

AS IF PEOPLE AND THE EARTH MATTER!



as if people and the earth matter!
 Don't just do it... do it... in One World Week!

Yes, people and the earth really do matter, and all of us who live in Caversham must do our bit, however small, to affirm this. People matter, wherever they may live in our one world, and are entitled to a fair wage for their labours and the assurance of schooling and medical care. International trade is grossly unfair, with the producers of food and other essential commodities receiving a pittance for their work and those who process them and sell them being handsomely rewarded. Millions in the third world are denied proper schooling and medical care because their countries must pay crippling debt interest to the West.

The earth matters too, because if the people of our one world continue to waste away its natural resources and to pollute its air and water, the future generations will surely suffer. Articles on pages 6 and 7 in this edition of Caversham Bridge and a display in Caversham Library from October 23rd to 28th will emphasis how much people and the earth do matter.

Maria stitches jeans for a living in a factory on the Mexican/US border. Her shift starts at 8.30am and lasts 12 hours. If she does not finish her production goals she must work later without pay. Global corporations are constantly seeking cheaper bases from which to produce. In 1997 Levi closed 11 factories in the USA and made 6,395 workers redundant.



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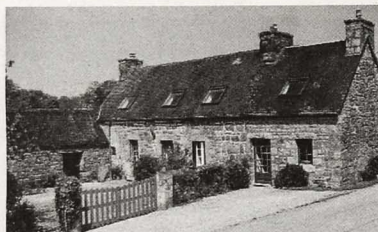
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TALKING POINT

By STEVE JENKINS
St Peter's Church

RISE ABOVE THE CRITICISM

Never to comment on the internal affairs of other churches or religions is one of the best rules we keep in the Church of England press office. It keeps us out of a lot of trouble and allows us to take the moral high ground should any other religious body start to criticise how the Church of England does things. The rule does not, of course, apply to individuals, whose criticisms are simply personal opinions.

Criticism is rapidly becoming the basis of communication in our modern society. If you want to get your message across in the media, simply include criticism of the Monarchy, Parliament or the Church; or maybe criticise a large company, a famous author or the BBC. Either way, you are virtually guaranteed column inches in a modern media that thrives on opportunities to criticise the great, the good and the simply famous.

With the Olympics well underway and political parties working on their manifestos, such opportunities abound. As thousands of athletes compete for medals and glory in the greatest array of sports ever, there will be criticism of those who do not live up to expectations, criticism of those caught using drugs and criticism of those merely suspected of so doing.

As politicians prepare to compete for our votes and the power they can bring, there will be criticism of manifestos, tactics and individuals. Unlike athletes, however, politicians will expect criticism from each other, as well as from observers and commentators.

At the same time, the Church of England is electing a new General Synod. No doubt there will be criticism of the way people are elected, criticism of the results; but should there be criticism of the people involved? Should we expect something different from church people than from athletes and politicians?

The athletes in Sydney have trained to win, quite literally to put themselves on a podium. Politicians create their policies, make their mark and score their points to put themselves in Parliament, in the powerhouse of running the country. The soon-to-be-elected members of the General Synod, like the members of the governing bodies of other churches, have something more on their minds. They are not running for themselves, not even running the country for themselves; their role is to help run churches for God, to help churches spread the Gospel.

We are all charged not only with making new Christians but also with uniting God's Church. Yet, so often, we find ourselves running to win the race rather than to increase the number of runners. We find ourselves banding together and campaigning for our one particular way of living or spreading the Gospel, as against someone else's. We may even seek power to win the church to our ways and speak out against how another church lives the Gospel.

It has been said that Parliament could learn from the way General Synod debates important matters and the same is true, I am sure, for other church governing bodies. Sadly, the churches have also learnt a lot. Today, individuals are only too happy to give newspapers stories that meet their immediate aims yet may damage lives, damage churches and hinder the Gospel. Rather than working together for greater unity, churches will let their differences dominate their actions, let history decide their approach to the future.

When MPs work together and stop scoring points off each other it is an encouraging surprise. Is that not how the churches should work together all the time: not like eight sprinters lined up on their blocks and going for individual gold but like a rowing eight, working together to the advantage of all.

(Note: Steve Jenkins is Head of Media Relations, Archbishops' Council of the Church of England).

The Seafarer's 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.

He lighteth me across the dark waters.

He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the star of holiness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders and tempests of life,

I dread no danger, for Thou art with me.

Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity.

Thou anointest the waves with oil – my ship rideth calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take

And I will rest in the port of my God forever.

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

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs S. Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham by Tuesday October 3.

The dates for December will be Tuesday October 31 and Wednesday November 1.

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

The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road.
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Tel: 947 1703)

Fr. Keith Kinnaird, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road.

Tel: 947 2788

Rev Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.

Rev Philip Dallaway, The Vicarage, St John's Road.

Tel: 947 1814

Rev Cathy Pynn, 21 Ridge Hall Close. Tel: 947 6065

Rev John Dudley, 26 Russet Glade, Emmer Green.

Tel: 954 6664

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

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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)
8.00pm	Worship and Wonder (2nd Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am	Prospect Street
6.30pm	Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

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10.30am

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Highmoor Road	9.00am (first Sunday), 10.30am and 6.30pm
Woodcote Parish Church	9.45am (second Sunday)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Photo - Eunice Cooper
Gladys & Gerry Alderman cut their cake.

Golden and Ruby wedding anniversaries have recently been celebrated at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church. On Sunday August 27th Gerry & Gladys Alderman celebrated their Golden Wedding. They were married 50 years ago at Caversham Methodist Church and have been loyal, supportive members, holding various offices. They have four children and seven grandchildren, most of whom joined them for their special celebration. During the Sunday morning service they were presented with a book of pictures of "Old Reading," and a book of "Thames Valley Tea Shop Walks". After the service a beautiful cake was cut and shared with all their friends.

On Sunday 3rd September, David & Eileen Herbert celebrated their Ruby Wedding. David & Eileen were married at St Peter's Church and started to attend Gosbrook Road about 30 years ago when their children joined the Sunday School. As with Gerry and Gladys, David & Eileen have been staunch workers for the Church, within the Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade and holding office as steward and treasurer.

They have two daughters and two lively grandsons. David & Eileen were presented with a garden ornament and also had a beautiful cake to cut. After the service all friends were invited to a celebration lunch in the Church Hall.

