

WOODLAND DAY *at* CLAYFIELD COPSE

A hot, sunny, summer Saturday provided the ideal conditions for the Friends of Clayfield Copse Woodland Day in mid-June. This event was an inspired public educational exercise for this delightful area of ancient woodland on the fringe of Caversham Park and Emmer Green. To increase the interest the organisers had brought together a large range of associated craft and environmental activities. There were events from noon until dark; those who were really keen were invited back at 4 a.m. the next morning to hear the dawn chorus.

Despite the spread of time the events were well attended by all age groups. Special activities had been provided for young people's organisations, such as Scouts, Cubs and Brownies. There was also story reading for children.

Natural history, crafts and displays of birds of prey

Among the events that took place during the day were mini-beast safaris, tree, wild flower and woodland archaeology walks. There was a butterfly walk in the day and a moth hunt and bat walk during the

evening and even a lantern walk with a ghost story. Within and around the Copse were a whole range of activities from someone rearing Tamworth pigs to Clydesdale horses helping to clear large felled or fallen trees. Someone had set up a small saw mill, others were sculpting or carving wood, while one man was turning wood with a lathe relying on the power he generated with a pedal, rope and flexible branch. Yet others were to be found making hurdles, weaving baskets or reviving the craft of charcoal burning. On the adjacent playing field were two displays of hawks, falcons and owls. When the birds were not in action they could be viewed under an awning round the edge of the field.

Our local natural woodland

For any not familiar with this North Reading haven of natural environment it was an opportunity to see something of our natural woodland and the crafts associated with the woodland scene. Friends of Clayfield Copse are to be congratulated for promoting this event, which was also supported by the Reading Borough Council, Millennium Festival Funds and Coca Cola.



Our photographs show:

Left: Andrew Noyes, the wood turner, in action,

Top Right: Harris Harrier Hawk.

Right: Christine Brewster weaving baskets.

Below: An Eagle Owl.

(Photos by O. Jewiss)



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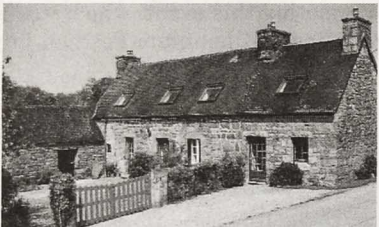
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TALKING POINT

By ROSALIND RUTHERFORD

Licensed Lay Minister,
St Peter's Church

BOOK OF LIFE

"We have written the first draft of the book of humanity," shouted the headlines.

"We are learning the language in which God created life," announced the American President. You will probably remember what prompted these proclamations, which were followed by predictions of diseases being wiped out, cancer becoming a memory, congenital illnesses no longer existing. At the same time other people were predicting that interfering in nature like this would lead to rampant plagues, and designer babies with parents being able to select the colour of their future baby's eyes and hair.

What had led to all these headlines and press conferences was the collective announcement by groups of scientists that they had discovered the "human genome" – the bar code that is in each of our cells and is the recipe that makes us what we are. Certainly it is a significant breakthrough in scientific knowledge, and takes science into the 21st century with a flourish. But will it, as one scientist said, "lead us to a total understanding of not only human beings, but all of life"? Will it solve problems for us – or will it just create different ones? We may have a new way of dealing with disease – but we still have to learn how to use this knowledge wisely. We may be able to find effective ways of treating cancer – but will we be any better at finding ways to overcome the poverty that is the cause of most disease and premature deaths in the world?

At this point, I realised that scientists may have a draft of the bar code of humanity, but another Book of Life has existed for thousands of years. It starts with a story of two people eating a fruit they had been forbidden to eat or meddle with. It has a story about how a wily shepherd increased his share of the flocks by a bit of genetic manipulation – but still had to come to terms with himself and ask forgiveness for cheating his brother. And it tells the stories of the man who told us that the recipe for life was to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself," – and then was crucified.

We need this other Book of Life. It may not be much help in working out our genes but it's a lot more use when we try to work out how to live responsibly with these discoveries. It may not contain precise rules for the wise use of the human genome, but as it tells the story of God's continual love and forgiveness of us, it does remind us that we are more than products with bar codes – we are unique and valuable – and we are loved. And we don't need a PhD in biochemistry to read this book!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 2000

This year the Christian Aid Street Collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised the sum of £8,852 – an increase of about 15% on 1999. Some 650 people completed the tax portion of the envelope and this will produce approximately an extra £870 from the taxman.

Queen Anne's School also had an envelope collection which produced a further sum of £250. Various special offerings taken in or around Christian Aid Week – from the Christian Aid Service, Stainer's Crucifixion, Methodist/Baptist Good Friday Service and Queen Anne's Chapel collection – raised another £887.

Among the 200 or so who took part in the Christian Aid Walk at Henley were 10 adults and 2 children from the Caversham area. They raised £588 between them.

A great deal of effort has gone into producing this very good result and I would like to thank all those who took part or contributed in any way.

Keith Stephen-Evans

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 September issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday August 2.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday August 1.

The dates for October will be Tuesday September 5 and Wednesday September 6.

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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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.
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Rev Andrew Evans, 6 Scholars Close. Tel: 948 3396

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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)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am	Prospect Street
6.30pm	Usually at Kidmore Road

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM

Gosbrook Road
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Highmoor Road
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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)

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

A TWENTIETH CENTURY WITNESS

– the life and death of a church *by Colin Ferguson*

With the development of the railways and the burst of house building at the end of the nineteenth century there came also new churches to serve the communities and St Paul's was part of this trend. Originally a mission from St Andrew's in London Road, the building was financed by the "liberality of Mr William McIlroy" and began in 1897 in the halls with the church itself opening in 1902. The late Victorians built their churches with little regard for heating and with no thought of shrinking congregations so Caversham Road Presbyterian Church rose high above the new terraces between the railway and the river.

As anyone who knows St Paul's can testify, the acoustics are great and some consider the organ is second to none in Reading. Unadorned brick walls rise to a beautifully crafted wooden ceiling which is beyond the sight of the visually challenged. It was not long before the church was full with families from the area and from Caversham. There were so many children that the Sunday School ran morning and afternoon sessions to meet the need.

It was in 1915 that the name St Paul's became adopted. The unhappy days of the war and then the depression made the congregation consider closing even as early as the 1930's but with new ministry there came a resurgence of interest and during the second world war the church was filled with activity and used for Civic services and as a link for the many soldiers who passed through Reading.

In 1948 the first of a radio series on 'work and worship' was held in the church and drew a congregation of 350. A period of greater stability followed with much good work being done among young people, some of whom are still members of the church. In 1972 the United Reformed Church came into being and we began to look at how we might work with other churches. The result was a

partnership between St Paul's and ITEM which lasted from 1973 to 1995, in which we shared a minister.

