

ON THE AIR

Perhaps by the time you read this a last-minute fanfare of trumpets will have left us all in no doubt that Thames Valley Broadcasting is alive, well, kicking and making its own distinctive sound. But so far you might think (in fact, I've heard it said) they don't want anyone to get to know about it, so little local publicity has there been.

There could be several reasons for this. I

expect the old bug-bear, shortage of finance, is one. I'm very much afraid another reason may be that Thames Valley Broadcasting is already reflecting only too well the character of the community in which it's working — Reading is alleged to be an apathetic, indifferent sort of place, and it's hard to avoid wondering whether we're not getting local radio to match.

by Michael Kitchener

But there may be a more positive reason for the lack of loud publicity; I hope so, and from the conversations I've had with Thames Valley I think it may well be so. The people behind our new local radio station are, I believe, people who care about truth (which is a remarkably good start for one of the mass media in itself). And the truth about the mass media is, that they can only reflect the nature of society itself. They can open up lines of communication between people, they can speed up the rate at which we get news of events, they can provide the opportunity for a wider exchange of ideas and views. But they can't determine what we want to hear or see, they can only reflect our own tastes and priorities. The hackneyed cliché: "If you don't like it, you can turn it off," is still true; and if we turn off a commercial broadcasting station often enough, it won't attract the advertising it needs, and eventually it will fold up.

MIRROR OF SOCIETY

Broadcasting is a mirror of society. A magnifying-glass sometimes, perhaps. Sometimes no doubt a distorting mirror. But even a fairground

distorting mirror can only distort what is there in the first place — and no one goes to look at it unless they want to.

So Thames Valley Broadcasting aren't likely to brag about how local radio can change our community life overnight. They aren't likely to shout from the housetops about themselves. For they see themselves (in my judgment) as ideally just an empty slate on which we, the local community, can

make whatever mark we want to make. The local radio station is setting out to be a *medium of communication for us*, not an exercise in conditioning us and steering our views and tastes in a particular direction determined by them.

ACCESS

This is reflected in what they call "access" programming. For four hours a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10pm till midnight, they are leaving a space in their timetable so that (to use their own words) "Local groups or organisations — or even individuals — can have the chance to broadcast their own programmes, air-times to broadcast their own message in their own way." Four hours a week out of 126 may not seem very much; but it's an increase of four hours over what any other local radio station has done in this country so far. You can learn more about this by contacting either Mrs Buntly Nash at the Berkshire Community Service Council (Reading 595268) or myself (Reading 471605).

There is a danger of it all getting nowhere. There is a danger of local radio being dull, apathetic, of no real service to the community at all, boring and lifeless. There is a danger of its not caring about real issues, or blowing unreal issues up out of proportion. But the danger exists because we, the community at large, can be like that. To a very large extent, we shall get the local radio we deserve. And if we think we deserve something pretty good, then we do have the chance to make sure that's what we get.

Thames Valley Broadcasting
daily
6am-midnight

210 Medium Wave
97 VHF

WHERE ARE YOU SHOPPING?

Caversham Shopping Basket

The list below contains twenty essential items of shopping and compares the prices at which they were available in four local supermarkets — the Co-op, Liptons, Oakeshotts and Budgens, Emmer Green (covered for the first time) — on March 2, 1976.

This month we have listed, wherever possible, the cheapest available goods.

In the three supermarkets covered both this month and last, prices have remained stable or slightly decreased since the last report (Oakeshotts heading the list with a 1.7 per cent drop), though nationally prices are still rising. Congratulations to our local retailers!



— WALTON ADAMS

Item	Co-op★★	Liptons	Oakeshotts★	Budgens★
Large white sliced loaf.....	15½	17	17	17
1lb butter	31	33	32	36
1lb lard	15	18	23	19½
1lb Cheddar	41	43	34	42
1 dozen standard eggs.....	40	40	40	39
1lb cheap bacon	78	70	70	78
Packet of 10 fish fingers.....	38	38	38	38
15½oz tin of baked beans.....	12	11½	12	13½
15½oz tin of soup.....	10	11	11½	14
5lb potatoes.....	65	64	73	68
1lb frozen peas	26	20	26½	26
3lb self-raising flour.....	17	18½	19½	17½
1lb currants.....	24	25	24	26
¼lb cheapest tea.....	9	10½	9½	10
4oz jar coffee	41	45	36	50
2lb granulated sugar.....	23	23	22½	23
454gms cornflakes.....	20	21½	24	23
¾lb pkt biscuits.....	20	20	20	19½
1lb own brand marmalade.....	18½	21	21	22
Double pack toilet paper.....	15	15½	21	24
TOTAL	£5.59	£5.65½	£5.74½	£6.06

★ Oakeshotts and Budgens give Green Shield Stamps
★★ Co-op gives members a 1¼% discount in form of dividend

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The Editor's Column

THE BIBLE AND OURSELVES

IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO READ THE BIBLE. But what matters is that we learn to relate what is said in it to ourselves and our own lives. If, for example, we just take the account of the stilling of the storm on the sea of Galilee by our Lord as it stands, it is a wonderful story, but it is then just something which happened once and which really makes no difference at all to us in our daily life. But this in fact is not how the disciples would have understood it; nor should we.

CONTROL OF THE SEA

There was a myth well known to the Jews that the original act of creation involved God in a terrible but finally victorious contest with the forces of evil, which were identified with the waters of the sea. As a consequence of this the ability to control the sea was regarded as a sign of divine power. We find many references to this in the Psalms ("Thou rulest the raging of the sea; thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise"). It followed from this that the image of a storm was frequently used as a metaphor for the evil forces in the world, and particularly for the trials of the righteous from which only the power of God could save them; again there are many references to this in the Psalms ("He shall send down on high to fetch me, and shall take me out of many waters"). The Jews also saw the ability to sleep peacefully as a sign of perfect trust in the protective power of God—so the Psalmist says "I will lay me down in peace and take my rest for it is thou Lord only that makest me dwell in safety". But there were sometimes moments of personal or national disaster when it hardly seemed possible to have such trust, and when it almost seemed as though God had lost interest in his people. So when this happened the Jews would talk of God being asleep just as our ancestors in this country in the time of Stephen and Matilda complained that Christ and his saints were asleep. When this happened the Jew would not hesitate to call upon God to wake up and busy himself to help him, and once again we find a reference to this in the psalms ("Up Lord, why sleepest thou, awake and be not absent from us for ever?")

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

Against this background the stilling of the waves on the lake by Jesus acquires a fuller meaning. Jesus and the disciples had put out into their boat, and, tired after the events of the day, Jesus slept because he had complete faith in the divine power. By contrast the disciples were men of little faith, and when a storm arose, far from sharing in his untroubled faith, they mistook it for indifference and woke him with a rebuke. But once awake he performed the characteristically divine act and stilled the waves. This made them realise that they were in the presence of one whose power was nothing less than divine; and once they had realised this, then the storm became a calm. So what they learnt, and we learn, is that to voyage through life with our Lord is to voyage in peace even when there is an apparent storm. In the presence of Jesus we can find peace in even the wildest storms of life.

We all have to remember that wherever Jesus is, there the storms of life become a calm. When there is human sorrow there is calm in the presence of Jesus. When there is a problem involving us in a tempest of doubt and uncertainty, if we bring Christ into the problem and pray "Lord, what will you have me do?", then he will make the way clear. This does not mean that the problem disappears but that we find a way through it and often in the process we find ourselves growing and possessing a new strength and understanding. And the real lesson for all of us, as it was for the disciples is that wherever Jesus is, there the storm becomes a calm.