Long may these celebrations continue. We look forward to the next one, but I'm not quite sure who it will be!



Photo - Eunice Cooper
David & Eileen Herbert cut their cake.

CAVERSHAM ROTARY AWARD



NEW ROTARY PRESIDENT



Penny West and Fuchsia Glover.

Top marks were given to Fuchsia Glover, a student at Prospect Technology College for designing and creating a medieval dress as part of her GCSE. Fuchsia was awarded the 'STAN WEST TROPHY' for this outstanding achievement and a cheque for £50 to purchase technical books, which was

kindly donated by Peter Belcher, a rotarian from the Caversham Rotary Club.

Fuchsia has an interest in fashion and choose a medieval design, because she liked the "fairy tale" idea and as we reach a new millennium, it was a challenge to look back to dresses from the previous century. Fuchsia spent over 100 hours developing her own pattern from basic measurements and highly satisfied with the final design and materials used.

The 'STAN WEST TROPHY' is awarded annually and was presented to Fuchsia Glover by Penny West, former chairman of Horncastle Garages and daughter of the late Stan West who was a member of the Caversham Rotary Club for many years. The Headteacher at Prospect Technology College Mr Paul Suchley says that Fuchsia Glover is an outstanding student, where she is planning to take her 'A' levels in languages and her ambition is to become an interpreter.

Caversham Rotary Club have elected Doctor Robin Borthwick as their new President. He is senior partner in general practice at Theale Medical Centre. Dr Borthwick came to Theale in 1976 and is married with two young children. He has been a member of the Caversham Rotary Club since 1982 and governor of Theale Green Community School and Bradfield Primary School. President Borthwick is an active member of the Anglican Church in Bradfield where he now lives.



President Robin Borthwick (left) and past President Chris Smallbone (right).

TRIBUTE

KIT BILLINGHAM

Kit Billingham died on August 26th 2000 aged 95 years and had worshipped at St John's Church all the time she had lived in Caversham. Kit was born in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, on the 13th February 1905. She was the 13th child in the family, but this was not unlucky for Kit as she lived a full and long life.

After leaving school Kit worked at "The Brook", which was a clothing factory where she learnt her sewing skills. She became a forewoman, before she left to start a family. The family moved to Oxford and then to Caversham in 1938. All through the war she was busy with her sewing machine, making and mending. As the children grew up Kit had more time to join in the life of the Church.

She joined the Mothers' Union and this was a great love of hers all the remainder of her life. She enjoyed all the sewing she did for the bazaars and all over Caversham there must be peg bags, cushions and aprons that were made by her. She also helped with the making of altar frontals, and the mending of the Mothers' Union banner. It was a great delight to her when enough money



Kit Billingham.

was raised to buy a new banner.

Kit was a busy person, delivering the Caversham Bridge, visiting people, shopping for them and making the inevitable cup of tea.

She enjoyed visits from her grandchildren and hearing all about their jobs and successes.

In 1991 she moved from Valentine Crescent to Mander Court where she was very happy. She enjoyed her flat, which had a lovely view over Queen Anne's School. She liked to watch the girls walk by, going to their lessons. Some of them were very good and would give her a wave.

In April Kit was admitted to Battle Hospital and spent three months there. Her stamina surprised us all and she got well enough to move to Edward Hughes Home. Unfortunately her stay there was only six weeks, but she had settled in and again was enjoying being helpful. The night before she died she was helping with the washing up!

Kit will be missed in many ways by many people, not least by her three children, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

PAMBRIAN FASHIONS

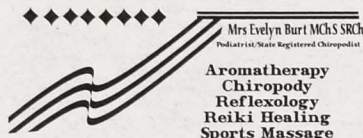
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT**By Watchdog****OFF AND AWAY AGAIN**

The starting pistol fired, the gates went up and they were off and away. September, in many ways more of the start of a new year than January, sees the return of people from holiday, the beginning of a new school year and the re-opening of those organisations that were able to take a break from their normal activities in what has been called 'the silly season'. Of course there are many spheres where it is impossible to close down or even ease up but in many ways the pressure is off. It wouldn't do if everyone went on holiday in August and those who provide the infrastructure to holidays certainly cannot.

READING THE NEW SALZBURG?

Reading is rapidly becoming a centre for music, not always to everyone's taste, but on the whole something for everyone. Earlier in the summer there was WOMAD at Rivermead Centre, soon the international celebrity concerts will be starting again at the Hexagon, there are excellent recitals in the newly restored Town Hall. 21 South Street provides music of a somewhat different kind and as I write this we have only just said farewell to Reading Festival.

It would have been too much to expect good weather in this damp summer but at least the rain was gentle rather than unrelenting.

The festival goers were a generally well-behaved lot - obviously happy to be back at Reading. With something like 50,000 people on the site there must be problems. Litter is left and sanitation leaves something to be desired but to supply sufficient facilities for all those people just for one week is almost impossible. It is a credit to the attenders that they look as clean and tidy as they do.

There are not many people left now who would like to see the back of it, certainly not the Borough who rents the land or the traders in Caversham and Oxford Road. As someone who lives quite close to the site I do not find the noise (sound?) intrusive. The police helicopter overhead made more noise.

The 'Pop' Festival seems set to go on until it becomes 'old hat'. As it is, a second generation is attending, soon it will be a case of 'my grandad and grandma used to go there'.

AMERSHAM ROAD

When the Amersham Road estate was first developed, warning voices went out that it could generate problems. It was out on a limb and had few inbuilt features. Burnt out stolen cars and fly tipping remain a problem. A fire crew attending such an occasion was recently attacked. Steps are being taken to prevent easy access to vulnerable areas. Caversham people should not have to put up with having their lives disrupted in this way. There is little satisfaction to be gained from saying 'we told you so', but it is clear that not enough forethought went into planning this estate if planning is the right word.

One encouraging sign is how youngsters from the Youth Club have cleared an area of brambles and weeds and constructed a pond. They built it themselves with lots of hard work so they are not likely to stand by and see it damaged. The area has as much potential for constructive development as for damage and it is good to see a sense of community developing.

CABINET STYLE GOVERNMENT

The new cabinet style of local government has been adopted by the Borough Council. Committees covering the various fields will meet and come to decisions which they will present for endorsement to the full council, who can only make minor amendments. This is getting alarmingly close to the system which was abandoned a long time ago of decision making behind closed doors. It may have saved time but resulted in a 'them' and 'us' mentality. People want to feel that their voice counts.

