa' much appreciated. A tin was passed around amongst members for a collection to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed.

Mrs Strong thanked everyone for their help and generosity, and reminded them that at the next meeting films would be shown by Mr Taylor for whom members themselves had requested a return visit as they had enjoyed his first show very much.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in October to hear Eileen Byner speak

about 'The Potential of The Third Age'. The Third Age embraces those who have retired from work but not from life and encompasses ages from fifty to ninety giving a potential of forty years. The greatest asset during these years is time and time wasted is negative; it is now that we owe something to ourselves.

The University of the Third Age started in England in 1982 and now has one hundred and thirty-four branches and seventeen thousand and thirty-five members, two hundred of these in Reading. The educational and social groups are run using the skills of members, with no paid tutors. The Extra Mural department of Reading University is very helpful as is the Adult Education department and care is taken not to overlap with their programmes. Most groups meet once a week and are self-reliant. It has been criticised as being idealistic, but so far it works, transforming learning into friendship.

The groups cover a wide variety of topics, Yoga, 'Learning Through Your Dreams', Play Reading. There's a walking group and one

Turn to page 11

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for debating, another for Music. The Reader's group have a set subject and read as much about it as they can for discussion, thus introducing new authors perhaps or more academic works which normally one would not come across. There is absolutely no need for the third age to be either boring or useless, one should say "Is there something I've always wanted to do?", then do it! Mrs Byner herself studied for an Open University Degree and is just about to begin studying for an MA at Reading University. Mrs. E. Fuller gave the vote of thanks for a most interesting and encouraging talk.

A very successful Jumble Sale was held at the end of September and raised over £260, some of which will go to charity.

Mrs Burton and Mrs Pocock held coffee mornings to support the Macmillan Nurses Appeal and were delighted with the support received especial-

ly from guild members.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

After the summer break in September, Mr Richard Snaitham took members to China, by means of slides and an interesting talk. In October Lt J. Willcocks took the audience down the Venetian waterways, showing slides of the fascinating way Venice is made up. It has three islands separated by canals with three bridges in-between. To get out, you either walk or go by water bus, which is cheap, or the romantic way by gondola which is expensive. But it is nice for things like weddings to be romantically transported to the waterside church. There is a space of two miles between each bridge. No visit would be worthwhile unless you see the cathedral which is popular with

tourists. The river level is rising and many buildings are sinking into the mud, and pollution is staining many beautiful buildings black from sulphur.

Arrangements have been made to have a dinner (on the thirtieth November).

New members are welcome to the Guild; the meetings are held at Church House at 2pm every third Thursday.

Caversham Community Association

Pat Snow was welcomed to the club on 7th October to give the members seasonal gardening advice. Mrs. Snow brought with her a colourful array of plants and a selection of bulbs and gardening requisites for the members to purchase, if they so wishes. In the course of her talk, Mrs. Snow told the members how to take their own cuttings before the winter arrived so that the plants would be ready to pot up as spring approached. She said that geranium cuttings would take better with rooting powder. Cuttings from fuchsias and busy lizzies would be all right in loam compost. Fuchsia pot plants should have their leaves removed during winter and watered sparingly. During the evening there were opportunities for everyone to discuss their own gardening problems. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked Mrs. Snow for her entertaining visit.

The clubroom was closed the following Monday as some of the members visited a local skittle alley and also enjoyed, whilst there, a good meal. Jean Hutton won the skittle match.

On the 21st October Mrs. Pat Howard, who keeps an antique shop in Prospect Street, Caversham, was the visiting speaker. Starting at the Emporium in Merchants Place, Reading, her interest in antiques and fine linen increased and eventually she came to open a shop in Caversham. Mrs. Howard brought with her a selection of articles from the shop and explained their origin to the members. There were necklaces, fine old wooden boxes and

china, including some lovely teapots, for the audience to admire. Many people bring their treasures to the shop to sell and Mrs. Howard welcomes people who wish to have a look round. Everyone agreed that the meeting had been most interesting.

A Hallowe'en party was held on the 28th October. The members were asked to dress as witches with a prize for the best costume. Only a few entered the competition, but the members who did gave the judge, Ted Howard, a difficult task. He chose Muriel Waite as first prizewinner, with Evelyn Cook in second place. Games were played in Hallowe'en mood, with small prizes for the winners. At refreshment time sausages and pickles in bread rolls were served. The evening finished with some party and Old-time dances to complete an enjoyable occasion.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Kings, Boxes and Dots.

Mr John Rogers gave his talk about the history of the postal service under this intriguing title. He began by explaining the meaning of those little blue dots that now appear on envelopes and showing members some of the highly advanced machines which interpret them, pointing out how vital it is that the postcodes are always used to enable accurate sorting to be carried out. The 'Kings' in the title refer to the fact that postal services began in Henry VIII's reign as a personal service to the King, and it was not until Charles I founded the public post in 1635 that it became available to everyone as it is now.

And what of boxes? These came into being with the introduction of a uniform cheap rate of postage to be paid by the sender rather than by the recipient and the world's first postage stamp was adopted in 1840. Apparently it was not uncommon for a recipient to refuse acceptance of a letter after a quick glance at the ad-

dress which could be coded to convey the necessary message! Letter boxes were set up throughout the country, and many different styles were shown — from the simple 'hole in the wall' to the latest streamlined design.

Now the most cost-effective postcode system in the world and the most efficient postal service in Europe is here. The Royal Mail handles a vast number of items which are delivered by trains, boats, planes, road vehicles and, of course, by the footslogging postman!

The Revd GR Neal himself a good mimic of bird sounds whose Methodist church is near the Holy Brook, showed some of his large collection of slides of birds, many of which can be observed all round Reading, and are lovely to see. He told members of social studies group that birdwatching taken seriously gives you a hobby for life. Every season will bring interest which extends to trees, the countryside, the sky and the weather. Binoculars help to make recognition of birds easier. Did you know that the kingfisher may be seen in the Holy Brook or that green woodpeckers like a diet of ants? The lapwing or peewit may be seen off the Woodcote Road. Mostly people do know that only male birds sing. Apart from nightingales there are sedge warblers, with a broad whitish eyestripe, who also sing in the dark.

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