John Grimwad

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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POST BAG

MAY I through the columns of your paper draw the attention of the people of Caversham to a repeat of last year's sponsored slim, organised by the Caversham Branch to raise funds for the Save the Children Fund?

This year the Sponsored Slim will take place from the 1st to the end of May. Last year over £100 was raised by only 40 odd participants, who in shedding a few pounds in preparation for the summer beaches, raised funds to add a few ounces to the weight of a starving or needy child somewhere in the world.

Details of the Sponsored Slim and how to enter may be obtained from the Secretary, 'The Sponsored Slim,' 9 Crispin Close (off Woodcote Road) phone 470903.

NORMAN G. KENT
(Chairman)

42 Highmoor Road,
Caversham.

THE FAMILY of the late Mrs Lillian Haines of 210 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, would like to thank the friends and shop-keepers in Caversham who were so kind to her in the last years of her life.

Though confined to her wheelchair, she gained much pleasure in visiting the shops where she received so much warmth and understanding.

(Miss) PAT HAINES
210 Gosbrook Road,
Caversham

MEETING POINT

Do you shop in Caversham on Friday afternoons or do you change your library books then? Perhaps you haven't a purpose to bring you out and would like one? Meeting Point is for You. Every Friday from 2pm to 4pm, at the West Memorial Institute—opposite Prospect Street—cups of tea are served (price 2p) and you are warmly invited to come along and enjoy a rest, read a magazine and have a friendly chat. Come and go as you please. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Caversham Baptist Free Church is pleased to provide this neighbourly service.

The Editor regrets . . .

A number of articles for inclusion in this month's Caversham Bridge were received after Wednesday, March 3, the latest date for receiving copy. Some have been held over until next month, some have been printed in a shorter version. Pressure on our space is growing steadily greater and contributors are asked to note that Wednesday, March 31 is the latest date that contributions for the May edition can be accepted.

THE LINK GROUP

A request has been received from the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children (Mencap) for practical assistance involving carpentry, painting and decorating following their move to new premises. If you are able to help would you please contact Mrs Fulford-Dobson Tel. Reading 472855 (after 4pm).

THE LINK GROUP "GOOD AS NEW" SALE

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Mrs C. Kitchener. Tel. Reading 471605 (222 Upper Woodcote Road)

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Forty Years of Lay Ministry

Lay Pastor

"A lay pastor is guide, philosopher and friend to almost everybody", says Mr Leslie Wyeth who, in his forty years as lay pastor at the Baptist Chapel at Brimpton, near Newbury, has embodied his own words through his life and ministry. Since he took up the appointment in October 1935, he has seen the children in his care grow up, has married them and in turn dedicated their children.

Ecumenical interest

The ministry of lay people has a long tradition in the Baptist Church because of the scattered nature of the village congregations, and in this field Mr Wyeth has served, performing the varied pastoral and social duties which fall to a lay pastor. In addition he has been able to play his part in the furtherance of the Ecumenical Movement, a cause close to his heart since 1921. Since 1935, and through five changes of Rector at the Anglican church in the parish, he has initiated and helped to foster joint activities for the members of the two churches. He is also Chairman of the Caversham Churches' Co-ordinating Committee.

Perspective of History

Born in 1902, Mr Wyeth sees the two World Wars through which he lived as landmarks of history, momentous happenings from which those with a sense of historical perspective can learn and be wise. He foresaw the danger of German aggression and spoke against it as early as 1935, at a time when few voices were raised in protest. As Mr Wyeth observes, however, foresight is no use unless accompanied by the moral courage that moves to action. Inaction, now and always, is the way of appeasement and lack of faith. "If you shrink from

sacrifice, you have by that very token surrendered your right to be called a moral person," he says.

His studies

A life rich in human experience has given Mr Wyeth wisdom, and so have his academic studies and interests. During the war he spent four years doing a course at Reading University, reading at night while on duty as an ARP warden. His special interest is in the history of the Old and New Testaments, subjects in which he tutors for the Baptist Union Training Programme, which at the moment has 1,000 lay people studying under its direction.

Women's Lib

Women have always played a large part in specialised tasks within the Baptist Church, and more recently in the ministry itself. This development Mr Wyeth welcomes enthusiastically. "I was a supporter of Women's Lib long before that term was coined," he declares. He concedes, however, that women in the ministry have to contend with "deep-rooted prejudices", and most women, lay and ordained, in the Baptist Church, still tend to serve in missions abroad.

Reading man

Mr Wyeth worked full time in the timber trade for forty-three years. During all that time the help and sympathy of his employers made it possible for him to perform his pastoral duties. Since joining the Caversham Baptist fellowship in 1916 he has continued to serve the Baptist Church in a number of capacities. A Reading man born and bred, he now lives with his wife Eva, two delightful dogs and a number of talkative budgerigars, in the town of his birth.



— WALTON ADAMS

WHAT IS THE C.C.C.C.?

Not the Caversham Clergy Cricket Club. Though no doubt talent enough exists to form such an illustrious body. No, it is simply the Caversham Churches' Co-ordinating Committee, an ecumenical venture in our village. It was designed to draw into closer unity Christians of all persuasions in Caversham.

It was formed some 10 years ago by the foresight of the Rector, clergy and ministers of Caversham who discerned the signs of the times. The aim, to co-ordinate the efforts of Christians to express the mission of the Churches. Composed of all the local Clergy and Ministers, together with 2 lay representatives from each of the Churches in the neighbourhood, it seeks to foster co-operation in worship and witness. Its membership is open to all the Christian

Churches in the area, and it is affiliated to the Reading and District Council of Churches. The duties of its members are to report to their respective Churches the findings of the Committee and to engage them in appropriate action.

What then has it done, and what is it doing now? A fair question. It launched the Coffee Groups of 1968, and subsequent Study Groups over many years. The May Day week in 1970. The Family Festival and its Fete in 1974 culminating in the United Communion Service in Caversham Court. Lectures, United Services, and the Weeks of Prayer. These have all made their contribution to the life to Caversham.

But what of now? It promotes Study Groups from time to time, arranges joint services

etc, its present major concern is the visitation of all the houses in the Caversham district, staged over a period of two years. The first stage of this is now going on.

There will be an opportunity for you to share in this when the next stage begins in a short while. We shall be needing volunteers to assist in the visitation. The volunteers will be needing the prayers of the persons in the pews. If we send them out, we must back them up.

I trust that by now you have gained an idea of what CCC means. We owe a lot to the men of the cloth for their leadership. But, if unity is to grow, it must grow in the grass roots. By the way, the CCC secretary is Miss E. W. Hawthorne, 27 Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, RG4 8QT. Phone 473849, and I am the Chairman.

by
Leslie Wyeth

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ST JOHN'S NEWS

MOTHERS' UNION: The District Committee and people of St John's continually have cause to be grateful for the unceasing service which the Mothers' Union members give to the church: They run jumble sales and whist drives; provide vast quantities of needlework and produce for the Missionary Sale and delicious refreshments for large numbers of people on St John's Day; visit the sick and housebound; and, not least, give quiet and steady support with their Prayer Group.

During past months the Branch has been raising money to pay for additional hymn books bought for those times when congregations are larger than usual.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The younger people are also practising stewardship. Following a talk which the Rev John Sumner gave to older Sunday School children recently, when he was asked — among other things — how they could help with the church's work, he was delighted to receive a visit from some nine and ten-year-olds bringing homemade sweets which they wanted to give to patients in hospital.

