

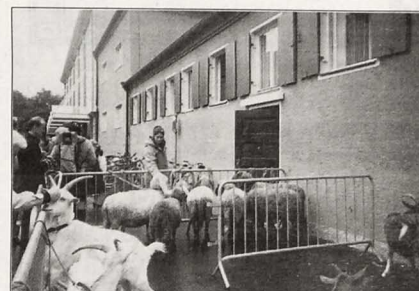
# PILGRIMS *to* OBERAMMERGAU

**T**he origins of the Oberammergau Passion Play are fairly well known, having its roots in the mediaeval mystery plays which were common in the Middle Ages. In 1632, part way through the "Thirty Years War", the Black Death was sweeping through Europe. Helped by its geographical position and constant vigilance, the small village of Oberammerrgau had succeeded in keeping the disease away. However, a homesick villager who had been living away stole in, unknowingly bringing the plague with him. Following the deaths within months of 84 inhabitants the whole village met and prayed for deliverance. In July 1633 they vowed that if God delivered them from the plague they would perform a Passion Play every ten years. No more deaths were recorded and the vow has been kept. The originally solitary Easter performance has increased to some ninety performances, seen by about half a million people!

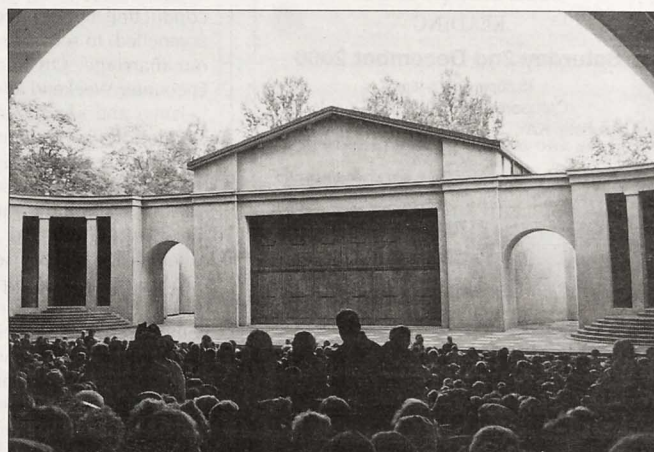
Approximately 2,000 of Oberammergau's 5,000 inhabitants are directly involved in the production, most of the rest being involved in catering. The 1,000 or more actors, as well as members of the chorus and orchestra, must have been born in the village, lived there for at least 20 years or attended the village school. (I'm not sure of the qualifications required by the donkey, sheep, goats, doves etc!). The present Theatre holds an audience of 4,700 people, who, unlike the cast, are under cover; the acoustics are superb. The organisation required to organise, feed and accommodate all these people is impressively successful.

In July 2000 a party from Caversham visited this pretty Bavarian village to witness the historic play. It lasts for about 5½ hours plus a 3 hour lunch break. The story begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and shows the events of Holy Week including the Last Supper, His betrayal, "trial", suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. Between the main scenes a narrator and 50 strong chorus comment and draw parallels with Old Testament stories which are depicted in living tableau format. The Caversham party, led by Jim Plunkett from the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, was joined by Christians from other parts of England. Many were fulfilling long held ambitions

Sheep & goats await their cue.



In the theatre awaiting the start.



to see the play. After the play they journeyed together to Seefeld in Austria where a very united group enjoyed a companionable holiday week together.

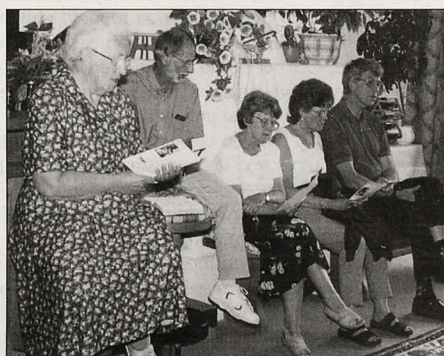
## SUMMIT WATCH IN THE ALPINE PEAKS

Being some 800 miles from Reading and almost 4000 feet above the highest peak in Caversham Heights, did not deter seventeen Oberammergau pilgrims from the Caversham and Caversham Heights Methodist churches from observing the Summit Watch on July 21st.

With them in a party led by Jim Plunkett of the Gosbrook Road Methodist church were twenty-one pilgrims from other churches in Caversham and other parts of the country, including Abingdon, Leicester and York. They shared the common concern that the leaders of the G8 nations meeting in Okinawa should make real progress in cancelling the debts of the world's poorest countries.

They all squeezed into the tiny bar of the Hotel Menthof at Seefeld for the Summit Watch, which followed the reflection guide prepared by Christian Aid, and was led by the Rev. Rosemary Fletcher.

They reflected on the testimonial of Winnie Byanyima, a member of the Ugandan parliament, that the Jubilee 2000 campaign had



- Jim Plunkett

Summit Watch in Hotel Menthof. From left Mary Prior, Richard Keen and Verinica Keen, three of the readers.

really contributed to the struggle against poverty in her country. On the other hand they reflected on the plight of Joni and Rosemary Hamalambo in Zambia, who cannot afford medicine for their seven-year-old son David who is sick with malaria. As yet Zambia does not qualify for debt relief under the scheme established by the western powers.

The readers of these stories were Mary Prior of Gosbrook Road, Katherine Quint of Caversham Heights and Pam Smith of the Anglican church of St Mary and St John in our local California. Bible readings were contributed by Veronica and Richard Keen of Ansley Methodist Church, Leicester and by Janet Tozer from the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Edmund in Abingdon.

The bar of the Hotel Menthof lacked, not surprisingly, an organ, and even a piano, so Margaret Frost from York pitched the note for verses of the highly appropriate hymn "For the Healing of the Nations", the verses of which interspersed readings and responsive prayers.

E.M.A.

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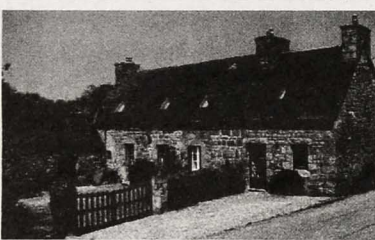
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# TALKING POINT

By SARAH ELLSON  
of Caversham Heights  
Methodist Church

## A WEDDING IS A DAY - A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME



James & Sarah (née Boardley) Ellson

This time last year my fiancé and I, together with our families, were in the midst of making endless lists and exciting plans for what was to be a truly wonderful day. Our wedding in July 1999 was everything we wanted it to be, thanks to the input of many people, from the minister to the "professionals" like caterers and photographers, to our generous and talented friends and family.

It would have been all too easy for 100% of the planning to have been focused on the day. However, thanks to Rosemary Fletcher, the minister conducting our service, we were strongly recommended, perhaps even compelled, to set aside some time to plan for beyond the day – to consider our marriage. On her recommendation we booked onto an Engaged Encounter Weekend a few months before our wedding.

