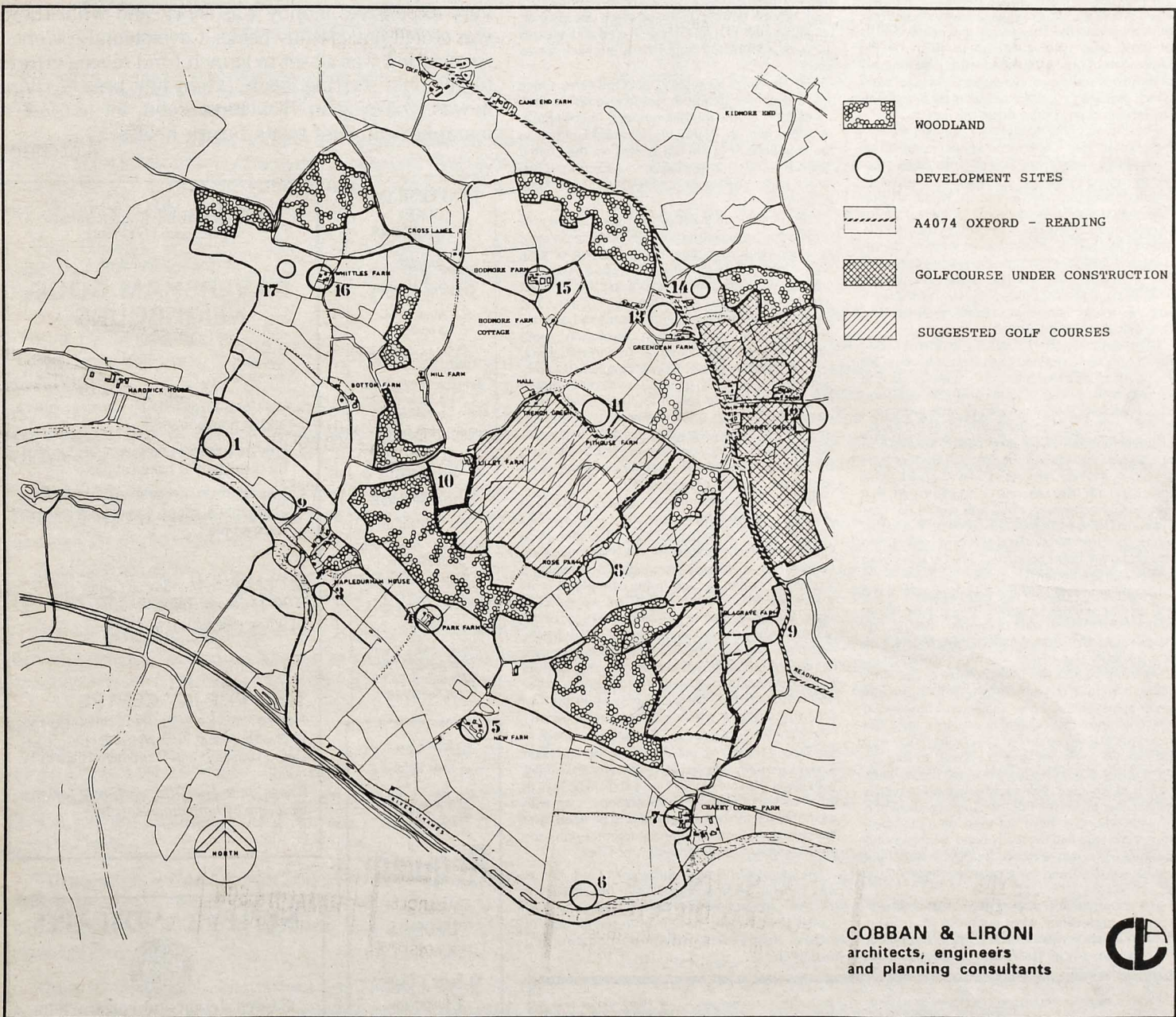




MAPLEDURHAM DEVELOPMENT?

A description of the possible changes on the estate, and a key to the numbers marked on the plan are given on page 3.