Each committee has a lead member, nothing as bossy as a chairman (or chairperson or just plain chair). This looks like a backward step rather than a forward step for the new millennium.

EXAM RESULTS

As I watched a cheerful crew of dustbin men come down the road I reflected on the fact that scarcely one of them had a bunch of GCSE passes or could relate a Shakespearean quotation to its context or solve a mathematical problem. Yet the work they do is as essential to the health of the community as is that of the far more highly regarded medical profession. It's an unpleasant job; they are out in all weathers and even with modern equipment it is hard work. Perhaps it could be recognised by the presentation of an MBE to some of the long serving ones. They deserve it.

This is not to disregard the importance of getting a good clutch of GCSE and A-Levels and congratulations are due to all those, in Caversham and elsewhere, who succeeded. For those who did not, it is not the end of the world. There are several useful courses that can be followed, all qualifying them to do useful and interesting jobs. Reading and South Oxfordshire abound in them. There is plenty of choice.

GROWTH INDUSTRY

Unfortunately, one activity that doesn't take a break is vandalism. What must be the final limit to this was at the Balmore Surgery, a place where hundreds of people in need of help, often desperately, need to go. It is difficult to get inside the minds of people who pick on such a place for their target. They are mostly aggressively healthy male youths, but they can get themselves damaged in pursuit of their dubious activities and need the help of a doctor. They can however inflict damage far beyond their number.

CAVERSHAM COURT

The restoration of this historic garden, together with the Forbury, is still under consideration. Some of the later additions to the gardens will have to go. Some of them will be missed, but the end result should justify the changes. The gardens are very old. The house to which they were attached dated back to the Renaissance although with several alterations. The main features, lawns and trees and that magnificent yew hedge will remain. Money should run to a permanent presence there which could make a difference. Those who have lived in Caversham over the years will remember Sam - who would have misbehaved in his presence? - and later Adrian whose work went far beyond the calls of duty.

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THE HEALING WATERS OF CAVERSHAM

By Mary Kift

Until Caversham changed from an Oxfordshire riverside village into an urbanised area on the outskirts of Reading (it became part of the borough of Reading in 1912) many springs abounded there, bubbling up at the base of wayside banks and forming little streams which ran down the sides of old roads and tracks.

Some of these springs contained a high mineral content and it is not surprising therefore to find that in medieval times a well existed fed by a chalybeate spring, 'the healing waters of which brought many pilgrims to Caversham'. This well, now restored after being lost for some two centuries, can be found on the brow of Priest Hill. In the Middle Ages it was in the care of monks from Notley Abbey near Thame, and was dedicated to St Anne.

In 1727 John Loveday, antiquary and 'distinguished man of letters', who lived at Caversham Parsonage (later renamed Caversham Court) was deeply interested in the history of his village and wrote to his friend, the historian and librarian Thomas Hearne:

'... the religious went at certain times [in procession] to a well now in the hedge between the field called The Mount and the lane called Priests' Lane which is supposed to have its name from their going through it to the well. It was formerly St Anne's well. There was in the memory of man a large oak, just by the well, which was also held in great veneration'.

Some time after 1727 the well was lost. Then, in the Reading Mercury of 13th January 1906, the following letter appeared: 'Sir, a curious discovery has been made during the present week at Priest Hill Caversham, deserving, I think, more than passing interest. The bank on the south side of Priest Hill was being cleared away by Messrs Talbot and Son, owners of the adjacent land, and the workmen came upon an ancient well, circular in shape and five feet two inches (157.5cm) in diameter with walling or steining composed of small rectangular blocks of chalk about three and a half inches (9cm) long by two and a half inches (6.4cm) in thickness with occasional pieces of flint.

'The site of this well corresponds exactly with that described in a letter from J Loveday written to Thomas Hearne in 1727.

'The depth of the well has not been ascertained but there are signs on one side of an arch in the chalk steining as if a heading had been driven to tap a spring and the inference is that the water was sufficiently near the surface to admit of its being obtained by dipping, in which case the questions naturally arise: where did the water come from and why does it not flow now? Although the subsoil at the spot consists of drift gravel, there is, as seen by the section exposed by the new road now being made through the bank, a considerable deposit of what may be called 'argillaceous loam', quite strong enough to hold up the water in the gravel which would flow out at the escarpment. Springs have, within the last few years, been found in the same strata along the Kidmore Road and must have been tapped and drained away years ago by many excavations for building operations at a lower level...

'There is, I fear, no chance of the relic being preserved 'in situ' and the boys who play in the neighbouring waste have already damaged the chalk steining to a considerable extent, so anyone sufficiently interested should visit the spot without delay. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, William Wing, Caversham, Oxon. 10th January 1906.'

William Wing was a local architect and amateur historian who lived in Caversham around the turn of the century. His fears about the well not being preserved were dispelled some two years later when,

on Saturday 19th April 1908, the following piece appeared in the Reading Mercury: 'The ancient well of St Anne in Priest Hill will be dedicated to the Parish of Caversham in the name of the Caversham Urban District Council on Friday afternoon next. The ceremony will take place on the site of the well in Priest Hill and all persons interested are invited to be present. Speeches will be made by Dr Hurry and others.'

Dr Hurry, a well-known Reading resident, had researched into the subject of holy wells and gave the attending audience some interesting information on them. According to his findings there were some 500 sites throughout the country of which possibly eight were dedicated to St Anne. He mentioned ancient customs attached to such wells. In past times parents who had sons at sea dropped little pebbles into the water and gathered from the number of bubbles that came up whether their boys were still alive. Lovesick maidens came to find out if their lovers were still faithful and travellers dropped a pebble, pin or small coin into the well to ensure good luck on their journeys.

Although the well of St Anne was lost for many years, the healing waters of Caversham were once again used in the early 19th century when, in 1803, a chalybeate spring was discovered in the grounds of a house in Surley Row, Emmer Green. It came to light whilst preparing the ground of an old orchard for a garden. A certain Mr T E Williams wrote a booklet on this find in which he puts: 'The ochreous appearance of the surface of the water first induced the author to make some slight experiments to ascertain with what mineral it was impregnated. The result immediately proved that it was water saturated to the highest degree with iron held in solution by

carbonic acid gas. To the taste there is a very strong astringency which remains for a considerable length of time on the palate. It instantly produces very deep black with the infusion of galls or tea. Exposed for a short time it loses its brilliancy. The smell immediately detects sulphurous gas'.

