



- Robin Kent

WALKERS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The photograph shows the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Bob Green, meeting walkers from the Caversham area who took part in the year 2000 Christian Aid walk. The picture also includes the Caversham Walk Organiser, Keith Stephen-Evans and the Postal Secretary, Philip Wickens. The group met in Caversham Court on 20 May on a gloriously sunny morning before setting off to Henley. There they joined the many Christian Aiders from Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire, who took part in the Walk. Starting and ending at Henley Rugby Club, there was a choice of three walks of 5, 10 or 15 miles respectively, mostly along footpaths through the beautiful Chiltern countryside. Maps were provided, the walks were well

sign-posted and stewards along the routes kept a watchful eye on the walkers. Refreshments were available at some of the check points and the St John Ambulance Brigade was in attendance. Last year 201 walkers raised £12,926. More than 200 took part again this year; the total raised is not yet known.

INTERDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS

As this issue is published, American Episcopal Church visitors from League City, Texas and friends will have arrived, and almost departed having been greeted warmly and celebrated mutual interdependence, rather than independence, so near to 4th July.

Invited by the Caversham Anglican Parish of St Peter's and St Margaret's some 19 of them, including the Rector of St Christopher's Church, the Rev Walter Ellis and his wife Susan, will have been staying with hosts for Bed & Breakfast and going out on daily trips run by Parish Vacations Ltd. Asking them to come, the Rector, Richard Kingsbury, said "This invitation is made very sincerely and warmly, because I am sure a great deal of pleasure and continuing friendship can arise from the idea, as it has clearly done elsewhere."

Before their arrival the Rev Walter Ellis said all his group were most excited at the thought of the visit, adding "We know the hosts will be wonderful, and we are all looking forward to being with you."

The group were planning to visit Mapledurham House and attend Evensong at St Margaret's, and would be joining in the Patronal Festival celebrations on St Peter's Day, 29 June.

Further news and pictures in the August issue.

ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL DOME VISIT

On 5th May, years 4, 5 and 6 from St. Martin's R.C. School along with their teachers and some adult helpers, went on a visit to the Dome.

They left school about 11.00am, had lunch on the coach and arrived at the Dome in the early afternoon. For some of the children, this was their first visit to London and seeing the sights was as exciting as the actual Dome visit. Their route through London took them past the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and Greenwich, to mention but a few of the famous places that they saw. One souvenir of the visit was a photograph of Big Ben

taken through the coach window.

In the Dome, they went into several of the zones, including the Body Zone. They watched "The Millennium Show" which featured the aerial ballet that was shown on TV during the Millennium celebrations.

The day finished with tea on the coach and arrival back at school about 8.00pm. A group of tired but happy children had had a very full and interesting day.

St. Martin's will be holding a Fun Day Barbecue on Saturday 8th July. There will be lots to do for the whole family, so do come along if you can. You will be very welcome.

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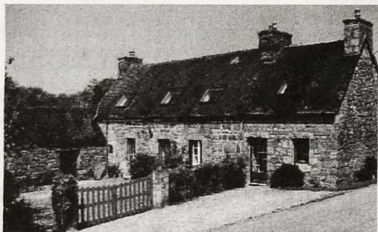
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TALKING POINT

By **NORMAN NEW**

Baptist Lay Preacher,
Caversham Baptist Church

JUST NOT INTERESTED?

It was one of those early hot days in May this year. I could see him sitting in the garden drinking lager, and before I reached him I knew what his answer would be – but then he was just the type of person who had got me distributing the "cards and Crosses" because, you see, he reminded me of what I was like back in 1984. When he said to me "No way! I am just not interested!", I remembered the number of times I had used those very words. Back in 1984 my wife asked me to go with her to a Billy Graham meeting in Bristol because we had first met on a coach to a Billy Graham meeting thirty years earlier. Although I had been converted to Christianity in my youth through the Ministry of a "Gospel Hall", and had been a Baptist lay Preacher and twice a lay Pastor, I had been disillusioned by the liberalism that pervaded the Church in the 60s, and drifted. Years later, in 1984 I was a hard, foul mouthed, fifteen stone, factory foreman, and I really just "did not want to know" anything about God, the Church or "religion"! However, I loved my wife and so I went to the Billy Graham thing on sufferance, determined to be extremely uncivil to anybody who attempted to "button hole" me!

Because I did not go to church, I thought nobody went to church, but, as I sat high in one of the stands, I was staggered that the football stadium was filling up and people started standing on the actual pitch! We had arrived far too early, and I started vacantly thinking about people I had once known who lived in Bristol. My wife had known one of them. He had been in the Royal Air Force with me, but had been converted through attending what they called a "land-line relay" from some of Billy Graham's meetings in 1955. We had not seen this guy in about twenty eight years, but I turned to my wife and joked "Can't see Graham Loader; can you?" She laughed because the whole place was now jam packed with people.

Eventually the event got started, and it was all Americans, and I turned off my mind and was utterly bored.... bored that is until it came to the time for the collection! An Englishman came forward and made the appeal, and then he went on to say that the reason why he was making the appeal for the collection was because, when he was a young man in the Royal Air Force in 1955, he had been converted by hearing Billy Graham preach over what in those days they called a "land-line relay". I was pole-axed! The man was right across the football stadium to me, and looked the size of a pin head, and yet I knew it was my old RAF friend Graham Loader! I do not remember much of the rest of that service but that night God broke all my hardness. That night I promised God that every day I would do the five things Billy Graham said we should. I would pray, read my Bible, witness, join a church, and give to God's work. Since that night, the Lord Jesus Christ is the "greatest thing" in my life.

What about you? Do you know Jesus as your Saviour, or are you "not interested"? Has God ever laid on a "minor miracle" to shake you out of your self complacency? How often do you read your Bible, pray, witness, and give to God's work? Are you a member of a church? Do you pray for, and long to reach, those "just not interested"? And what was your experience of delivering or receiving one of the "cards and Crosses" that we attempted to deliver to every house in Caversham between Easter and Pentecost?

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

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All contributions for August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday July 5.
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobbey, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday July 4.
The dates for September will be Tuesday August 1 and Wednesday August 2.

