

LEARNING TO SAVE



— Walton Adams

CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL BANK

Little over two years ago, a School Bank was just an idea, but fortunately one that became reality and it is now an established part of school routine, in which any child in the junior school may participate, and 159 accounts have been opened by these children.

The Bank is run by eight fourth year pupils, under the supervision of two parent helpers, and is open for a relatively short session before school each Wednesday morning. The object of the Bank is to encourage children to handle their own money and to make them aware of the advantages of saving small amounts of money on a regular basis over a period of time. For this purpose each child is provided with a paying-in book and withdrawal book, when required.

The accounts opened by the children do not attract any interest and deposits are made in multiples of

5p. The School Bank each week pays in all cash to their own account with the Trustee Savings Bank and the interest earned in this way is used for the benefit of the school. Ten Observer reference books have recently been presented to the School for use in the Resources Area.



Children are encouraged to transfer large current account balances to existing Savings Accounts or a Deposit Account with the Trustee Savings Bank can be opened through the School Bank for any new savers. Any withdrawal, however small, must be countersigned by a child's parent.

The children, taken by one of the parent helpers, make their own deposits at the Trustee Savings Bank each week and very much appreciate the help and encouragement they

receive from the Caversham Branch Manager and his staff. Each year the school "Bank staff" have been shown round the Prospect Street branch and this has proved a very popular and informative visit. During March this year, the children were able to show how their Bank worked during the National Savings Exhibition at Maiden Erlegh School. During this day the exhibition was visited by representatives of schools who might be interested in starting a similar scheme.

Although all cash and accounts are checked each week, perhaps the most unpopular job is at the end of each term when the balances on each individual account have to be totalled and agreed with the school's Bank balance. At the end of the Easter term, the children achieved the ambition to balance first time and have now set themselves and subsequent helpers a very high standard!

PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Saturday, June 26 - 2.30pm

ST ANDREWS' FETE

AT ST ANDREW'S HALL
Proceeds to the Wellclose Trust

Sunday, June 27 - 6.30pm

AT ST PETER'S

MYSTERY PLAYS

Adapted from the Wakefield Cycle
Performance by the Girls of Queen Anne's School

Tuesday, June 29 — St Peter's Day

7.30pm

PARISH COMMUNION

at ST PETER'S

with the ordination to the priesthood of the
Rev Martin Loveless by the Bishop of Reading

The Editor's Column

FACING REALITY

AFTER REJECTING THE ANGLICAN-METHODIST SCHEME in 1969 the Church of England shortly afterwards took an important decision in deciding to welcome communicant members of other churches to the reception of Holy Communion at Anglican altars. Nearly seven years have passed and few would deny the immense gains that have resulted from this decision. Sunday by Sunday I rejoice that I can administer the Sacrament not only to members of my own communion but to members of other parts of Christ's Church; and since 1969 Anglicans have themselves felt able to communicate in non-Anglican churches in a way which until then was comparatively rare.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

This development is not however merely a matter that concerns Anglicans and Free Churchmen. Attitudes to authority have been quietly changing, and there is no point in pretending otherwise. Fr. Corbishley, the well known Jesuit who died recently, was preaching one day on unity at an Anglican Eucharist when the thought came to him "How can I preach here on unity, and then not receive the Sacrament with my fellow Christians?" And the step he then took is in fact now regularly taken by many members of the Roman Catholic Church. Similarly Anglicans on holiday on the continent frequently find themselves invited to communicate in Roman Catholic Churches; and on my visit to Italy in May it was a great joy, as an Anglican priest, to be able to celebrate the Eucharist in a Roman Catholic monastery with vestments and vessels all kindly provided by the Franciscan monks. Such a thing would have been inconceivable a few years ago.

ILLOGICAL

As a consequence of these developments we all find ourselves in the curious position that Anglicans, Free Churchmen and Roman Catholics are in communion with each other though officially their churches are not. This may seem illogical but theologians and those who make the rules seem more tied by logic than does the Holy Spirit. It is now more than time that our Churches came to terms with some of the consequences of the present situation. For example no one can put their name on an Anglican electoral roll and so hold official office unless they sign a form in which they declare that they are not a member of any other religious body which is not in communion with the Church of England. This means that while an occasional Anglican churchgoer can hold office, someone else who worships regularly, often with their Anglican husband or wife, cannot do so.

CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING

When I have been present in Caversham Free Baptist Church and seen an Anglican daughter and her Roman Catholic mother receiving Holy Communion side by side; when I have been celebrating the Eucharist in St Peter's and Caversham's Methodist minister has been assisting there with the chalice and administering it to a Roman Catholic, then I know that whatever the Councils or Synods of any Church may do or not do, say or not say, more and more of God's people who may label themselves Anglican, Protestant, or Roman Catholic rejoice at the visible unity that is in fact a reality and for this I say "Thanks be to God."

John Grimwade

POST BAG

Dear Sir,

Our recently formed Association needs the support of all interested residents in the area and we especially request their help in three matters.

As an inveterate duck feeder myself, I would appeal to others not to leave their bread wrappers around. Simple, inexpensive, and a posi-

tive contribution to the appearance of the area.

Secondly, we must give the newly elected Council no opportunity to renege on the landscaping of Hills Meadows.

Thirdly, and of the greatest importance, we are anxious for an improvement in the lot of pedestrians at the junction of George

Street and Gosbrook Road.

We will be happy to hear from any interested residents on 475171 or 474511.

Marguerite Desborough Secretary, Lower Caversham Residents' Association, Silvercroft, Paddock Road, Caversham.

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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153 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, RG4 7JR. Tel. 472542.

Caversham Parish Holiday

EMBLEY PARK, ROMSEY, HANTS

Saturday, July 24

—Saturday, July 31

Once again the parish of Caversham is running a holiday week at Embley Park School. The school is situated in lovely parkland and provides an ideal place for a holiday for people of all ages. The school catering and domestic staff do all the catering and cleaning, and the food has a reputation for its excellence. In addition to three main meals, early morning tea and afternoon tea, "elevenses" and a late evening drink are provided. There is an open air swimming pool and tennis, squash, croquet, bowls, putting and indoor games are available at no extra cost. Individuals are free to go out as they wish and packed lunches can be provided.

INCLUSIVE CHARGE (No extras)

Adults.....	£21.50
Children under eight years.....	£18.00
Children under five years.....	£16.00
Children under three years.....	£12.00
Babies under one year	£2.00

APPLICATION FORMS IN ALL CHURCHES OR OBTAINABLE FROM CHURCH HOUSE

NEVER TOO OLD

Mrs Lily Castell, age 84, with Bishop Bulley was the oldest of the sixty-six candidates whom he confirmed at St Peter's on May 25.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article "Some memories of Caversham" and the photographs which appeared in the May issue of this paper. My three sisters-in-law, Dorothy, Marjorie and Phyllis Chapman all appear in the photograph of Madam Kershaw's school. They say that it was taken circa 1912 prior to their moving to Woodcote.