THE EDITORS WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL READERS OF THE NEWSPAPER A JOYOUS NEW YEAR

D/EX 1758/29/1

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. David Moody
Caversham Heights Methodist Church



THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTIAN SOCIETY

The killing strain of the late Twentieth century is written clearly on the tense face of our recession-hit society. The ever increasing demand for productivity which throws men into unemployment. The crushed nervous smile of young marrieds faced with ever grinding mortgage payments and fear of starting a family. The creased and bearded faces of those who have given up to sleep on the pavements of our hardhearted cities. The illnesses of those put under ever increasing pressure of work which threaten to suck the life out of them and then steamroller them to the floor.

The answer of the economist is for ever increasing effort in search of an ever keener competitive edge with its increasing danger of throwing competitor and producer to the wall as it works to smaller margins. The politicians wade in with answers honed by the cynicism of the search for re-election to office and disregard for their constituents. The media offers an ever growing diet of sport, leisure and sex to sate our escapist appetites. The Christian church whispers its panaceas in ever diminishing circles of irrelevancy, concerned more with its own status quo, petty rivalries and theological inconsequences.

On his release from captivity in Beirut, Terry Waite told how, chained to a wall on his own for 23 hours 50 minutes a day, he spoke to no one for nearly four years, except an occasional nod from his gaoler. Until one day he received a post card from Bedford from someone he didn't know, picturing John Bunyan in prison. In all the darkness of his confinement and loneliness a flash of light — someone cares. Terry would have known, in his Christian faith, that all sorts of people cared, that they would never forget him and would be moving heaven and earth to make him free. But at that moment, when he received the card, all his best and desperate hopes were realised. He knew with a faith that is certainty.

Isn't this the image of the British people at the end of the Twentieth century? How we have chained ourselves to harsh walls of our own making. The ever savage demands of materialism, the tyranny of a sexuality that makes victims of its devotees, a work ethic which ties us inexorably to our work place, a vicious consumerism, a self-destructing never achievable success image, and introverted self-centredness that can find no space for love. The tragedy is that we never see the chains or the wall because we are never honest enough to face up to the reality of our lives, dare not look in the mirror for fear of what we shall see. A situation in which we deceive ourselves into thinking we know the answers when we have not even seen the questions. Jesus said that the really blind are those who say they see when they do not. 'If the only light you have is darkness how great a darkness that will be.'

In a country that sees the churches as a minority and an irrelevancy, must not those who attend those churches re-assess not just what they say but also how they say it? The role of the church is the

role of Jesus. Strip Christmas of its mythology and recognise the truth of God coming to despairing, self-contented, cynical, strained, successful Twentieth century men and women. He comes like a Bedford postcard to a Terry Waite chained to a wall. What is written on the postcard doesn't matter. What matters is that it is delivered and releases all those suppressed hopes held in check for so long.

The Christmas message is that God cares. Once we lose sight of that truth where else do we look for care? — on the football terraces, in cosy pubs, in a 'greener' environment, in sexual fantasy, on the shopfloor or at the office desk, in the United Nations, on TV or in magazines? Or do we just look within ourselves or our ingrown nuclear family unit?

The release from the stress of modern living will only come from outside ourselves. It demands a new approach involving a reorientation of long held truths, many of which we have taken for granted and never thought through to work out whether they are good for us or not. The philosophy of the late Twentieth century based on personal ethic or anarchic resolution (both ultimately leading to the primacy of individualism), serve us ill. They lead us into materialistic competition in which each fights his own corner against the other — 'nature red in tooth and claw'. It is almost the nemesis of evolution in its devolution into the savagery of the urban jungle with ever rising levels of violence and lawlessness in all walks of life from the school class room to the stock exchange.

There is no real alternative to being a Christian if you want to find the true goals of your own life and to live in a caring society. The alternative Christian society. A society in which we know God cares for us as individuals; which eases away the strains of conflict as God in his care plants in us a care for others. In knowing God we come to know ourselves, the deep-seated frustrations of our subconscious, and we recognise the chains for the first time, and in recognising them sense release in Jesus. Our self-knowledge in releasing us from conflict with others replaces it with a desire to live and work together. We gain a new philosophy of life, a philosophy which will rejuvenate society.