The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.
The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road.
Tel: 947 9130.
(Parish Office: Tuesday-Thursday 9.30-12.30
Tel: 947 1703)
Fr. Keith Kinnaird, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road.
Tel: 947 2788
Rev Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.
Rev Cathy Pynn, 21 Ridge Hall Close. Tel: 947 6065
Rev John Dudley, 26 Russet Glade, Emmer Green.
Tel: 954 6664
Rev Andrew Evans, 6 Scholars Close. Tel: 948 3396

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Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park
Village. Tel: 947 5152.

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Rosemary Fletcher, 72 Highmoor Rd.
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Deacon Vic Downs, 9 Woodlands Grove.
Tel: 948 2530

BAPTIST

Rev Peter Edwards, 14 Tredegar Road, Emmer Green.
Tel: 947 7697

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

Crispin Fairbairn, Eric Bird Tel: 947 4529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Rev Anthony Jones, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue.
Tel: 947 1787
Rev John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common
Tel: 972 3418

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev. H. R. Gayle Tel: 945 3849 (contact)

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
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.30am The Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

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 PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st, 3rd and
5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st Sunday)
8.00pm Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)

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Highmoor Road
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Woodcote Parish Church
9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Our Lady and St Anne's
Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm
St Martin's School 9.00am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,

York Road
11.00am (Last normal Sunday service on July 2)

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading

10.30am
(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
6.00pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM BELLEPLATE RINGERS strike a Note with the USA

The Caversham Belleplate Ringers have been an integral part of the village's scene for the last nine years. This enterprising group meets on a weekly basis to play belleplates, similar in most respects to the traditional handbells which have been in use for around 300 years. Since 1991, the ringers have brought a great deal of pleasure to members of a wide range of organisations, including the occupants of old peoples' homes and sheltered housing, the British Legion and the Red Cross. With enjoyment amongst the primary motives for the group's existence, concerts are invariably given free to charitable bodies.

However, in the recent past, the Caversham Belleplate Ringers have forged a link with the Moorings Ringers of the USA. This ringing group, formed in 1982, are very active in the ministry of the Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. Apart from providing musical leadership in worship, the circle, like their Caversham counterparts, perform in community events and for retirement and nursing home audiences. The Moorings Ringers will shortly be the guests of the Caversham Ringers when they participate in an International hand-bell symposium in August to be held in Birmingham.

The Moorings group are to give a noon-day recital in St George's Chapel, Windsor, on Friday 28 July, followed by a concert at the Performing Arts Centre at Queen Anne's

School, Caversham at 8.00pm on the same day. This concert, 'Bells & Voices', will also feature music performed by the Caversham Belleplates Ringers and choral arrangements by the Twyford Singers. Information and tickets are available on Tel. No. 0118 948 1136.

The Caversham Belleplate Ringers was formed by Kate Crabb who, in the past, had played hand bells with a group in Wargrave. Nearly a decade ago, she was to discover the existence of Belleplates whilst watching an edition of 'Tomorrow's World' on television,



Belleplates, the invention of Mr Morris Davis, are based on a clapper attached to a tuned metal plate. As such, they are quite unlike the traditional handbells, miniature editions of their

much larger belfry counterparts. What drew Kate to this new innovation was the cost, one third of the price of a normal set of bells. Having purchased her first one and a half octaves of Belleplates, Kate persuaded a group of her friends to form a group of ringers. Unlike conventional musical instruments, competence in handbell ringing is easily achievable by people of any age. The skills do not call for years of practice and there is no particular musical knowledge required.

The circle has flourished, aided by two successive grants from Reading Borough Arts Council for the purchase of further Belleplates, which now total three octaves.

ZAMBIA VISIT

Ian Burnell, who lives in Woodcote Road and attends Greyfriars Church, Reading, is hoping to go to Zambia for six weeks in July-August with Tearfund. Tearfund is a development and relief charity that runs a scheme called "Transform International". It aims to get Christians from this country to serve their overseas partners in practical ways. There are about 200 people involved in the scheme this year, going to many different countries and doing all sorts of different things, from Youth Work to Building Projects and Teaching.



Ian Burnell.

Ian is going as part of a team to Ndola, the second largest city in Zambia. Working with Prison Fellowship Zambia, the team will help to build a health clinic that can be used by the prisoners of three local prisons. There are also going to be opportunities for evangelism and counselling in the prison and in the local churches.

"This is all going to be very new to me as I haven't done very many of these things before," Ian said. "The last time I went abroad was when I went to France aged 4!" He knows it will be a challenge to live in a very different country and work with very different people. Zambia is a very poor country, with an average life expectancy of 48 years, and an Infant Mortality Rate of 98/1000. "At the same time I'm really excited about all the opportunities that this has to offer and I'm looking forward to learning about the church in Zambia."

Ian is currently in his final year of school, doing A levels at Reading School. "I would really value your prayers as I prepare to go. There are a lot of practical details that I have to finalise and I have yet to get through my A levels, so the next few months will be fairly busy!"

If you have any questions, or maybe you are thinking of going on a Transform project yourself you can contact him on 947412 or email burnell@compuserve.com.

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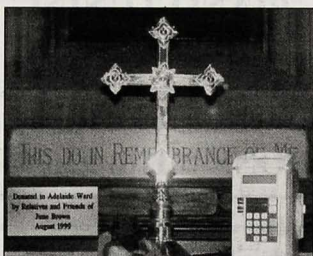
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- Rex Hinton

The pump and memorial plaque on the altar in the hospital chapel.

IN MEMORY OF JUNE BROWN

With the money raised by family and friends in memory of June Brown, who died in August last year, a pump used in the treatment of cancer patients has been donated to Adelaide ward in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where June was cared for by devoted staff.

In May, the pump was dedicated by the Chaplain, Revd Elizabeth Jackson, in the hospital chapel, in the presence of June's husband George and her brother and sister-in-law Rex and Anthea.

It is a fitting memorial to June who bore her own illness with such courage and whose primary concern was always care for others.