NEW PCC MEMBERS: At St John's AGM on February 26, two new members — Mrs Phyllis Colley and Rodney Wood — were nominated to the PCC in place of Mrs Doris Gillett and Mrs Audrey Yates who stood down this year.

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A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Gallery Viewpoint
by
Zoilus

BEFORE THE START of regular business at full meetings of Reading Borough Council, there is a period set aside for questions from Councillors and the public. This is a fairly new item on the agenda and has proved its worth not only for the amount of useful information it produces, but as a source of quiet amusement to those Council Chamber fanciers who delight in trying to spot the loaded question, the feed planted by a committee chairman so he can arise triumphantly to give the favoured answer, and blatant electioneering ploy.

As the month of May is not far off and nothing concentrates a politician's mind like the prospect of an imminent election, it was not surprising that at the March meeting, there was an eager queue of our local legislators thirsting for knowledge on all sorts of subjects from housing to buses, taking in allotments, aged persons' accommodation, and even councillors' allowances (a good one, that!) on the way.

Speaking for the people of Caversham Councillor Derek Morton wanted to stop the maladroitness of sending refuse vehicles to collect in St Anne's Road at the very time in the morning when that unfortunate thoroughfare is jammed with commuter traffic. Councillor Mike Francis asked how many applicants on the housing register were not residents in the borough, and elicited the rather surprising answer that since the arrival of computerisation it isn't possible to furnish that sort of information, although back in the bad old days when this operation was done by hand they did have figures, and it was 11 per cent of the names on the list, though the majority of these were either servicemen or people with jobs in the town.

Pedestrian crossings are always cropping up at question time and Councillor Ron Jewitt wanted to know if there is sufficient traffic to justify one in Henley Road, near the junction of Chiltern Road. He was told that at the last traffic count the number of vehicles did not reach the criteria demanded by the Ministry of Transport. But this wasn't the view

of Mrs Wendy Huntley who is so worried about the danger to pedestrians at this point that she has turned herself into a lollypop lady and is to be seen every morning opposite the shopping parade shepherding across children and any others who need assistance. She came to the Council armed with a petition containing over 600 signatures and presented it to the Mayor at the end of the question period.

THAMES WARD MAYOR

And so on to the main agenda of the Council Meeting. There were three items closely associated with Caversham. Firstly, Mrs Kathleen Sage was elected unanimously as the next Mayor. Kay doesn't live in the village but she has represented Thames Ward for many years and is known to many not only as a councillor but as a friend. During her year of office we shall all be able to bath in a little reflected glory!

Oxfordshire County Council has produced a structure plan and one of its recommendations is that the route from Wallingford to Caversham should be designated as suitable for heavy lorries. Councillor George Robinson was aghast at this suggestion and its impact on the already overloaded traffic situation at the approaches to the river bridges, to say nothing of the devastation that would be caused to the countryside in the Cane

End area by the necessary road widening. The Chairman of the Policy Committee, Councillor Jim Day, promised that strong representations would be made to the County Council concerning this.

BUGS BOTTOM

Our local conservationists (and aren't we all?) will be glad to know that the Planning Committee has refused permission for further development in Bugs Bottom, now more elegantly named Hemdean Bottom. This was confirmed at Council, but a word of warning may be timely. Because of a Ministerial pronouncement in favour of some further building, made at the time of the Public Enquiry in 1968, it is possible that an appeal by the developers would be successful. Not necessarily so, but although the Council have done their best it may be too early to say the battle is won.

It was nearly midnight when business was finished and by that time even the most compulsively articulate of the Councillors had begun to run out of steam. One couldn't help but feel a bit sorry for Mr Tom Gwatkin who is about to retire as Director of the museum and art gallery after thirty years service to the town. He had to wait for the last item of all to hear Councillors pay tribute to his service. But after 30 years perhaps he didn't mind another six hours.



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NOW IS THE TIME!

"In my day we did things quite differently." How many of us on hearing these words have slipped quietly out of earshot, thankful to avoid what promises to be a lengthy and nostalgic monologue. The intolerant among us may not accept the fact that we all indulge in this kind of pastime, the more so as we get older. Sometimes this looking back is both helpful and instructive, but more often than not those who are listening experience a mixture of irritation and boredom as they hear prejudices reiterated and opinions firmly underlined.

"WHEN I WAS HERE"

Earlier this year I was privileged to spend a sabbatical term at the college where I trained for the ministry. I returned to Oxford after an interval of nineteen years and was often tempted, not altogether unsuccessfully, to indulge in an orgie of nostalgia — out loud! I had to restrain myself when I felt like saying, "Things are not what they used to be," or "when I was here," knowing full well that this would be merely a prelude to a criticism or an unfair comparison. Student life and college customs change with the years and if I had not

TALKING POINT by The Rev Neil Hall

been willing to listen to and learn from the present generation of students, I would have had few friends left by the end of the term.

Parents fall into the same trap when they start saying to their children, "We had to do this" or, "in my young day." They are on very shaky ground here and if the children have got any spirit at all they will respond, respectfully of course, (!), "But this is NOT your young day, it's ours, and we're living in a different world". This is a perfectly fair and reasonable comment which all of us who are parents must take seriously. Young people see no reason — and rightly so — why they should be forced to adopt behaviour and customs which the older generation found acceptable (or had forced on THEM, which may be more to the point!). When parents hark back like this I suspect they are shirking their responsibility to look at moral attitudes and behaviour patterns afresh with the aim of reaching some mutual agreement with their children on difficult and sensitive issues.

YESTERDAY HAS GONE

A Christian congregation does this looking back better than any group I know. "I remember the day when this church was full twice on Sundays" can sound most depressing to the minister who is trying to make worship meaningful and relevant with a congregation of forty in the morning and ten in the evening in a building which seats eight hundred. It's all very well harking back to the "good old days," but it's cold comfort for the present and is not calculated to bring much joy to the minister. He will probably make a mental note to look elsewhere among his lay people for ideas on making the most of the present situation. If more Christians resisted the temptation to look back with longing to what used to be and concentrated their minds and spirits clearly on today, Christianity would begin to make more sense to more people.

Today is God's gift to us. Yesterday has gone and tomorrow may never come. For God's sake and for the sake of his world let's make the most of what we've got. Now is the time!



— L. L. BURN

Patients from Borocourt hospital being entertained by members of St Peter's and St Barnabas' Mothers' Union in St Barnabas' Hall

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OBITUARY

THOMAS ERNEST ASHCROFT — died
February 7, 1976

I knew the late Ernest Ashcroft over a period of about 40 years, first in the business world and secondly from 1947 onwards in close association with St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham.

He was affectionately known by all his many friends as Ernie or merely "T.E.A." and was a man of great integrity, always with a sense of humour and whatever he undertook to do he did willingly, conscientiously and without any fuss.

For 45 years he worked for the Caversham firm of Samuel Elliott & Sons Ltd. where his knowledge and skill was invaluable to all who had the opportunity and pleasure of working with him.

His connection with St Margaret's Church dates back to 1946, when the late Rev E. L. Macassey was vicar, and he undertook a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the Church he loved so much and was Churchwarden for 15 years, serving on the PCC for even longer.

He was Chairman of the the Church Fete and Horticultural Committee from its inception in 1948 by the Rev C. P. Sherwood, then Vicar,

except for its final year some thirteen years later, and held the reins over the Committee in a friendly but determined way. Those early Fete days, held originally in the old Vicarage garden in the village, were a great get-together not only for the Parish but also for the Friends of the Parish.