Phyllis died about seven years ago but Dorothy and Marjorie, both of whom are retired Nursing Sisters of the Wingfield Orthopaedic Hospital, now live together at Tokers Green. They still live very active lives and are quite often called upon to give illustrated talks about Henley and Woodcote areas.

Barbara Chapman Hemdean Rise, Caversham.



A LIFE AMONG TREES

All his life Mr George Streamer, of Chazey Heath, Mapledurham, has worked on the land, first with Messrs Sutton & Sons, then for the last 30 years amongst the trees on Mapledurham Estate. When he first worked in the woods George Streamer knew nothing about forestry, but gradually he learned and for many years now he has been head woodman.

In 1946 when he first started work among the trees of Mapledurham much timber had been cut for World War II. The ground had to be cleared of scrub and replanted. Nuney Green was tackled first, then Chazey Wood next. For many years it had been regular policy to plant oak, beech and larch. Mr Streamer says the oak comes along well, the larch, if anything, matures too quickly, while the beech for some unknown reason, is very slow in growth. Strange — as the Chilterns are the land of beech woods. There was one piece of ground at Kingshill which would not grow a tree until the Estate tried Corsican pines. These proved an unqualified success. The larch is supposed to be thinned out first and then the other two types are dealt with in like manner. At one time much of the thinnings went for pit props. Now small beech and oddments go for woodpulp.

In our talk about trees we inevitably came to the subject of the dread elm disease. Mr Streamer is convinced that until we have a really severe winter it will never be eradicated from the bark where it survives. But it is not only disease that destroys trees. Twice in less than two years great gales have torn down the mighty. There was one huge beech at the foot of Mapledurham Hill which George always admired. Last January 2 in the great night gale it crashed to the ground. The picture, with this article, shows George Streamer with his assistant, Bill Durrant, tackling three fallen trees after the gale in September 1974.

BADGER FRIENDS

We talked about the creatures that anyone working in the woods must come across. George has seen deer a few times at Nuney Green. Badgers, he told me, are his friends; for he hates wasps and the badger will root out wasps' nests to eat the grubs.

The weather too is very much part of George Streamer's life, and he believes a great deal in the old weather folk lore. "Where the wind is on the 21st of March (the first day of Spring) at twelve mid-day, there it remains, little or



■ Mr George Streamer right and Mr Bill Durrant tackling an extra job after the gale.

— Reading Mercury

much for the next three months," he told me. And I'm afraid the set of the wind last March 21st at noon had a touch of the East in it, and may mean dry weather till mid-summer day. Who knows? The moon, too, has her share in the way the weather goes, and George always likes to take his holiday just as the moon comes full. But cold or hot, rain or shine, five days a week it's a midday picnic for the woodman out in the open. He even had his sandwiches outside all through the notorious winter of 1962. With an old tarpaulin rigged up as a windbreak and some dead wood for a camp fire, life can be tolerably cosy.

So the year goes by. Fencing, planting, cleaning. Planting occurs from November till March. Weeding takes place in the spring a year after a plantation has been established. The fencing — well that can be done any time when it can be fitted in.

Thirty years ago it was axes, crosscut saws, beetles and wedges. Now an axe is seldom seen. The chain saw with its noisy engine has taken over. But for every tree felled, another is planted, nursed and brought, not perhaps in the planter's lifetime, to maturity. Growing trees must be one of the most rewarding and satisfying jobs around. This life, so close to the living earth, is something perhaps that we have lost, something that we would do well to regain. For it has much to teach us. Maybe in our little garden plots, which we are now beginning to use more than for many a long year, we shall begin to find some of the answers. Talking to George Steamer about his life among the woods of Oxfordshire one gets the impression that he certainly has.

M.K.

NEWS FROM THE "89th"

SATURDAY, MAY 15 saw the official opening by Bill Vincent, County Commissioner, of the Headquarters of the 89th Reading Scout Group. The two buildings have been in use since they were erected in October 1973, but a great deal of work has since been completed on the interiors as money became available from fund-raising activities.

The afternoon began with the arrival of the County Commissioner in his car through the middle of a very smart guard of honour. He inspected the group and parents and guests were then invited into the Hall to hear Colin Gamble, Group Scout Leader, talking about the relevance of Scouting in today's world. Nick Nicholson, Headquarters Project Manager, on the trials and tribulations leading to the successful comple-

tion of the buildings, and Chris Wort, District Commissioner, referring to his own connections with the Group, and in particular mentioning Barry Pilgrim, who joined many years ago as a Cub and after an unbroken progression is now the newly appointed Scout Leader of Founder Troop.

The County Commissioner then cut the tape to "open" the building, letting in the Flag Parties and all other members of the Group. He congratulated the Group on their achievements, and made presentations of Scout "Thank You" badges to Nick Nicholson, Mike Waltham, Alan Branch, Bryan Verran, David Miles, Ken Potter and Alan Horsley, all of whom had made very significant contributions to the planning and building of the new Headquarters. Finally a presentation of a pic-

ture of the new buildings was made to Freddie Knight, Founder of the Group 25 years ago and still very much in the thick of things as the current Chairman.

Parents were not allowed to forget during the course of the afternoon that, although the Group had done well to raise £3,000 towards the cost of the building there is still £700 worth of work to be paid for. One of the most successful fund-raising activities has been newspaper collection, and already nearly £450 has been raised during 1976. Two co-ordinators have been appointed to make collection easier.

If any readers would like to contribute to the Group's funds in this way please contact either Dr Pethybridge (472666), 6 Aldenham Close, Caversham Park or Mr Rodhill (475781), 22 Abingdon Drive, Caversham Park, who will be pleased to collect your waste paper.

Put yourself in
MILWARDS
SHOES

★
Church Street, Caversham

CAVERSHAM
BRIDGE
AUGUST EDITION

All contributions for next month's Caversham Bridge must be submitted by Wednesday, June 30. The publication date is July 17.

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Caversham Shopping Basket

This month the Caversham Shopping Basket visited its four regular local supermarkets on Saturday, May 29, the day before the Bank Holiday weekend. It therefore found shortages of various commodities.

In the case of articles not available the prices for last month is shown in brackets. All the shops except the Co-op show a rise in overall totals over last month.

0064 Item	Co-op★★	Liptons	Oakeshotts★	Budgens★
Large white sliced loaf	16½	(18)	(18)	(18)
1lb cheapest butter	35	35	35	38½
1lb lard	17	18	20	20½
1lb cheapest Cheddar	35	42	48	44
1 dozen standard eggs	40	41	40	40
1lb cheapest bacon	86	89	(68)	78
Packet of 10 fish fingers	39	33	39	40
1lb cheapest sausages	42	(36)	(35)	(40)
15oz tin baked beans	13	14	15½	12½
15oz tin soup	11	12½	15	13
1lb frozen peas	26	25	26½	26
3lb self-raising flour	17½	17	19½	18
1lb dried fruit	24	(25)	24	26
¼lb cheapest tea	8½	10½	10½	9½
4oz jar coffee	36	58	48	46
2lb granulated sugar	23	(23)	22½	23
500gms cornflakes	22	24½	(26½)	25½
¾lb packet biscuits	19½	18½	21	18
1lb cheapest marmalade	19	21	24½	22
Double pack toilet paper	16½	17½	23	16
TOTAL	5.30	5.78½	5.79½	5.74½

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



THAMES VALLEY RADIO

A monthly review by Sylvia Grinsted
 THE PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION PROGRAMME ON TVR, Access and Counterpoint, are proving to be quite interesting, instructive and entertaining. Nevertheless, some are badly presented and boring.