James and I had known each other for over eight years and had been a couple for six when we went on the weekend. This wasn't a whirlwind romance – we had been through ups and downs together and felt we had the courage to have discussed most of the "big" issues in life (after all what are long walks for?). Therefore to say that the weekend profoundly changed the level, nature and intensity of our relationship perhaps reflects the excellence of the course.

We were a little apprehensive about what lay ahead. James especially was unfamiliar with church run events and those people who speak without restraint of their religious convictions. The weekend turned out to be as religious as we wanted it to be, and indeed the whole event was a totally personal experience for each couple.

The way the weekend works is very special and it is important that some of this only unfolds once you are there, but it is certainly not some sort of group therapy. There is no baring of your soul to twenty strangers but there is an opportunity for you and your partner to wholly unpack your feelings and emotions before discussing the tools you will need for a strong and loving marriage. It is perhaps obvious that communication is at the centre of the weekend.

There is so much to cover and participants must be under no illusion that the weekend will be restful. We did quite a bit of crying, some laughing and we made new promises. The weekend was well structured to take each couple on a roller coaster ride through issues that may make or break a marriage. There are topics to talk through such as money, children, sex, extended family, the church, as well as more philosophical sessions about what it means to be a couple. Our weekend was guided by three couples whose frankness about the joys and imperfections of their own relationships acted as a springboard for the engaged couples there.

Our Engaged Encounter brought us even closer together. It taught us a lot more about ourselves and each other and it gave us a new way to approach our relationship and make life-giving decisions. It changed the final few months of our engagement, it shaped our wedding ceremony and I believe it has equipped us for a loving and long marriage.

If you are engaged we would commend the weekend to you. (If you are already married and are feeling that you missed out you may be interested in a similar course called Marriage Encounter). So that finances do not affect your decision, attendees are only asked for a booking fee of about £10. In that wonderful time that is "engagement" it is surely very important to pause and remember that the wedding is only a day and that the marriage is for a lifetime – and perhaps that is what the planning should be for.

For more details of both Engaged Encounter and Marriage Encounter – contact Ray and Val Humber 01689 820466.

Sarah Ellson

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

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All contributions for October issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday September 6.  
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday September 5.  
The dates for November will be Tuesday October 3 and Wednesday October 4.

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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Rev Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.  
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Rev John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common  
Tel: 972 3418

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## 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, Mappedurham**  
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  
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**CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL**  
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**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM**  
Gosbrook Road  
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9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm  
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  
Mappedurham 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



## YOUTH



# SQUASH GO MAD AT CELEBRATION 2000

by Laura & Rachel Pierce

*Come on and Celebrate, Come on and Celebrate...*

This is exactly what Squash did from the 21st to the 23rd of July at Celebration 2000.

On the evening of the 21st July 2000, Caversham Heights "Squash" Youth Club arrived in one solitary field with one solitary tap and one solitary porta-loo! Here we were to stay for an amazing weekend at Celebration 2000 in Henley on Thames. Celebration 2000 was sited on the regatta site in Henley but was aimed at any Churches in the surrounding area - Caversham included! On Friday evening we simply set up camp and on Saturday the excitement began.

We awoke, had breakfast, and began our so-called 4 minute walk to the regatta site (or so the leaflet said!) This unexpectedly turned out to be a 20 minute walk downhill on the way but all steeply uphill on the way back! We all agreed the stated 4 minutes must have referred to a car journey or a parachute drop! When we arrived we were surprised at how few numbers there were, but this did not hinder us from going to the inflatable adventure area. Despite our "old" age we all found this thoroughly amusing, whether it be from bungee running to assault courses or even to the kiddies ball pool! Our boys even tried inflatable sumo-wrestling!

Next we watched Roly Bain, the clown with a dog collar. This amusing clown brought the Bible alive as he clowned around in his own style through many well-known Bible stories. After lunch we attended workshops.

The boys decided to attend the drama and the girls decided to go back to their childhood in the art workshop. In the art workshop we did a variety of activities ranging from painting with our fingers to modelling clay with our eyes closed, using the idea of God as the Creator.

It was in the evening that Squash really went mad at two amazing concerts. The first concert was Noel Richards, one of the most high profile worship leaders in the UK. He and his band sang many lively, well-known Christian songs which certainly had Squash jumping around and dancing. This was followed by the London Community Gospel Choir who gave an energetic and enthusiastic performance. After this we began our 20 minute mountain climb back to the camp site!

On Sunday we attended the morning family worship where the Reading Rockmass band created a very lively atmosphere with Squash dancing again, in their usual manner! The service included drama and personal testimonies, as well as much praise. We spent the rest of the morning playing in the adventure land again. We then returned to camp to tidy up ready to end our action packed weekend. In the evening we returned to the site for a final songs of praise worship. By this time Squash were really eccentric and were even wearing carrier bags! (Don't ask!) The songs of praise held a similar format to the morning worship and exceedingly great amounts of fun were had by everybody.

Despite poor attendance, Celebration 2000 can be summed up as "amazing fun with amazing weather, whilst praising God."

### Caversham Heights Methodist Church

## SUNDAY STARTERS' ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 9th July there was a special service to celebrate the Sunday Starters' Anniversary and National Children's Home Sunday. All the children took part in music and drama illustrating stories of Jesus' life, and the work and hopes of NCH. A highlight of the service was our young musicians accompanying the rest of the children singing "Think of a World" with actions and the whole congregation joining in.

Following the service there was a Church Family BBQ that was enjoyed by all despite showers of rain. Nearly £400 was raised for the Oxfordshire Hope Centres Appeal.



Ben De Souza (age 5) violin, Daniel De Souza (age 7) French Horn, Robert Birks (aged 13) Flute.

## ST PETER'S YOUTH LEADERS MUMMIFIED BY THE S.A.S.

Photos - R. Kingsbury



"SATURDAY AT SIX", St Peter's junior youth club, at "end of term" barbecue on the Rectory lawn, got their own back on leaders Fiona Penn and Sally Murray by embalming them in tissue. "Best-dressed Mummy" was narrowly won by Leader Fiona (right), though her co-leader Sally (left) cut an awesome figure with shades and sausage cigar.



S.A.S. leader Fiona Penn struggles clear of her embalmed state after being mummified by members of St Peter's Saturdays At Six youth group after "end of term" barbecue on the Rectory lawn.



Sally Murray emerges from her mummification to wreak revenge on St Peter's Saturdays At Six youth group members after "end of term" barbecue on Rectory lawn.

## MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF



10TH BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS  
29TH SEPTEMBER 2000

Most readers of this newspaper will know about the excellent work undertaken by Macmillan Nurses. It has become the tradition to raise funds by holding the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" - literally worldwide. Caversham's share in this event will be held at the Bowling Club Pavilion in Albert Road Recreation Ground, Caversham, on Friday 29th September from 10.0am to 12.00noon.