Ernie was a Manager and Trustee for many years of the Church of England School at Trench Green, a position he filled with his usual aplomb and amiability, and took a very keen interest in the school's work and activities.

He helped to look after the interests of the residents of Mapledurham by serving on the Mapledurham Parish Council for 30 years, including being Chairman, which according to the Parish records is the longest time anyone has ever served, a service of which he could be justly proud.

St Margaret's and Mapledurham have lost a just and upright man who lived up to the ideal of service and gave unstintingly of his time,

To his wife, Olive, we can only say thank you for being so understanding and helpful, for putting up with raucous Committee meetings in her home without fuss and offer her our special thanks for the loving care she

bestowed on Ernie during his lifetime.

Our prayers and sympathy are with her.
H.M.H.

REX OFFER

With the passing of Rex Offer Caversham Heights Methodist Church has lost one of its most conscientious workers. He was a Trustee and choir member for many years. Everything he did he performed in an unobtrusive way. How many people know of the hours he put into building the cupboards in the store-room outside the minister's vestry, or of the quiet way in which he gave a donation here or a donation there? Everything he did was done well. He had a great sense of humour, always expressed in a dry way which endeared him to those who really knew him. Even on the day before he died, when he realised he was not going to recover, his humour asserted itself, and he said to Doris, "Well, I think my seconds have thrown in the towel."

Our sympathy and prayers go out to his aged mother and to Doris, who writes:

"Doris Offer wishes to thank all for the sympathy and help over the last few weeks. Also for the comforting letters, cards and flowers, and especially the lady and gentlemen who gave up afternoons to visit hospital with her."

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by
WATCHDOG

FIESTA —

BEER FLOWING in the streets, voices raised in boisterous song, road blocks mounted and paving stones ripped up; all going on in a quiet corner of Caversham. Depending on one's outlook, it is enough to make the sober throw up their hands in horror and the full blooded rush to join in.

No wonder some eyebrows were raised in horror, whilst a reciprocal twinkle appeared in the eyes of others when a College of Technology student sketched this scene in the course of a meeting held recently in East Caversham under the auspices of the Residents' Association to highlight the problems and possibilities of living in those parts. Amongst the possibilities are the small old streets of mostly terraced houses with an intimacy and unity lacking in much modern planning. The problems are decaying fabric and streets cluttered with signs and parked cars. The student had worked out a detailed scheme to remove traffic from the street, provide off-street parking and to pedestrianise the street. It was not a costly scheme but the whole street would benefit from it. However, he could well visualise the Council pleading cuts in public spending as a reason for doing nothing, hence his idea of "do it yourself" and have fun doing it. He did not actually mention tea, but for those to whom beer is anathema, a sizzling urn could doubtless be added to the cheerful scene.

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Could it be done? There is no reason, given the enthusiasm, why not. It also points the way in which such things will have to be done in the future if they are to be done at all. Moreover, if the community takes responsibility for carrying out improvements, it will be the more willing to protect them from the depredations of vandals. In that rather pleasing development at the top of Whitley Street, "they" planted trees in the open spaces for "us". Within weeks, every single one was uprooted or damaged. If "we" had planted the trees, it is very unlikely that anything approaching that scale of damage would have been done.

Well, the plan is there, already drawn up. It only awaits local initiative to get it off the ground. Given that, the local council could scarcely refuse to offer technical help. So listen for the sounds of revelry one summer weekend and then see the transformation that has taken place.

LOCAL ACTION

Meanwhile, a local Residents' Association has been formed in that part centring round Star Road and the river (inquiries to Mrs Hopkins, 6 Paddock Road, Telephone 474511) so this attractive but neglected area should soon be showing signs of renewed interest in itself.

The rather sleazy approach to it across Hills Meadow is already being improved by the local council, at the instigation of its Waterways Group, so this should act as a stimulus. Reading has neglected its position on two rivers for too long.

ROLL UP: ROLL UP

The Gazebo fete, another DIY affair to help raise money towards its restoration, is to be held on May 22 from 3.00pm to 5.30pm. Offers of help to Mr W. Dulborough (474117) or Mrs M. Casey (472300). Meanwhile, Berkshire College of Education students have been doing a splendid job of clearing the undergrowth near the Gazebo on a voluntary basis. Caversham people must match their enthusiasm by supporting the fete.

Roll up, roll up.

WHO, WHEN, WHERE?

We are grateful to Col O. S. Francis for letting us have this photograph of the staff of the parish of Caversham. It would seem to have been taken in November 1924. In the centre is Dr Longford who was then rector and seated by him is the Rev A. C. Southgate who was priest-in-charge of St John's for eight years and left early in December 1924 to



Photograph of staff at Caversham 1930 (approx) back row: Rev Mason (St Barnabas), Rev Kerr (St Andrews), Rev Mulliner (Parish Church). Front row: Rev Southgate (St John's), Dr Longford (Rector).

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

"Going for a Song" was the title of the subject chosen by Mr L. J. Ruse at the February meeting. Assisted by two members of the Guild, Miss B. Sidford and Mrs N. Jones, Mr Ruse gave his opinion of the value, place of origin, and date of manufacture of various pieces of pottery, china and silverware which members had brought for identification. Articles varying from an apprentice's piece (a miniature chest of drawers in mahogany) to a Regency tea chest and blending bowl were described and valued by Mr Ruse. He also gave several hints on the identification of silverware, what was now in vogue as Collectors' pieces, and articles which would be sought after in the next few years. Mrs Gillings gave the vote of thanks.

22nd READING (CAVERSHAM ST JOHN'S) SCOUT GROUP

Shortly after Christmas five of the Scouts braved the chilly weather and camped under canvas at Padworth. None of them appeared to be any the worse for the experience and, in

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, APRIL, 1976

face, even seemed to have enjoyed it! They are now looking forward to their Summer Camp on the Isle of Wight.

The Cub Scouts are once again planning to spend their Summer Camp at Bournemouth, based in a Church Hall.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

THE STAY-AWHILE
CLUB

The Family Committee were the instigators of the Stay-Awhile Club, which opened its doors on Monday, February 16. They had requested a planning committee, the planners found their helpers, and the helpers formed themselves into a rota of four teams who will take turns to maintain the supply of company and refreshment being offered to our local over-60's. An appreciable number appeared on the first day either to sample the "Soup of the day" or for a chat, or just to get in out of the cold.

They all seemed to approve of the amenities offered and one guest even entertained with a piano recital.

be rector of Lydeard St Lawrence, near Taunton. In the back row left to right are the Rev B. L. Mason (St Barnabas), the Rev R. Ker, who arrived on October 25 to serve at St Andrew's, and the Rev H. G. Mulliner who had been ordained deacon that Michaelmas. It is interesting to note that the parish did not own any houses for its assistant clergy at that time. The Rev A. C. Southgate lived at 10, South View Avenue, the Rev B. W. Mason at 27 Priory Avenue, the Rev R. Ker at a house called St Andrew's in Highmoor Road and the Rev H. G. Mulliner at 4 Clifton Park Road.

INCREASED POPULATION

None of those who served the parish of Caversham then are still alive. The population in those days cannot have been much more than a quarter of what it now is. To cope with the vast increase of population, and the parish of Mapledurham which until 1968 had its own vicar there are now seven clergy one of these really being a replacement for the vicar of Mapledurham and the other working at Caversham Park which has expanded from two houses in 1924 to the fifteen hundred homes of to-day. The rest of the parish has also expanded enormously in population but is ministered to by the same size staff.