Various methods of presentation are being attempted, the extreme being a one-and-a-half hourly debate with only a short break for the news, or a discussion lasting in all about forty minutes because of constant musical interruptions. Sometimes the local radio broadcaster in charge of the programme seems to have no idea how to frame the questions in order to encourage stimulating discussion. Experienced broadcasters and public speakers are probably capable of dealing with this and can enlarge on the limited scope of the question. But a nervous, inexperienced person — and there are obviously quite a number in programmes such as these — will answer as briefly as possible, or ramble on indefinitely and unintelligibly.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Matters of national interest are expertly dealt with by the BBC and therefore, if undertaken on local radio, should be presented with as much emphasis as possible on the position locally. Some programmes have come over very well, for example the discussions on Abortion, Lead in the Environment and Care of the Elderly. The one on Homelessness would have been better, had not one or two of the speakers been rather inaudible. Letting amateur broadcasters write and take part in their own discussion programme is an interesting concept. However, because they are amateurs does not mean that local radio should allow them to be amateurish.

PETROL PRICES IN CAVERSHAM

The comparative prices for petrol in Caversham were noted on June 4, but prices obviously tend to fluctuate from time to time

	Pump Price	Actual	Stamps
Caversham Bridge Garage (Esso)	79p	3p off	Nil
George Street Petrol Station (Fina)	79.6p	3p discount or 10 fold stamps ie 50 stamps per gal.	
Gosbrook Road Garage (Esso)	76p	76p	Nil
Holloways Garage (Shell)	79p	3½p off	Nil
Emmer Green Garage (Mobil)	75p	75p	Stamps
Buckingham Drive Garage (Esso)	79p	3p off	Nil

These prices are for THREE STAR grade

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MAPLEDURHAM PATRONAL FESTIVAL

St Margaret's Day
 Parish Communion
 7.30pm

Preacher
 The Rev T. B. Pelham
 Vicar of Whitchurch

OBITUARY

MRS DORIS STEVENS

Early in May Mapledurham lost a well-loved member of the village community with the death of Mrs Doris Stevens of New Lodge, the Warren. Although Mrs Stevens and her husband had only lived in the village for about the last ten years, Mrs Stevens endeared herself to everyone with her quiet, gentle personality. She often helped at Mapledurham House when it was open to the public. Before coming into Oxfordshire she had lived in the heart of the Norfolk countryside. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

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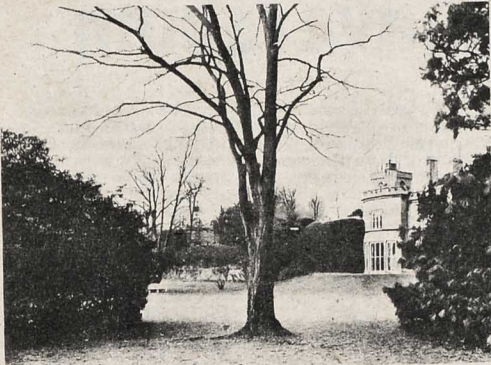
Residents' Viewpoint

by Watchdog

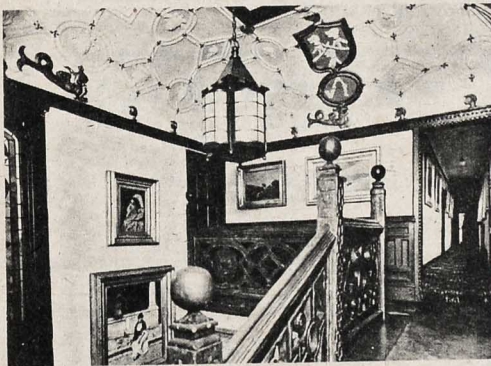
THIS ENGLAND

A band playing on the lawn; the Women's Institute running the tea tent with the efficiency born of long experience; Scouts in charge of the games; Brownies with their homemade sweets; crowds round the bottle stall and Punch still quarrelling with Judy, whilst overhead the sun half promises to shine and the clouds half threaten to rain; all of these are the time honoured ingredients of fetes all over the country. In Caversham Court however, there is the added bonus of the beauty of the setting, which in the month of May is at its best, with the fresh green of the trees, the wistaria along the terrace and families of mallards disporting themselves at the edge of the river. No

CAVERSHAM COURT



■ The south front



■ The staircase

wonder the fete organised by the Gazebo Trust was such a happy affair.

Yet, as Lady Elizabeth Brunner opening the fete reminded her listeners, these gardens came into public possession only at the cost of the imposing house which stood there until 1931 being demolished by the town council of the day who wished to drive a road through it. Fortunately they had second thoughts but by then all that was left was the stable block and the Gazebo and now time and the weather are in the process of destroying that too. So some five hundred people turned up to make their contribution towards saving it and the new Mayor, Thames Councillor Mrs Kathleen Sage, made it one of the first public engagements of her year of office.

An out-of-the-ordinary touch was given by the Haydn Choir singing songs that would have been familiar when the Gazebo was in its youth and by the Guild of Artists' exhibition of pictures on the ancient flint walls. Caversham's own potter, Ann Wrightson, was also there with an attractive display of her wares and the Civic Society was selling photographs of the exterior and interior of the old house.

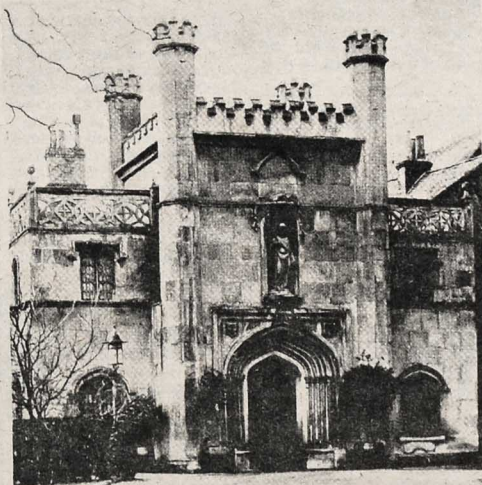
It was a happy scene and although much money still remains to be raised, it was an indication of the public support for saving this little building for future generations to enjoy.

BUILDINGS OR PEOPLE?