As Paul wrote almost two thousand years ago to the infant church at the centre of the stretched Roman empire: 'The created universe is waiting with eager expectation for God's sons to be revealed. It was made subject to frustration... yet with the hope that the universe itself is to be freed from the shackles of mortality and it to enter upon the glorious liberty of the children of God'.

The life of Christian is the way of God. In that way to God we find release from the stress of a modern care-less society. And in taking that way signals to those who have eyes to see the way of release from their self-imprisonment and frustration.

TIMELY WELCOME

It was a welcome sight to see the library clock functioning once more after months of aimless wandering when time meant nothing, followed by another period when 'The bawdy hand of the dial' finally came to rest where Skakespeare's Mercutio observed it to be. It was standing there early one evening at the end of November when I went into Waitrose for a spot of rather late shopping when I emerged, to my amazement it recorded ten to six.

Was it wandering again? How I wished I had observed the move. Only days before the Library services had written to say that repairs would be very expensive, money was short, and what there was would have to buy books. Caversham Residents' Association was all set to launch fund raising efforts to get time starting again, when hey presto, there it was, going again. Touching wood, let us raise a metaphorical glass to its future health.

Watchdog

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Annual General Meeting

at Church House, Caversham

7.45 p.m., Tuesday, 28th January 1992

Speaker: Mr R. Foaon of West Berks Health Authority

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will be held on Saturday, June 20th at 7.30 p.m. (ONE DAY ONLY)

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More details from Bob Avis, 128a Woodcote Road Tel. 473725

Mr Len David's

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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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All contributions for February issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 8 January.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 6 January.

The dates for March will be Monday 3 February and Wednesday 5 February.

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

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This is the first of a series of line drawings we are using drawn by Miss Janet Tait. She has illustrated the Caversham Trail (see November issue) and has very kindly said that we may use her drawings for future issues.

THE MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

and suggested sites for regeneration

(these are only ideas at this stage)

- 1 Traditional boat crafts and overnight moorings;
- 2 Country park (existing) with visitors' heritage and information centre;
- 3 Improved visitor facilities;
- 4 Farm visitors' centre for educational visits;
- 5 Refurbished residential/commercial;
- 6 Existing channel dredged to form new moorings;
- 7 Medical rehabilitation centre (Reading planning approved);
- 8 Refurbished estate, residential;
- 9 Residential/commercial/medical veterinary (Reading);
- 10 Existing tenanted farm and relocated residential;
- 11 Golf clubhouse and 80-unit residential management centre;
- 12 Residential plots;
- 13 Petrol station, hotel and car park;
- 14 Residential/commercial;
- 15 Equestrian/veterinary centre;
- 16 Existing rural workshops;
- 17 Existing airstrip.

An "umbrella" plan, which if implemented could maintain the South Oxfordshire countryside around Caversham Heights for generations, will be discussed by planners this month.

The totally self-help idea has been drawn up to address the long-term problems of the Mapledurham Estate.

Listed Buildings

Falling revenues from the land have hit the estate for a number of years. Estate owner Mr John Eyston also has the added problem of the largest concentration of listed buildings of any parish in Oxfordshire.

The 38 listed buildings include the Grade 1 Mapledurham House, one of the largest Elizabethan houses in Oxfordshire.

Under the plan it is proposed to create a dowry for the restoration and maintenance of the buildings.

He is asking planners to agree to "enabling development," where schemes are allowed to provide cash to restore and maintain the historic properties.

Suggested Development

Planning consultants have suggested sites for regeneration and uses such as an equestrian/veterinary centre, traditional boat crafts, hotel, petrol station, management centre and further golf courses.

These suggestions mean that there will be minimal changes to the existing landscape and countryside but will raise levels of income to plough back into restoration work.

Most of the main changes suggested are close to the A4074. The plan also maximises leisure opportunities on the estate which is already enjoyed by those living in Caversham.

If South Oxfordshire District Council approves of the plan's general concepts, then individual planning applications will be submitted.