TRIBUTE

FRANK HARDEN

Frank Harden was born on 19th April, 1913 in Erith, Kent, and was educated at Erith Grammar School. On leaving school he went to work in Woolwich Arsenal and during the war, being in a reserved occupation, was moved to the Royal Ordnance Factory at Swinerton in the Potteries.

He met his wife to be, Evelyn, through the Holiday Fellowship and they were married in 1940. Frank enjoyed walking and cycling and Frank and Evelyn had a tandem until their children, Peter and Margaret, arrived when Frank bought a motor-bike and sidecar.

After the war, Frank returned to Woolwich but in 1954 he was promoted and moved to the then new AWRE at Aldermaston when the family moved to 49 Kidmore Road, which has been a second home for their children and grandchildren.

As a child Frank was musical and learnt to play the cornet through the Salvation Army, changing to the French Horn when he was 16. When he came to Reading he joined the Reading Symphony Orchestra, being appointed its Chairman in 1963. He has been very much part of Reading's musical scene, playing the French Horn in many local wind bands, including the well known 'Sweet Harmony'.

For some years Frank was a dedicated co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch and gave time driving for the Caversham Good Neighbours Scheme. He was very supportive of Evelyn and all that she did for St. Andrew's Church and local charities. Since Evelyn's death he had been enjoying the Stay Awhile lunch club at Caversham Heights Methodist Church and had recently begun attending services at the church, both activities being brought to a close by his sudden death on May 1st.

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By Watchdog

SORTING OUT THE CENTRE

The general consensus must be that the centre of Caversham has been much improved over the last twelve months. Where there has been any dissent, it has been mainly concerned with the detail.

The traffic lights that were at the Hemdean Road/Church Street junction have been removed without, to date, any undesirable side-effects. Buses seem to have no more problems getting out into Church Street than they had before whilst car drivers in Church Street waiting to turn right now know for sure that a green light does not necessarily give them right of way. The whole area appears less cluttered.

However, the grassy (well, slightly) patch beside the Library in Hemdean Road is still in an unsatisfactory state and looks only half finished. Those cheap looking tubular railings remain and the wall has still not been reinstated. In response to the correspondent in last month's issue of this newspaper (name and address supplied) who pointed out that the chain link fencing which was removed, along with the wall, was not part of the boundary; the offence lay in removing the wall, which was listed. The original fencing had already gone (to make weapons for World War II) long before the Town and Country Planning Act of 1971 came into effect, which required the listing of buildings and structures of architectural and historic merit.

As I said in the May issue, the best action would be to carry out improvements on the west side of the Library where the ground is already becoming a repository for litter, including abandoned shopping trolleys, and the bus shelter has no seats for the many people often to be found waiting there.

BUS AND CYCLE LANE

For some reason, doubtless known to the powers-that-be, the notice at the south end of Hemdean Road now states that a bus and cycle lane lies ahead. It replaces an earlier one that indicated that a bus, cycle and taxi lane lay ahead. It was, as far as I am aware, the only one in the borough to do so. The argument was that a taxi is a more environmentally friendly vehicle than a car, being a form of public transport that could reduce the number of private cars on the road. There are still a considerable number of cars taking a quick nip along the bus and cycle lane into Church Street. The traffic lights used to hold them up a bit, as they did buses which, incidentally, were never supplied with their smart cards, and now won't need them.

RECYCLING

There are still no recycling facilities in the centre of Caversham. There is still little space to accommodate them without causing any harm, apart from St Martin's car park where they used to be, St Martin's Property Corporation, the owners, apparently think they look untidy but this need not be the case as long as they are emptied regularly.

(EDITOR'S NOTE): There are recycling facilities at Milestone Centre and also at Highdown School.

Having said that, I can only complain about the state of those in Hill's Meadow. Twice in one week I went there with a car load of recyclable materials (I always try to make it coincide with another journey in that direction or it is self-defeating) only to find the skips full to the brim and piles more of paper, glass, plastic and cans left on the ground. Having loaded a car and taken it there, people were clearly reluctant to take it back home again. I then made the journey to Rivermead, partly out of my way, and found exactly the same thing there. Notices in both places make it clear that material left outside skips will not be collected. When I phoned the Civic Offices to complain I was told a collection would take place at the end of the week. By then much more would have been left on the ground.

Britain is one of the worst European countries for recycling. Switzerland is far and away the best. The government is, however, taking a look into this (not before time) to find ways to give local authorities an incentive to do better. The Isle of Wight is the best local council to do this, with 41% of household refuse being recycled.

Anyone with anything but the smallest garden, or none, should be able to compost most breakable down materials. They will then have something with which to enrich their garden soil which won't harm wildlife or cost anything.

LAKE DISTRICT

Plans for developing the so-called Caversham Lakes (actually worked-out gravel pits) have once more been put forward. The idea is to increase the number of berths and to provide a rowing training course of national standards. Whilst increasing traffic in the area, it will do so less than previous applications and is certainly the best so far to be on offer.

EMMER GREEN (See centre spread)

The Emmer Green Residents Association is to be congratulated on the exhibition it put on to illustrate the history and present standing of Emmer Green. An excellent leaflet, packed with information, was available and the exhibition was displayed to professional standards.

CPRA

A group has been set up, to be known as the Caversham Parish Research Association, to collect as much as is known of the history of Caversham right up to the present day. It got off to a good start with a packed out meeting, reflecting the interest residents have in their locality. Bob Winter is organising it and he can be contacted on 0118 947 7289 or by e-mail to:

heronisland@netscapeonline.co.uk It looks as if a book might result from the information that is available.

CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents whose children attend or have attended Caversham Primary know that it is a very good school, so it was pleasing to see what a good OFSTED report it received. It was easy to find good things to say about it, but these reports are also intended to point out weaknesses and suggest improvements. The compilers had to scrape the bottom of the barrel to find fault.

It is not, of course, the only good primary school in Caversham but it is gratifying to find that it maintains its position. Of course, it has a head start on inner city schools where apparently indifferent results often mask a great success. Nevertheless, good results are good results and are not achieved without hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE

Recent years have seen a useful sharing of views in the "Bridge" over the Sustrans cycle route through Caversham, which is part of the new London to Oxford route. Such debate is a vital part of democracy. After some initial doubts, but after now having cycled the Caversham - Kidmore End leg several times, I believe the best route was chosen.