By 1985 it was clear that the state of the church was deteriorating and that large sums of money would be needed to repair it. A church conference was almost unanimous that it would be better to demolish and start again. A scheme for flats and a new smaller church was planned and agreed but sadly the money for the flats did not materialise. Nonetheless we continued to look for schemes that could regenerate the church.

Our view has always been that St Paul's exists to witness to the community by worship and service, and does not belong to us alone. In the end there was not only a vision but a sense of mission, a scheme, and even an exciting prospect of working in partnership with Greyfriars. What we could not produce were any guarantees about the continuation of the congregation to put all this into



Photo: C Ferguson

effect. With only twenty eight members, many of whom are pensioners, we could not get the necessary permission for development. So we took the decision to close our doors in the hope that God will provide in a way that we could not.

We leave with much sadness because it has been a place of vision and hope and faith and fellowship. These things will not fade away, even if we do.

The Editors are delighted with the amount of material being submitted for publication (particularly items of community interest). Would contributors kindly bear in mind that concise articles are especially welcome. It would help the editors if two typed copies of articles (using double spacing and showing the number of words) could be provided.

EMMER GREEN GUIDES' SPECTACULAR SUCCESS

At the end of June the 2nd Emmer Green Guide Company handed over to Mr Robin James, of the Church Street Opticians, the magnificent total of 534 pairs of used spectacles for use by the charity 'Vision Aid Overseas'. This was the culmination of a challenge the Guides had set themselves in order to earn their Millennium Badges. In January they challenged each Guide to bring at least two pairs of spectacles, and a target of 100 pairs was set. Their achievement is a spectacular success.

Recycled glasses help Vision Aid Overseas

The spectacles were accepted on behalf of Vision Aid Overseas by Robin James who, with the aid of a video, was able to tell the Guides something about conditions in Tanzania and how their collection of spectacles would be used. Vision Aid Overseas is a charity that organises teams of volunteer professional optometrists and dispensing opticians to visit developing countries to diagnose sight defects among the local population and to dispense correct spectacles from the recycled stock, collected by the groups in the UK



Photo: O. Jewiss

Our picture shows the 2nd Emmer Green Guide Company surrounding their collection of spectacles, some of which are being modelled by the Guides. Mr Robin James and Guider, Mrs Carole Snook, may be seen in the back row.

such as the Girl Guides, Rotary or Lions Clubs. As a result of these collections, and through 'SpecSort' projects in prisons, large numbers of spectacles are sorted, cleaned, graded and packed ready for use overseas.

Sight tests for over 300,000 in less developed countries

Since the first team went to Tanzania in 1985, over 54 teams with an aggregate total of 522 members have visited 14 different counties and around 300,000 people have been examined. The benefits to people who had previously been unable to see properly and their joy in being assisted was obvious from the video. The Guides, under the leadership of their Guider, Mrs Carole Snook, are to be congratulated on their achievements. Through local effort, publicity and parental support there is now an increased potential for many under less well off conditions to benefit. Unwanted spectacles can always be reused in this way and opticians are happy to receive them at any time.

History of service by the Guides

The 2nd Emmer Green Guides are developing quite a reputation for helping others. Two years ago they collected materials for an emergency pack and water purification kit that was subsequently used in Kosovo and last year they raised money to help with provision of books at the local special school at Bishopswood.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog**NEW LOOK FOR CAVERSHAM BRIDGE**

Caversham Bridge (the structure, not this newspaper) has been taking on a new look recently, chiefly by being painted in a deep cream colour. It was chosen after a close consultation with a representative group of people. Some may say it should not have been painted at all but left in its natural colour, without realising that what they assumed was its natural colour was in fact painted all along. The colour was finally decided on unanimously, after looking at all the options on offer. This very important bridge merits the best possible treatment. Unfortunately the budget did not extend to picking out the decorative patterns to be seen from the river side of the bridge. Even so, enhancement of the bridge will be a long lasting reminder of the Millennium year.

A DAY OUT FOR THE FAMILY

Caversham is a big place, larger than many a small town. Think Henley; think Wallingford, for instance. It is not easy for everyone to know every part of it. Clayfield Copse is a case in point. I must confess that though I was familiar with most parts, I had no idea how extensive it really was until visiting it for its Woodland Day in mid June. This was jointly organised by Friends of Clayfield Copse and nearby Blackstone Wood and Reading Borough Council. The perfect midsummer day, warm for a change after so much rain, doubtless helped bring out the crowds. There were various walks, either guided or DY0, and displays and activities.

My favourite was watching two splendid shire horses, with hair curling over their big hooves, extracting timber from the woods. I have often felt rather concerned that the days of these huge animals were numbered. Once they were essential parts of the economy of the country. Those with longer memories will recall Tinker and Turvey and Gilbert and Captain who used to put a brewers' dray through the streets and delivered casks to the Griffin. They stood outside from time to time stamping their hooves, producing a most satisfying sound for passers by. Now it seems these horses are kept more or less as pets, if rather large and expensive ones, so it is pleasing to know there are still real jobs for them to do. There is really no other satisfactory way of getting timber out of woodlands except with horses.

Dragging ourselves away from watching these splendid creatures, we watched a charcoal burner at work, again performing what was once essential work in non-coalmining areas. I recalled AA Milne's poem about the charcoal burner "who lived in the forest, alone in the forest" and had tales to tell.

There were some nice ginger Tamworth pigs and various people making a variety of things from wood. For those who stayed until it was dark there was a bat walk and those who rose early (4.00 am) on Sunday morning could hear the dawn chorus. The lazier amongst us could hear it from our beds but without the opportunity of having the various calls identified.

Refreshments were available and welcome on this warm day, and later on there was a barbecue. Altogether it was a highly successful day on which Friends of Clayfield Copse are to be congratulated. Particularly they are to be congratulated for their year round care of this precious asset.

Those who would like to help the Friends with their work should make a phone call to Tina Gower at Caversham Court on 0118 901 5201 or to Friends of Clayfield Copse, Judith Oliver on 0118 947 8920 or Anne Latto on 0118 948 4454. We are very fortunate to have such an asset on our doorstep in Caversham.

CAVERSHAM COURT

The water lilies are out on the pond in Caversham Court and are well worth a visit. It is a pity that coke cans and drink bottles are also to be found floating in it. It is also a pity that large weeds are allowed to grow on the rockery and what, with extra care, should be the knot garden. I have more than once been moved to do a bit of weeding myself when the weeds have got taller than the intended plants.