Heritage Fund

Subject to reaching agreement with South Oxfordshire District Council, Mr Eyston is prepared to pledge the net proceeds of any change of use of farm buildings and new developments into improving the recreational facilities and setting up a heritage fund which will secure and improve Mapledurham House, the village and listed buildings.

Architect Ken Aitken, who has been closely involved in the concepts and lives in Caversham, said: "Whilst at first sight this may appear to be yet another application for golf and other uses by a farm seeking to gain from more profitable activity there are some important distinctions which make Mapledurham unique.

"Its location is close to Reading, much of the land is already in the set-aside scheme, but more importantly, unlike any other local application, the aim of the proposal is NOT financial gain. The money will go to a heritage fund for the achievement of a planning objective of national significance, being the maintenance and restoration of listed buildings, Mapledurham House and the village."

Estate to Continue

The plan represents a way of keeping the Mapledurham Estate the social, cultural, physical and economical entity that it has been for hundreds of years.

Mr Eyston has always resisted disposing of land because he believes that to do so would bring about disintegration of the estate as a whole unit.

Wherever a change of use or new development is agreed, the freehold interests in land will be retained by the estate. Thus integrity of the estate can be maintained leaving overall control with the landowner.

Although selling off parts may solve an immediate crisis, it does not address the root of the problems, a continuing need to raise cash for maintenance and restoration.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

TWELVE MONTHS ON

A Happy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year to all readers of this column. It seems no time since last year's decorations were being taken down and the tree being thrown on the bonfire (or consigned to the loft if it were the ever-lasting type), so it may be as well to look back and see what, if anything, has changed on the Caversham scene in the past twelve months.

As with most other parts of the country, there has been no major building or construction work done here, unless you count Caversham Road, which has spent most of the year under road works of one kind or the other. It remains to be seen whether the end result is worth all the delays, dust and noise. A five week long public inquiry into another main road undertaking, the CTR2, has not long concluded and its results are awaited. The biggest upheaval was to the bus services, with all the numbers and routes being changed and many hued vehicles replacing the old maroon and cream (or dried liver and suet as someone once rudely described it) which formerly identified Reading buses. If this is the start of producing a bus service that can offer an attractive alternative to the private car, it is to be welcomed, for ultimately it is only a viable public transport service that will solve our urban traffic problems.

Redland Gravel caused a great stir on a huge publicity exercise to promote their plans for their worked out gravel pits between Henley Road and the river. Although most of this site lies with Oxfordshire, Reading, and particularly Caversham, would be most affected. Their glossy brochure showed how the derelict land will be landscaped and a nature reserve established, but a further look showed that this could only come about by building another large industrial park and sizeable housing development which would produce massive traffic problems. Redland's offer to fund a third bridge to cope with this seems to have prov-

ed an attractive bait to cash-strapped Councils south of the river, whilst fuelling even further Oxfordshire's objection to major developments in their rural acres. Exactly what 'funding' meant still has to be clarified. latterly little has been heard of these proposals but they will be waiting in the wings for the recession to end.

Bugs Bottom continued as a major issue, with the Court of Appeal case being withdrawn and new and reduced plans being submitted. The Channel 4 film, Not in Our Back Yard, brought the long struggle to save it to a nationwide audience.

The latest issue likely to have long term repercussions is the introduction of charges for the Chester Street Car Park. At the present time there is no indication that there will be any concessions. This can only lead to trouble, provoking people into finding unusual ways of avoiding payment and putting local firms out of business.

Behind all this is the community charge capping which was inflicted on the Borough. It has meant wholesale cut-backs in services and a shortage of money which is reflected in all the Council does. Unless public services are adequately funded there will soon be a return to the 'Public squalor' days of the not so recent past.