As well as coffee and biscuits there will be a raffle and a plant stall to which contributions will be gratefully accepted.

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# FROM COUNTRY VICAR TO PRIMATE OF ENGLAND

This is where life led John Bird Sumner, vicar of Mapledurham (1818 – 1828). Perhaps more than a little of the reason why he left St Margaret's in 1828 on the start of the road which would lead to Canterbury, was a young man, the natural son of King William IV. This young man was the Reverend Lord Augustus FitzClarence about whom an article appeared in the Caversham Bridge many years ago.

In 1828 the newly ordained Augustus was looking for a suitable parish and the one at Mapledurham appealed to him greatly, for several good reasons. The stipend was exceedingly good, £900 a year, a lot of money in those days. Also the little Oxfordshire village was within easy reach of London with the Great West Road to Bath passing through Reading from the Capital and, by then, becoming a faster and faster coaching route.

Augustus was a great devotee of the theatre, a legacy no doubt from his mother, the comedy actress Dorothy Jordan; indeed he was quite an actor himself. He also adored the company of beautiful women, many of whom were actresses, including Fanny Kemble. A day at the races was another of his enjoyments. So within reach of London with all its high society and providing money to indulge in these pastimes, Mapledurham was obviously the living which appealed to him. Not that he appeared to have looked after his flock there in his early years, he left that to his curate, the Rev George Hutchings, and seemed to be in London more than he was in the Oxfordshire countryside, certainly until he married and settled down several years later.

John Bird Sumner was the elder brother of Charles Richard Sumner, Bishop of Winchester and a favourite cleric of Augustus' uncle, George IV. The Bishop's brother had already been offered several higher positions in the Church but always declined. However, in 1828, nominated by the Duke of Wellington, he accepted the Bishopric of Chester. According to a fascinating and well researched article written by Martin Murphy and to whom I am indebted, Mr Sumner's preferment meant that the living (of Mapledurham) was now in the gift of the King and William, George IV's brother, lost no time in pressing the King to present the Mapledurham living to his son. So began the road to Canterbury from St Margaret's via Chester. John Bird Sumner was Archbishop from 1848 – 1862. We have a form of memorial to him at Mapledurham for he is reported to have planted the great cedar in the vicarage garden and it is still there.

Mary Kift

## MEMORIES OF A FORMER CHOIR BOY

by Pete Littlewood

The era was 1936-1940, and the church St Simons of Rockley Road, West Kensington.

The choir consisted of 12 boys and 12 men (5 bass, 5 tenors and 2 altos), the boys being paid half a crown (12½ pence in today's money) each quarter, while extra could be earned by singing at weddings (a shilling per boy) although not many people could afford this luxury.

There were two choirmasters/organist; one had composed and published his music for the choral Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis which was frequently sung at Evensong.

The boys practised on Tuesday and Friday evenings, being joined by the men on Fridays, for services of Matins and Evensong on Sundays. Apart from the hymns, psalms and sung responses, there was a full choral anthem each Sunday evening whilst on Good Fridays there was also an oratorio, either Stainer's 'Crucifixion' or Maunder's 'Olivet to Calvary', the latter being my favourite.

An event never to be forgotten took place after a Sunday morning service as the whole choir was leaving the chancel for the vestry. An alto, a man of 25 who was an epileptic and so unfit for National Service, was a practical joker and during the sermon he had drawn a large crimson red letter 'L' on the back of a hymn sheet and pinned this on the back of the white surplice of a recently joined bass sitting in front of him who was a very portly man. Consequently as the choir proceeded up to the altar steps the whole congregation viewed the back of our 'Learner' bass!

One evening after choir practice an older boy was walking home when he went to the assistance of a young lady who was being assaulted, and received a knife wound for his pains and spent several days in hospital.

My final recollection is the Sunday morning in September 1940 when on leaving the church we were compelled to stare up at the sky where the 'Few' of the RAF were engaging the Luftwaffe fighters in dog fights all over the sky with numerous vapour trails and the loud chatter of machine guns firing.

Eventually, I became head boy chorister which meant a little more money, and I did have a beautiful bell-like tone. Sadly, after my voice broke, I became neither a tenor nor a bass - just an in between! Happy Days.

**WATCHDOG  
IS AWAY  
THIS  
MONTH****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Peter and Lorraine Vallance are happy to report that their granddaughter Emily has now completed her chemotherapy and there is a good chance that the cancer will not return. They wish to convey their thanks to everyone for their prayerful support during the last couple of months.

**JANET KENT**

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# MARITIME ANGELS

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*"I believe in Angels  
Who care for me at sea"*

This sentiment may seem surprising, but it is not really so strange, as most sailors world-wide gratefully recognise the distinctive Flying Angel, logo of the Mission of Seafarers. (Derived from the Book of Revelation, Ch14 v6)

At the Christian Women Together Meeting in June, hosted by St Andrew's Church, Mr Paul Morgan, Deputy Regional Director, gave a fascinating audio-visual presentation, entitled "Sailing into the 21st Century." He was especially well qualified to expand on his subject as his father was a chaplain and he was brought up abroad in the Seamen's Mission stations. Having completed his University studies, he joined the administration team as a temporary measure but became so immersed in the work that he has already stayed for years.

Mr Morgan painted a vivid picture of life in the modern Merchant Navy, talking about the huge container ships, heightening the small crews' sense of isolation. So the Mission's work is just as valuable today as it was 100 years ago. There are centres in over 100 ports (and representatives in many more) helping seafarers of all races and creeds. As well as spreading the Gospel, the Mission has a strong welfare role, providing a friendly welcome, leisure facilities and links with families at home. In addition, a major innovation recently introduced, is the wonderful new web-site, available both for computer-literate landlubbers and for seafarers themselves, who access it by satellite.

The relevance of merchant shipping to our everyday lives was also explained. However far inland we may be, most of the goods purchased in the shops have been brought to this country by seafarers who brave the capricious elements and difficult working conditions.

Following the talk, there was an interesting question and answer session in which Mr Morgan outlined ways in which the Mission could be helped. Although the organisation is Anglican, it co-operates closely with other Christian societies for seafarers and has supporters from all denominations. If you are looking for a new interest or project for your Church or secular group, how about responding to some of the ideas outlined below?

1. Become a member by sending £5 annual subscription to:  
The Mission of Seafarers  
St Michael Paternoster Royal  
College Hill  
London EC4 2RL  
Incidentally, this church is the burial place of Dick Whittington, whose cat's rat-catching talents reputedly contributed to the success of many sea voyages!

In return you will receive a colourful quarterly newspaper, Prayer Union leaflets and information about social events.

2. Knit warm hats, balaclavas and fingerless mittens for seafarers. This is an excellent way of using up odd scraps of wool, as stripes are very acceptable and bright colours are greatly appreciated.