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Round the Anglican Parish

In spite of the 'flu epidemic about seventy people attended the Annual Parochial Meeting in Balmore Hall on March 4, and about 230 had attended the five district meetings during the previous week. Mr F. C. Moore and Mr W. A. Vincent were re-elected Churchwardens and thanked for the immense amount of work done by them in the past year. They were also elected to serve on Reading Deanery Synod for the period 1976-1979 together with Mr K. Bennett and Mrs L. Cropp (St Peter's) Mr D. Cooper and Mr L. Hardy (St Andrew's) Miss K. Harris (St John's) and Mrs D. E. Gillings (St Barnabas).

Those elected to the Parochial Church Council in addition to the synod members were Messrs Birtwhistle, Burton, Doggett, C. Hubbard, E. Smith, P. South, Messdames Coome and S. Smith (St Peter's) Messrs Badger, Deane, Holmwood, Nicholls, Tipton,

Wood, Mrs Colley (St John's), Messrs Burton, Hogarth, Marsh, Parmenter, Tomlin, Mrs Beabe (St Andrew's), Messrs Barnes, Davies, Jewiss, Matthews, Miles, Page, Mrs M. Russell (St Barnabas), Messrs Davies, Wilson (Caversham Park).

Numbers on the electoral roll now stand at 968, an increase of seventy one during the year. In 1975 a kitchen and lavatories had been installed under the tower of St Peter's. It was hoped to have St John's re-decorated largely by voluntary labour in the early summer and the possibility of re-decorating St Andrew's in the same way was being considered.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mr E. M. Smith, the parochial treasurer, in presenting the accounts spoke of the excellent response made during the Stewardship Campaign in October 1975. He warned the meeting however that although there was an

increase in pledges of 58 per cent expenditure on many items had increased by a far greater percentage (Diocesan share 1971-£3,649; 1976 £8,895). Pointing out that the combined district budgets for 1976 showed an estimated surplus of only £60 he stressed the need for the utmost caution in all financial matters and of the necessity for an annual stewardship review. Mr Hitchman presented the Caversham Missionary Union Accounts. £3,124 had been given to missionary work outside the parish (1971-£2,267); this included £1,488 to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, £288 to the Missions to Seamen, £262 to Christian Aid and smaller sums to many other missionary societies and charities.

ECUMENISM IN PRACTICE. The Rector began by thanking his colleagues and their wives, the parish secretary, Mrs Vincent who he said continues to serve the parish lovingly, efficiently and discreetly, the Readers and many other workers. He went on to mention the wide range of ecumenical activities and spoke of regular meetings with the Free Church ministers, adding that he hoped the day would come when they would also meet with their Roman Catholic colleagues. He referred to the publication of the Caversham Bridge newspaper, the Bridge scheme of social service, the house to house visiting, the Link Group and the purchase of 20 Priest Hill as a home for single parent families as other examples of ecumenical work. He also stressed the value of the many residential events organised by the parish; for several years there had been regular courses for confirmation care and post-confirmation training, there was the annual parish retreat, the parish holiday and last autumn the residential training week-end for those canvassing in the stewardship campaign had proved immensely valuable not only in what was learnt but in building up a spirit of camaraderie.

NEW YOUTH GROUPS FORMED IN CAVERSHAM

Three new groups have recently been formed within the Parish to cater for a wider age range amongst young Christians.

These groups, two of which have adopted the names of "GENESIS" and "REVELATION" by their respective members, got off to a good start last December in Balmore Hall with a Christmas conference - cum - party organised by David and Margaret Doggett.

A wide range of activities has been planned by members of each group for the first half of 1976 and include talks on "Caring for the Community" by Mrs Branch, a district nurse and "A Policeman's Lot" by Mr Tom Harwood. The very deep interest that these young people have in the social problems that surround us today was clearly demonstrated when more than twenty members turned out on a very cold Sunday evening in January to hear a talk on "Drugs, escape from reality!" given by Dr John Aitken.

In addition to the talks and discussions, a number of educational activities are planned and will include visits to the Reading Chronicle printing works, Borocourt Hospital and, hopefully, to Christ Church, Oxford.

Much of the sharing of one another's experiences in maturing as young Christians involves getting along with each other socially, and to this end the lighter side of our activities has not been forgotten.

A trip to London's Palace Theatre to see the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" took place. A sports evening has been staged in Church House, and more recently members of the Genesis group took part in a musical quiz held at 43 Ellesmere Close. The winner of the quiz was Graham Aisbitt, who received an LP record of "The Light-bearers" Gospel folk group. Future social activities will include a disco, a day's hike over the downs, a trip to an ice skating rink, a treasure hunt and a walk in the woods.

A number of members from all three groups are currently rehearsing, under the watchful eye and guidance of Leonard Burn, a short musical called, "Moses and the Fantastic Fiery Bush", written and composed by the Rev Ian Calvert. This musical is to be performed on Sunday, April 4 at 9.15am in St Barnabas' Church and at 6.30pm in St Peter's.

LENT WITH ST JOHN. The remaining three sessions which the Rector is leading during Lent on St John's Gospel are on Thursday March 25, Wednesday March 31, and Thursday April 8 - all in Church House at 8pm. **SUMMER FETES.** St John's fete will be held on Saturday May 8 and St Andrew's on Saturday, June 26.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

THANK YOU LORD FOR MISS MARSHALL!



FORTY THREE YEARS SERVICE to the Sunday School came to a close recently on a Sunday morning when about 100 children and teachers at Caversham Baptist Free Church Sunday School said farewell to Miss Iris Marshall on her retirement from the Sunday School Secretaryship after 16 years. The minister, Rev Laurence Stevens, presented her with a reading lamp on behalf of the Sunday school; and children from the various departments presented her with flowers and books containing work they had done. The longest serving teacher, Mrs E. Sawyer spoke on behalf of the school thanking Miss Marshall for her faithfulness and care for the children, and then the children concluded the presentation by singing their own verse to a hymn "Thank you Lord for Miss Marshall". On retirement, Miss Marshall hopes to move to Norfolk to live in the thatched cottage which has belonged to her family for generations. She will certainly be missed.

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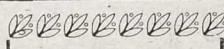
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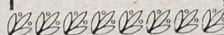
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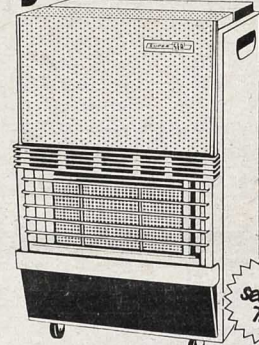
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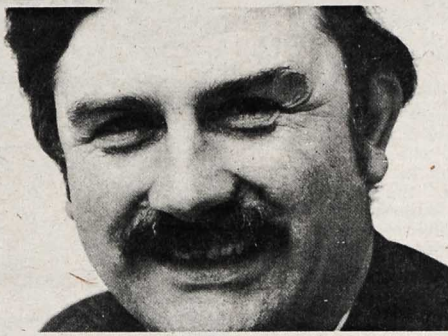
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STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

At this time of the year many of us start to notice that we have put on quite a few pounds in weight during the few months since last summer. Nearly everyone puts on some weight during the winter months but the amount can vary very considerably from virtually nothing up to as much as 20 per cent extra, although on average it is more likely to be up to about 10 per cent extra or 10 to 15 pounds. It is not just the ordinary non-sporting person who adds those extra pounds, many top all-year-round sportsmen and women also come into the spring quite a bit heavier than at the end of the previous summer. In fact it is quite natural and the reasons are very obvious. During the colder months of the year we eat more food to help keep out the cold but at the same time tend to be less active than during the summer months. During the winter with dark evenings and short days we are less likely to walk or swim and there is little time for any gardening or other outdoor activity, therefore the extra food we take turns to those unwanted extra pounds.