VISION FOR BERKSHIRE

Bugs Bottom is one of the oldest, but not the only, threat to the remaining rural areas of Berkshire. Outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the west, massive developments are threatened across the county. The Structure Plan gives its blessing to an increase of 41,000 houses and is prepared to allow the Lower Kennet Valley to become a major development area, after the extraction of gravel, thus depriving west Reading of one of its major lungs. Comments on the revised Plan, of which there are copies in libraries and Civic Offices, should be with the Department of the Environment by 17th January; not much time with Christmas occupy-

ing the middle of the period. Meanwhile all those bodies which have been fighting for their own patch, whilst being aware of what has been going on elsewhere, are joining in a movement called 'Vision for Berkshire' which will look at the whole question of this massive onslaught on Berkshire. From the Ascot-Bracknell area, across South Reading to Newbury, the threat is all too clear. Unless this is curbed, Berkshire will become the outer suburbs of an expanded London, stretching all across the south-east. Bugs Bottom is a small, but vital part of this whole. December's public meeting on Bugs Bottom will be reported in the February issue of this newspaper. Representatives of Higgs & Hill and Barton Willmore, the architects, were invited to attend.

CLAYFIELD CLOSE

Clayfield Copse has become Reading's first Local Nature Reserve. A lot of hard work has been put in there by volunteers and the Park Ranger Service. This has attracted a certain amount of criticism from those who saw it as vandalism, but nature does not stand still and without management this ancient woodland would have become overgrown, inaccessible and hostile to the plants that formerly grew there. The Mayor, Cllr. R. Dimmock, who lives close by, performed the opening ceremony and there were guided walks round the wood.

Over in Caversham Court, volunteers have also been hard at work, together with the Park Rangers. Contract labour will mean that only certain work is carried out so the Friends of Caversham Court are helping with the rest. The pond and waterfall has been cleaned out and a tree nursery set up.

It is a good thing that local people take responsibility for local amenities but they must not be used as a substitute for essential services. Caversham is fortunate in having a high quality body of volunteers across many fields.

OVER DEVELOPMENT

A major row has

broken out over a Department of the Environment decision to grant permission for an offices and housing development off Vastern Road and Caversham Road. The Borough Council is angry that Berkshire County Council, who registered an objection, failed to turn up at the Public Inquiry, where their arguments could have carried considerable force. Caversham Residents Association cannot claim to have the same weight, but they were not informed that a public inquiry was to take place, even though they had consistently objected to this development ever since it first appeared on the register.

The development itself has certain architectural merits, but it is very large for its site next to the river and on the edge of the busy town centre. Its only access and egress is on to the roundabout. Anyone who experiences that at peak hours knows it is already overburdened, and if there is the slightest obstruction causing a hold-up anywhere near, it becomes highly hazardous, the only rule prevailing being 'Get out of my way'. Small wonder that the Borough Council is considering taking the matter to the High Court. There are many unsatisfactory aspects to this case.

WARREN RESIDENTS MEET

Warren Residents'

Association, the town's oldest, held their Annual Meeting on a dark wet November night, but attracted a good gathering. Trees on the escarpment, still suffering from the severe storms of recent years, are a matter of concern, as removing them will be an expensive business. WOMAD and the Pop Festival, however, occupied most minds. WOMAD had improved its noise control to such an extent that this year there were no serious complaints.

The same was not true for the Pop Festival. The new sophisticated noise control system allowed the noise to escape over a sector centred on the Warren, and even after midnight it continued from unofficial sources. The point was made that with the large numbers of fans present it was impossible to control them and this kind of thing is inevitable.

Mr John Wright, the Promotions Manager of Reading Borough's Leisure and Environment Services, was the guest speaker, and he must have felt he was putting his head in the lion's mouth. Whatever its merits may be in other parts of the town, in the Warren the Pop Festival is always going to be a hate object. However, the audience let him off lightly and some even admitted afterwards that their sons and daughters enjoyed the music. Next year, and there will be a next year, that noise problem had better be solved or else.....

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TO PAY — OR NOT TO PAY

The Continuing Saga

Perhaps it is just as well that the following points are being made in a Church magazine, because if any problem needed Divine inspiration — or even intervention — to produce a solution to everyone's satisfaction the dilemma of the Chester Street Car Park must indeed rate high. You have probably heard by now that the idea of charging for any kind of parking in Chester Street has been "put on hold"

until a full appraisal of the usage and the needs of local people and businesses has been carried out. In other words, we as locals have been given the opportunity to come up with a solution to the problem. In my opinion we need to ask ourselves some very probing questions.