There was plenty to occupy the people of Caversham on that Saturday afternoon. Thameside School was holding its always popular fete and Christian Aid week was ending with its sponsored walk through the Chiltern beech woods. No one would deny that the cause for which they were walking makes saving the Gazebo seem frivolous and irrelevant. It would have been a sad indictment of our values if the sum they raised had been immeasurably the higher of the two. Nevertheless when mankind's basic physical needs have been satisfied, he will need more than bread alone to live by. It would be sad if he then found that his historical heritage had been destroyed, for this helps to give him a sense of identity. During that week there was an opportunity to help both causes. Caring for buildings does not exclude caring for people.

FOOT NOTE

The Caversham Court Gazebo Trust is a registered charity, set up in the first place under the auspices of Reading Civic Society. Donations may be sent to Mr J. Wilson, c/o Lloyds Bank, Christchurch Road, Reading, but if you are one of those people who never get round to writing cheques and putting them in envelopes, Caversham Residents' Association will pass on any donations.



■ The entrance

Help the Aged

An appeal from **BERNARD HARRIS** the local organiser

In 1975 "Help the Aged" were in the happy position to give £2,372,456 in cash and kind to more than sixty developing countries, this included a record 38,169 bales of clothing and blankets. Remember, each item of clothing or blankets may well save a life.

The world over there are old people who have no one to care for them. They are alone, often hungry and sick.

£1 can feed a refugee for a week.

£3 can pay for a cataract operation, thereby restoring an old person's sight.

A group of ten people giving 5p a week can "Adopt-a-Granny or Grandad" overseas. The group could write him or her and probably receive a photograph from the organisation caring for them.

Everybody, by giving something can help rid the world of this human tragedy. Further details may be obtained from: B. G. Harris, 216 Hoyleake Crescent, Ickenham, Uxbridge, UB10 8JW.

READING AND DISTRICT ANNUAL APPEAL

Please send your donation to the Honorary Treasurer care of Barclays Bank 2/4 Church Road, Caversham. Clothing and blankets may be taken to either of the reception centres on July 13 and 14 and between 2pm and 8pm.

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or
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

A Pleasant Walk in the Country

Fund raising activities very often mean hard work without a great deal of intrinsic enjoyment attached; no one can really enjoy a house to house collection.

The exception is the Christian Aid Walk. Reading's Christian Aid organiser Mr A. L. Redgrove, has worked out a twenty mile route which avoids roads and

offers superb views of the Chilterns around Henley. One does not experience the peace of the country as one walks in company with several hundred other Christians from the area, so there is a great sense of fellowship. The numbers taking part from Caversham has been increasing each year. Quite apart from raising a great deal of money it is a most enjoyable way of spending a Saturday.



■ Mrs Yvonne Milne once again organised a home produce stall in her Gosbrook Road garden for Christian Aid Week.



■ Christian Aid walkers enjoying a rest at Crocker End, the half-way point in the twenty mile route.



■ On May 15 this van toured Caversham selling tea on behalf of Christian Aid

J. Sumner

With Kathy in Caversham

No apologies to Guy Hansford for my comment on the use of the word "village" in connection with Caversham Park (though I should say how very nice it was to know that my column does sometimes get read, even as far away as Glasgow) because I think he missed the point. Apart from those actively involved, I doubt if anyone is more aware than I am of the amount of work Guy and his handful of like-minded citizens put into making the estate a village. My complaint was against the developers in using the word "village" as an advertising gimmick — left to them the estate would have remained a dormitory and it's no thanks to them that Caversham Park Village is now a lively and active community.

What's wrong with 'Community'?

And I don't apologise either for using the word — what's wrong with "community"? Most of us live in "enforced togetherness," whether it be in a city, town or village. It's what we make of it that matters. And

yes, I shall certainly support the centre — it thoroughly deserves the appreciation of the whole of Caversham.

Something to sing about

I've heard such glowing reports of two local events that, though alas I was unable to attend, I can't resist commenting. The Medieval Fete, with its Cycle of Miracle Plays, recently held at Queen Anne's School, was, I'm told, sheer delight and deserved a wider audience. Even more impressive than the plays and the contemporary art work, models and other exhibitions was, it seems, the general atmosphere. Participants and audience alike seemed to have had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, enhanced throughout by real politeness and consideration for others.

Excellent hostesses

They say the mark of a good hostess is that only she knows of the tremendous efforts of preparation and in this respect the girls of Queen Anne's were excellent hostesses. They gave up hours of precious free time and all contributed in some way, however mundane the task, and showed a remarkable lack of the usual "What am I getting out of it" attitude. Congratulations to all concerned.

Save our Gazebo

A more detailed account of this campaign will be found elsewhere in this edition, but again I must mention the fact that hundreds of people, including many school children, took part in the fete in aid of the Gazebo Fund, recently held in Caversham Court. Once again many volunteers, assisted by the very helpful park keeper, gave time and labour beforehand; pay 5p at the gate and one sometimes forgets that stall erection, preparation of goods and sideshows, organisation of entertainments and refreshments, don't just happen. But for

once the workers were well rewarded by the wonderful atmosphere and the attitude of those who came to buy or try their luck.

Although eager, there was no pushing, no impatience, no rowdiness or dishonesty; goods and money left temporarily unguarded remained untouched.

A miracle?

But the final heartwarming aspect only became apparent after the raffles

were drawn, the hundreds of losing tickets torn up and the crowds had departed. Workers prepared to tackle the worst part of any fete — clearing up the mess. But where was it — the plastic cups, the pop bottles, the coco-cola cans, the drinking straws, paper, tickets, programmes, etc? Unbelievably — in the litter bins! Two small pieces of paper were all that sullied the whole of our beautiful Court. Well done, Caversham! Other areas please copy.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

A Members' Social Evening was held in May, with games and a buffet supper organised by the Committee. Members were also asked for their views on the programme of speakers to be planned for the next two years. Subjects chosen were varied and controversial and an interesting programme should follow.

The Arts and Crafts section were given a talk and demonstration on pressed flowers by Mrs Gillings, and the Social Studies section had visited the Civic Centre to see the working conditions of both the staff and the Council as part of their programme of study under the heading of "Other People's Jobs."

Mapledurham WI

The President, Mrs M. Hayward, welcomed two new members and presented the floral birthday buttonholes. Mrs Lees (V.C.O.) assisted the members in the discussion on the resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall, and Mrs P. Packard, the delegate for Woodcote and Mapledurham, was instructed on the voting. Mrs Lees succeeded in making it an enjoyable afternoon, although the matters discussed were seriously dealt with.

Mrs M. Crick won the flower of the month competition and the raffle prizes were won by Mrs Martin and Mrs Hutt.

Blagrove WI

At the May Meeting, Birthday Posies were presented by Miss Chapman who also welcomed the Speaker, Mrs Sizer, VCO, who had come to lead the discussion on the Resolutions for the AGM to be held at the Albert Hall, and the "Link" representative from Rose Hill was advised on how members of Blagrove wished her to vote on their behalf. A number of members had attended their first Group Meeting held at Pangbourne since the Institute had joined that Group, and had had a most enjoyable afternoon.

A preliminary meeting held at Watlington House for an Exhibition to be held later in the year at Tilehurst Library was attended by two members, and the final arrangements were made for the Summer outing to Saville Gardens.