3. Make up shoe-boxes (or similar size cardboard boxes) wrapped in gift paper and filled with small Christmas presents and a greetings card. These are collected by the beginning of December for distribution to ships which may well be at sea on Christmas Day. Each seafarer receives an individual box.

4. Ask your minister if he would like to hold a Sea Sunday service to remember and pray for seafarers and the Christian ministry to them. There is a special Sea Sunday pack with suggestions for worship and material for Sunday School children. Though the usual date has been the second Sunday in July, you are free to choose any day and many churches now hold a Sea Harvest Festival, emphasising the fishermen's role.

5. Invite a representative from the Mission to address your group or speak at a Church service.



Photos: Courtesy of Flying Angel News and Andi Hofbauer.  
"Showing off new balaclavas at the Southampton centre".

6. Buy gifts and Christmas cards from FAME (Flying Angel Marketing Enterprises). Perhaps you could pass a catalogue around to friends and send in a bulk order.

Afterwards, Mr Morgan presided over a well stocked gift stall, which did a brisk trade. There were lots of novelties at very reasonable prices; my own favourites being teddy bears attired in nautical gear, model sailing-ships for the bath, pond or display cabinet and attractive maritime tea-towels. Altogether the impressive sum of £246.60 was raised from sales and donations.

In the vote of thanks, Mr Morgan was congratulated for giving us such a lively and entertaining afternoon. The meeting then concluded with a most enjoyable tea with home-made scones and cream.

If you would like knitting patterns or any other information on ways of supporting the Mission, please contact Lillian Dewar, Tel: 0118 947 8499.

\*Footnote: The organisation was founded in 1856 as *The Missions to Seamen*, only changing its name in April 2000 to recognise the growing number of women who go to sea.

## S2&3&4A

The Caversham Heights Society caters for not only those in their third age but for those in their second age, whilst some stay the course even into their fourth age!

In each year for twenty-five years the Society has offered, during the winter months, a lecture programme to span all interests, from history to botany, from literature to religion and from science to art. In addition, it arranges two theatre trips each year and at least two visits to stately homes or gardens, plus a short holiday to allow members to see places of note beyond the range of a day's coach ride.

Recent speakers include Jane Griffiths MP, Baroness Pitkeathly, the novelist Gillian Tindall and robotics wizard of Reading University, Professor Kevin Warwick. During the coming year there will be talks on Archeological Discoveries at the Oracle, Thames Locks and Weirs, Photographing Egyptian Tombs and a dramatic presentation of Jane Austen.

One visit in the coming season will be to the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick and Packwood House: another will be to Sutton House and William Morris's birthplace in Walthamstow, now the William Gallery. The short holiday in 2001 will be based on Hereford and explore interesting places in the border country.

The annual subscription to the Society, which meets on alternate Wednesdays in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, is £9.00 - including refreshments! It is expected that there will be a few vacancies this year and further information may be obtained from the Secretary, Dr Beldon Bensley on 0118 934 5004.

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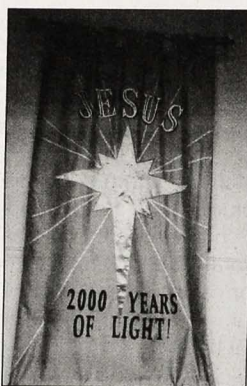
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**AROUND THE CHURCHES**

# PARADE OF BANNERS

To those passing by the **BAPTIST CHURCH** the illuminated cross on the Tower marks the Millennium, but when the main doors are open a beautifully worked banner is revealed which celebrates 2000 years of Christianity. It was made by ladies of the Church who are members of the Banner Making Team. They have already made other banners depicting the Christian seasons such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The group was led, as it has been in recent times, by Beryl Fitzpatrick, but since the banner was completed she has moved to the Cotswolds to be nearer to members of her family.



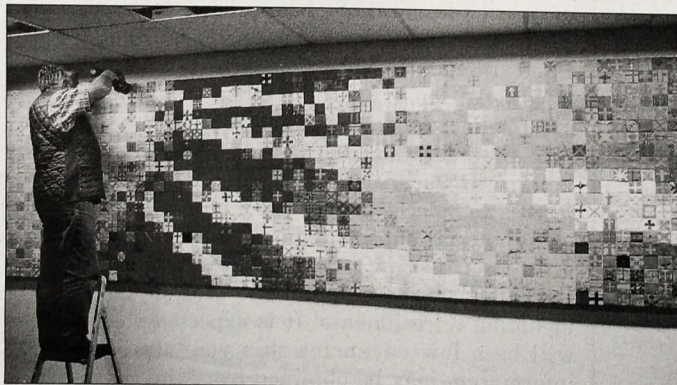
## CAVERSHAM METHODISTS HELP CREATE BANNER

On Sunday afternoon 16th July, Christ Church, Woodley was packed plus a video-link in the hall, for the Dedication Service of the Millennium Banner. This is about 20' wide and 4' deep, made up of 2000 squares - each a cross of numerous different designs and stitched in every material imaginable, from silk, buttons, beads, ribbon, even tiny electrical parts! All these were stitched together and mounted to form, in wonderful rainbow colours, Jesus's presence through the ages. These crosses were made by over 600 worshippers and friends, some from Caversham, some from other countries, and several people spoke of the joy and fellowship in this effort. The instigators and assemblers well deserved sincere thanks and the bouquets presented to them. It was a truly joyous celebratory afternoon, led by the Rev. Audrey Simpson shortly before leaving Reading to minister in Bath.



- Anne Jones

Assembling the banner - June 2000.



Installing the banner - 10 July 2000.

- Anne Jones

## MILLENNIUM BANNER BLESSING



- Norman G Kent

Fr Keith Kinnaird blesses the Millennium Banner held by Sunday School leaders Ken and Liz Morgan, surrounded by some of the children who took part in its planning and design.

On Sunday 18th June 2000 Fr. Keith Kinnaird, Vicar of St Andrew's, blessed the large Millennium Banner, planned and designed by the children of the Sunday School, at their party held last January. The three different Sunday school classes had the following themes:

SPARKLERS (age 3-6) The Millenium and Birthday of Jesus  
ALL STARS (age 6-9) St Andrew's Church and Caversham  
TRAILBLAZERS (age 8-9) The Life of Jesus

These are the children's original designs and included local landmarks such as Church House and Caversham Library. The separate squares (recently seen in an earlier issue of Caversham Bridge) were joined together to form the completed banner, which now hangs inside the church.