An account was soon published in the Medical and Physical Journal: 'Mineral springs of a chalybeate nature are by no means uncommon in this island, but very few either in strength or efficacy approach Caversham Spa... The proprietor has erected a pump to exclude the atmospheric air, since which time the water has been clear and sparkling'.

The fame of this spring soon extended to the whole surrounding countryside, but 'caution was necessary as a quarter of a pint was enough to induce in many feverishness and headache almost at once'. So it was small doses at first! To gain maximum advantage, it was advised that it should be taken fresh from the pump and it was said to have been of a superior strength to the celebrated chalybeate spring at Tunbridge Wells.

According to a Dr Saunders in his treatise on mineral waters, chalybeate waters are of a decidedly stimulant nature. He says: 'Soon after taking a moderate dose the pulse is raised in strength; the patient, if previously chilly and pale feels a glow due to increased circulation'. But beware! 'It is not uncommon on beginning a course of these waters to experience nausea, vomiting and pain about the stomach. Or else a heaviness of the head, slight vertigo and a sense of fullness over the whole body'. Who then would take the waters?

Just in case people questioned the healing properties of the spring at Caversham 'Spa', Mr

"Very few mineral springs either in strength or efficacy approach Caversham Spa.

Caution was necessary as a quarter of a pint was enough to induce in many feverishness and headache all at once."

continued on page 9

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POLLUTION PROBLEM

The fishermen of San Francisco Libre, Reading's twin town in Nicaragua, have had a problem. Lake Managua, in which they fish, has been polluted by effluent from a chemical works and the fish has been unfit to eat.

In our country, pollution of lakes and rivers is now much less: only occasionally do we read of all the fish in a stretch of river being killed by pollution. But we seem barely concerned about polluting the air around us. Between 1970 and 1996 the number of cars in Great Britain more than doubled and many families have two or more cars, cheerfully belching exhaust fumes into the atmosphere.

Despite catalytic converters, the fumes contain gases which can exacerbate respiratory problems. Ozone, a secondary

pollutant, irritates the eyes and air passages whilst carbon monoxide in low doses impairs concentration and in high doses is fatal.

It is not only motor vehicles which use fossil fuels. Most power stations still burn coal and oil, expelling carbon dioxide into the upper atmosphere and causing the 'greenhouse' effect of global warming. Even in our time the ice caps are melting, with changing weather patterns and low lying land being inundated.

● *What, then, can we usefully do? We can give the car a rest whenever possible and campaign for better and cheaper public transport. And we can give the power stations a rest, or at least a breather, by switching off unnecessary lights, using low energy bulbs, turning off the TV when we're not watching it, lowering the thermostat and ensuring our houses are well insulated.*

DEPRIVATION BY DEBT

In our consideration of One World the debt problem in the UK is compared with that in the Third World. In the UK a problem arises because people are unable to live within their means as a consequence of living on an inadequate Social Security Benefit or they are in the 'poverty trap' in which average weekly outgoings are in excess of their income, alternatively the debt may be self-inflicted by those spending more than they can afford because of the easy availability of credit facilities, particularly credit cards. This is set against the position in the Third World where at least 52 nations now have unrepayable debt, a consequence of the preparedness of rich nations to encourage the poorer nations to borrow money when the money supply was plentiful and the interest rates were low. Subsequent inflation, over production of Third World crops and the consequent collapse of Third World commodity prices has led to these countries being unable to service their debt repayment. This scenario is one highlighted by the Jubilee 2000 Campaign which asks the rich nations to cancel

the unrepayable debt by the end of this year.

Part of the exhibit in the Library will draw attention to these problems with particular reference to the Central American Republic of Nicaragua in which Reading's twin town of San Francisco Libre is situated. The debt burden is further exaggerated by the damage wrought by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and the civil war in the 1980s. Each of Nicaragua's population of 4.8 million carries a debt burden of US\$1,300. Money spent on servicing the debt is four times that spent on health care. Education also suffers; 34% are now illiterate. Income is very low and 70% live below the poverty line.

● *What, then, can we usefully do? Phone James Rowley, the Jubilee 2000 Organiser for Caversham on 947 2223 and ask how you can assist the Campaign. Another tip is to buy only what you really need, give what you save to Oxfam or Christian Aid and allow your credit card a rest at home once a week!*

UNFAIR TRADE

When a detached overview is taken of food production and retailing, not only in the UK but world wide, it must be evident that the balance of trade is far from fair.

The equation is such that in April 1999 the Office of Fair Trading concluded that the four big supermarkets were making excessive profits, Tesco netting £2.5M a day whilst wages paid to workers in the developing countries to produce our food are very low. The minimum wage in Nicaragua, land of our twin town of San Francisco Libre, is only about £50 a month whilst casual labourers who pick coffee at harvest may earn less than £1 a day. A bunch of grapes which could retail at £1.42 earns the worker only 2.5p whilst the supermarket share would be 47p.

The imbalance is now affecting the UK farmers and producers owing to the loss of the majority of independent retailers with 85% of the country's food expenditure going to supermarket chains. Their trading power has never been stronger and will continue to grow unless a many-faceted influence is brought to bear on this commercial greed.

The NFU claims that its farmers have suffered the worst fall in their incomes since the 1930s. This has been highlighted in recent television documentaries showing the plight of sheep farmers in Wales, dairy farmers in the West Country and the shattered beef producers, all bitterly complaining that their production costs were higher than their income.

The fair trade alternative has been highlighted by Oxfam and Christian Aid which, six years ago, linked up with other organisations such as the World Development Movement to form the Fairtrade Foundation to campaign for better wages, working conditions and health and safety requirements for farmers in the developing world.

● *As the total household expenditure on food in the UK is estimated to be in the region of £43 billion a year, there is much room for expansion in fair trade. You can play your part by looking for the Foundation's Fair Trade mark on products in supermarkets and other retailers, as it guarantees that the producer will receive a basic living wage for the workers, the processing costs and some allowance for investment.*

WANTED!