A garden like this needs a permanent presence to tend it and keep a watchful eye on it. Recently it has been used for unofficial football and cricket matches. Surely there can be no other historic garden in the country desecrated in such a way. In the last day or so a document has reached me setting out the claims of the garden for a heritage lottery fund grant. At 59 pages I have not yet had time to digest it, so comments on it will have to be left to next month. They look to be far reaching, so can't possibly come cheap.

LOCAL POST OFFICES MUST SURVIVE

The village post office has traditionally been a centre for collecting local gossip and local information as well as providing the usual services. Caversham's central post office is really too busy for that but it is still a place where people meet each other. There used to be more post offices in Caversham, and a number of those remain, but a number have also closed over the years. It appears that on a national scale, 400 post offices close every year, most of them in rural areas. If you want to keep your post office, use it. Having pensions etc paid into a bank account may be convenient, but it is business such as this that the post office needs. It can't keep going just by selling postage stamps. Many bills can be paid there, for instance. There is now to be an extension of its banking facilities, particularly useful for those areas where local banks are reducing their services because they do not make enough profit.

HANGING BASKETS

Congratulations to all those businesses and individuals who have put out hanging baskets. Prospect Street is much enhanced by those outside the Baron Cadogan. There are also some colourful gardens near the centre of Caversham which give pleasure to more than their owners.

MIKRON THEATRE

For this year's visit of MIKRON Theatre, a heavy black cloud hung threateningly over the town which led to the decision that it would be better to migrate to the Mapledurham Pavilion rather than risk getting soaked in Caversham Court. Every available seat, including window sills, was occupied by the large appreciative audience. In the event, it did not rain but the audience would probably have succumbed to hypothermia had they remained out of doors.

This year's performance was an update of that given a few years back, entitled Beer Street, and extolling the merits of what was described as "a heady draught of people, pubs, brews and brewing". This was really CAMRA stuff, not fizzy keg and themed pubs. The cast was energetic, enthusiastic and rumbustious. They had retained their popular song listing all the synonyms for inebriated, which left the audience in fits of laughter.

We would not have been able to see their narrow boat anyhow as it was having to be repaired. It is sixty years old and had once been a working boat. The cast live and travel on it.

Admission was free. The Borough Council does not charge for the site, so many thanks to them. The collection goes to MIKRON.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jim Fennell, Margaret and John would like to express their gratitude to all those people who have so kindly supported them since the death of Gwynneth, their wife and mother.

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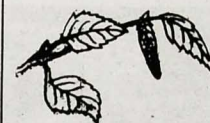
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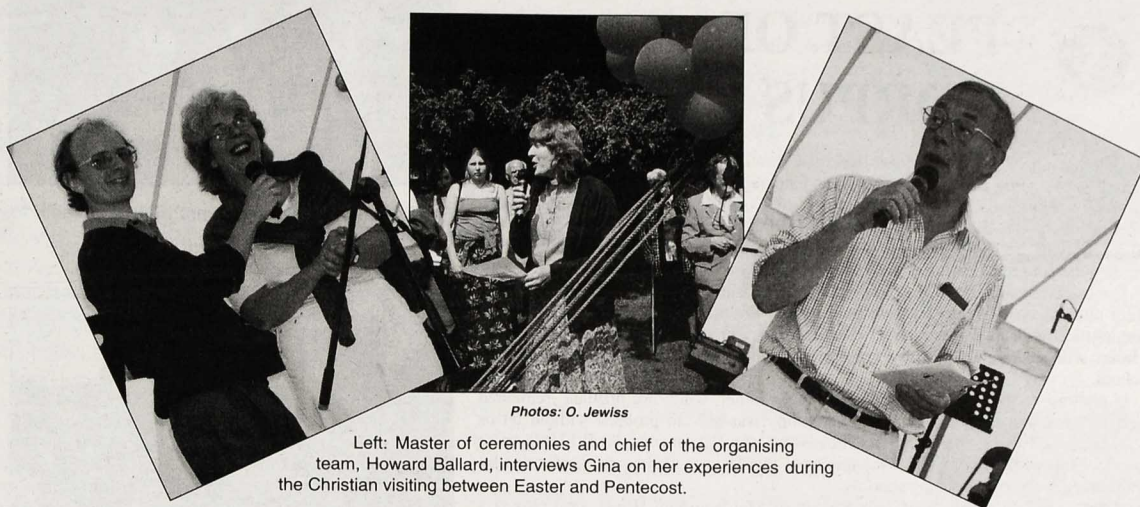
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PENTECOST PRAISE



Photos: O. Jewiss

Left: Master of ceremonies and chief of the organising team, Howard Ballard, interviews Gina on her experiences during the Christian visiting between Easter and Pentecost.

Middle: The Rev Rosemary Fletcher, Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham, about to release 200 red balloons.

Right: A relaxed Canon Richard Kingsbury, Vice Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham, preaching in the marquee.

The afternoon started off cool but the sun soon penetrated the clouds and Sunday 11th June became warm and sunny. At Caversham Court people from all denominations had gathered for a picnic lunch, games, side shows and a united service under a marquee to celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church – the coming of the Holy Spirit.

While the children enjoyed the bouncy castle, the hoopla, skittles, bowls and toddler music, the adults shared with friends, 'brothers and sisters' from the churches in Caversham. One new convert was heard to say in anticipation 'I've never been to a prayer meeting in a tent before!'

At 2 o'clock, the service began with the Caversham Baptist music group leading the congregation in the rousing "These are the days of Elijah". Phil Abrey from Caversham Park Church and event organiser Howard Ballard from Gosbrook Road Methodist Church introduced the afternoon and welcomed those present.

After enthusiastic singing of "And Can It Be?", the drama group Manna Feast (pronounced Manifest) performed a sketch about the meaning of the Holy Spirit which after asking "Where, What and Who are you?", concluded that, along with wisdom, energy and understanding, it is our companion, wanting to be our very best friend.

Howard Ballard led an appreciative acknowledgement of the "72" (or thereabouts) who carried out the door to door visitations, successful in achieving at least the offer of a palm cross and Gospel message card to every one of the 13,000 homes in the Caversham area. Howard interviewed one participant, Gina Pelliti, who had herself visited 400 homes.

A time of prayer followed asking, amongst other things, for today's church to be "fired up" like the early church, for wisdom, peace in the third millennium. Help was asked for refugees, for cancelling Third World Debt and for the needs of the world, including "those with no beauty" – addicts, slum-dwellers, those who cannot speak for themselves. Finally the Rev. Peter Edwards led prayers for assurance for those who belong to God and the message to pass on to others.