### METHODIST DIARY

**CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH**

- Sept 3** 10.30am Holy Communion and Dedication of Church Officers  
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30 pm at Caversham Heights  
**Sept 10** 10.30am Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
**Racial Justice Sunday**  
**Sept 17** 10.30am Deacon Vic Downs  
6.30pm Holy Communion  
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
**Sept 23** 7.00pm Harvest Supper for all Caversham Methodists at Caversham Heights  
**Sept 24** Harvest Festival - 10.30am All Age Worship and Parade Service - Robin Gowers  
6.30pm United Service (with St John's Church at Gosbrook Road) - Mrs Elaine Creswell

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH**

- Sept 3** 9.00am Holy Communion  
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
10.30am Circuit Welcome for Chris Evans, new Lay Worker (Youth and Evangelism)  
- Rev Jim Booth, Superintendent/Minister  
**Sept 10** Racial Justice Sunday  
10.30am Sunday Starters Promotion  
- Deacon Vic Downs  
6.30pm Holy Communion  
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
**Sept 17** 10.30am Holy Communion  
- Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs  
**Sept 23** 7.00pm Harvest Supper  
**Sept 24** Harvest Festival - Theme: 'Rural Britain' 10.30am All Age Worship and Parade Service - Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs

**ST LEONARD'S PARISH CHURCH, WOODCOTE**

- Sept 10** 9.45am Mrs Elaine Creswell

**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



## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## FORMER CURATE LICENSED IN DORCHESTER TEAM

The Abbey Church of St Peter and St Paul, Dorchester-on-Thames, was full on Thursday 20 July when the Revd Edward Tildesley, former Emmer Green resident and Non-Stipendiary Assistant Curate at St Barnabas, was licensed by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries, as Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team Ministry with responsibility for Clifton Hampden, Culham, Long Wittenham with Little Wittenham. The impressive service was not only attended by parishioners from within the Dorchester Team but also by a large contingent from Emmer Green and relations and friends of the Tildesley family from farther afield. Music was provided by the combined choirs of the Dorchester team of parishes and particularly memorable was the involvement of one of the local church schools when an eight year old pupil, barely able to see over the lectern, read

one of the lessons with great clarity and confidence.

Others participating in the service were the Venerable John Morrison, Archdeacon of Oxford, and the Canon John Crowe, Team Rector of Dorchester and Area Dean of the Aston and Cuddesdon Deanery (and one time Minister at Caversham Park Church). In his sermon the Bishop of Oxford spoke eloquently about the calling or vocation of a priest and the calling of each one of us. Before the actual licensing by the Bishop, parishioners of Edward Tildesley's new parishes presented to him a stole, Bible, bowl of water, Paschal Candle, chalice and paten which symbolically affirmed him in his priestly office and reminded everyone of the new Team Vicar's pastoral role, the importance of the word of God, of Baptism and of the Eucharist in the ministry and mission of a



- O Jewiss

After the licensing the Revd Edward Tildesley (centre left) was photographed with the Bishop of Oxford, the Archdeacon of Oxford (right) and the Team Rector of Dorchester, Canon John Crowe (left).

priest in the Church of England.

Many will remember that when the Revd Edward Tildesley was at St Barnabas he was also Chaplain to Shiplake College. He has since been a Chaplain at Oakham School in Rutland. Edward and his wife, Pippa, and daughter, Dora, now live in the vicarage in the delightful Oxfordshire village of Clifton Hampden.

## CAVERSHAM METHODISTS IN DISCIPLE COURSE

For me, a member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, the evening service at Christ Church, Woodley on July 16th, of thanksgiving and of witness by those who had taken part in the recent Methodist Circuit "Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" course, was a most uplifting experience. The participants explained how the Bible had been revealed, illuminated, and disclosed to them – they who had thought they already knew their Bible. Discussion, personal contemplation and study of God's word had profoundly affected them all, inspiring them in their personal service to God within their own churches, enriching their prayer lives and resulting in a real desire for increased commitment. Members of the "Disciple" group, including two from Caversham, led the prayers and readings and a short play revealed that Jesus still

chooses the most unlikely people to carry out his purposes. A visiting URC Minister, on exchange from the USA and based at Trinity Church, Earley, spoke about the impact of this course in his country. The music, led by Merry Evans and involving a children's choir, an adult choir, excellent young soloists and some instrumentalists, played an important role. Never were hymns sung more meaningfully, more enthusiastically, more joyfully by members of Christ Church and the many other churches in Reading and District.

A further "Disciple" course (daytime) is to commence in September and is open to anyone from the Reading area – do get in touch with its leader, Jen Guy of Emmanuel Methodist Church (Tel: 969 3587). The course will speed by and you will be richly blessed.

## NEW METHODIST LAY WORKER

On Sunday September 3rd there will be a Circuit Welcome Service for Chris Evans, the new Circuit Lay Worker (Youth and Evangelism) at 6.30pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. He is a former pupil of Reading School and has recently graduated with a 2:1 class degree in Religious Education at the University of Wales in Bangor.

## NEWS FROM OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S



Another satisfied customer.

The Parish Summer Fete was held on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd July. Blessed with fine weather, a good crowd turned out to patronise the various stalls, to admire some young Irish Dancers, to take part in the games or watch the efforts of those who did, and generally to enjoy the day. The whole occasion was great fun and generated a helpful boost to Parish funds of about £1,850.

A few days later, on the evening of Tuesday 25th July, Choir Director Patti Naxton and her husband Mike, kindly hosted a party in their attractive garden to say farewell to two long time Choir members. Rita and Cliff Nash were shortly leaving Caversham for pastures new on the Isle of Wight and, on behalf of all the Choir, Patti presented them with an engraved decanter to act both as a memento of their time in the Choir and as a token of the friendship of their fellow members.

Also present at the party was David Gnosill, a student for the priesthood who is currently attending the English College in Rome. David was attached to the Parish for a pastoral placement of about three weeks during the summer to get a flavour of what parish life is like. The party provided an excellent opportunity for him to meet and talk with some of the parishioners in a relaxed and informal environment. We all wish him well in the fulfilment of his vocation.



Rita and Cliff Nash opening their present.



The Irish Dancers show off their skills.



David Gnosill hears a parishioner's point of view from Anna Corrigan.

Photos: K. Corrigan





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## ENVIRONMENT

### REFLECTIONS ON WOODLANDS DAY CLAYFIELD COPSE

The aim of the day was to celebrate our woodlands, to raise awareness of residents that this beautiful piece of countryside owned by Reading Council was for them to enjoy. Also that woodland is an important part of our tradition and there are many crafts based in woodland that are now being revived as we recognise the skill of the woodsmen of previous centuries. The Copse was designated a Nature Reserve a few years ago, since then the Friends of Clayfield Copse have been working voluntarily to maintain the woodland and fields in a traditional way for the benefit of wildlife and the people who use them.

Plans began nearly a year ago and, with the help of a Millennium grant, a grant from Earley Charity and Reading Borough Council, on Saturday 17th June it all came together. The sun shone, the Copse was looking beautiful and over 1500 people came to visit. At the reception tent they picked up a programme for the day, something for everyone, they also picked up a tree trail quiz, (prize was a hand made bird table) and off they set for a walk around the site to see it all. When they returned there were refreshments from Trade Fare in the marquee and a barbecue.