A volunteer Distribution Manager for the Caversham Bridge is urgently needed for the Upper Woodcote Road area of Mapledurham/Caversham Heights. Could YOU spare A COUPLE OF HOURS EACH MONTH to parcel up copies of the Caversham Bridge and then take them to the street distributors. Please Phone Mark Staunton, the Circulation Manager, on 947 2389, if you can help.

WASTING AWAY THE EARTH'S RESOURCES

The people of San Francisco Libre, Reading's twin town in Nicaragua, cut down trees for firewood, selling most of it to the inhabitants of Managua, the country's capital. Because of the loss of trees the land becomes eroded and infertile. However, to provide themselves with a modest income they have no option but to market the firewood. But in Brazil's Amazon basin, thousands of acres of valuable hardwoods are cut down every year so that the owners of logging and ranching firms can make huge profits.

For many people in the developing world fishing is a vital source of food and income. But now foreign factory ships have been over-fishing the coastal waters of countries like the Philippines. These giant vessels surround the shoals with nets and suck in all the fish, great and small, for processing and freezing. The fish have no chance of escape and nothing is left in the sea to breed and replenish the stocks.

Few people in the developing world have cars. Meanwhile in the South East of England we have the highest use of cars in the UK and 8% of households own three or more cars! And, of course, few people in the developing world have electric light. Most of the world's production of petroleum and natural gas is used by people who live in our industrialised world. In 1995 the energy consumption in Africa required 427 Kgs weight of fuel per head whilst in the UK it was 5,315 and in the USA it was 11,312!

In the West we give little thought to how long the reserves will last. It is expected that, in the next 30 years, the consumption of 'fossil' fuels will rise by between 60% and 100%. If this proves correct and no new reserves are found, the world's coal reserves will last for 200 years, gas for 65 years and oil for only 40 years!

People in the developing world have so little that they cannot be as wasteful as we are. We throw away the plastic bags from supermarkets but the members of a women's group in Zimbabwe twist strips made from the plastic of maize and sugar bags into new 'thread' which they weave into strong, attractive baskets.

Although we may feel that we make more effort to recycle than the previous generation, UK statistics do not show significant increases in scrap reused as a percentage of consumption between 1984 and 1996. In this period the percentage reuse of ferrous materials actually fell from 46% to 44%.

In Reading we can claim some Brownie points because each household in our area produces over 25kgs of recyclable waste per week compared with other areas where the figure is below 20Kgs per week. But in 1997, only 14% of municipal waste had value recovered from it through recycling or waste derived energy whereas the target for 2005 is 40%, so we still have a long way to go!

● So what then can we usefully do? We can make sure that we recycle ALL our bottles, plastic, newspapers, paper and Christmas Trees! And we can recycle our unwanted or unfashionable clothes through the plethora of charity shops in Caversham and Reading.

"...as if
PEOPLE
and the
EARTH MATTER"

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE GM WOLF?

When frozen food was introduced in the Twenties, people who were concerned about keeping food in a freezer for weeks or longer tried to ban it. Do we really need to ban GM modified foods? For some years now we have been eating tomato paste made from tomatoes which have been GM modified to allow them to ripen on the vine and so acquire more flavour yet remain firm. No deaths from eating tomato paste have been reported.

For centuries humans have been conducting a type of genetic engineering, breeding plants and animals to enhance particular genetic traits. Wild cereals have been turned into cultivated crops and these have been inter-bred to improve yields and produce resistance to disease. Is a plant natural if its genes are formed in a combination that has been arrived at over generations of breeding, but polluted and dangerous if those same genes are shot into the plant walls with a gene gun?

At least a third of the world's population depends on rice but it is a poor source of vitamins. According to UNICEF, more than a hundred million children suffer from vitamin A deficiency and millions lose their eyesight as a result. But a team of European scientists has introduced into the rice plant genes that complete the genetic pathway to produce beta-carotene, which is then broken down into vitamin A.

This may sound the best good news for the Third World, but that is where the Big Bad Wolf appears on stage in the shape of the multinational Corporations like Monsanto. Monsanto makes the weed killer 'Roundup' and in 1996 it introduced 'Roundup Ready' seeds which were genetically engineered to resist Roundup. The multinational seed and herbicide producers can hold farmers, especially Third World farmers, to ransom. African farmers save and share their seed from year to year and for them the threat is sterile 'terminator' seed which obliges the farmer to buy new seed each year.

Would you like to know more about GM? If so, there is the opportunity on Saturday 14th October in the hall of Caversham Heights Methodist Church when a panel of experts will put the pros and cons of GM and answer your questions. (See boxed notice).

GM RIGHTS AND WRONGS

Facts and Figures from a panel consisting of:

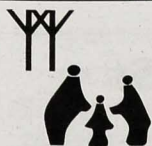
Professor Jim Dunwell of the School of Plant Sciences, University of Reading

Melanie Jarman of the campaigning group 'Genetic Snowball'

John Madeley, author of 'Big Business Poor Peoples'

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Do you remember what it was like when your children were little? Do you remember sleepless nights, teething, tantrums, being at the end of your tether with no one around to listen?

- Could you offer friendly support to a family in a situation like this for a few hours each week?
- There is a preparation course and all your expenses would be paid.

Across the UK there are almost 6,500 volunteers visiting families who have problems. These volunteers work for the charity Home-

Start, UK's leading family support charity. Since the early 1970's the charity has sent trained volunteers to families struggling with anything from domestic violence, depression, ill health and loneliness to coping with triplets. The help they offer ranges from providing someone to talk to, offering a spare pair of hands to cope with difficult children or to assistance with household tasks.

"Part of the reward is to see the families getting better," says one volunteer. "Many of the

volunteers stay firm friends with the families even after the visits are no longer needed." Some volunteers find the experience so empowering that they make changes in their own lives such as enrolling on a course.

Home-Start Reading will be starting its next preparation course for volunteers in October. There will be nine morning sessions. Please contact Ruth, Irene or Sandra (Tel: 0118 942 9518) for more information.

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9 Bridge Street, Caversham RG4 8AA**AROUND THE CHURCHES****CAVERSHAM'S FIRST
ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER**

Around the time that this issue of Caversham Bridge is published Margaret Dimmick of Caversham Park will become Berkshire's second and Caversham's first Ordained Local Minister. Her ordination as Deacon by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries was at Michaelmas, or more precisely, on Saturday 30 September, at Christ Church Cathedral. This new type of ordained ministry in the Church of England is a development from the existing Non-Stipendiary Ministry. It is a voluntary ordained ministry designed to be rooted in the local community and operates in collaboration with the local team. Margaret Dimmick is being licensed to the Ecumenical Church at Caversham Park where, when fully trained and subsequently ordained priest, she will carry out her ministry.