FIRST — accepting that it is long-term parking that is causing the biggest headache, how do we want the problem

solved? I think it depends on whether the long-term parking is an abuse, for instance, are people leaving their cars, catching a bus/train, or are they locals working a full day in a business abutting the car park? If it is the latter, harsh payments will adversely affect businesses and the temptation will be to avoid paying by parking in the surrounding streets — do we really want this?

Second — surely we need at least the first two hours parking totally free to allow people to visit, say, the library, post office, shops, Prospect Street in particular — how do we monitor the usage?

I could go on with variations on a theme but I am sure many of you will have many other ideas.

We have been given the opportunity to work together

to come up with a sensible solution that suits our local needs. This solution needs to be a fair one for the people and businesses that use the car park, but it also needs to be one, that once established, does not cause more problems through lack of supervision than our present dilemma. In other words, we must make sure that the "cure" is not worse than the problem.

Cllr. Pauline Palmer

THE TOMBSTONE TRAIL

I am prompted by the reprint in October's Bridge of the article "Among the Tombstones at St Peter's" to send you this addendum in case it may usefully fill a hole in some future issue.

Towards the west end of the churchyard, near the crinkle crinkle wall, is a small cross marking the grave of Edward Jodrell Bullock-Webster who died in April 1864. The date is not easily deciphered but is confirmed in the register of burials which records that Edward was aged 19. Nothing remarkable in that, but there is a further inscription:

"Also of his brother Frank Bullock-Webster

sometime vicar of Stanway Glos. d. September 21 1942".

One can only speculate for what reason and by whom it was thought appropriate to commemorate a retired Gloucestershire vicar here on the memorial to a brother who had predeceased him by seventy-eight years.

In the same area, near the main patch, is a rather splendid memorial to a splendid sounding gentleman named Barton Wallop Powlett. His wife Ellen died on 23rd September 1881 aged only twenty-nine. Barton (or

was he familiarly known as Wallop?) survived her by five years and died on 7th December 1886 in his seventy-ninth year, "leaving five young children to mourn their loss". Clearly he must have been in his sixties before he started fathering his family of five.

There is another Powlett grave at the highest point of the churchyard in the north west corner near the walnut tree. There lies Major General Powlett who died on 6th December 1824 aged fifty-nine. His rank is proudly recorded but one has to refer to the register to discover that his christian names were Thomas Norton. He shares a grave with Thomas N. Powlett Esq. who died on 12th February aged eighty-seven and his wife Elizabeth who died on 31st August 1832 aged seventy-seven. Thomas senior was presumably the General's father and Elizabeth his step-mother.

A little to the east, on the same northern edge, is the grave of Frances Elmes, wife of Anthony Elmes, who died on the 26th March 1827 aged forty-six and whose epitaph is rather charming.

"After a careful and industrious Life

Here lies a loving Mother and indulgent Wife

In love she lived, in CHRIST she put her trust

Hoping to rise in Glory with the Just."

Of more interest, however, is the form of the grave. Between the headstone and foot-stone are found, not the customary stone slab, but rows of bricks laid lengthwise in a gentle curve. I do not recall having ever seen another grave of this type.

Anthony Elmes was his wife's junior by some ten or twelve years and survived her by six years. He died on 11th October 1833 aged forty according to his tombstone but forty-two according to the register. He now lies beside his wife but his epitaph contrasts sharply with hers:

"Farewell vain world I've seen enough of thee.

I value not what thou dost say of me.

The faults you have seen in me Care to shun.

Search your own Hearts there's something to be done."

From this point we have the stepped family rows of graves sweeping down the slope towards the vestry rather like grand staircases: eleven Leach's, eight Pottingers and seven Stevens, nearly all buried in the first half of the last century.