From visitors response forms we learned that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, the animals were particularly popular, the owl and hawk flying display, the Clydesdale horses working in the woods, pulling out the felled sycamore trees and the Tamworth pigs rooting round a corner of the woods.

Further along the ride in the Copse another pig was being carved from the fallen cedar trees by chain saw sculptors. (Go and see her.) Other sculptures of woodland "found" materials were being created and hung in the trees, groups of children were guided by Spencer Byles, a woodland sculptor. Willow weaving was another popular activity, children were making lanterns to take on the evening walk, to hear the ghost stories. Other stories were being told all afternoon in the story telling tent.

Traditional crafts were demonstrated by a hurdle maker, a wheelwright, a furniture maker, and a wood turner. They were there in the woodlands to demonstrate their skills and to talk to passers by about their craft.

And the wildlife? We had guided walks, groups of people were led away by wild life loving enthusiasts to find our more about wild flowers, mini beasts, butterflies etc. and the birds were singing loudly in the cool shady walks of the woods.

History? John Morris, a woodland archaeologist from the Children Woodlands Trust, took a group around to show how history can be found in the woodland.

Conservation? A group of cubs barrowed woodchip to improve the surface of a pathway and Green Gym, a voluntary conservation group, continued their dead hedging.

Later in the evening over 60 people returned to hear a ghost story, or to look out for bats or to look out for moths. And dawn chorus was heard by 15 or so more the next day.

To commemorate the day seats were being made. Visitors watched the logs being pulled from the wood and taken to the field where a portable saw mill sawed them into 2-3 inch thick planks. The planks were then taken along the path to the Berkshire Woodcarvers who engraved the Friends of Clayfield Copse logo on them. The planks will be used to make seating around the site. Visitors were invited to suggest where seats were needed, by putting stickers on a map. Watch this space for more seats around this peaceful and beautiful part of Reading.

A wonderful day, friendly, gentle, happy, fulfilling our aims and more.  
Friends of Clayfield Copse. Contact Judith Oliver 947 8920 or Ann Latto 948 4454.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- September 19 **The Oak House Quiet Garden** 10.00am. Details from Mrs Leslie Maynerd 947 6067
- September 22-24 **Flower Festival** at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green. "A Lake beside a stream" (a floral history of Emmer Green) staged by Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club.
- October 14 **Messiah** at St Johns Church, Stratfield Mortimer at 7.30pm. Proceeds for Duchess of Kent Hospice. Conductor Ian Westley (organist/choirmaster at St Peter's Church, Caversham).
- October 19-21 **Caversham Theatre** present **Dead Guilty**, a thriller by Richard Harris. 7.30pm at St Anne's Hall, Washington Road, Caversham.

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## ENVIRONMENT

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A Golden Eagle seen from our cottage boded well on the first morning. Passing overhead it was lost in cloud shrouding high mountains to the rear.

Buzzards occasionally soar on uptilted wings. House Martins breed beneath the eaves while Swallows are busy in the barn. Each day ten friendly sheep with their two "babies" graze in adjacent upland. It will be very sad indeed to leave them.

The following day a snap decision took us on a boat trip to Eigg, with its population of seventy inhabitants. Ocean birds included Great Northern Divers, Common and Black Guillemots, Red-breasted Merganser, Manx Shearwaters and Gannets. They added to the thrill of a squally and choppy crossing. To our relief the sun broke through as we moored.

Within a few minutes a very rare White-tailed Eagle dwarfed



### Scotland — Year 2000 Scops Owl

Hooded Crows on a nearby cliff-top. Widespread Willow Warblers were breeding on the island with a few Blackcaps.

On the return, flying spray and a lively sea stressed a few passengers but the Atlantic birds were in their element.

During two weeks just over a hundred species were recorded but bird quantities remained depressingly low. Once regulars such as Ptarmigan, Red Grouse, Peregrine, Merlin and Redstart, were completely absent. Diminishing wildlife may be less obvious in the short term, but viewed from a time-lag of almost thirty years, the situation is critical.

About a hundred Red Deer in remote pastures was a "one-off". As nostalgia returned they raced into a forest and were not seen again. When humans were less feared, these elegant creatures would have eyed us with gentle curiosity. They do no damage yet are regularly shot – there is no

answer to that!

Before our departure I ventured into the mountains. Companionship was provided by a summer-plumaged Whinchat which greeted me from a nearby rock. Such moments of quiet contentment were once the very essence of Scotland.

Hundreds of miles of new desolate mountains and moorland devoid of bird-song and wildlife, just has to be wrong.

Fast roads, horrendous, eye-assaulting aerials on mountain tops, supermarkets and souvenir shops will never replace Scotland's loss.

A border-sign which once courteously enquired, "Will ye nae come back again?" has been removed. The wildlife has already answered THAT question!

*Scops Owl*

**NOTE** Heading for August should have read, "Early Birds". July heading erroneously repeated. (Apologies – Editors)

## NEWS FROM GLOBE BY Øß

Caversham Globe is enjoying its summer holidays. There has been no meeting in August and the September one has had to be postponed to mid month. As individuals we are still active, looking after the recycling facilities, monitoring planning applications, and tackling Japanese knotweed. This latter plant takes its annual break in winter, so we need to continue our efforts to curb its summer growth.

View Island is now open to the public. The return of this missing piece of our riverside

environment is very welcome; let us hope that everyone will treat it with respect.

We hope that the appropriate councillors and council officers will be able to attend our next meeting to discuss the care of Caversham's parks and open spaces. If you are interested, please come to St Anne's Church Hall in Washington Road at 7.30 pm on 14th September. For more information, contact our Secretary, Paul Raman, on 948 3389. Thereafter, our meetings will revert to the first Thursday of each month, as usual.

## FRIENDS OF MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS RALLY TO THE CAUSE

The Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields are seeing the results of some of their projects which are now making a visual impact on one of Caversham's "green lungs". This dedicated group of local volunteers spent the winter and spring working on a number of initiatives calculated to raise the amenity value of the Playing Fields and its associated woodland. At the same time, every effort has been made to improve the diversity of the indigenous plants, thereby making the locality more attractive to wildlife.

The conservation programme has included the clearance of the encroaching undergrowth, the removal of alien and invasive saplings, the edging and consolidation of woodland paths, using chipped bark, the planting of native species of shrubs and trees, the building of wildlife refuges, and the erection of bat boxes.

The Friends would also favour the establishment of wildflower margins around the edges of some sections of the fields and the extension of hedgerows to provide wildlife corridors.

There is a growing realisation that the area is



The Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields recently surveyed the site preparatory to erecting bat boxes.

during a tour of the fields. Later that evening, the group were shown how to use electronic bat detectors to ascertain both the density and species of bats which were frequenting the area. The majority proved to be noctules, although pipistrelles were also present.

If you would like to help the Friends in any way, you can get in touch directly with the Group Coordinator, Judith Oliver, on 0118 947 8920, or Tina Gower on 0118 901 5201, or visit our web site, [www.friendsomppf.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.friendsomppf.btinternet.co.uk).