Margaret Dimmick.

- O Jewiss

The call and earlier career

Ordination for Margaret is the fulfilment of a calling she has felt since she was at Keswick Hall Teacher Training College 35 years ago, before women were able to be licensed as Lay Readers in the Anglican Church let alone be ordained as deacons and priests. Margaret has since had a career in teaching, mainly at nursery, infant and junior levels. It was while she was teaching in Cambridge that she met her husband Robert, with whom she has a shared interest in politics as well as a common faith; they met at the Labour Club and Young Socialists in Cambridge (Robert is a Cambridge graduate). After marriage they lived in Putney and moved to Caversham Park 20 years ago and have both been involved in church and community activities. Robert, a one time Councillor, was Mayor of Reading in 1991-92, when Margaret was Mayoress.

Further study and development

Further study has been a continuing feature of Margaret's life; she has added an Open University honours degree in the Humanities and Social Science to her teaching qualification. Eleven years ago she trained as a Reader and has since been part of the local ministry team at Caversham Park. As part of her spiritual development and that of her husband, both Margaret and Robert were accepted into the Third Order of Franciscans in 1996. This Tertiary Order was founded at the time of St Francis specifically for people in secular life and requires adherence to a specific rule of life personally negotiated for the individual.

Training for ministry

Those accepted for training on the Ordained Local Ministers course, which is part of the St Albans and Oxford Ordination Course, are chosen for the work by their parish and the intention is that they return to their parish to work within it. The training of nine terms, spread over three years, alternates between five academic terms in Oxford and four local terms on projects validated by Oxford Brookes University. Due to the resignation of the Revd Phil Abrey, Caversham Park is temporarily without a priest and because there are a number of other ordinands in training in Caversham, the supervision of Margaret's further training is being undertaken by the Revd Nigel Hardcastle at St Luke's and St Bartholomew's Churches.

Family and other responsibilities

Margaret and Robert have a grown up daughter, Juliet, and son, Robert; both are completing degrees at the Open and Aston Universities respectively, although Juliet is also working. Margaret retired from teaching 11 years ago and currently works part-time for Oxfam. She is a past Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading and on its behalf is a Trustee on the Churches in Reading Management Committee. She includes crafts among her hobbies and at the time of writing was hoping to make her own stole.

Caversham Bridge is pleased to welcome this latest addition to the Caversham clergy, whose future ministry will want support with prayer. On 1 October, the first Sunday following Margaret's ordination, The Revd Nigel Hardcastle will lead a special service at Caversham Park at which the Revd Graham Lynch-Watson, a former Priest-in-Charge at Caversham Park, will preach.

NEWS BRIEFS**Suspension of Presentation to be
lifted at St Barnabas**

When the Revd Derek Chandler was appointed to St Barnabas Church a review of Anglican Ministry was in progress in the Caversham Group of Parishes. It was therefore decided that the appointment would be as Priest-in-Charge and, to use the technical jargon of the Anglican Church, the presentation of the living was suspended. The review has been completed and it has now been decided to lift the suspension. The expectation is that, subject to St Barnabas Parochial Church Council passing the necessary legal resolutions, the Revd Derek Chandler will be collated and inducted as Vicar of St Barnabas Church at some time during the autumn.

**The Revd Cathy Pynn appointed as
Chaplain to Bradfield College**

The Revd Cathy Pynn, previously an Assistant Curate at St Peter's and St Margaret's Churches and Chaplain to Hemdean House School, took up her new appointment as Chaplain at Bradfield College at the beginning of the new school term. The Caversham Bridge wish her every blessing in her new work.

**The Revd Peter Sear
to retire early**

The Revd Peter Sear will be remembered by longstanding residents of Caversham and Emmer Green as Priest-in-Charge of St Barnabas Church between 1977 and 1985. He subsequently and successively was Vicar of Thatcham and of Castle Cary where he has been beset by continuing ill health. We are sorry to learn that he is having to retire early on health grounds, probably at the end of September. He and Anne will continue to live in the Castle Cary area where Anne teaches at Sexey's School. We pray that Peter will enjoy better health in retirement.

Early Retirement

Another former priest who has also been serving in Bath and Wells Diocese has had to retire early for health reasons. Roger Packer, who was priest in charge of St Andrew's 1965-70, has heart trouble and he and Jill have moved to 3 Kneswell Grove, Dovercourt in Essex.

Rev Canon J G Grimwade

**Shared lunch at St
Margaret's**

Several members of St Margaret's who were not away for the August Bank Holiday had a very happy shared lunch at Lilley Farm, Mapledurham after the Sunday service. The very wet Saturday had given way to sunshine and we were able to enjoy our meal in Bob and Joyce Beacroft's large attractive garden and for swimmers to take a dip in the pool.

Our thanks to Bob and Joyce for such an enjoyable time and happy St Margaret's family get together.

Mary Kift



St Margaret's Shared Lunch.

- Mary Kift

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AROUND THE CHURCHES**NEW VICAR AT
ST JOHN'S**

On 29th August the Revd Philip Dallaway became the third vicar of the Parish of St John the Baptist, Lower Caversham. His induction by the Archdeacon of Berkshire, the Ven Norman Russell at the service conducted by the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, marked the beginning of a new era in the life of St John's. The large congregation saw Philip led to his stall, without protest, the presentation of symbols of ministry by members of his new congregation and the church wardens handing over the key to the main door.



- O Jewiss

The Revd Philip Dallaway with the Bishop of Reading, after his collation and induction as the Vicar of St John's Church.

Representatives were present from all of the churches in Caversham and the Revd Rosemary Fletcher gave a special ecumenical welcome on behalf of Churches Together. Many supporters came from Philip's former parish, All Saints, Didcot and Margaret Cotterell, a member of the All Saint's congregation, read the epistle. Community representatives included our MP, Jane Griffiths, Pauline Palmer and Ron Jewitt on behalf of the British Legion, head teachers from local schools and the St John's Tuesday club. Father Keith Kinnaird deputised for the Area Dean at very short notice when Richard Kingsbury was laid low by a bug bite. In his address, Bishop Dominic thanked everyone who had helped during the interregnum, welcomed Philip, Yvonne and sons, Michael, Charles and Christopher, and encouraged everyone in coping with change and ministering to their community.