Several members offered their help with the Teas for the project to raise money for the Gazebo at Caversham Court, and the Competition for a Spray from a

flowering shrub, which was won by Mrs Bartlett, was very well supported and the table on which the Sprays were displayed looked really beautiful.

Maplewood WI

Mrs K. Bubb presided at the May meeting when resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall were introduced by Mrs E. Clarke, and then discussed by the Institute members. Our Link representative, Mrs Fisher from Whitchurch Hill, was advised how to vote. Mrs B. Belfield-Smith thanked Mrs Clarke for her helpful guidance.

It was agreed to give two bursaries of £20 and £10 for courses at Denman College, and names were proposed.

At the Group Meeting in April, the Institute won the Cup for the third consecutive time, for a display of three items for a baby.

A new member, Mrs Stelard, was welcomed.

A successful flower arranging morning was given by Mrs B. Belfield-Smith and Mrs R. Painter.

Caversham Park WI

A good number of members attended the May meeting. The President Mrs Olive Harris was in the chair. Resolutions for the Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall in June were outlined and discussed.

From the proceeds of a Jumble Sale and coffee mornings held in members' homes, plans are in hand for a seat to be placed in Donkin Hill for the use of the elderly, and others, to take a rest whilst proceeding up the hill.

The competition, a small posy, was won by Mrs Phyllis Colley.

New members will be made very welcome at the July 15 meeting when the speaker, Mr S. M. Gold will give a talk illustrated with slides, on The National Trust.

The competition will be a "Photograph of an old building."

Blagrove WI

On June 1 the members accompanied by a few husbands and friends, went by coach to Saville Gardens.

Upon arrival, before disembarking, the President Miss M. Chapman, held a short business meeting. She told members that their help in serving cups of tea at the garden fete for the Gazebo Fund had raised £12.14. A request was made for articles of craft for an exhibition at Tilehurst Library in August. Three members offered their services in response to an appeal for

help with the trollies at the Royal Berks Hospital. The members were reminded of forthcoming events and arrangements were made for transport to Burchett's Green for Home Economics Day on July 15. The President then closed the meeting and the rest of the afternoon was spent enjoying the beautiful gardens.

On returning to the coach at 5.30 everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable visit.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Chairman, Mrs C. Mitchell, had pleasure in introducing three new members at the well-attended monthly meeting. She added the Jumble Sale on May 15 had a satisfactory result. She then introduced Mr Stanley Magee, who spoke on behalf of ICI and Mr John Swabey who showed the film.

Mr Magee emphasized how pesticide was important all over the world, how it has helped to kill pests that ruin crops, control disease in crops, and mentioned how potatoes could become rare if blight were not overcome. He also told how locusts which could affect cocoa and coffee plantations have been overcome with pesticide; a swarm of locusts can ruin three thousand tons of food in a few moments. Since the war, one and a half to two million tons of grain has been saved with this treatment. Agriculture is losing so much arable land to motorways, and buildings, not to mention drought and flooding, that it is important to be on top of these threatening diseases. Mr Magee emphasized that all their experiments were carried out for seven years, and the results put to many committees, the Government and overseas officials, before any produce is introduced to any market. Mrs M. Chisholm gave a vote of thanks to Mr Magee and Mr Swabey and congratulated them on a most interesting talk.

The Guild then had a report from Mrs A. Smith, the delegate, and Mrs J. Attfield, the observer, on their experiences when attending the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds at the Albert Hall. It was a welcome thought that the motion that had been accepted by the local Guild was supported when put to the vote at the N.U.T.G. The Guild would have been proud when the Chairman Mrs Mitchell, seconded a motion put by Chiltern and Castle Federation on reduced postal rates. She pointed out that lower income groups were disproportionately affected by postal charges, when quite a small sum can upset a budget.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Mrs J. Thacker, the Speaker at the April meeting, illustrated her talk with a wonderful collection of colour slides showing many different aspects of life in China today.

She travelled some 3,000 miles, much of it by train, taking in visits to schools, factories and people's homes. Members discovered that everyone has to learn something about food production and industrial

skills. Factory workers spend a month every year working on the land and, similarly, land workers spend some time working in factories, which in some cases had been specially built for this purpose in isolated areas. Children from the age of three years are given short lessons each week working in a garden and making simple components — being taken on visits to the factory to see where "their" bits fit in. Older children were seen wiring transistors and some of the proceeds of this factory work go to school funds; shop prices are consistent all over China, some having remained the same for seven years. Although warm and dry by comparison with huts many lived in before the revolution, modern flats were very austere, with curtainless windows and bare light bulbs hanging from the flex.

One of the biggest surprises of the trip was the Chinese people's impression of their visitors. As a nation of "uniform" people, all with similar colouring, they found it very hard to believe that various shades of hair and eyes could be found within one Western family.

Mr Marian Kitcher gave the Vote of Thanks.

Mrs Margaret Wood, JP, was the speaker at the Guild meeting on May 20. She spoke about the training procedure necessary to qualify as a JP. Any member of the community who wishes to be involved in this work, can apply for the training course. The final appointment is made through the Lord Chancellor's Office.

Mrs Wood gave a detailed account of the work in the various courts, and the types of cases she has to deal with. It was interesting to learn about the new type of sentence given for particular crimes. Offenders are expected to do unpaid voluntary work in the community, for example, from labouring, and helping in old peoples' homes, to maintenance on canal locks.

Unfortunately the battle against crime is interminable, therefore, as Mrs Wood said: "I will never be out of a job." The subject was a serious one, but the talk was very well constructed, and gave members a good insight into the work of a JP. It showed a side of life people so often wish to ignore.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, May 13, 1976. Mr B. A. Fowles was re-elected Chairman of the Council for the year 1976/77. Mr F. H. Gardner was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council.

No further developments were reported to the Council in connection with the requests that have strongly been made for main drainage facilities in Chezey Road and Upper Warren Avenue, apart from a letter from the District Council suggesting that the Thames Water Authority may be giving some thought to at least some parts of the Reading Fringes Scheme. The Council are to pursue this matter further with the Water Authority.

□□□

The Council considered a planning application in connection with temporary buildings and works for the film "The Eagle Has Landed" that is to be made in Mapledurham Village. Whilst the Council gave their approval to the application, they were also informed that many of the service facilities for those employed on making the film are to be located close to private dwellings, and the Parish Council requested that these should be sited at least 50ft away from any properties. The Council also requested that all the disturbed areas in connection with the film making must be reinstated to the condition they were in, prior to any work undertaken by the film company.

The Council were pleased to note that the standards of behaviour on the Playing Fields had generally improved, and the Council expressed its thanks to the local police, as it was felt that due to their vigilance there had been a reduction in the amount of the recent vandalism.

The Council have expressed some concern over the use made of the Mapledurham Country Park, and a copy of the local conditions are to be obtained to enable the Parish Council to assess the situation.

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Gay Christians?