The day was a day of celebration: It was 2000 years since the Holy Spirit came and there are more Christians alive today than there were people in the world when Jesus was on earth. As so often when we are celebrating something we decide on our priorities and what is important in this life. The thoughtful hymn "I will offer up my life" followed next. The drama group performed "A Farewell Present" from Acts 1 and the reading was from Acts 2. First the waiting for the Spirit and then its arrival. The World Puppets from Thatcham were "letting their light shine" in "Light of the World" and enchanted both adults and children alike.

Canon Richard Kingsbury both entertained and challenged those present with his talk which began by suggesting that each church likes to think that with regard to God, like the little boy with the butterfly in the jam jar, they have "Got Him". Just as butterflies need to fly around, God can sometimes seem elusive. Knowing where God is, he said, starts with ourselves. The Resurrection and Pentecost are God's vote of confidence in us, his church.

After the beautiful and moving hymn, "Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here," Father Tony Jones led the prayers of confession and the service concluded with the congregation leaving the marquee to the rousing processional "We are marching in the Light of God."

Outside, one of the highlights of the afternoon was the release of 200 red balloons by the Rev Rosemary Fletcher – one for each decade of the church's life.

The entertainments continued in the grounds of Caversham Court while many headed for the beautifully decorated St Peter's Church and a very welcome cup of tea and delicious selection of home-made cakes.

Many thanks should go to Howard Ballard and his team for their efforts in making this a happy and successful event.

Meeting together with old friends and new, sharing fun and fellowship and offering thanks and praise to the Lord – what better way to spend a glorious summer's afternoon?



Photo: Tony Hall



Photo: O. Jewiss

Part of the congregation in the marquee for the time of worship.



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

YEAR OF JUBILEE 2000 FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI



In celebration of the Year of Jubilee, two thousand children from the Catholic schools of Reading and surrounding areas gathered in the grounds of Mapledurham House on Thursday 22nd June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, for Solemn Mass, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and a Pageant to celebrate the history of Christianity in the Thames Valley. A hundred or so adults, including civic dignitaries, swelled the congregation but it was overwhelmingly a children's day.

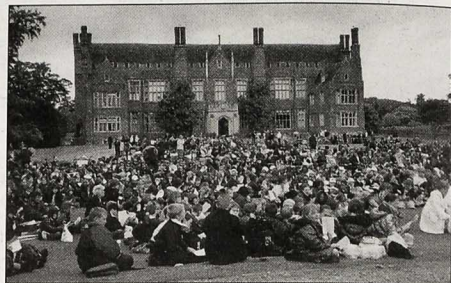
The celebrant was the Rt Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth, and readings were undertaken by representative pupils from the assembled schools. Communal singing was under the direction of Paul Inwood, Portsmouth Diocesan Director of Music, with accompaniment by a group of pupils from Blessed Hugh Faringdon School.

In contrast to the last couple of years, the weather, while not brilliant, remained well behaved and the whole moving ceremony was able to proceed without let or hindrance. Following Mass and the Procession, the Pageant was held highlighting major events in the history of Christianity in the Thames Valley and performed by children from the participating schools.

Mention should be made of Jack Eyston of Mapledurham House who played a major role in setting up the event, as well as providing its beautiful venue, with the particular help of his Estate Manager and Secretary. For the schools, Helen Fletcher, Head Teacher of St Martin's School, Caversham, and Paul Spindler co-ordinated their participation while Julia Feeney directed the Pageant. The result was a notable testament to all their efforts!



Father Tony leads the Servers and Celebrants to the altar.



Part of the congregation outside Mapledurham House.



The Pope greets Richard Thomas.

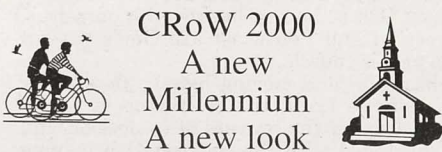
'HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR HOLINESS',

On 18th May, Richard Thomas, son of Helen and Don Thomas of Our Lady and St Anne's Parish, had the great honour of being presented to the Pope in Rome. Richard, a one-time pupil at St Anne's School in Caversham, is Chairman of the Philharmonia Chorus and, in celebration of the Pope's 80th birthday, 150 members of the Chorus had been invited to sing in the Vatican.

This was part of a Millennium 'Creation' tour dreamed up by Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore and Gilbert Levine, the conductor. Haydn's 'Creation' was chosen for the tour as it speaks to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. The Philharmonia has already performed it in Westminster Cathedral and Baltimore and it is hoped to extend the tour to include Jerusalem, Krakow and Notre Dame in Paris.

After three years at St Anne's School, Richard, then aged eight, was awarded a scholarship to Westminster Cathedral Choir School. During his time there he made his first visit to Rome to sing at the canonization of the 40 English and Welsh Martyrs. At 13 he went to Reading School and then read for a Music Degree at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

After a first job on the administrative side of the Philharmonia Orchestra, Richard was head-hunted by Rhinegold Publishing, publishers to the Performing Arts and Music Education, where he is now marketing Manager. He lives in London with his wife Fiona (who sings soprano) and their baby daughter, Laura (who somehow manages to sing higher than her mother and lower than her father!).



CROW 2000
A new
Millennium
A new look

Saturday 9th September 2000
10am-6pm

We hope you spotted the new logos for this year's Cycling, Running or Walking event – you will see them again on our new Posters and Handbills. However, that's not where the changes end. As well as offering you your usual enjoyable day out raising money for your own Church and for the renovation of other Berkshire Churches, we hope that the following will add to the event:

1. Stewards, who man their Church for any part of the 8 hours that it can be open (between 10am and 6pm) may now be sponsored, either for the number of participants they sign in or for the number of hours they are on duty.
2. Why not cycle or walk in groups? Contact other Churches in your area and join up with them and turn the day into even more of an ecumenical event by all CROWing together.
3. Cyclists will no doubt be pleased to hear that Robert Dimmick has taken some of the hard work out of planning your route between Churches by producing a list of Grid References covering most of the Churches in Berkshire.
4. Thanks to changes in this year's Budget, your sponsorship money is now eligible for tax relief. By completing a Gift Aid form, the Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust will be able to reclaim 28 pence for each and every pound that you collect, providing you are a tax payer.