*continued from page 5***THE HEALING WATERS OF
CAVERSHAM (Cont'd)**

Williams' booklet lists at the back several cases of the sick being cured. A man, who for years had been subject to a rheumatic affliction was confined to his bed after a severe attack, but by drinking copiously of the water fully recovered. However, on neglecting to use the water the complaint returned with renewed violence and he was cured once more by drinking it. A child of two, living near the spring, had rickets and swelling joints, being unable to stand: the spring cured the infant. A man of 70 who had been unable to see for two years was restored to perfect eyesight after frequently bathing his eyes in the water. Another child, who was covered in swellings and eruptions after measles, was also cured. Lastly, there was the case of the 'poor woman of the name of Green residing in Friday Street, Henley, who for many years had suffered from an ulcer on the upper lip'. She drank two and a half pints daily and washed her face in this medicinal water, and after three months she was well on the way to recovery.

Bottles of this water were sold in Henley and Reading, and no doubt there was a plentiful supply in the shops in Caversham, though it was even better to make a journey to the Physic Garden at Surley Row, Emmer Green, and drink it fresh from the pump in or beside the grounds at Springfield House, later known as Springfield St Luke. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the name of this doctor is linked with the site of this medicinal spring.

Perhaps it is no coincidence either that a small crude carving of a Celtic head was found nearby the well on Priest Hill years ago, and is now in Reading Museum. The Celts venerated springs and perhaps the medicinal qualities of the spring on Priest Hill was known to some of them. Who knows?

Mary Kift

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Once again we are into the Autumn migration. Illusions of time passage must be related to the ageing process.

Space should be reserved for migratory news - but just what is it that puts a thrill into one's heart and tingle in the toes as yet another 'first-timer' is anticipated? What ARE rarities anyway? A complex question deserving an explanation.

On the 21st October 1996 my dear Scooby died. An adventure already told, will be with us forever, and I consider worthy of repetition.

Scooby and I climbed high, high and higher to the top of a remote hill. The tent was pitched in moonlight. We turned in to the call of a fox and distant Nightjar.

Our breakfast of cold chicken, hot coffee and water for Scooby was manna. We lay huddled together until a rising sun had summoned the morning dew. The tent dismantled, we sun-bathed when a Skylark climbed above, cascading



Memories and Memorium Scops Owl

us with its joyful song. It was wonderful to be alive - and alone.

Scooby trotted off, slipped, then skidded into some ferns. He returned, a trifle embarrassed then snuggled up as if to say, "Sorry about that!" This whole incident was God's Blessing and our humility.

There are twelve Categories in which a new bird may be placed. These signify the likelihood or otherwise, of acceptance to the British List which, in 1997, stood at 577 species. Origin and status have to be thoroughly understood as increasing numbers escape from captivity. It can be a painstakingly long and complicated process

before the bird is accepted. The local Rare Bird Recorder considers a report before passing it to the British Rarities Committee - "The Ten Rare Men". These are very experienced in both birds and birders! If they agree, details are forwarded to the Keeper of the British List - The British Ornithological Union Records Committee, who even then may sometimes require additional information.

Back in 1963 I enthusiastically included in my list a female, Dusky/Naumann's Thrush - an "iffy" hybrid Asian we saw on Blakeney Point. It was not on the British List and I believe has hung in abeyance ever since.

Encouragement was given at the time by the young, then assistant warden, who became President of the Norfolk Natural History Society. Thirty-seven years later, it has just been accepted as a "tickable" full species. Patience receives reward.

Scops Owl

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Caversham Horticultural Society

"AUTUMN IN THE
GARDEN"
In October a practical
and inspirational
demonstration will be
given by David Penny,
covering a wide range of
Autumn themed topics.
David has been a
professional horticulturist
all his working life and
has also lectured at the
Berkshire college of
Agriculture; he is
therefore eminently
qualified to give us some
timely gardening hints
and tips.

David will bring along
some examples and make
suggestions of plants
which have good Autumn
flower and leaf colour; he
will also offer advice
about lawn care and bulb
planting at this time of
year. This useful
demonstration will have
you brimming with new
ideas for your garden.

The session will be
held at the Arthur Legge
Centre in Wolsey Road,
Caversham on
Wednesday, October
25th at 2.30 pm.

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

Royal British Legion

The Branch held two
Socials this month.

The first was a 55th
Anniversary of VJ Day
Party at Caversham
Working Mens' Club.
About sixty members
attended and enjoyed a
supper of fish and chips
provided by the Fish and
Chip Shop at Budgen's
Carpark.

Seven surviving
Members who served in
the Far East were present
and each was presented
with a facsimile copy of
the Daily Express
newspaper of the 15th
August 1945 which
reported that the War
was really over with the
surrender of Japan. One
of the Legion Members,
George Sands, in his
eighties, who served and
was injured in the Far
East, cast aside his sticks
and proposed a toast to
those present, to those
who died and to those

who survived the many
hardships and, in some
cases, the terrible
injuries suffered during
their service in the Far
East. The Toast was taken
and a minute's silence
observed.

The next item was the
arrival of the fish and
chips and with this the
evening became a
celebratory occasion
with a sing-along and the
usual bingo and raffle.

The Branch's second
Social was the usual
monthly event and was
held on the 4th at the
Caversham Conservative
Club. At this Social the
Branch welcomed as
their guests, the Rev
Philip Dallaway, the new
Vicar of St. John the
Baptist Church in
Caversham and his wife
Yvonne. The Rev
Dallaway was asked to
become Chaplain to the
Royal British Legion in
Caversham. He readily
accepted the post.

The Branch, and
hopefully many people
in Caversham, will soon
be actively involved in
house to house and
street collections for the
Poppy Appeal. Last year,
owing to the generosity
of Caversham people,
both financially and in
giving up the time to
help, the Branch raised
over £13,000, a record
amount. The hope is that
the Branch will exceed
that total this year. If you
feel you can help in any

*continued on
page 11*

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the CLUBS

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way, maybe to stand and collect, collect house to house, deliver envelopes or perhaps have a collecting box in your business premises, please ring Pauline the Poppy Appeal Organiser for Caversham on 0118 947 5345.