A very good friend of mine is a homosexual. He is a priest in the Church of England. I know him to be intelligent in mind, sound in judgment, warm in affection. In short, a good person, whose friendship I value highly. He has been closely involved in the setting up of a group called "the Gay Christian Movement." The inaugural meeting was held in London at the beginning of April. The first chairman of this Gay Christian Movement is also vicar of Thaxted in the diocese of Chelmsford. A few weeks ago the Bishop of Chelmsford sent a pastoral letter to all the clergy in his diocese. In this letter he apparently said he had been appalled to receive so many vicious and nasty letters from clergy in his diocese as a result of this man becoming chairman of the movement.

It's all very confusing, isn't it. So many different feelings batter around in this matter of homosexuality. I have to admit that I find it difficult to accept homosexuality. And how, I wonder, would you feel if you went to live in a parish where the vicar was not only homosexual but quite open about it? What would you do if your son came home one day and said he had committed himself to another person in a homosexual relationship? Over the last bank holiday weekend a Campaign for Homosexual Equality was held in Southampton. A number of local pastors criticised this event, warning the city council that to permit the conference would risk the wrath and judgment of God. Leaders from the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and United Reformed Church decided to offer no opposition although they were somewhat guarded in their support. The Church, like the rest of society, seems suspicious about homosexuality. But whatever our feelings the Church should face the issue with some objectivity.

GOD GIVEN
We live in an age when sexuality is often seen as an end in itself. But surely, for the Christian, sexuality is always going to be a powerful means towards things like tenderness, affection and commitment. Maybe the final criterion of judgment about any sexual relationship is whether or not it is growing in such qualities. Let the chairman of the Gay Christian Movement have the last word. "The nature of one's sexuality is God-given. One should use it responsibly, not deny it. Any responsible use of sex, whether heterosexual or homosexual, involves a sense of given rather than taking. Genital expression is only one part of sexual love."

TWO QUESTIONS

First of all, what is homosexuality? Is it a sickness that has to be coped with or cured? Or is it a particular form of sexuality which is made by God and has its own validity in creation alongside heterosexuality? It is argued that there cannot be a hard and fast distinction between the two; that one is right and the other wrong. In each of us there is a delicate balance of both male and female sex hormones. We are biochemically made the way we are, some predominately heterosexual, some predominately homosexual. If this view of sexuality is right then none of us who claim to be heterosexual can be without some homosexual potential.

Secondly, is it really true that the Orthodox Christian Tradition denounces homosexuality as being contrary to God's plan and design in creation? Jesus doesn't. Certainly there are passages outside the gospels where men living in particular social situations spoke against it. But that's not quite the same as saying that homosexuality is contrary to God's plan and design in creation. St Paul supported slavery but we are quite convinced that God doesn't.

These kinds of questions (and probably many more) need to be honestly and lovingly faced and answered before a Christian could come down one side or the other.



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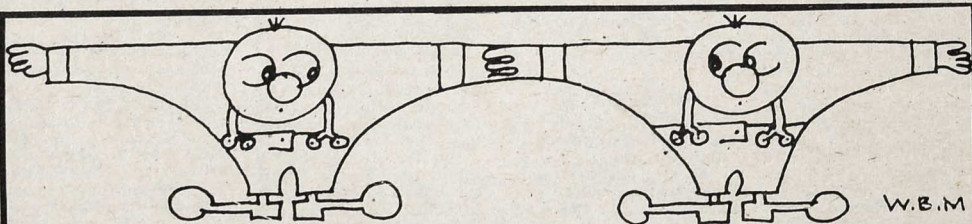
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CHURCH NEWS

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

The Rev Leonard Burn has been appointed chaplain of Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham and he and his family will be leaving Caversham towards the end of September in time for him to take up his new post on October 1. An appreciation of his work since coming to Caversham in April 1972 will appear in the October number of the Caversham Bridge.

ST ANDREW'S NEWS

May was an extremely busy month for the people of St Andrew's Church. On Saturday 1 the re-decorating scheme was launched. This scheme, which is expected to be completed in September, involves washing down and painting the church, vestries and entrance porch. The re-decoration scheme will bring to an end, it is hoped, a four year period of repairs and refurbishing the St Andrew's "plant." This work has involved rewiring the church, digging out and renewing the soakaways, painting the exterior of the church, installing a new heating system and redecorating the large hall.

Work apart, there has been activity of the social scene, a very successful Barn Dance was held one Saturday; members of the Mothers Union entertained a Parish Outing from Ickleford, near Hitchin. The party spent the day in Caversham and finished up at St Andrew's Hall for tea. They were able to see how work was progressing in the church. The outing was conceived by the Revd Peter Palmer who visited St Andrew's on the Dedication Festival last year. What he saw then of Caversham so impressed him that he was most anxious for his congregation to see for themselves.

MOTHERS UNION OUTING

The Mothers Union annual outing was a happy event. Members had a very pleasant coach trip to Hughenden Manor, the home of Disraeli. After seeing the splendid house (which featured in Blue Peter Special Assignment on May 30) members had tea in the Old Vicarage and then attended Evensong in St Michael and All Angels Church, the Church in the Park.

Many members of the Youth Group went once again on the Annual Public Transport Rally to Brighton. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

ST ANDREW'S KABARE

The Lent Project this year was rather a special one for the congregation as it established a link with the parish of St Andrew's Kabare, Kenya. Margaret Goddard (better known as Margaret Harden a former member of St Andrew's) lives and works near Kabare and was able to provide many photographs and details about the new church which is being built there. The aim of the project was to raise sufficient money to purchase a pulpit (£60) an Altar (£30) and as many doors as money would allow. The project raised just over £144 thereby achieving what was aimed at. The Vicar of Kabare has since written to express the gratitude of his congregation and hopes that a permanent link can be

forged between the two congregations.

The preacher for the Dedication Festival this year was the Revd Dr John Edwards and the Sung Eucharist was very well attended, the congregation were able to meet Dr Edwards over a cup of coffee in the hall following the service.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

November 21, the eve of St Cecilia's day, has been reserved for a special Thanksgiving Service for Hugh Rowe, organist for twenty-eight years, and for the complete redecoration and general repairs scheme. Proceeds of the service, which will include an organ recital by John Simpson, will go toward the Hugh Rowe Organ Memorial Fund.

ST JOHN'S NEWS

MAY FAIR

Everything combined to produce ideal conditions for the May Fair held in the church grounds on Saturday, May 8, and opened by Mr Tony Durant, MP. The army of helpers, fired by the energy and enthusiasm of Margaret Horne, the organiser,

speak of crockery-smashing, bowling for the (oven ready) chickens, and other side shows; whilst ice cream and soft drinks were in ample supply to revive flagging energies, and teas were served in the cool and quiet of Caversham Hall.

It was one of those



■ Brisk trade at St John's fete. — J. Sumner

the generosity of the business people of Caversham who gave donations, prizes and goods for auction (including an automatic washing machine); plus perfect weather and crowds of visitors: all these added up to a happy afternoon for everyone and the incredible cash result of more than £608.