If you want more details on any of the above, please see your Church Organiser, visit our Website: <http://www.readingchurches.org.uk/RCBCT2> or email us at: berkscrow@yahoo.co.uk

FLOWER FESTIVAL AT GOSBROOK ROAD

To herald the summer, friends at Caversham Methodist Church staged a Flower Festival. The theme chosen was "With a song in my heart". All the arrangements and displays depicted well-loved songs. As you walked into the church you were greeted with "Sunrise Sunset" from "Fiddler on the Roof". On into the church and there was "Teddy Bears Picnic", "Wand'rin Star", "Easter Parade", "Summer Holiday", "Skye Boat Song" and so on. We were pleased to be joined by flower arrangers from Caversham Heights, St Andrew's, St John's, and Caversham Park Church. Music played a great part in the festival with the music chosen by the arrangers being played as the flowers were viewed. The flower festival was officially opened by Councillor Steve Waite and his wife Mary. A Festival concert was given by Masquerade Musical Theatre Company, who sang some of the chosen songs and also songs from the Shows, including "Paint Your Wagon", which they were staging at the Hexagon Theatre. The concert was a grand success with the audience wanting to hear more. Masquerade proved to be excellent entertainment.

Throughout the festival weekend, lunches and teas were served. All the caterers did a grand job and must be congratulated. The Sunday services were well attended with the evening Songs of Praise being much enjoyed. On the Monday, Margaret Wells from Wokingham brought her group of hand bell ringers to entertain. They were a polished group and well worth hearing again.

The whole 3-day event had been worthwhile in many ways; not least the raising of over £700 which was to be shared between the church twinning project, (Dondon School in Haiti) and the Church building fund.

Many thanks to all who helped and supported this event.



photo: Eunice Cooper

Councillor Steve Waite and Mrs Mary Waite opening the Flower Festival

AROUND THE CHURCHES

MID-SUMMER FESTIVALS

St Barnabas, ...

June is always an exciting time for the Anglican parishes, three of which have patron saints celebrated on days only 18 days apart. This year, because the Feast of Pentecost fell on 11 June, St Barnabas Day was transferred to the following day and the gap between the festivals was even shorter. Each year the visiting preachers bring new insights into the lives of the patron saints and the lessons we can learn from them. Thus the Revd Rosemary Fletcher, as Chairperson of Churches Together in Caversham and Methodist Minister, brought encouragement to us all from an in depth review of the life of St Barnabas. An excellently performed sketch by the young people, aided by two of the more dramatic members of the congregation, showed how 'God makes the cake' from the diverse ingredients in any congregation.

.... St John's ...

At St John's, the Revds Jo and Doug Loveridge were the visitors; Jo, the former curate, is now curate at St Peter's, Earley, and her husband, Doug, who preached, is Vicar of Hurst. He gave an unusual

reflection on John the Baptist, through the eyes of Thaddaeus, one of Herod's soldiers who found himself in the awkward position of one who had been baptized but yet had responsibility for looking after the imprisoned John up to the time of his beheading. Through the character of Thaddaeus he threw out a challenge to baptized Christians today.

.... and St Peter's

St Peter's Day coincided with the presence in Caversham of the group of visitors from Texas. The strong American flavour was reinforced by the visiting preacher Canon Beaumont Stevenson, an ex-Harvard trained priest of dual British and UK nationality now serving as a chaplain to the psychiatric hospital at Littlemore. He spoke about Peter the failed but forgiven apostle who became a leader and about what we could do when we accepted our need for forgiveness. Canon Stevenson achieved this by drawing on interesting examples from his chaplaincy experience. The musical tradition at St Peter's and the floral displays added to this memorable service as did the refreshments which followed in the adjacent Reading Canoe Club.

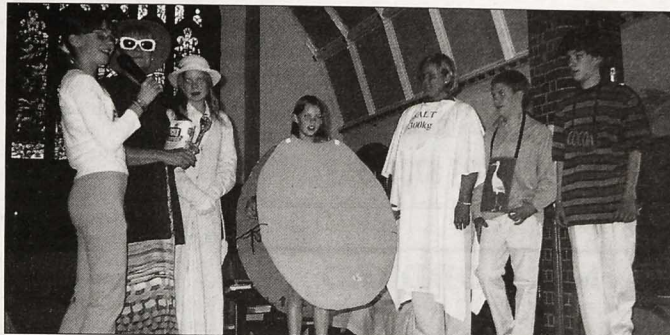


The Revd Canon Beaumont Stevenson in the pulpit at St Peter's.



The Revds Jo and Doug Loveridge during their visit to St John's.

Photos: O. Jewiss



Some of the participants in the 'God makes the Cake' sketch which was mostly performed by the young people at St Barnabas.

TEXANS VISIT CAVERSHAM PARISH

"The visit seems to have been a great success," said Co-ordinator Patrick Bailey of the event - "It's wonderful not only that they all fitted in happily with us, but that we met up with many parishioners whose paths we might not otherwise have crossed!"

Most of the nineteen Texan churchgoers who arrived to stay with Caversham hosts for a week on 23 June had never before been to the UK, and may have been fearful the natives might be unfriendly, or perhaps stuffy. But by all accounts, they were delighted that the locals seemed much like them, and certainly the Anglican liturgy followed their Episcopal rites very closely.

Although the Rector leading the group, the Rev Dr Walter Ellis from St Christopher Church, League City, near Houston, did not preach, he took part in all services during the visit: at St Peter's, the congregation were delighted by another visiting American who preached at the Patronal Festival service on 29 June, Canon Beaumont Stephenson; at St Margaret's, Mapledurham, there was an intimate "Worship for a Summer Evening" service, led by church members who also provided a magnificent alfresco supper in the calm and balm of the churchyard afterwards.

The visitors had been warmly welcomed at a splendid party at the home of St Peter's Churchwarden Meg Gale by the Caversham-resident Mayor, Cllr Bob Green and the Mayoress, Mrs Jill Green JP. Locally, visits included shopping and Reading history jaunts, as well as trips to Mapledurham House and Mill, Henley, Stonor, Dorchester and Wallingford.

Daily tours from their Caversham Bed & Breakfast hosts by coach, organised with the help of Parish Vacations Ltd, also took the guests further afield: to Blenheim, Oxford (where Canon Richard Kingsbury accompanied the group to Christ Church), Stonehenge, Salisbury, Wilton House, Portsmouth, Fishbourne, Guildford, Windsor

(with Assistant Curate the Rev Andrew Evans) and Runnymede. These were all under the guidance of parish couriers who had a hard but enjoyable job keeping everyone together and on time. On their last night, the group were bade a sad farewell at a visit to the new impressive Recreation Centre at Queen Anne's School, by kind permission of the Head Mistress, Mrs Debbie Forbes.

"But not quite goodbye," said Patrick Bailey. "Some 17 of us from Caversham and Mapledurham joined our new-found friends to visit York for two days and had a wonderful time seeing the Medieval Mystery Plays in York Minster and visiting Castle Howard. This was a lovely way for some of us involved with it to end this exciting visit. But it was only the all-round co-operation of the clergy, hosts, couriers and hardworking 'behind the scenes' team that made it all possible. Maybe somebody else might like to build on this experience and try it again?!"