But having had the debate, can I now plead - let's celebrate the fact that on June 21st, 5,000 miles of the national cycle network opened! This is, in my view a fantastic achievement, and a further 5,000 miles are planned by 2005. Not only will many more people have quick, easy and inexpensive access to our lovely countryside, but the new cycle paths could encourage cycling rather than motoring to work, shops, church etc.

With the ever rapid build-up of carbon dioxide in the air, partly caused by motor vehicles and partly responsible for global warming, we urgently need more sustainable forms of transport. Cycling is precisely that, and sustrans - short for sustainable transport, is playing a key part. Hope to see you on the route!

The official guide to the network costs £9.99, and the detailed Thames Valley (London to Oxford) route, £5.99. Both are available from Caversham Bookshop.

John Madeley
19, Woodford Close

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'GLYNDEBOURNE' AT PANGBOURNE

Everybody associates the last concert of the South Chiltern Choral Society's season with a picnic! For the last ten years that is exactly what has happened. The Oratory School at Woodcote has been the venue and its lovely grounds the setting for the picnic baskets, the spread rugs and the canvas chairs. The music on offer has always accommodated an interval of at least an hour (more if it's a warm, balmy evening). To judge from the size of some of the baskets, an hour is about minimum!

Things are slightly different this summer. For once the Oratory isn't available so another location has had to be found. Naturally, it had to be one that allowed for outdoor refreshment in time-honoured fashion, so, on Saturday 15th July, the show moves to Pangbourne College where the facilities are similar.

Something else is slightly different. For the first time, the choir is giving two performances of its summer concert. If you want to come to both, some travelling will be involved because the other one is in Suffolk (24th June) and is part of the Clare Festival, in one of those glorious, cathedral-like village churches that adorn the county.

And the music for both concerts? There's a double bill. First of all John Rutter's Psalmfest, one of his most recent

compositions, proving that he is much more than the most popular composer of Christmas carols of our time, but capable of writing music that is both highly melodic and excitingly rhythmic. The other work is Brahms' Gypsy Songs. By the time he came to write them, Brahms was very secure financially. His most successful works had been his Hungarian Dances and the Love Song Waltzes. The Gypsy Songs skilfully combine the appeal of these two earlier compositions. He confessed that he wrote them (eleven very short items) purely for the fun of it and they certainly have an infectious exuberance.

Our young, professional, tenor soloist is Rupert Jennings who started as a chorister in Westminster Abbey. He sings for the Monteverdi Choir and sang the Monteverdi Vespers in Gloucester Cathedral. On the lighter side he sings with the Demon Barbers and Cambridge Scholars. On New Years Day he sang in Messiah in Edinburgh. He also sings a fair bit of opera.

Tickets are available from Freda Miller on 0118 986 2016 or from any member of the choir. Price - £8 adults £6 senior citizens and children. The concert starts at 7.00pm to allow maximum time for the picnic. Don't forget yours, otherwise you will have to sit and watch the rest of us indulge.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SPONSORED WALK

On Sunday 14th May, on what turned out to be one of the hottest days so far this year, Caversham Royal British Legion joined with other Branches from all over Berkshire and Oxfordshire in a sponsored walk in aid of the Poppy Appeal. The walk started and finished at the Harwell Royal British Legion Club and covered twelve miles across the Downs and the Ridgeway. Ron Jewitt, the Branch President and Hon Secretary, and Pauline Palmer, the Branch Hon Treasurer and Poppy Appeal Organiser, completed the 12 miles in just over 3¼ hours and raised about £300 for the Branch Poppy Appeal.

The hosts, Harwell Royal British Legion, laid on a barbecue, raffle and a very much appreciated bar at their Club - the whole event is expected to raise somewhere in the region of £10,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

MILLENNIUM BANNER



- G. N. Kent

Lindsay Floyd (left). Children (Left to right) Tom Morgan, Rosie Morgan, Rachel Harrap, Claire Vincent.

The theme for St Andrew's Sunday School Epiphany Party was to design a banner to commemorate the Millennium. As well as the usual fun, games and tea, each child designed a patchwork piece and chose the resources for the leaders to use when making up. We have a wonderful piece of work in progress, including local landmarks, various aspects of the Life of Christ, and pictures of the Millennium celebrations. The completed banner will be on display shortly in St Andrew's Hall.

SUNDAY STARTERS ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 9th July Caversham Heights Methodist Church is celebrating its Sunday Starters' Anniversary and NCH Sunday with a special service led by the children. This will be followed by a Church Family BBQ and picnic in the Macraes' garden. There will be various fund-raising activities in aid of the Oxfordshire Hope Centres Appeal - a charity supporting Respite Homes for children with profound disabilities.

CHURCH FETE 2000

The annual Parish fete of St Peter's Caversham and St Margaret's Mapledurham will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 8 July in the grounds of Caversham Court. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, nearly new clothes and try your luck on the tombola and bottle stalls. The Grand Draw has as first prize an Oracle shopping voucher worth £100. Attractions include Roger Kent's Punch and Judy Show and the Balloon Race.

For further information on the Draw contact Richard Larkin on 947 2830.

If you would like to volunteer to help on a stall or donate goods, contact Rosemary Ambrose on 947 5677.

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**EXHIBITION OF EMMER GREEN,
PAST AND PRESENT**

by Paul Gallagher, Chairman, Emmer Green Residents' Association

The Emmer Green Residents' Association, together with local groups within Emmer Green, have held a very successful exhibition of the 'village' at the Ocean Suite of Highdown School. The funding of the exhibition plus an accompanying leaflet was made possible through a grant from the Millennium Festival Awards for All. The exhibition was formally opened by the Mayor of Reading, Bob Green, on Saturday 20 May and ran for the following week. The event proved very popular with large numbers of visitors on the opening two days, particularly the Sunday, which coincided with the Highdown Fete. During the following week school parties visited the display whilst a number of local groups took advantage of the evenings to view the exhibition by appointment.