St. Peter's Wives Group

On Monday, 14 August, our annual summer outing was to the Watermill Theatre at Newbury for a production of "Carmen". A party of 43 people travelled there by coach and enjoyed drinks on the lawn before a most enjoyable dinner at 6.30.

The Watermill, an intimate 'theatre-in-the-round', was an ideal venue for this exciting production, with a misty, murky, atmosphere being created by dry ice and incense. The actor-musicians were extremely versatile, singing and playing several instruments each and the action of the plot kept our attention riveted throughout. Altogether a surprising evening, as the production was not what one would have expected but, nevertheless, an energetic and inspiring performance.

Thank you, Jean Pugh, for organising such an enjoyable evening.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17 October starting at 8.00 pm. This will be a talk on Research into the First World War.

New members always welcome on the third

Tuesday in the month at 8pm in Church House.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Larry Crosier took us on a well-illustrated and informative journey across the United States, all the way from New York to Albuquerque by train. We climbed with him to the top of the Empire State Building and (most of the way) up the Statue of Liberty, for magnificent views across New York. A brief stop was made in Chicago, where we found out why it's nickname is 'the windy city' - the place was littered with abandoned 'inside-out' umbrellas!

Trundling across the prairies he got talking to a regular traveller who turned out to be the 'troubleshooter'. Apparently, it was his job to fix anything that went wrong with the engine, track or signals along the way.

At Denver Railway Station he was amused to hear they have two trains a day - 4 in the winter months - although there used to be as many as nineteen. Contrast this bustle with Reading's regular 200 a day! Up into the Rockies and through a tunnel to travel alongside the Colorado River - at 250 miles, the longest stretch, anywhere in the World, where river and railway run side-by-side.

Some towns seem to us to have the oddest names - one such was Helper, so called because a steep gradient necessitated the use of a

little 'banking' engine to help the big one up the bank.

Across the salt lakes of Colorado to Denver and through Reno where gambling reigns - one 13 storey hotel had each floor named Ace through to ten and Jack, Queen, King!

Into the High Sierras where the railway passes through a gorge and was built by coolies who were lowered in wicker baskets. The gorge was lined with the third generation of trees - the first was felled to build the wooden viaducts on which the line runs, the second was felled to use as fuel for the wood-burning railway engines. Now, thanks to modern technology, the trees are left to grow to their full maturity. The railway terminates at Oakland, so Larry crossed the Oakland Bridge to San Francisco where he spent time enjoying the cable cars and the flower-decked Lombard Street - the crookedest street in the World. After a tour of Alcatraz - the one time escape-proof prison in San Francisco Bay - it was back on the train again and down to the Pacific Ocean, thence to Los Angeles and across the desert and the Coconino Plateau to Flagstaff, visiting Sunset Crater in the Painted Desert. From there he went to Albuquerque, now travelling eastwards once more, where he took a plane back to New York and home to England. In all he had travelled 3,700 miles, 1,750 of them in the train from Chicago to Oakland, California.

On 21st August, the Social Studies Group enjoyed their annual coach outing, the weather suddenly turning beautiful, after an afternoon of sudden downpours (snow in Hull we heard). Some 30 of us enjoyed the tour around country lanes, through Wallingford, Nuffield, an Stoke Row, and then sandwiches and chips in the Rising Sun at Witheridge Hill, Highmoor.

The Guild welcomes visitors and would love some new members - please come along and join us at St. Andrew's Hall every third Thursday at 7.30pm.

Chazey WI

September meeting at Caversham Heights Church Hall at 8.00 pm. A new member, Valerie Serle, was welcomed by the Vice President. The next meeting is a Harvest Supper. Items from the Berkshire Newsletter were noted. Mrs

Farmery agreed to be the delegate at the Autumn Council Meeting at the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead on 19th October. The speaker is to be Zena Skinner 'From WRNS to Retirement'. Three holidays were advertised (1) 'The Gardens of Cornwall' 22nd-26th April, 2001, (2) 'Discover Poland' 31st Aug - 9 Sept, (3) 'To Aachen, Ghent & Bruges' 7th-10th December 2001. For full details send a large SAE to Mrs Ann Markham, 1 Woodview, Remenham Lane, Henley RG9 2LR for each holiday. On Thursday 2nd November at Grazeley Village Hall 10.00 am - 1.00 pm there is a talk "From the Roof of Africa to the Cradle of Mankind". Applications for tickets @ £3.50 from Mrs Backhouse, 11 Greenways Drive, Sunningdale. SL5 9QS. There is an unusual 'Weekenders' get together off shoot of this WI. It is for all singles who find the weekends rather empty. It meets monthly for a meal, walk or theatre outing. More details from Mrs Sanchez 947 6561. Finally, the speaker was introduced. Philip Littlejohn then told of how his Grandfather served on, survived and wrote his eyewitness account of 'The Sinking of the Titanic'. It was a fascinating story told in a most interesting way. If you wish to book this excellent speaker write to Mr Littlejohn, PO Box 348 Maidenhead, SL6 6XB.

Caversham Community Association

August began in a blaze of red, white and blue with a special party to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday. A delicious bring and share supper was enjoyed after some rather hectic party games. A sing-song of wartime melodies completed the evening.

There was an informal games evening the next week with cards and dominoes being on offer. The month ended with a talk from Pam Gregory from the Consumer Advice Centre - a department of Reading Borough Council. Miss Gregory, being a Caversham girl, felt quite at home and gave very sensible advice on consumer issues. Members were able to share experiences of doorstep cons and rogue traders with warnings of what to look out for.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| October 14 | Messiah at St John's Church, Stratfield, Mortimer at 7.30pm. Proceeds for Duchess of Kent Hospice. Conductor Ian Westley (organist/choirmaster at St Peter's Church, Caversham). |
| October 14 | GM Rights and Wrongs. Meeting at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 8.00pm. Tickets £1 at door or phone 947 2007. |
| October 19-21 | Caversham Theatre present Dead Guilty , a thriller by Richard Harris. 7.30pm at St Anne's Hall, Washington Road, Caversham. |
| November 4 | St Peter's Wives' Group AUTUMN FAIR in aid of Sue Ryder Home. 9am in St Martin's precinct. |

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