St Margaret's News

It was with great pleasure that the congregation of St Margaret's shared with St Peter's in welcoming our American friends to the parish on Sunday, June 24th. An evening service was held at St Margaret's after the visitors had toured Mapledurham House and Water Mill. In spite of a dull cool evening our guests were able to enjoy the atmosphere, our ancient church and beautiful Oxfordshire village. The bell ringers did us proud, ringing twice that day, at 11 am and again at 5.30 pm. We at St Margaret's are most grateful for their enthusiasm. The usual delicious refreshments were provided by both churches and everybody enjoyed an evening of great fellowship.

Mary Kift



Photos: Betty Ann Davies

The Rev Dr Walter Ellis, Rector of St Christopher Episcopal Church, League City, Texas with Mrs Susan Ellis, the Rev Canon Richard Kingsbury, Rector of Caversham and Mrs Angela Kingsbury



Photos: P. Baily

Lady Anne Eyston and J J Eyston welcoming (behind them) the Rev Dr Walter Ellis and Mrs Susan Ellis with some of the guests from St Christopher Episcopal Church, League City, Texas and their friends and hosts at Mapledurham House.

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THE SAFER CAVERSHAM FORUM**Derek Bartlett - Chair**

"Hands up all those who have not heard of the Safer Caversham Forum?" If that question was put to all of the 30,000 people living in the area covered by this newspaper, it would not be surprising if more than 90% raised their hands. Yet the Safer Caversham Forum has an effect on the lives of everyone living north of the Thames and within the boundaries of Reading. This is because the Forum is concerned with action in relation to crime and safety, two subjects which touch the lives of all of us, whether we fully realise this or not. Thankfully, most of us have no direct experience of serious crime and, hopefully, never will, but most of us experience anger or sadness when we learn about what has happened to others. Most of us feel a measure of disgust when we see the results of acts of mindless vandalism inflicted on our public parks, trees, telephone kiosks, parked cars and street signs. All of us have to endure the visual pollution of graffiti defacing the buildings and street furniture in our neighbourhoods. All of us share the monetary cost of the consequences of these crimes.

A few years ago, Reading Borough Council and Reading Police jointly recognised that the traditional view, that crime is the sole responsibility of the Police and the criminal justice system, does not apply in today's society. Crime affects the whole community and it is only the whole community working together that can prevent crime and reduce the worst effects of crime when it does happen. Out of that recognition, subsequently reflected in and endorsed by the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, a Partnership of all the Reading agencies concerned with the prevention and result of crime was formed under the title of "The Safer Reading Campaign". At a more local level, the Partnership is reflected in district forums. Caversham, Caversham Heights, Caversham Park Village and Emmer Green are covered by the Safer Caversham Forum.

The Safer Caversham Forum brings to the table, every month, representatives from all the Residents and Community Associations in the district, and from the Caversham Traders Association, Churches Together in Caversham, the Caversham Sector Police Team, Borough Council officials, Ward Councillors, the Fire and Rescue Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Housing Associations, the Youth Offending Team and the North Reading Youth Project. Additionally representatives of other bodies are invited to participate in the Forum when a matter of particular relevance to them arises or the Forum considers that their participation would be useful. At the monthly meetings, current issues of crime and safety are debated, Forum members offer each other advice and support in their respective roles and, crucially, lay actions upon each other for execution and report.

This year, among other things, the Safer Caversham Forum has initiated an enquiry into the growing menace of graffiti and is actively examining ways of stemming the increase in thefts from garages and garden sheds. Practical support is being given to a new Vehicle Crime (Reduction) Team set up by Thames Valley Police. Further support has been given to the Police by actively lobbying for additional resources to be made available to the Thames Valley force and for more officers to be allocated to the Reading area. Local residents have been successfully supported in campaigns for additional lighting in especially vulnerable areas. The Forum co-sponsored the Caversham Crime Prevention Day, which took place on 14 July and is joining with the Caversham and District Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch to mount, in September, Operation Safeguard; a public event concerned with home security as houses become the main objects for the attention of burglars in the weeks before Christmas.

If any reader belongs to an organisation that is not represented on the Forum but which may have a community concern with which the Forum might help, or perhaps belong to an organisation which might help the Forum, please give me a call on 947 9406.

STREET PARTY

For the last five years St Andrew's Road Neighbourhood Watch have held an annual barbecue in one or other of the residents' gardens. These have been very enjoyable events, enabling all the residents to get acquainted, and have helped build up the friendly atmosphere which exists in the road, an important feature of neighbourhood watch. This year, to mark the millennium, St Andrew's Road was closed to traffic by courtesy of Reading Borough Council, to enable us to hold our party in the road.

Over 130 residents, their families and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of food, music and dance. Lunch from the barbecue with salads and puddings supplied by the ladies was accompanied by lively music by the jazz band "So What", followed by entertainment for the children by local performer, "Big Foot", then songs and dances by Monica Cleaver's young entertainers. For many of the youngsters the highlight of the afternoon, which was one of the hottest of the year, was the impromptu water play at the end of the day.

Isn't it marvellous to have one's road free from motor traffic? The comment most often heard afterwards was "Can we do it again next year, please?"

Alan Burt.

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DEDICATION AMONGST THE RAINDROPS

The Dedication was performed on Friday 9th June at a rain soaked ceremony for the 'PLACE OF REFLECTION' in the "Garden of Remembrance" at the Reading Crematorium/Cemetery, Caversham.

The service was conducted by the Revd Canon Richard Kingsbury, vicar of St Peter's Church, Caversham, with the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Bob Green, accepting it on behalf of Reading Borough Council.

The President of Caversham Rotary Club, Chris Smallbone said this "Place of Reflection" is a gift for the community of the future, a place to remember, a place for living memories of loved ones, especially the young, memories that endure beyond death, a place for thinking, praying and loving.

Tricia Hamon, a midwife from the Royal Berkshire Hospital, read a beautiful poem by William Wordsworth "A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal" which was followed by the planting of a Rosemary Bush by Margaret Smallbone. A mother, Julia Calder, read a verse from a hymn.



A place of reflection in the Garden of Remembrance.

The Caversham Rotary Club have received many complimentary remarks on selecting this project to celebrate the year 2000. Jonny Morris, Lead Councillor for the Environment and Consumer Affairs for Reading Borough Council said: "This is a very special place that has been created where parents can mourn their lost children in peace. I would like to thank the Caversham Rotary Club for their wonderful fund-raising effort, this Place of Reflection will certainly enhance the services available for bereaved families."

METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH

- August 6** 10.30am **Holy Communion**
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher
6.30 pm Deacon Vic Downs
- August 13** 10.30am Mr David Beek
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs
- August 20** 10.30am Mrs Paddy Jose -
Circuit Lay Worker
6.30pm **Holy Communion**
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher
- August 27** 10.30am Deacon Vic Downs
6.30pm United Service at
St. John's Church

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- August 6** 9.00am **Holy Communion**
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher
10.30 am Deacon Vic Downs
6.30 pm Mrs Margaret Havers -
Taize Service
- August 13** 10.30 am Deacon Vic Downs
6.30 am **Holy Communion**
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher
- August 20** 10.30am **Holy Communion**
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher
6.30 pm Deacon Vic Downs
- August 27** 10.30am Rev Rosemary Fletcher
6.30pm **Songs of Praise** -
Deacon Vic Downs

ST LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH, WOODCOTE

- August 13** 9.45am Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Thursday Evening Services

Anyone who finds it difficult to attend worship on Sundays will find a very warm welcome at the mid-week evening services at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.45pm on Thursday evenings. The service will take varying forms each week.

How to Book a Room for Your Event (Subject to availability)

Caversham (Gosbrook Rd, Methodist Church):
Contact Sarah Laming: 0118 946 3453
Caversham Heights Methodist Church: Contact
Harry Taylor: 947 2051 (or Wesley Lounge)
Judith Higgs: 947 4494

MARGARET ANNISON

A Personal Recollection

I first met Margaret Annison about twelve years ago. Father Meagher, then Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Anne's, had asked us to take used Christmas cards to her house to be re-used in aid of charity. When I first arrived, she invited me in and we got on so well that I began visiting her almost every week.

Margaret was already in her wheelchair but coping pretty well. Her kitchen had been designed to help her, she had a stairlift and her garden had wide paths so that she could get around easily and also supervise any work being done there. Quite often I was able to help in the garden and when my sister came to visit me, she joined in too. Margaret was very generous with her plants and those given to me have flourished and will always remind me of her.

I noticed very quickly that she was very involved with *Save The Children* and helped to raise thousands of pounds for them. She was also in *The Lourdes Association* and had visited Lourdes every year or so - even last year when she was very frail.

Her birthday was on July 1st and she would have been eighty-five last month. When it was her 80th birthday, all her friends came and we had a lovely party on an afternoon of glorious weather. I am sure that all who were there remember it well. Many of her friends have become my friends as we met so often when our visits 'overlapped'.

As the nineties passed by, Margaret became increasingly frail and found it more and more difficult to cope even after having a special bathroom installed. She made the decision to move into St Luke's and had hardly settled there when her sight failed. Even that she faced bravely, still signing all her Christmas cards and doing all she could to keep in touch with her friends and relatives and with what was going on in the world.

While she was in St Luke's, I visited her every fortnight and gathered that she had very kind and helpful friends who came often. She loved the flowers I brought (always scented) but Mary and Stan Wheeler were her greatest help. This year, she needed more nursing help and moved to Lashbrook House in Shiplake during May and there she died on 18th June. May she rest in peace!



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Spring into the Millennium

Scops Owl

For a few months a lone Mistle Thrush has heralded the dawn, but today was different.

Sleep had been fitful. The highest temperature in Britain was about to be recorded.

At three-fifteen in near darkness, a Blackbird tentatively broke the silence. Others soon joined in but with far less circumspection. A faint glow in the east betokened Phoebus preparing for his daily journey around the world.

Wrens, Song Thrushes and Goldcrests soon added their contributions – the Dawn Chorus was in full swing. Sitting before an open bedroom window overlooking a darkened valley, the experience was unforgettable.

A hour later the bird-song had moderated.

Another thrill had been a pair of Blackcaps breeding nearby. Today the male

sang again from a twig high in the front garden lilac, its little black cap visible. Woodpigeons have feasted on the upper leaves – but who cares? The tree will recover and the pigeons are welcome to their comforts.

Wrens have bred in the front hedge and sing joyfully now the young are on the wing. Swifts scream with open gapes as they collect food. They too have families to rear before returning to South Africa.

Our friendly Blackbirds go about their chores in more leisurely manner but are no less dedicated. Occasionally they share a few moments of rapport then continue on their way.

Audio tapes of garden birds are still available. They make bird song so easy and enjoyable to learn. When foliage obscures a bird then knowing its song may be the ONLY – and best means of establishing identity.

A portable tape recorder is a gem. It will bring back happy memories, some items long ago. When recording include date, venue, weather and any other relevant details. Never be too 'chatty' – allow the birds to do the 'talking'!

If your doggie likes to accompany you, well let him. One day you may be pleased to hear him/her on tape and know your precious moments have been lovingly shared for all time. If like dear Scooby he is not too 'vocal' then refer to his presence anyway on tape.

Spring 2000 rarities included Blyth's Reed Warbler, Marsh Sandpiper, Bee-eater, Great-spotted Cuckoo, Bruinnich's Guillemot, Purple and Squacco Herons. As usual in Spring, few stayed long.

NOTE: To correct a misprint in July issue, 'Scandinavian' Warbler should have read, 'Sardinian'. The former would certainly have set bells ringing – it does not exist!

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won suitable prizes.

Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

A coach load of Members visited the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst on Sunday 25th June to witness the annual parade. The march past included full Military Bands and the massed Standards of the Men's and Women's Sections of the Royal British Legion Branches in the area. Standard Bearer, Mr Fred Ridgers, proudly paraded Caversham's Standard.

Monday 3rd July saw the usual monthly Branch social but this time with a difference! The Branch had a joint social with the M.O.T.H.s (the Memorable Order of Tin Hats – a very brave collection of men who have all directly faced enemy fire).

The M.O.T.H. numbers have dwindled over the years but not their enthusiasm for raising money for their favoured Charity, The Star and Garter Homes. So

Reading & District Probus Club

The June meeting of Probus on 12 June was addressed after lunch by Dr Peter Musgrove, Head of Development at the Bourne End establishment of Wind Power Ltd. (owned by National Power) with a 40-strong staff.

Readers will be familiar with these large windmills, or wind farms, being developed as an alternative to electricity generation by conventional coal and nuclear systems. Wind power systems produce no carbon dioxide emissions. Their rotors can be as large as 60 metres. A limitation to the development of wind farms is sometimes due to refusal of planning permission.

An interesting talk on an unusual subject. Probus men enjoy meeting over lunch and a varied talks programme on the first Monday of the month, at the Upcross

Hotel. Especially enjoyable are outings – recently a tour of Stonor House followed by an excellent pub lunch, and another lunch at the Leander Club, with a visit to the Mill at Sonning on the horizon.