The material for the exhibition had been prepared by Margaret Ormonde, secretary of the Emmer Green Residents' Association with the help of committee members Sue Ballard and Anne Ayres.

Major contributions came from the Fisher family, Doris Robinson, John Darby and Bill Goodworth who provided personal recollections and from Clive Ormonde who provided additional, current photographs of the village.

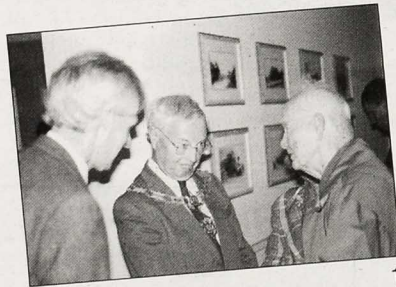
The exhibition was in two parts. One covered the pre-history of the area, in particular the Roman artefacts found in the area, the local geology, the ancient ponds, aspects associated with health, transport, employment, the period of the Second World War, past inhabitants and families and the houses they lived in. The latter was covered in displays about Caversham Park House, Caversham Grove, Grove Farm, Rosehill House, St Agnes, St Benets' Home and houses in the Surley Row Conservation area.

The second half of the exhibition comprised displays from the local churches (St Barnabas Church and the Peppard Road Chapel), the primary schools (Emmer Green Primary and The Hill School), the BBC Monitoring centre, Reading Golf

Club, the Friends of Clayfield Copse, the Women's Institute, the Berkshire Woodcarvers, the Scouts and the Guides. The last two organisations were keen to encourage anyone willing to join them in helping to run their groups.

The name Emmer Green (or Emmir Green as it appears on early maps) could have originated from an old Saxon word 'Eamere' meaning 'a lake beside a stream'. The lake, now no larger than a pond, is still there; the stream might be The Swillies which used to run down from Emmer Green pond to Caversham alongside Rotherfield Way. Another theory suggests the name derives from a type of wheat which originated in Egypt, and was brought over by the Celts.

Until the late 1930s Emmer Green was a village on its own, quite separate from Caversham. Indications are that it developed as an estate hamlet dependent upon Caversham Park. It had a main pond, and some relatively old buildings, but no ancient church and no central cluster of buildings before the mid 1800s. An old guide book relates that Emmer Green was regarded as one of the lungs of Reading, and how during the summer months numbers of invalids and those who wanted to be rid of the smoke of the town, visited Emmer Green to breathe the fresh air and take water from the springs. Much development and change has taken place since the Second World War, but it is still possible to locate many of the original dwellings and trace their history. The village may have lost its identity in the relentless urbanisation, but with that has come convenience which so many take for granted. There are a thriving parish church, two primary schools, a secondary school, a comprehensive range of shops, and an array of eating establishments. Nearly thirty local groups and organisations cater for young and old by offering a wide range of leisure and sporting activities. Further information about the topics covered in the displays may be found at the exhibition's web site: www.highdown.berks.sch.uk



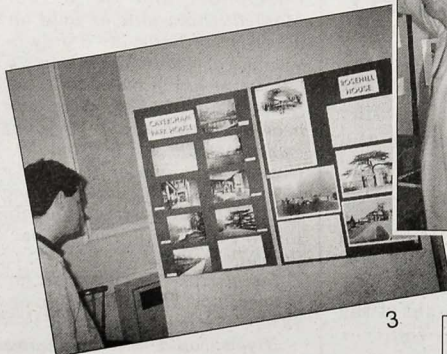
1. The Mayor, Cllr Bob Green discusses personal recollections.

2. Paul Gallagher, Chairman of the Emmer Green Residents Association makes a presentation to Margaret Ormonde for her work in preparing the exhibition.

3-5. Visitors view the exhibition.



2



3



4



5

Photographs
Robin Kent

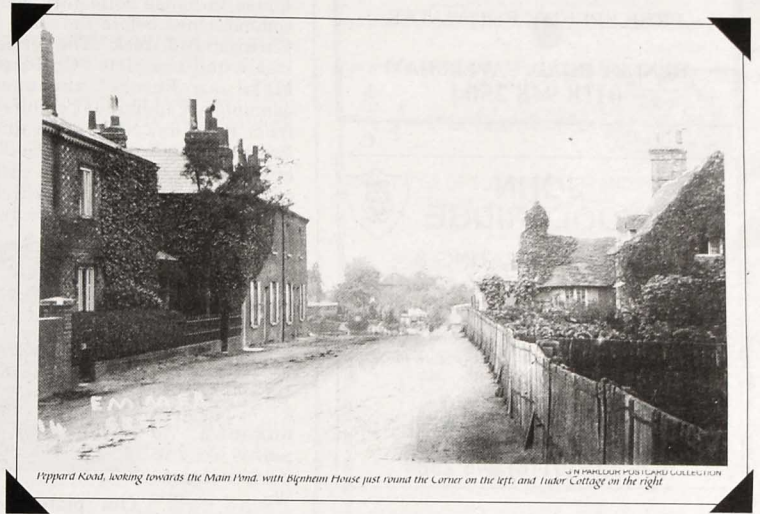
OLD EMMER GREEN



358 Emmer Green School

Emmer Green School around 1900 (before the extension was built)

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



Peppard Road, looking towards the Main Road, with Bignheim House just round the corner on the left, and Inker Cottage on the right

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



Junction of Kidmore End and Peppard Roads, circa 1910

HIGHDOWN PHOTO COLLECTION



Workers at Emmer Green Brick Kiln circa 1900

HIGHDOWN PHOTO COLLECTION



Harvest Time in King's Meadow (between Grove and Peppard Roads) - Mr Laurence Hunt at the Wheel of the Tractor

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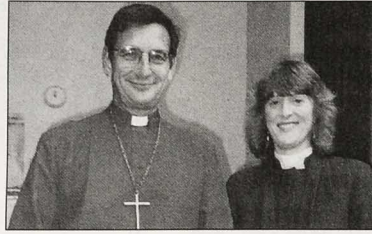
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AROUND THE CHURCHES**CHILDREN MAKE OUR FUTURE**

The Bishop of Swindon, the Rt Revd Michael Doe, was this year's special preacher at the ecumenical service in which the house-to-house collectors were commissioned before the start of Christian Aid Week. The service itself had the title "Children Make our Future" and used examples of individual children from Rwanda, Nicaragua and India to teach us about God's kingdom from their lives in each of these countries in which violence, the effects of Hurricane Mitch and the struggle to survive are, or have been, so prominent. Through them we were given a glimpse into a world unknown to many in Caversham. We saw through them the possibilities of a fruitful world, without fear, a rebuilt and renewed world, a world where families were well nourished, children were able to learn and flourish, where resources were shared fairly, innocence protected and childhood enjoyed.