LITTLE AND OFTEN

As slimming can often take a lot more time than we think it should, perhaps it is a good idea to try and avoid putting on too much weight in the first place. The first and most obvious thing is to try and combat your extra intake of food with a slight increase, rather than a decrease, in physical activity during the winter. The best approach is not by having a great burst of activity once a week with a hard game of squash or a five mile run on a Saturday or Sunday morning but by a little

extra walking or cycling, preferably each day. If you feel you can manage it, ten minutes jog every other day could work wonders but probably the most important thing to remember is that food taken a little and often is better for you than one big meal a day.

Many people prefer not to have a meal at lunchtime but wait till they get home from work in the evening for their main meal but the trouble with this is that after the meal you are unlikely to be very active until you go to work next morning. Whilst sitting down at home during the evening followed by sleeping there is no chance to burn up the surplus calories, therefore if your habit is to eat mainly in the evening try to exercise with a walk or jog before bed.

NO SHORT CUTS

Having got to the stage of wanting to lose a few pounds, what can you do? Firstly there is no easy or quick way to slim with safety and with whatever method you choose there is usually the terrible stage of doing everything you should do without any noticeable drop in weight, but you have to be strict with yourself and suddenly the difference will start to show. The claims made for many diets and exercisers are very false as they just advise you to avoid eating this or that, or just use the exerciser for ten minutes a day; but what you should do is to aim for the right balance of both suitable exercise and the right food.

At this time of the year it becomes easier and more pleasant to take exercise in any form and as we get into summer so salads and fruit are more plentiful and we are better able to find the right balance.

JOGGING

In the United States the exercise of Jogging (I would hesitate to call it a sport) has become fantastically popular for people who want to keep just that little fitter than the next man or woman. It is not really running in the true sense — when running there is a conscious effort to stride out and consequently the body is pushed off the ground into semi-flight, but jogging is just a gentle stage beyond walking although the speed you may move at could be only very slightly faster than a good walking pace. By gently jogging a little bit more of the body has to work, breathing has to be just that little bit better and the heart must work just a little faster — but it is not as vigorous as a game of squash, the sport which many people are turning to for their exercise. If you have not previously been very active it would be better to prepare with a little jogging before starting to play squash or take part in any other strenuous activity.

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

By Peter Shock

CELEBRATING St Valentine's Day was an unique occasion for the Caversham Heights Young Methodists. The ceremony was performed at Sarum (Salisbury) in the form of an Ancient British "It's a Knockout" competition. Thirteen members of the squash club took part in the two-day event, and they reached second place in the contest, gaining 112 points, just six below the leaders. This is the first occasion the local club has participated in the annual event, which is organised by the Southampton District Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. By the way, I am informed that the squash club title is more descriptive of the meeting-place, than their athletic connections might suggest!

On Wednesday, February 11, the young Methodists' organisations took part in the annual Festival of Queens spectacle at Reading Town Hall. To the fanfare of the Band and Corps of Drums of the Army Apprentices' College, Arborfield, the Queens and their attendants paraded in a resplendence of colourful dresses, cloaks and crowns. Deborah Bishop was Caversham Heights' elected Sovereign, with Sharon and



— Walton Adams

Tracy Coates as her attendants. Steven Johnson, carried the purse, which contained the handsome sum of £79.60, much of which was contributed by the members of the Junior Church. The Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs Salisbury attended the Festival.

Yet another Young Methodists' entity, the 'Inters Club', is flourishing at Highmoor Road. It provides recreational activities for young people on Wednesdays, 7.30-9.00pm at the Church Hall. There are some vacancies I am told, Mr Brian Webber

is the leader, 10 St David's Close, Caversham.

★ ★ ★
WHEN THE rains came on Sunday, February 29, it cut my Sunday afternoon bike ride short. So I returned home and watched the TV production 'Bus to Bosworth'. Perhaps you saw it, too. It was a refreshing and often humorous account of a school outing tracing the steps of Henry Tudor from his walking ashore on the sands of Pembroke-shire to his final victory over Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. The young school children from mid-Wales acted their parts gallantly. The resourceful tongue-in-the-cheek headmaster endeared the viewers as he desperately tried to keep one step ahead of his pupils, relating the facts as if in tense reality, but already learnt by heart by the children from Miss Evans, their class teacher. I have been on many a school trips, but not quite like that one. Even the coach roof was requisitioned as a castle look-out post, and Maggie Davies, the lady coach-driver got involved in a bit more than she had bargained for. So now we know, that's what is called 'applied history'!

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The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 29, about forty people attended.

The treasurer, Mr Richard Ellison gave a detailed breakdown of the finances of the church. Mr M. Chevalier, as the recorder reported on the achievements of the Stewardship Campaign. Mrs P. Andrews, and Messrs M. Chevalier, R. Ellison, G. Goldsmith, P. Holbrook and J. Wilson were elected to the church committee. The Rev S. Bartlett spoke about the development and growth of the church over the past four years. Canon Grimwade thanked him and his wife for all they were doing in the life of the church and community. The meeting was followed by a bread and cheese lunch.

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'IN DUE COURSE'

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less." A great number of people, particularly those in authority, could say the same, though I'll admit Humpty Dumpty was more blatant than most.

And you don't have to look far to see what I mean. If ever there was a misuse of a word, it is the name 'village' tacked on to Caversham Park; not long ago, engaged on writing an article about the so-called village, I had the temerity to ask the agent for the developers where were the community centres, churches, pubs, schools, etc., mentioned in the glossy brochure. "Ah," he said wisely, "you will see that we use the word 'envirage' — it's not our job to provide them." At the time I wondered why they stopped short on amenities — anyone can envisage anything, and a swimming pool, theatre and cathedral might have enhanced their selling prospects still further.

Words have always meant what their users intended them to mean — and, to be fair, sometimes they are legally quite correct in their usage. When we viewed a house described as "suitable for an imaginative buyer," I suppose we shouldn't have been surprised to find it in such a state of disrepair that only an imaginative buyer,

by Katy

intending to pull it down and start again, would have dreamed of buying it. And we are still laughing at the description of the kitchen in our own house in Caversham; "Sink with space under" it read — what they really meant was that nobody had ever bothered to box it in or fit a unit to it.

The IDR

But just now I'm more than a little preoccupied by words recently appearing in a letter from the Department of the Environment concerning the Inner Ring Road, or IDR as it is popularly known. The controversial sec-

tion will, it says, be covered over "in due course." Now those familiar with the story will recall that a public inquiry in 1972 found against the road as planned; not surprisingly, the Minister overruled the decision (why do they waste thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money when they don't intend to abide by decisions anyway?) but insisted that the Forbury section "... shall be constructed below existing ground level and shall be completely covered over and landscaped in accordance with detailed plans..."

In other words, we were under the impression that the Forbury area, at least above ground, would appear almost as it always had done, with the famous lion standing in its usual place.

Now what, exactly, does "in due course" mean? That's a daft question of course — it quite obviously means as and when anyone feels like doing it and "when we can afford it." "It may be for years and it may be for ever"

that we shall have to wait to find the Forbury looking anything like its old self. Personally I don't trust any planner, official or otherwise. There is another quotation which springs to mind: in "Love on the Dole," the old lady, trying to persuade a young couple to marry and announce it afterwards, says her "old man" always used to say "Fait accompli." Asked what he meant, she replied that her old man used to walk into a pub, drink up someone else's beer and say "I supped it, shouldn't I have done?"