If you are a retired gentleman or soon will be why not ring Mr Barry Ward, our secretary, on 0118 942 8806

Community Association

June began with the Committee meeting and an informal games evening. Mr Copeland made a welcome return to show more of his curiosities, with slides entitled 'In Town Tonight' – it pays to look up in pursuit of the unusual. The following week was to be whist for the keen players but the leader was unable to attend so various card games and scrabble were tried instead. The month ended with a

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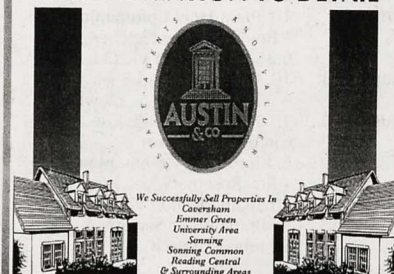
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the CLUBS

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Caversham Royal British Legion hosted the evening enabling the M.O.T.H.s to enjoy a social evening during which they could make the draw for their 'Bag-a-Day' raffle. This raffle involves 'selling' days in a diary throughout the year to raise funds - a leading light in organising this raffle is Capt. Basil Tarrant, MC, the father of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' Chris Tarrant. A whole year of yesterdays was 'sold', and as all the many prizes were generously donated, a sum of £366 was raised.

During the evening everyone took part in a quiz with Military overtones, set by Basil Tarrant, which caused many members to scratch their heads as they tried to remember terminology from their Service days! Setting quizzes must run in the family!

A buffet, raffle and four games of bingo were enjoyed and nearly sixty tickets were sold for the next Social in August where the Queen Mum's birthday will be celebrated with some special 'bits and pieces', including 'Best Hat in the Queen Mum's style' competition.

St. Peter's Wives' Group

On 20 June Mrs Linda Roffey spoke about herbs and the way in which they can improve health. Many can be used to relieve conditions, such as arthritis, stomach and respiratory problems, nervous conditions etc etc. A most interesting and informative evening.

There is no August meeting at Church House as a trip has been arranged to see the opera 'Carmen' at The Watermill Theatre, Newbury on Monday, 14 August.

Our next meeting at Church House, Church Street, Caversham will be held on Tuesday, 19 September at 8.00pm. This will be a talk by Mr Eric Aspdon entitled 'Secret Places of London'.

New members always welcome.

Link Group News

At the AGM in June, Hanne Baldwin, of St Andrew's Church, was elected Chairman. Anthea Prescott was thanked for her enthusiastic leadership over the past two years. Janet Ferguson and Barbara Macrae were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary. There is no meeting in August. On Monday, September 18th, Rodney Oliver will speak about Refugee Support and on Monday, 14th October, Rosemary Fletcher will celebrate Communion at the meeting. New members are always welcome, please contact Barbara Macrae on 947 0040.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The June meeting began with a welcome to all members, particularly a new member, Mrs Maria Corville. After the minutes had been read and signed, the Chairman, Mrs Maureen Chamberlain, thanked Mrs Edwina Child and her husband for organizing the recent Guild outing - a full day trip to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. After touring the magnificent Norman castle visitors had the additional pleasures of terraced Elizabethan Gardens and the Butterfly Farm, truly memorable experiences.

Further thanks were given to Mrs Margaret Pocock and her husband, who had been instrumental in setting up the Emmer Green Guild display for Highdown School from 10th to 12th May. Numerous photographs, documents, certificates and awards charted highlights in the history of the Guild since it began. Members applauded both for their skill and for the time given to the Guild.

Reports were given from each of the special interest groups, with details of meetings to be held later in the month. The Nora Pollard Vase competition was won by Mrs Anne Bond.

The Autumn Fayre is scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th October from 10.30am to 2.30pm. The Chairman then took pleasure in presenting Long-Service Certificates

and Badges to eleven members, each with 25 years continuous service. They were congratulated and warmly applauded.

The rest of the evening was filled by the presentation 'Dogs for the Disabled', an exploration of a pioneering, growing charity which helps people with disabilities to increase their independence. This work was begun in 1986 from a private house and with one dog. By 1988 it was a registered charity and grew rapidly with help from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Improved premises contributed to their success, whilst a grant from the National Lottery enabled them to have a purpose-built head office and training centre near Banbury. This opened in January, 2000 and now clients can live and train there view with their dogs. Although relying on voluntary contributions the response has enabled a steady increase in the number of trained dogs.

This talk, along with excellent slides of the dogs in training, gave the audience a lot of pleasure. Anne Hendry and Brenda Hall were warmly applauded, as were Jade and Meg, who barked her "Thank you". Mrs Eileen Aldred spoke for everyone in her appreciative vote of thanks. It had been an informative and enjoyable meeting.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Pat Cleare kindly came to the Club to give an illustrated talk, with slides, on an 8 night stay in Jordan.

Mr and Mrs Cleare were in a party of 20 from St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights, for this most interesting trip.

They flew to Amman, staying there for the first part of the holiday where they visited many of the historical places, including the King Abdullah Mosque and the restored Roman Theatre (which is used and seats 6000). Near to the theatre are the remains of a water fountain, which, it is thought, held the Olympic flame. Jerash was the next place to visit, which is north of Amman and is one of Jordan's major attractions, second to Petra. Thence to Mount Nebo, one of the supposed sites of the tomb of Moses. On a clear day it is possible to see the Dead Sea. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly Petra, the rose-red city. There are a few free standing buildings, the rest (and there are many) being cut into the rock. Four

enjoyable days were spent in Aqaba before returning to the UK.

Caversham WI

A warm evening found members waiting for the expected speaker from Red Cross - unfortunately this did not happen - so, ever resourceful, members stepped forward to tell everyone about 'How it all began'. This was 'first job' experience and ranged from office work, nursery nursing, cash office junior to the inevitable biscuit packing at Huntley and Palmers!! A social time followed with a welcome cup of tea. The competition for '4 fairy cakes' was won by Doreen Beard and then the raffle was drawn.

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

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning presided over the meeting on 15th June. Members were asked to bring books to the next meeting for the Book Stall at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green in October. Mrs Adair read the Federation Report which provoked a discussion on the NCM meeting, 20th and 21st June at Blackpool. A letter was read from Dr Walker thanking all Guilds in the Federation for their generous donation of £8,000. The mobile unit for the detection of breast cancer will be ready later in the year.

The Federation boat trip on the 14th June was enjoyed by 55 members.

The competition for the best single rose was won by Mrs D Smith. The speaker, Mrs Gwen Barton, gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk entitled Tales of a Dizzy Lady, in which she related stories of her travels from the age of fifteen, beginning in Germany, proceeding to America, then Sierra Leone, Gambia and Jordan. Mrs D Smith proposed the vote of thanks.

Guild meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, 2pm at Church House, Caversham. New members welcome.



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