At whatever point one stops to read the inscription

on the tombstones one will be struck by the number of children commemorated. The register records that in the period from 1809, when ages are first entered, until 1869, when the copy held in Caversham Library terminates, a staggering twenty per cent of burials were of infants under two years old; throughout that sixty year period on average one baby under two was buried at St Peter's every nine weeks.

Having survived the early years our forbears of the last century had a reasonable life expectancy. Of those who reached the age of ten, half lived beyond sixty and more than thirty per cent celebrated their seventieth birthday.

I end with the epitaph to Ann Moore who died on 11th January 1878 aged fifty-eight, which I would not unhappily have adapted for myself: "She hath done what she could."

E. M. SMITH

Holloway's

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

St. Andrew's Fellowship

The large audience that attended St Andrew's Fellowship's November meeting were enthralled by the illustrated talk given by Mrs Glenys Conway on 'Zimbabwe'. The speaker was already known to many members for several years. The reception given to Mr and Mrs Conway by MU local branches in Zimbabwe and South Africa was almost of regal proportions. An important difference in Africa is that all Mothers' Union members wear uniform. At their departure the "royal" style continued as all the members would stand in a circle to ensure that their guests received an individual handshake.

This year is an important one in European affairs and so it

is with the Fellowship which celebrates its Golden Jubilee. It was in the dark war-time days of 1942 that the Fellowship was founded and no doubt the first President, The Revd S.W. Doran, will be pleased to learn that the Fellowship continues to flourish. Initially winter meetings were fortnightly and monthly in the summer, a practice which continued until 1965. Since then, "Second Thursdays" have become an integral part of the St Andrew's family life. Attendance remains good which shows that the programme of simple homely evenings still holds its attraction, despite the more sophisticated alternatives available today.

Golden Celebrations for St Peter's folk

What is it about a winter wedding that sets couples up for long term happiness? Perhaps the fact that both ladies — Elsie South and Mary Woolley were original distributors of this newspaper! Congratulations to them and their husbands, Peter South and Wiff Woolley, both couples celebrate their Golden Weddings in January. Well done, many more to come.

THE LINK GROUP

Group members have on-going personal involvement with many local organisations helping people in need of a little extra support, as well as individuals. At the November meeting it was agreed to send special gifts and donations to some of these. Help would be given towards a pantomime outing and party for mothers and children at the Women's Refuge, and those helped by Family Aid. Toys donated at St Peter's toy service would be taken to both of these, and to single parent families. Sacks of toys would later be taken to some homes, and gifts given to some of the mothers. Plans were made for a special Christmas lunch for the people who come to the regular Link tea parties.

Donations of food and clothing are regularly taken to the Churches' Drop-in centre, and help

was needed for a special Epiphany lunch. A transit van was now available for transport of furniture. Fur coats had been collected, and taken to the Sue Ryder Home for their Poland appeal.

The Link Group, now in its eighteenth year, has members from ten different Churches, and new members are always welcome. Phone Chairman Anthea Prescott (478865) for details.



ADVANCE NOTICE

The annual ECUMENICAL LUNCH will be in St Andrew's Hall on Saturday 8th February at 12 noon. Speaker — Jill Pitkeathly, Director, Carers' National Association. Tickets £3.50 (for a three course lunch!) will be available in Churches in early January. Book early!

INTER-CHURCH 1991

Did you miss the Inter-Church Quiz on Saturday, November 16th. If you did, you missed a very good evening of fun and fellowship! Six teams, St Anne's, St Barnabas, Caversham Park, Gosbrook Road Methodists, St Peter's and St Margaret's and St Andrew's, took part in a

very professional competition. The audience knew all the answers and the teams proved that he who is quick on the buzzer — scoreth. St Anne's were very worthy winners and we all congratulate them and say come back next year and defend your title. Our

thanks to all who made it go with such a swing, Marion Kitcher, David Cooper and Robin Smith and over coffee and biscuits it was agreed that we must do it again — how about a team from every Church in Caversham next year on Saturday, September 26th 1992?

ST JOHN'S NEWS

St John's Autumn Bazaar was held on the 9th November. Margaret Cameron organised the event and was well supported by the congregation, the stallholders and friends of the church.