- O Jewiss

Our picture shows the Bishop of Swindon, The Rt Revd Michael Doe, with The Revd Rosemary Fletcher, Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham and leader of the service.

through Christian Aid, that, in Jesus' words "As you have done it to one of the least of my brethren - you have done it to me". The children and the vulnerable were Jesus' special care. He has a special place for those who lack power over their own lives. Everyone has a right to a future and we could help by supporting the implementation of the projects.

Church unity and justice and peace go together

Within this context Bishop Michael explained how church unity and justice and peace issues for all humankind go together: how they are a sign, an agent and a foretaste of what God wants for all creation. He stated that a church which was not in solidarity with the poor and which was not concerned about justice, left behind so much that he wondered if it was still the church. He pointed out that in many places children make our future by providing for their family; we had to see that through the products they made they are treated fairly. He

emphasised the need to buy fairtraded goods. He urged support for Jubilee 2000 which was attempting to ensure that 23 July, when the G7 nations meet in Okinawa, is observed as 'Debt Release Day'. As a result of debt 19 thousand children die every day across the world. Despite what has already been said debt relief has so far only been agreed for about 1/3 of unrepayable debts of poorer countries. He gave graphic examples of the need by reference to his

experience of refugee camps, of the slums in Mexico City, and of the difficulties among the people along the Uganda / Sudan border. We were left with the thoughts in relation to our own commitment to meeting the needs of others

If children are making our future we would do well to remember Janet Morley's special prayer for Christian Aid Week and not confine its use to this one week alone. It says:

*O God you have called us to be like little children.
Give us the eyes of a child -
curious and determined to see what is going on.
Give us the ears of a child
- sharp and attentive to hear your word of love.
And give us the energy of a child -
expecting a response and confident that we can
change the world.*

Amen.

LAST SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S

At a Church Meeting held after morning worship, the congregation of St Paul's agreed to close the Church as from the 8th July when they will hold a Service of Thanksgiving for all that has been done in the 100 year life of the Church. The Rev Kate Pryde, President of the Reading and Oxford URC will lead the service and the preacher will be the Rev Richard Taylor. The service starts at 6.30 pm.

The closure follows fifteen years of trying to find a way to redevelop the buildings to make them more relevant to the mission of the church and to the needs of a modern day community. Once our last hope of achieving this had failed we were left with little choice but to close. The present buildings have outlived their usefulness and the halls have been closed for some time due to dry rot. The cost of meeting repairs and renovations is well beyond the ability of the

present congregation of twenty-eight, many of whom are living on pension. The decision was taken with great sadness because many of the congregation had their childhood roots in the area and have been at the church for over fifty years. Normal worship will continue until July. The building will then be the responsibility of the Wessex Synod Trust of the United Reformed Church and will be sold as required by Charity Law.

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ENVIRONMENT

NEWS FROM GLOBE BY $\phi\beta$

An insight into the life of a contributor to Caversham Bridge: at the time of writing, Globe's AGM is a day away; the annual report of our activities is as yet unwritten; this month's copy for the Bridge must be with the editors in three hours' time (thrives on deadlines!); next month's article can be a reasoned and considered appreciation of Globe's year and our hopes for the future – now is the time for a quick digression.

The Thames at Caversham

When Caversham and Lower Caversham were small Oxfordshire villages, the river was an essential part of their life. Today's suburbanites may largely view it as a nuisance as they commute to work; an obstacle across which there are too few bridges. Globe's leaflet for the Hill's Meadow Riverside Trail attempted to persuade local residents to consider a small but typical stretch of the river in detail; - to stop and stare (and listen) and catch something of the river's present and past essence. Stocks of the leaflet are low now, but we shall try to arrange a reprint; one which takes account of the long-awaited opening of View Island.

The brief attempt at a human history of the river in the leaflet is rather general and introductory in nature, and no primary historical research was involved. Readers of Caversham Bridge should have noticed an article in the June issue, publicising the setting up of a Caversham History Group. This is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the role of the Thames in the parish's life throughout the centuries. There must be much material – residents' memories, old documents and maps – to give a fascinating insight into how local people have regarded, used, worked with, enjoyed and at times suffered from

the river in the past.

A note of correction to Watchdog's over-optimistic view of our present control over the river (amid the 'girlish laughter and tears' in June's issue): when the flow gauge at Reading Bridge was installed in 1993 (with its frequently vandalised public display), $\phi\beta$ who lives in the area affected by major flooding in 1947, wrote to what was then the National Rivers Authority to ask what the estimated flow in that event had been.

A long and very helpful reply came back from a senior hydrologist, dispelling $\phi\beta$'s notions that we would cope better today. Every few years in a wet winter, the river reaches a flow of about 200 cubic metres per second and parts of King's and Christchurch Meadows go under water. The estimated flow in 1947 was at least twice that figure. Normally water sinks straight into the permeable rocks of the Thames basin but on that occasion they were frozen after the long harsh winter, then sudden snow melt combined with rain in March to produce an exceptional and immediate run off.

Since 1947, the situation has been made worse by development in the basin. Building on the floodplain reduces its capacity to take up floodwater, while the impermeable surfaces of roads and roofs everywhere cause immediate run off into the river system. The successor of the NRA, the Environment Agency, can advise planners against such developments, but it has no powers of enforcement. Despite improvements to weirs and other controls, an event of the magnitude of 1947 might well cause more serious flooding today. Perhaps further research into the circumstances and effects of the major floods in the river's history would furnish compelling reading to those of us living near its banks!