There is a "Sit down and Plan" meeting at Caversham Court at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 5 September, when the next year's action plan will be discussed.

already surprisingly rich in wildlife, with sightings this year of badgers, stag beetles and grass snakes. The aim is to provide a refuge for an ever-increasing range of fauna.

The group of Friends recently discovered that the Playing Fields and the immediate locality are also home to several species of bats. During July, a number of members participated in a "bat walk", led by a specialist naturalist, Richard Mekka. The Friends were shown the ideal location for bat boxes

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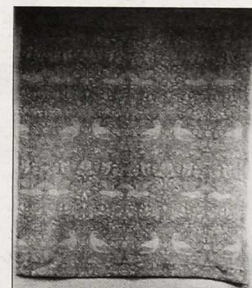
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## the CLUBS

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs E Manning presided over the July meeting. Members were reminded to bring books to the next meeting for the Book Stall at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, in October. The competition for the Prettiest Serviette ring was won by Mrs H Adair. Mr Alan Copeland gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk, entitled 'In Town Tonight'. He also showed slides to illustrate the subject, looking at the way pub signwriters introduced their sense of humour into their work. Illustrations varied from pub to pub for the old traditional names such as 'The Swan', 'Hare and Hounds', 'Shoulder of

Mutton' and many more. He also showed us some weird and wonderful monuments which adorn our town, such as 'Simeon's monument' in Reading. Mrs B Dobson proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of members.

The next meeting will be on 21st September at 2pm in Church House, Caversham. New members welcomed. Do come and join us.

### Caversham WI

'I don't like to complain dear, but...' was the intriguing title of Mrs Gwen Appleton's talk to Caversham WI. On a warm summer evening she told us of her life as a holiday rep for a group of singles travellers. Some hilarious moments were mixed in with real drama,

plenty of travel and no complaints!! Mrs Macgregor gave a warm vote of thanks.

After refreshments the business part of the evening passed quickly. Arrangements were finalised for 2 summer garden parties with hopes of the sunshine continuing. The competition for a seaside photo was won by Mrs Ivy Butcher and the evening ended with the raffle.

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

### Caversham Community Association

July was a busy month with 5 meetings where members had a variety of evenings. The usual informal games started the month with everyone enjoying cards, scrabble etc. The speaker the following week was Mrs Stevie Horton who spoke about the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. This is our charity for the year and we were impressed with their dedication and the valuable work they do.

'Ascot' hats were worn for a race evening organised by Mrs Margaret Briggs - great fun and prizes to be won. It was knitting and sewing needles to the fore for a knit and natter evening at the next meeting. Plenty of squares were sewn up to make a blanket for Children's Aid Direct. In between the nattering a fish and chip supper was enjoyed. The month finished with a popular bingo session with summer prizes to be won. New members are always welcome - Contact 947 9331.

### The Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society

If you are interested in antiques why not join the above society. This year's first meeting begins on Wed. 4th October.

Talks will include Glass Paperweights by Mr R Brown; Chairman of the Cambridge Paperweight Society, and the History of Greetings Cards by Mr Peter Jones. We are especially fortunate in obtaining Mr Alan Frost of Donald Insall Associates Limited, the architects who restored Windsor Castle, who will speak on this subject.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. This year we have a new venue - St Michael's Church Hall, Sonning Common. It is very central and there is a car park. Do come along. Our programmes cover a variety of subjects with

interesting speakers and you will be most welcome, as will visitors if you wish to bring any. The subscription is £15 and visitors are charged £3 a lecture.

### St Peter's Wives' Group

On 18 July we were treated to a talk by Alan Longstaffe entitled 'A Life of Flying'.

This was most interesting, as it covered his career with BOAC and British Airways until his retirement in the 1980s. The talk included some spectacular slides, taken from the flight deck, of sights such as the Victoria Falls, the summit of Mont Blanc and the snowfields of Alaska. There were also some lovely slides taken in the Japanese city of Kyoto, when the crew were on a three-day stop-over in Japan. The colourful azaleas and rhododendrons in the parks were truly amazing.

Our next meeting will be held at Church House, Caversham on Tuesday, 19th September at 8.00pm, when Eric Aspden will talk about London off the Beaten Track.

### Caversham Ladies Club

At the July meeting we once again went on our travels. Whereas in May and June we were taken by our guest Speakers to the Canadian Rockies and Jordan, this time, it was Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and into the Chilterns. Our Speaker, Mr Alan Copeland, gave a most informative illustrated talk on 'Curiosities on your doorstep'. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and I am sure the members have been encouraged to see out some, if not all, of the curiosities described particularly the local ones.

### Caversham Heights TG

The Guild Members were in festive mood as they celebrated their 39th Birthday in fine style on June 15th.

Dorothy Moore's delicious home-made punch was served as we entered the hall, patriotically decorated in red, white and blue.

Before the entertainment, Rita Nash said a few words of thanks to members for their support and friendship over the years. This was her last meeting with us as she will be moving away from the area.

The Drama Group had prepared a show especially to celebrate the new century. Entitled 'Memorabilia' it took us all on a trip down memory lane (and beyond!) as news headlines, famous

people and events from 1900 to 1999 were recalled in words and music.

Daphne Browne had written much of the material herself, based on research done by each member of the group, and Heather Richards presented her with some flowers in appreciation. Warm thanks were also given to Sheila Sloan, who had been responsible for making and painting the screens depicting the changing fashions of the 10 decades covered in the show, and which made such a colourful and attractive backscene.

Our meetings always take place on the third Thursday of the month - please come and join us at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road at 7.30pm.

### Reading Caversham Heights TG

At their July meeting Members were saddened to hear of the deaths of one current member and two former members. Winifred Summers had not long been with us but a warm tribute was paid to her by another member. Evelyn Inwards had been involved with our TG for many years and Margaret Annison for only a short time, when both of them were forced to resign through ill-health. Members observed a few moments silence in memory of all three, and a donation would be sent to the Save the Children Fund.

At this meeting we had to say a fond farewell to Margaret Mellin, who would be leaving the district in August. She had served the Guild for many years, both as Secretary and Chairman, and as Wardrobe Mistress as well as many other roles in the Drama Group, and her cheerful smile and infectious laugh would be sorely missed. A small presentation was made to wish her well in the future and in appreciation of all her work for TG.

The Drama Group's 'Memorabilia' show had been well received by several groups already, and more bookings had been accepted, right up to the end of the year. The Social Studies Group were given much 'food for thought' when Regula Adams gave her talk 'Food and Hygiene' - it seems there are many more hidden dangers in our kitchens than we could ever have imagined!