"IN ERROR"

We all know how difficult it is to reverse errors (Witness the Emmer Green shopping precinct) once made by local authorities. What, I wonder, would happen, should we one day find the local authorities had "in error" simply linked the remains of the Forbury Gardens with St Laurence's with a concrete bridge?

QUEEN'S GUIDE



Susan Nichols, of the 1st Emmer Green Guide Company, was recently awarded her Queen's Guide Badge.

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ST MARGARET'S CHURCH NEWS

At a well-attended Annual Parish Meeting on 19th February, members heard of an increase of seven people on the electoral roll, and that (having budgeted for a deficit of over £400 in 1975) the church had ended the year with a small balance in hand. More disturbing was the news that, even after a Christian Stewardship Campaign, a deficit of £160 is still expected for 1976. It was pointed out that, though the actual sum of money pledged through Stewardship is much higher than a few years ago, there are fewer pledges than there were, and they represent a smaller income in real terms.

The picture painted by the rest of the meeting was of a slowly but steadily growing church. Communicants on Sundays continue to increase; two new members Mrs Avis and Miss Vincent were elected to the Church Council; a Parish Conference had started some serious thinking about the role of the church in the community; a series of successful social events had continued to draw local people together in a way that cut across the boundaries of church-going; and particularly in the Christian Stewardship Campaign St Margaret's had continued to take an active part in the work of the churches of Caversham.

Thanks were expressed especially to Mr Bill Thomas for his work in recent years as

Parochial Treasurer; pressure of work had compelled him to resign from this post, but he continues to serve the church as Churchwarden.

Mr B. A. Martyn-Johns also continues as Churchwarden, and as St Margaret's representative to the Henley Deanery Synod.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

Thirty seven members were present on February 17th when the St Peter's Wives Group were pleased to welcome Mr Barry Martin who spoke on "Seven Days In Butlinland." This was the title of an interesting film which he showed about a week's holiday at the Minehead camp, but further to this, Mr Martin outlined the policy of Butlin's who now aim to broaden their outlook on holidays and cater for an ever-widening group of holidaymakers. He spoke for example, of Cornish holidays which were not based in a camp.

Mr Martin was most helpful in answering the many queries of the members during Question Time.

After coffee there was a Bring and Buy Sale which raised over £4 for the Wives funds.

In April the Wives have a Spring Clothing Exchange at 8.15pm in Balmore Hall on the 6th, to which all are welcome. The April meeting is on the 27th and will be a talk by Mr Boon of the Community Health Council, which should be of interest to all members.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Blagrove WI

The monthly meetings of Blagrove WI have been well supported and the President Mrs Wilkie, has had pleasure in welcoming new members.

One guest speaker was Mrs Fletcher who gave a most interesting talk on a visit she had paid to Finland. Touring the country she was welcomed and entertained by members of "The Finnish Marthas", an organisation of country women run on very similar lines to the WI and having the same aims and ideals, and in spite of language difficulties Mrs Fletcher was able to participate fully in their meetings which were sometimes held in members' homes.

Mr Osborne, a lecturer from the Berkshire College of Agriculture, spoke to members at the February meeting and gave a most informative talk on the growing of vegetables, particularly those suitable for the small garden and also those which were good for freezing.

Nominations were taken from the new committee for the forthcoming year and the competi-

tion for a pot of home-made marmalade was won by Mrs Bartlett, and Mrs Haigh was complimented and congratulated on her paintings which were on show at Reading Town Hall.

It is hoped to resume the Country Walks and Picnics again soon and new members and friends will be most cordially welcomed.

Maplewood WI

A feature of the February meeting was a display of 43 knitted hats which had been made by members to send to Lifeboatmen of the RNLI.

The Berkshire Hospitals Fete Committee is asking the WI to provide produce for a stall, in June. Mrs Bubb told members how the present huge fete originated as a small bring-and-buy stall started by two nurses, at Battle Hospital in 1943, one of whom was Mrs M. Pilgrim.

Six members showed holiday slides, each giving an interesting commentary. Miss Sidford thanked these members and also Mrs J.

Townshend, who was the projectionist.

Babies' matinee jackets are being made to send to a maternity centre in Zambia.

Reading Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Members enjoyed a pleasant musical evening at the February meeting when the Caversham Singers entertained them. Directed by Mr C. Griffiths, and with Mrs Andrews as piano accompanist, the choir sang a medley of songs varying from Scottish and Irish ballads to magrigals and negro-spirituals.

The solo "Verai Carino" from Don Giovanni, was beautifully sung by Mrs Lydka Kenworthy.

The two pieces for piano-duets chosen by Mr Griffiths and Mrs Andrews were "The Berceuse" from the "Dolly Suite," and "Shepherds Hay."

Mrs E. Mason gave an illustrated talk on her visit to South Africa to the Social Studies group on February 23.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Chairman, Mrs C. Mitchell, presided at the monthly meeting of the Guild on February 19. She said the Guild's birthday party, which was arranged by the committee, had been enjoyed by the guests and guild members. Mr J. Barlow had entertained with many professional conjuring tricks. This was followed by a varied buffet with a much-enjoyed home-made birthday cake, complemented with a glass of wine.

The guest for the afternoon was Mrs Duckworth, who demonstrated pressed flowers. When picking flowers for pressing, she said they must be pressed immediately between blotting paper, left in a book with weights on it, or in a tie press, and not disturbed for three weeks. Pressed flowers should have a system of labelling for record purposes: red roses are not good flowers, for the colour changes to brown, and many blue flowers have the same characteristic. Finger panels for doors can be very decorative, and can have pictures of them as an alternative. Greeting cards were also shown and many flowers have their special meaning. Mrs Yvonne Barrow gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Guild. The meeting ended with a questionnaire which was won by Mrs Alice Smith.

On February 3 the members had the opportunity to be shown round the new Civic Centre at Reading by Mr Michael Barham, one of the staff. This was of great interest and gave a good insight into the modern techniques of the planning of this fine building.

On February 10 the Guild held a very successful coffee morning.

DEVON WEDDING



MICHAEL CANNING, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Canning of Highmoor Road, who is teaching at Chulmleigh in Devon was married on February 14 at St Mary Magdalene Chulmleigh to Jane Littlejohns, a bank officer in Exeter and a member of Chulmleigh Badminton and Tennis Clubs. Michael's parents, who were married at St Peter's Church, Iwer, Bucks, celebrated their Silver Wedding on Ash Wednesday. Geoffrey is the only son of the late Mr Walter Canning and Mrs Dorothy Canning who plans to move in the summer to live with her daughter in Paignton.

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St Barnabas Eisteddfod



— L. L. BURN

St Barnabas Coffee Pot members celebrated St David's Day by holding their first Eisteddfod. Members brought things they had done for a prepared section with such categories as cookery, knitting, pottery, painting and dressmaking. Those who were more brave entered the singing and speaking section. This meant speaking for one minute on a topic picked out of a hat, reciting the first verse of "Daffodils" and singing the first verse of "Amazing Grace". The final section, miming to records was accompanied by

screams of laughter. Morecombe and Wise accompanied by a girl friend roared in on a bicycle complete with crash helmet and leather jacket. They were followed by four farmers called the Hayseeds who looked as if they had just arrived from "Zummerzet", their mime Folk Song included rain and snow and was a favourite with the judge. "Three little Fishes" performed by three little ladies also went down well with hips going everywhere. Finally four budding musicians called the Music Makers danced

on with all but the kitchen sink, with saucepan lid knees crashing.