We knew that a target of three-hundred and fifty species was rapidly being approached for birds I had seen in Britain. With research and treble-checking

it was discovered that the total had already been slightly exceeded. Without realising it, the fine female King Eider at St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall had attained the 'status' for me. Even so, Membership of the elite Four Hundred Club seems a long slope climb.

'Ivy' our lovely Ivory Gull had taken us into the Millennium whilst a further four species continued to provide ongoing substance. The most recent of these were a superb Purple Heron at Dinton Pastures, for ONE day only - the way of Spring migrants, followed by a Great-spotted Cuckoo near Lymington. A nearby bonus of Little Egret was uncommon but increasing.

A Great Grey Shrike lingered near Camberley while a Marsh Sandpiper commuted along the south coast.

We watched newly arrived swallows, Sand and House Martins feeding low over Theale main water. At Fox and Hounds pit a pair of Goldeneye enjoyed slightly warmer temperatures in the absence of other winter migrant ducks.

A further visit to 'Golden Valley' in Oxfordshire soon revealed Red Kite and Buzzards soaring just



Spring into the Millennium Scops Owl

above the trees and occasionally even lower. A Buzzard with quite heavy moulting of primary and secondary feathers belied its true identity when

compensating by soaring on flattened wings.

At the Warburg reserve various tits and warblers were seen. Woodpeckers drummed, Pheasants were widespread. It is an altogether enjoyable spot where bird song accompanies one throughout a walk.

A member of our Team of Three saw a Long-eared Owl during a solo visit just prior to leaving for three years law study at University. The next day when walking with Scooby, there was no sign of it. There does not appear to have been any further record of this species at the reserve.

Spring rarities have included single Scandinavian and Subalpine Warblers at Brighton and Beachy Head with a Brunnich's Guillemot at Dungeness. All were equally flighty and seen only briefly.

Our Scottish holiday is on the horizon. Being a fickle climate, anoraks and warm clothing will be necessary. The ladies have their own bird-watching gear and are blessed with much enthusiasm. They will be attuned to all weather conditions so we look forward to good birding together.

Scops Owl

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Caversham WI

At the May meeting the business part was quickly dealt with and a visitor who had recently moved to the area was welcomed. Then Mrs Liz Johnson spoke about the Readibus. Members were impressed by the wide range of services provided to encourage people to be independent. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Barbara McGregor.

The speaker judged the competition for a pair of knitted booties, and the entries will be given to Children's Aid Direct along with the latest knitted blanket.

Meetings are on the third Thursday evening in the month at 7.30pm at Church House, Caversham. Visitors welcome.

The School was in the Bath Road, Reading for 94 years until its move to Holme Park, Sonning in 1947. Boys could be clearly recognised in their long dark blue cloaks and yellow hose. The school itself goes back into the mists of time and one benefactor left the then very large sum of £4,000 to the school stipulating that pupils continued to wear the aforementioned cloaks and hose.

Eventually in more modern times young ladies were accepted into the school and this prevails today.

Without funding from central Government it has to be said that its credit this excellent and noble school continues to flourish, and long may it do so.

Probus members enjoy a varied programme of talks and outings and details of membership can be obtained from Mr Barry Ward, the secretary, on 0118 942 8806.

Reading & District Probus Club

The Club held its monthly luncheon meeting on Monday 8 May at the Upcross Hotel.

Following lunch we were addressed by the Headmaster of the Reading Blue Coat School, Mr. S.J.W. MacArthur.

Community Association

In spite of having two Bank Holidays May proved to be a busy month - beginning with the Annual General Meeting. The officers and

committee were returned unopposed and thanked for all their work over the previous year. The chairman, Mrs Latcham, gave a review of all the activities and requested suggestions for future meetings.

The following week there was a quiz with anagrams and tests of general knowledge, film and television.

The month ended with a welcome return visit from Pat Snow with her amusing stories, knowledge of gardening and lovely plants for sale. Sadly, this will be her last visit as ill-health has forced her retirement from the 'talks circuit'. All the members will miss her.

Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The Club has had a very successful year so far with members rejoining and new members signing up after the AGM. We have enjoyed excellent and varied demonstrations this year and look forward to welcoming on 6th July Patricia Dibben

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

July 8 ■ St Peter's and St Margaret's Fete at Caversham Court. Afternoon.
 July 8 ■ St Paul's URC, York Road. 6.30pm. Final service of Thanksgiving.
 July 15 ■ South Chiltern Choral Society Concert. 7.00pm at Pangbourne College.
 July 20 ■ Quiet Day at the Quiet House Quiet Garden. Woodcote Road, 10.00am. Details from Mrs Leslie Maynerd 947 6067.
 July 20-23 ■ 'Celebration 2000.' Christian Festival at Henley Regatta Stewarts' Enclosure.
 July 22 ■ Parish Fete of Or Lady and St Anne's. 2pm in the school grounds.

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH
 July 2 10.30am Dr Carole Cull
 6.30 pm Deacon Vic Downs
 July 9 **NCH Action for Children Sunday** - 10.30am **Holy Communion** - Rev George Simons
 6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs
 July 16 10.30am Mrs Paula Andrews
 6.30pm *United Service at Christ Church, Woodley*
 July 23 10.30am Mr Derek Clarke
 6.30pm *United Service at St. John's Church*
 July 30 10.30am Mr Terence Rowell

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH
 July 2 9am **Holy Communion** - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
 10.30am Deacon Vic Downs
 6.30pm Rev Valerie Fisher
 July 9 **NCH Action for Children Sunday and Sunday Starters' Anniversary**
 10.30am **All Age Worship and Parade Service**
 6.30pm **Holy Communion** - Rev Jim Booth
 July 16 10.30am **Holy Communion** - Rev George Simons
 6.30pm **United Service at Christ Church Woodley**. Circuit Farewell to Rev. Audrey Simpson.
 July 23 10.30am Rev Derek Shaw
 6.30pm Rev Audrey Simpson
 July 30 10.30am Rev Rosemary Fletcher
 6.30pm **Healing Service** - Mr David Beek

ST LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH, WOODCOTE
 July 9 **NCH Action for Children Sunday** - 9.45am Deacon Vic Downs

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the CLUBS

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"Collection 2000" (competition "Design for the Millennium") and on 3rd August Jeanette Bell "Inspirations" (competition "Design using three Blooms").