There were stalls, games for the children, Punch and Judy, rides on the model railway, Tombola with a prize for every ticket; not to

happy St John's occasions — sadly not so frequent nowadays — when friends old and new were able to get together to exchange news and enjoy one another's company.

The sale-of-work stall included knitting sent by former Caversham resident, Mrs Audrey Giddings, and her neighbour, Mrs Giddings, who is Mrs Winnie Masterman's sister, moved to Lichfield some years ago but still sends work to St John's Bazaar every year.



■ Mr Tony Durant MP supported by his wife seen opening St John's Fete. — J. Sumner

ST PETER'S NEWS

Mr John Dussek has made such a splendid recovery from his long and serious illness that he will be resuming his duties as director of music at Kendrick School in September. In view of this he has understandably but regrettably felt obliged to tender his resignation as parish organist. It is good however to know that he will not be lost to Caversham for not only will he remain as a member of the congregation but has said that he will be glad to play the organ anywhere in the parish when other organists are on holiday.

INVALIDS

Mrs Pring will be missed for some months from the congregation. She was admitted to Battle Hospital on May 25 after a night storage heater in her home fell on her right leg, causing a compound fracture. Both Kurt and Pamela Pick have been on the sick list, the one with a severe attack of shingles and the other with a cracked rib, while Pamela Griffiths has been in hospital with a virus infection. Mr George Barnes has now left hospital and gone to live at Parkside Home, Bath Road.

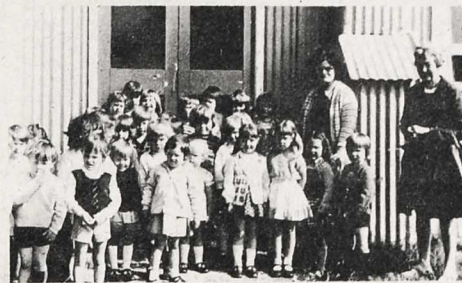
ASCENSION DAY

Although far short of the numbers at Easter and Christmas it was encouraging to have 209 communicants on Ascension Day, and the newly confirmed from St Peter's and Caversham Park who received the Sacrament for the first time that night were cer-

tainly able to feel that they had come into a welcoming worshipping community. On Ascension Day morning the pupils of Hemdean House School attended the usual service held for them that day.

MOVES

Bob and Anne Winsor



■ Members of St Barnabas Playgroup about to set out on their first official outing — a trip to Ipsden Bird Park. — L. L. Burn

METHODIST NEWS

Early on in May members of the Young Peoples Fellowship, "Squash" and The Youth Club, all connected with Caversham Heights Methodist Church took part in the "London Weekend." That is the annual Methodist Association of Youth Clubs London Weekend.

The theme of this year's show was "Bridges and Barriers," being part of the "Bridge-Builders" project which seeks to promote the Building of Bridges and Breaking down of Barriers in six troubled areas of the world.

The Caversham con-

tingent for their part depicted the building of the American Railroad. Although this was only a small part of the show the whole cast were able to take part in the opening and finale items. The latter proving to be a very moving experience for all concerned.

Sunday Morning worship was held in the Albert Hall and during the afternoon there was a march from Central Hall, Westminster, to Trafalgar Square where some nine thousand young Methodists joined in a Rendezvous.

The weekend proved that Christianity is still spreading throughout the young people of the British Isles.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

Several months ago I commented on the Chiltern Edge community journal "Link" which is produced at the school's new Resources Centre at Sonning Common. Recently I received a cordial invitation from Mr R. H. Peirce, co-ordinator of resources, to visit the building to see at first hand all that goes on within its bounds. I was first introduced to Mrs Richardson and Mrs Lea, both of whom assist Mr Peirce with the complicated apparatus of the machine rooms. The off-set litho printing press is the gem of the centre. This produces the high-class work representative of the publications I had seen on display. The school is fortunate in having on its staff several authors of text-books, among which I inspected Mr R. H. Smalley's "Basic American History" and French language readers by Mr D. Sprake.

The latest in electrically-operated duplicators and photo-stat copying machines were installed in a separate room and a massive filing department contained cabinets of films, film-strips, cassettes of radio and television recordings, all of which can be located within a matter of seconds through the efficient reference service. The centre also acts as a Broadcasting Station, relaying important announcements to all parts of the school complex, and on Friday mornings a special news and events programme goes over the air.

Another integral part of the Resources Centre is the School Library. The shelves contain some 16,000 books and magazines, carefully catalogued by the staff. The Library is open from the time the first school bus arrives at 8am until the last one departs at about 4.30pm, and the pupils and teachers are allowed to use the facilities at any time during those hours. Librarians are selected from the upper school and they have an essential job to do in maintaining the smooth running of the department. I later spoke to 14-years-old Stephen Witley, a recently-appointed Librarian. He told me that each Librarian is allocated a section of shelves, which have to be kept tidy. It is their duty to see that pupils record borrowed books, that they are not mis-used, and those visiting the Library always behave themselves. The facilities are constantly in use by the school's 1,100 population, around 400 of whom are drawn from the Caversham and Mapledurham area. With 15 books available at any one time for each pupil it calls for a good deal of careful organisation.

I am glad to hear there is often a rush to read the Caversham Bridge when it arrives on the shelf!

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By Peter Shock

It was a most interesting exhibition held by the students of the Chiltern Nursery Training College in Peppard Road, on May 13. On display that evening were the works of art created by the skilful hands of the young trainee nurses. My old-fashioned notion of naughty little children being spanked by an ogre of authority vanished in a flash. At the door to greet me was charming Nurse Jenny Cave, who took me on a conducted tour of the exhibits, and I was amazed at the dedicated workmanship involved in every contribution in the display. Professional-like paintings, sketchings, embroidery, woolly mats, dress design and hand-somely veneered coffee-tables were among the articles portraying the hours of devotion spent in the students' off-duty time. It is a pity, we don't hear more of what is done at the Chiltern College. It is one of only four training colleges of its kind in the country, and about 100 trainees are attached to the

Caversham college. Of these, about one-third are in residence at a time, while the remainder are taking courses on Maternity and Sick Children nursing elsewhere. Candidates come from many parts of the world for the two-year training period, and there is always a long waiting list. Prospective students enlisting now, may not find a vacancy until 1978, such is the demand for this kind of nursing. Miss B. C. Sims, the Principal, encourages the girls to take up creative pastimes. I asked Jenny why so many of them enjoyed wood-work. "Well," she replied, "it might not always be enjoyment, but if you've had a frustrating day, there's nothing better than to bash a few nails into a bit of wood, to get it out of your system!" Headmistress Mrs Hill, smilingly agreed, but remarked: "They are the finest bunch of girls anywhere!"