Thanks were given to Mrs Hawthorne who judged the mime and speaking section, and to Mrs Bailey who judged the prepared sections, which she said she found to be of a very high standard. The Rev Leonard Burn was there doing his "Lord Snowdon" act. Thanks are particularly due to Rosalyn Williams and Pauline Reed and to all who took part. Coffee Pot members are now eagerly awaiting 1977 Eisteddfod.

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The Rev Canon John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.
 The Rev Brian Gardiner, St Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.
 The Rev Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.
 The Rev Leonard Burn, St Barnabas' House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
 The Rev Michael Kitchener, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.
 The Rev John Sumner, St John's House, 9 Southview Avenue. Tel. 471814.
 The Rev Martin Loveless, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

BAPTIST

The Rev Laurence Stevens, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev Leslie Griffiths, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

The Rev Plunkett Shannon, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

There is no United Reformed Church in Caversham. The nearest is at York Road, Reading.

Sunday Worship: 11am and 6.30pm

Minister: The Rev Stephen Haine
 41 Highmoor Road. Tel. 477490

CAVERSHAM PARK HOUSE COMMUNIONS

HOUSE COMMUNIONS on Wednesdays at 10.30am
 April 7: 62 Kingsway (Margaret Lauder), 14th; 4 Goodrich Close (Hilary Outwaite), 21st; 2 Blackwater Close (Betty Bartlett), 28th; 10 Netley Close (Joy Abel).

HOLY WEEK UNITED SERVICE

Tuesday April 13, 8pm

St James' Roman Catholic Church

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SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Peter's - Balmore Hall, 11am (not 3rd Sunday of month). Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Tel. 476494

St Andrew's - St Andrew's Hall, 11am (9.15 1st Sunday of month). Superintendent: Mr J. Tomlin, 32 Kidmore Road. Tel. 473809.

St Barnabas' - Church Hall, 9.15am

CAVERSHAM PARK

The School, 11am.
 Superintendent: Mrs Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close. Tel. 478430

METHODIST

Caversham Heights - In Church, 11am
 Superintendent: Mrs P. Court, 3 Woburn Close. Tel. 471445.

COMBINED CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND METHODIST

East Caversham - Caversham Hall, 11am (aged three to seven)
 Superintendents: Mrs J. Stephens, 24 Carlton Road. Tel. 477030. Mrs S. Holley. Tel. 477142; Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11am (seven upwards).
 Superintendents: Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent. Tel. 472084 and Mrs J. Trevis, 40 All Hallows Road.

BAPTIST

West Memorial Hall - 11am, aged three years and upwards.
 Secretary: Mr L. Tyler, 162 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park. Tel. 476214

WE RECORD

BAPTISED ST JOHN'S

January 11: David Sanderson, Nicola Savory

CAVERSHAM PARK

January 25: Caroline Jellyman, Spencer Lewis, Natalie Waters

MARRIED ST PETER'S

March 2: Bertam Harris and Greta Pearce

ST JOHN'S

January 3: Wayne Chapple and Carolyn Robinson
 February 14: Robert East and Julie Honey

ST BARNABAS

February 14: Peter Witton and Lisa Markham

ST MARGARET'S

February 14: Robin Elliott and Karen Spratley

FUNERALS ST PETER'S

February 18: Joan Ling
 March 2: Doris Bulkeley and Joan Vann
 March 12: Dorothy Briscoe

ST JOHN'S

January 21: James Eighteen

ST ANDREW'S

February 17: Nellie Legge
 March 11: Lillian Day

ST MARGARET'S

February 10: Alexander Simms
 February 14: Ernest Ashcroft

TO HIRE A HALL

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CAVERSHAM HALL
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 Secretary: Mr Martyn-Johns, Greendene Farm, Mapledurham. Kidmore End 2198

WEST MEMORIAL HALL
 Secretary: Mr K. Shield, 27 Albert Road. Tel. 473709

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, April 11
 8.00a.m. Holy Communion (all churches)
 9.15a.m. Family Eucharist with distribution of palms (all churches)
 11.00a.m. Matins (St Peter's)
 11.15a.m. Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 6.30p.m. Evensong (St Peter's, St Andrew's, St Barnabas)

Monday, April 12
 7.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Barnabas)
 8.00p.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

Tuesday, April 13
 7.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

Wednesday, April 14
 9.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 10.00a.m. Holy Communion (St Barnabas)
 8.00p.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

Maudy Thursday, April 15
 6.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 9.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's)
 10.00a.m. Holy Communion (St John's)
 7.30p.m. Sung Eucharist (St Barnabas)
 8.00p.m. Sung Eucharist (St John's, St Andrew's)
 8.30p.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's)

Good Friday, April 16
 9.30a.m. Morning Service (St Andrew's)
 10.00a.m. Morning Service (St John's, St Barnabas)
 12.00a.m. The Three Hours Devotion (St Peter's) conducted by the Rev Kenneth Clark, Vicar of St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol
 3.00p.m. Evening Prayer (St Peter's)

Holy Saturday, April 17
 6.00p.m. Evening Prayer and preparation for Easter Communion (St Peter's)
 8.00p.m. Evensong and lighting of Paschal Candle (St Andrew's)

Easter Day, April 18
 7.00a.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's, St Andrew's)

8.00a.m. Holy Communion (all churches)
 9.15a.m. Family Eucharist (St Peter's, St Andrew's, St Barnabas)
 9.30a.m. Family Eucharist (St John's)
 11.15a.m. Holy Communion (St Andrew's)
 11.30a.m. Holy Communion (St Peter's)
 6.30p.m. Festal Evensong (all churches)

ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM

Palm Sunday, April 11
 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
 9.15a.m. Parish Communion with distribution of palms

Good Friday, April 16
 9.15a.m. Morning Service

Easter Day, April 18
 8.00a.m. Holy Communion
 9.15a.m. Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 11
 11.00a.m. Family Service and Children's Groups
 6.30p.m. Service of readings and passion music - 'God so loved the world'

Easter Day, April 18
 11.00a.m. Family Service and Children's Groups
 6.30p.m. Service of Believers Baptism and Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

Palm Sunday, April 11
 11.00a.m. Morning Worship
 7.30p.m. Holy Communion

Maudy Thursday
 8.30p.m. Holy Communion
 Easter Day, April 18
 11.00a.m. Holy Communion

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham (Gosbrook Road)

Palm Sunday, April 11
 11.00a.m. Morning Service
 6.30p.m. Evening Service

Easter Day, April 18
 9.30a.m. Easter Communion
 6.30p.m. Evening Service

Caversham Heights (Woodcote Road)

Palm Sunday, April 11
 11.00a.m. Morning Service
 6.30p.m. Evening Service

Easter Day, April 18
 8.00a.m. Easter Communion
 11.00a.m. Family Communion
 6.30p.m. Evening Service

UNITED SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

For The Free Churches
 Maudy Thursday, April 15
 7.30p.m. Holy Communion at Kings Road Baptist Church. Preacher: The Rev Leslie Griffiths

Good Friday, April 16
 10.30a.m. United Service at Caversham Free Baptist Church. Preacher: The Rev Leslie Griffiths

For The Church of England and Free Churches
 Good Friday, April 16
 7.30p.m. A service of Passiontide music and readings at St Andrew's