John Rogers took us to 'Skye - off the beaten track', with many scenes of wild and remote parts of the island. Although it

continued on  
page 11

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## the CLUBS

from page 10

seems that the new bridge across from the mainland has affected the tourist industry there, as visits can now be made by coach without a stopover, there is a great deal to see and experience if you are prepared to get out and walk. 750 square miles contain a population half that of Reading, we were told, and the best accommodation is afforded by holiday cottages. Some of the sunsets can be wonderful, and it is quite possible to experience all four seasons in the space of one day!

Seals and sea otters can be seen offshore, and many different seabirds inhabit Skye.

Mr Rogers, walking took him over some rough terrain with much loose scree necessitating a stout pair of walking boots, but the views he found were truly breathtaking.

Skye enjoys the largest daily rainfall in the UK, and waterfalls can appear overnight, enhancing the views still further, but it's no good going back the next day for another look as they are quite likely to have disappeared again! Admittedly, the talk was entitled 'off the beaten track' but all the pictures we saw were of such remote and almost inaccessible places, that one member was heard to ask Mr Rogers if there were any restaurants on the island - as there had been so little sign of human habitation in the entire presentation!

Meetings take place every third Thursday of the month at St. Andrew's Hall, Albert Road. Please come and join us!

### The Royal British Legion - Caversham Branch

This month a 'Garter Ceremony' came to Caversham! At the social to honour the Queen Mother on her 100th Birthday, members celebrated many aspects of her life; one of which was a hat competition where the ladies (and gentlemen!) made and wore hats in the unmistakable style of the Queen Mother. Every participant was 'rewarded' by receiving a garter decorously put in place by the Branch President - Ron Jewitt. The garters were generously given and all hand-made by one of the Members, Mrs. Hilda Adair. The Branch thanked

her by presenting her with one of the special pens they commissioned - a limited edition of 50 in black with a gold inscription reading - Caversham Royal British Legion - Queen Mother's 100th Birthday - 4th August, 2000. As her husband was so patient during the making of so many garters and coupled with the fact that he celebrated his birthday (not 100th!) just one day after the Queen Mother, he was presented with something he is very partial to - a large tub of jellied eels!

A hot supper and sweet was enjoyed by all, as was the raffle - which was rather grander than usual with prizes of wine, spirits, personalised note-paper, toiletries, two lots of dinner for two at local pubs and many more - and of course, the ever popular four houses of Bingo with prizes worth £15 a house and a Snowball!

Music, singing and dancing went on until the end of the evening when 100 candles were lit on a special cake and were blown out by six of the Branch's oldest Members with a combined age of over 500 years! 100 flowers were divided up and taken by Members to fellow members who had recently been bereaved or who were feeling a 'bit under the weather' themselves - all in all a great evening of camaraderie and fun!

The Branch likes its social events but also works hard raising funds for the Poppy Appeal. Last year thanks to the generosity of Caversham people, it raised over £13,000! If you would like to help with collecting or would like to know more about The Royal British Legion, especially in Caversham, ring the Secretary on 948 1147.

### Emmer Green TG

The Chairman, Mrs Maureen Chamberlain, opened the July meeting with a welcome to a visitor, Mrs B Smith. Mrs P Mansfield was thanked for giving a Coffee Morning.

Despite showery weather the Gardening group had held a meeting in the Chairman's garden to discuss plant pests and their control. Words and Music had concentrated on 'Diaries'. Choice of diary was not restricted and it had been a meeting with great variety and entertainment value - an

experience to be pursued. Arts and Crafts had focused on a visit to the Anne Frank Exhibition.

A break was taken for refreshments and the Book Sale.

In her talk, 'The Flight of the Curlew', the speaker, Mrs Meryl Beek, described an area of great natural beauty and of archaeological and architectural interest. The curlew is the symbol of the Northumbrian National Park, interestingly being coloured orange! Members followed this symbol to find archaeology of Hadrian's Wall and Vindolanda, and the Norman church of Saint Gregory at Kirknewton, where the vicar's house is reputed to be haunted. Meryl's lovely slides revealed the lasting beauty of Lindisfarne and of Jedburgh Abbey.

The Cheviot Hills are home to curlews for breeding in summer, but they return to the Northumbrian coast for the winter. Red Squirrels can still be seen in the Ingram Valley, while east of the National Park, at Chillingham Park, are the famous wild cattle. These are never touched by human beings and refuse artificial food; although inbred to some extent they show no significant defects, only a decrease in size having been registered. Inland from Wooler the speaker reckoned that there were "more sheep than humans" and her slides revealed why the area has been called "The land of far horizons". Her final slide was of an illustration from a reference book, depicting the curlew in its true, natural colours. Several Guild members with links to that part of the country identified with her experiences and she was very warmly thanked.

The Guild had no meeting in August, the next one being on Tuesday, 12th September. Visitors are always welcome to the meetings at St Barnabas Church Hall, Emmer Green.

### Reading & District Probus Club

Probus Club held its monthly luncheon meeting at the Upcross Hotel on 10 July and were addressed afterwards by Mr. Bernard Forward, an Air Accident Investigator from Farnborough. A pilot himself since 1958, and later a qualified flying instructor, he explained in detail how causes of air accidents are investigated. A surprising statistic - air accidents worldwide have increased to a rate currently of about one a month. Despite the reliability of modern aircraft and their sophisticated engineering it would seem that both these and the human factor are fallible at times,

particularly where different languages are involved.

Do you enjoy talks which make you think and are you retired or soon will be? Why not ring Mr Barry Ward, Probus' secretary, for details on 0118 942 8806.

### Caversham and Chiltern Flower Club

The Club continues its success with events and demonstrations for the millennium year. We have enjoyed demonstrations in June and July and on the 12th July several of our members enjoyed a special lunch in a marquee at the Henley Regatta Meadows to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area of NAFAS. All Flower Clubs are affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies and we are part of the above area. Many events take place during the year and our members attend lunches, demonstrations and day schools at different locations in the area.

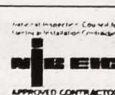
On the 21st July our Chairman, Joy Boddington, kindly hosted a cream tea in her garden. On a lovely sunny afternoon members and guests enjoyed tea and scones in Joy's delightful garden. Over £100 was raised towards the cost of staging our Flower Festival in September. "Emmer Green - A Lake Beside a Stream" (A Floral History of the Village) will take place on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th September in St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green. Much of the history of the village, as seen recently in the excellent exhibition at Highdown School, will be interpreted in flowers and foliage. There will be a concert on Saturday 23rd September in the Church. Please see the separate advertisement for dates and times.

We hope many readers of this newspaper will come to view the Festival, the first ever held in the Church at the heart of Emmer Green. All proceeds will be divided between the Church, the Flower Club and CIRDIC (Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre).

Our next demonstration on 7th September is by Tan Strong and then on the 5th October Pat Trunkfield and Pamela Messenger give a dual demonstration entitled "Pots and Pans", the competition being a Kitchen Arrangement. The 2nd November is an all ticket special evening with Graham King "A Step into the Past". Any enquiries, please contact Pat Williams on 0118 948 1489.



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