In June many of our members took part in the Flower Festival at St Michaels Church, Sonning Common.

The Club is staging its own Flower Festival for the Millennium at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green in September. The Festival will begin with a preview evening on Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm (tickets £5). On Saturday 23rd September the Festival will be open from 10am until 5pm and there will be an evening concert commencing at 7.30pm (tickets £5). On Sunday 24th September the Festival will be open from 1pm until 5pm. Refreshments will be served in the church hall when the Festival is open. Proceeds will be divided between the Church, the Flower Club and Churches in Reading Drop in Centre (CIRDIC). For further information please contact Pat Williams on 0118 948 1489.

Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

June proved to be yet another busy month for Members in Caversham.

On Monday 5th June the monthly supper and social took place with hot quiche and salad followed by strawberry gateaux. (Cost £1, as usual). Before the fun began the Branch observed one minute silence in memory of all the men and their rescuers who escaped the Dunkirk beaches in 1940 and whose continuing bravery throughout the War played such a large part in the deliverance of this Country.

After starting with a quiz the usual four houses of Bingo (with Snowball!), and a raffle were all enjoyed by all.

At the monthly business meeting (2nd Thursday) various welfare cases were discussed. These involve provision of powered wheelchairs, convalescent holidays and small grants, etc.,

Arrangements for a V.J. day Party in August and an event to mark the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday were finalised.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Royal British Legion, why not give our Secretary a ring on 9481147.

Caversham Horticultural Society

"FAVOURITE HARDY PERENNIALS"

The Caversham Horticultural Society talk and slide show in July will be given by Les Cooper, a long-standing member and one of our society's vice-presidents.

Les has a high profile as an accomplished Delphinium grower; he is the Chairman of the joint R.H.S. and Delphinium Society committee and the editor of the Delphinium Society yearbook. Les' interests also extend to other hardy perennials and he is keen to share his knowledge and encourage others to participate in an involving discussion.

The session will take place on Friday 28th July at 7.30pm at the Arthur Legge Centre in Wolsey Road, Caversham.

Everyone is welcome and admission is free. As usual, light refreshments will be available.

Caversham Ladies Club

Having travelled from Vancouver to Kankanaskis in Part 1 of Mr. Philip Staines illustrated talk with slides of his tour of the Canadian Rockies, we continued in Part 2 from Kankanaskis to Kamloops. Mr. Staines was our guest speaker at the May meeting for the final leg Kamloops to Victoria (Vancouver Island) and back to Vancouver. Mr. Staines is a superb photographer giving members of the Club a most enjoyable journey.

St. Peter's Wives' Group

At our May meeting we were treated to a history of Mapledurham Mill, given by Mrs Mildred Cookson with the aid of

slides. She described its changing fortunes from when the original mill was built around 1042 and which features in the Domesday Book, through the following centuries, when the miller was a prosperous and influential member of the local community, to the present day, including the rescue of the mill in 1976 by the film company making "The Eagle Has Landed".

A fascinating evening, featuring one of our local tourist attractions and one which is well worth a visit.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18 July, when Mr A Longstaffe will be talking to us about 'A Life of Flying'.

New members always welcome.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

At the April Meeting Mrs Daphne Browne began her term of office as Chairman by announcing the sad news of the death of a well-loved member, Nan Kirby, and a few moments silence was observed in her memory. A collection was also made during the evening for the Sue Ryder Home.

It was necessary to take a vote on the new constitution so that it could be formally adopted.

Our speaker for the evening was Mavis Parsons who had taken up the hobby of making and dressing dolls some 10 years ago. She described in considerable detail the processes of casting, fixing together, colouring etc., before showing some of her collection of superbly dressed collectors' items. These ranged from her very first baby doll (Georgina) made in 1991 right through to a bride complete with trousseau arranged in a beautifully decorated and padded box. Every possible item was included - right down to a tiny suspender belt, two dainty nightdresses and a negligee! All the clothes and accessories had been designed and made by her. We were enthralled by the elegance of the dolls and their outfits but we were warned that it is a very expensive hobby. The eyes alone could cost as much as £25, and even a pair of tiny shoes come to £4 or £5!

On May 18th there was a lively debate on the topics to be discussed at this year's National Council Meeting in Blackpool.

A fine display of seaside pictures took us

on a lively journey through some 250 years since Britons first took a dip in the briny - purely for health reasons, and the colder the better!

Queen Victoria's very own bathing machine can still be seen if you visit Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. A 'bathing woman' attended each dipper and pushed each one's head under for maximum benefits - the resulting shock was considered good for you. Since the early 1800s 'taking the waters' at such places as Bath, Harrogate etc., had been viewed as a cure for almost anything, so it followed that immersing oneself in nearly freezing sea water must be even more beneficial. At first it was the custom for ladies and gentlemen to take their dips at different times, as although ladies wore many layers of garments, gentlemen wore none.

When King George III tried sea bathing, on the advice of his doctor, all the locals turned out at 6.00am to see their Monarch in the 'altogether'. As the 'dipper' pushed his head under, a band in a neighbouring machine struck up with the national anthem! Needless to say, after that experience the King covered up for his morning dip.

Mrs Hester Davenport, our speaker, went on to describe how seaside resorts came to be developed. As it was considered necessary to take one's dip before breakfast for maximum effect, there were many hours left in the day with little to do! Promenades were built for casual strollers and for those who wanted to show off the latest fashions.

By the late 1870's piers were being built and attractions such as concert halls etc. were added. Once the railway was opened many more visitors flocked to Brighton, day trips being very popular.

Mrs Davenport finished her talk with a brief history of swimming costumes and we were delighted to see a genuine original, very daring, knee-length 'all in one' covered by a short gathered skirt in plain brick red with cream stripes at the hem.

When ladies started wanting to swim, costumes had to become more stramlined and Jantzen invented an all-in-one woollen outfit in a snazzy red, complete with matching red socks and bobble hat!

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at St. Andrew's Hall, Albert Road at 7.30pm. Please come along and join us.

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