Peter Shock

SEARCH FOR GOLD

What is the connection between a nine stone marathon runner and a fifteen stone heavyweight boxer? The two people in question are Ian Thompson the athlete and Richard Dunn the boxer. The connection lies in the fact that prior to the most important event in their sporting lives they were both built up by the media as being invincible at their particular sport and were subjected to the usual ballyhoo which now seems to precede any major sporting event, especially one of international proportions. Whilst they had both achieved a certain amount of success in their careers, Thompson perhaps more than Dunn, instead of waiting to

By Stan Eldon

praise them after the event, the Press and Television subjected them to the huge build-up treatment which can be very worrying even for the toughest sportsman and makes defeat an even harder pill to swallow.

As soon as a good sportsman or woman appears in any event in this Country we build them up out of all proportion and start talking in terms of World Champion or Olympic Gold Medal prospects. But the World is a very big place and sport is now played in every country so that every sport has millions of competitors around the globe, all striving to be better than the next man or woman.

ONLY EVERY FOUR YEARS

To be a champion of the world at any event is hard enough but nothing can be tougher than winning an Olympic Gold Medal. The opportunity only comes every four years and you have to come out top in your event on just one particular day out of the 365 in a year. There is no going back to try again a week or a month later, the next chance is four years later and for the majority there is no more than one bite of the cherry in a lifetime. A common cold, a slight strain or small ache can cost someone a Gold Medal even if by timing or any other means of selection they are already the best in the world. The odds against winning are therefore very high and to predict who will win any event is impossible, even for so called experts. The only thing that is fairly certain is that a fair number of this year's Medal winners, as in every other Olympic year, will be people who are unknown except perhaps in their own country, or those who have gone to the Games as "no hoppers" in everyone's eyes but their own. The list of Olympic Champions is full of such winners like Ann Packer, Chris Brasher, Anita Lonsborough, Abebe Bikila and many more.

Let us hope that those lucky and good enough to be selected to represent this country this year will give of their best and perhaps the least likely may bring back a medal. But let us keep a sense of proportion and not talk of miserable failure if we do not win any Gold Medals.

Clive Rees, a games master at Highdown School and Welsh Rugby International, has returned to his second sport and is now sprinting regularly for the Reading Athletic Club. In recent club fixtures he has been running in the 100, 200 metres and relay races with quite a lot of success. The sprinting should certainly help him to keep fit for the next Rugby season.

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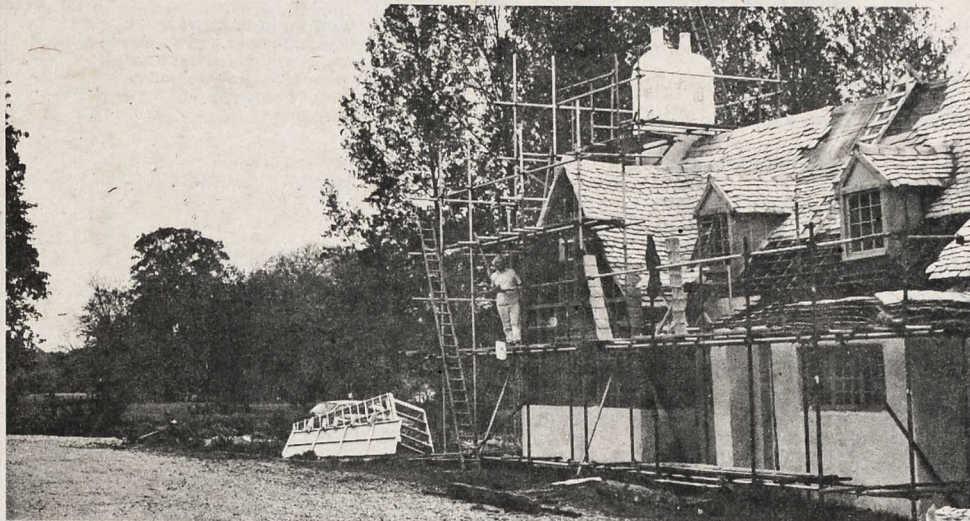
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The Eagle has Landed

Filming is taking place at Mapledurham throughout June on the film *The Eagle has Landed*. A number of realistic cottages and a "pub" have been erected in the church car park and the grounds of Mapledurham House.



— J. L. Sumner



— J. L. Sumner

The Southern Arts Council

by Zoilus

PATRONAGE OF THE ARTS has always been one of the hallmarks of a civilised society. Until comparatively recently this patronage was exercised largely by the church and the aristocracy, but in this century the responsibility is gradually shifting to public authorities at both national and local levels. That the arts are now recognised as part of the general birthright, and no longer the privilege of an elite is an advance, although in times of financial stringency (and that seems to be most of the time) it is natural that the area of recreation is always the first to suffer from the economy axe.

In 1946 the Arts Council of Great Britain was incorporated by Royal Charter as an independent organisation, although deriving its funds from the government, and ultimately accountable to Parliament. In 1961 the first regional Arts Association was formed as a federation of local societies, one of whose main functions was to plan and co-ordinate a wide range of tours in the region by professional companies and artists, being financed largely by grants from the Arts Council. Soon other Regional Associations came into being and there are now thirteen spread across the country, the South Arts Association being responsible for this area and

servicing a population of 3½ million from the Isle of Wight to Oxfordshire.

Each of the regional associations is independent and autonomous and were formed "from within" by local authorities and other parties. They are partnerships of all those with an interest in improving the artistic life of their area; and involving the co-operation of public and private enterprise, professional and voluntary workers, between professional and amateur artists and between the town and the country. They receive their funds from three principal sources—the Arts Council of Great Britain, the local authorities and the private sector, including industry, trusts, societies and individuals.

Like the other Regional Associations, the Southern Arts Association is governed by an Executive Committee which determines policy and makes major decisions, and on which sit members of the local authorities such as Reading, who contribute to the funds, and also representatives of University, business, trade unions interests and so on. Then there are sub-committees to deal with the specialist activities covered by the Association—art, drama, music, literature, etc.—and to advise the Executive on the provision of grants for various projects. For example, such a venture as the Thamesdown Play Association could be given £100 for a Playleaders' Course, whilst South Hill, the recreational complex at Bracknell would receive £5,000 towards general expenses. It is hoped that our new Reading Assembly Hall will get a similar grant.

ADVICE AVAILABLE

Practical assistance and advice offered by the Southern Arts Association is often at least as important as financial aid. Well chosen words of advice on publicity, repertoire planning, the hiring of costumes or instruments and so forth are of real value to local association groups, and the specialist staff are readily available for this service. There are also schemes available to assist individual artists direct, by means of straight grants or bursaries. This may be fellowships such as a Writers Fellowship based in Oxford and worth £2,500, or the granting of £100 to an artist so he can mount an exhibition of his works.

Regional Arts Associations engage in a very wide range of activities, and are service organisations rather than simply regional banks for the arts. Like the Arts Council, they have a single function to support the arts and cannot be deflected by conflicting demands for new roads, sewage or hospitals. In the nature of things they must always be vulnerable to the changing wind of economic necessity, but now that widespread education, together with a continuing increase in leisure have formed a need to make adequate provision for people's cultural and artistic enjoyment, then money spent in the support of such bodies as the Southern Arts Association is a valuable investment.

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