During the weeks leading up to the bazaar there had been much activity and preparation. Many people were busy sewing, knitting, cake and preserve

making, growing plants and bulbs, making Christmas decorations and collecting books, jewellery, groceries and articles for the tombola and white elephant stalls.

When the day of the bazaar arrived willing helpers erected tables for the stallholders. Soon everything was ready for opening time and the arrival of many customers.

The visitors thronged around the stalls, making purchases or having a go at the competitions and raffles. Tea and biscuits were available at the refreshment counter and were enjoyed by many whilst they awaited the results of the draw and guessing games etc. The amount raised by the autumn bazaar was a satisfying total of £760 which will help the church meet its commitments.

BISHOP'S CHORISTER

Zoe Smith, seen here, is one of the long line of choristers from St Peter's Church who have won the coveted green ribbon, the Bishop's chorister award. She was presented with her ribbon by the Bishop at Christ Church Cathedral recently. Well done Andrew Boseley and all the choir.



— J. Smith

St. Barnabas News

November at St Barnabas, witnessed above all things, a Parish Conference and a study group on the topic of Science and Religion.

Twenty people attended St Barnabas' Parish Conference on 16th November. Jeremy Anderson, the Reading Deanery Evangelism Enabler, joined them for the day, giving them his advice and encouragement. The day was spent considering the future of St Barnabas. Two questions were discussed in small groups — "How do we build deeper Christian relationships within the Church?" and "How do we draw people in?" In the general discussions that followed, valuable suggestions were put forward. Housegroups of various kinds for fellowship, sharing, caring and working together in the faith will be keeping St Barnabas folk busy over the coming months. It is also hoped to implement changes within the present Pastoral Link Visitors' scheme in order to promote deeper relationships between members of the present congregation and to give support, friendship and encouragement to new members. It was felt that one of the weaker areas of present church life was in attracting and retaining the younger age group, particularly teenagers. It is hoped that more contact will be made with guides, brownies, scout groups and their leaders.

The "Science and Religious" study group proved to be a great success and with two professional scientists attending, (not including the vicar, for whom science could well be his second love, after God of course), discussion proved both intellectual and searching. A good choice of topic in the lead up to Advent, it explored one of the fundamental problems of Faith. Is it possible to understand the scientific basis for existence and still believe in the teachings of the Bible? Obviously for many it is. In brief, the conclusion seemed to be that science explored how the universe functioned, Faith sought to understand "why". The two are not incompatible.

To follow this rather intellectual approach to God, the next study groups will be practical in their approach and aim to deepen members' spirituality. They are entitled "Peace and the Presence of God". But more of them next month.

Wedding Photography

by Michael Blackburn

Old photographs reproduced
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YOUTH COLUMN

Hi there! I feel honoured to be asked to write a regular column for Youth in the Caversham Bridge. However, the column needs a "zappy" title and so, right from the outset, I'm offering a prize! The best suggestion for a heading — it can include artwork if you want — will receive a £5 book token. Please send your entries to me c/o the address at the end of the column.

I would like to start by introducing myself briefly. I am married to Edwina and have three sons, Stephen 15, Mark 13 and Graham 8 and I am a professional Youth and Community Worker employed within Berkshire Youth and Community Service. I started as a volunteer worker in 1968 (in Bracknell), trained in Birmingham from 1970-72 (during which time, in August 1971 we got married) and have been in the pro-

feccion ever since and so I am coming towards my 24th year in the work.

I am very involved in the life of the Christian Church and, after a number of years preparation, am now training for Ordained Ministry within the Church of England. Because of the stage of our children's education I have opted to stay in full-time employment until such time as my training — on a part-time basis is complete. I then intend to move full-time into ministry within a parish somewhere.

Some people say to me "What a change!" However, I feel there are actually quite a lot of "skills" from Youth and Community Work which are appropriate to the pastoral side of a priest's life.

Back to my job, then. I am Senior Youth & Community

Worker in the Caversham area. I am based at Milestone Centre in Caversham Park Village and also oversee the work of Emmer Green Centre. My main drive at present is to network all youth groups statutory, voluntary, uniformed and Church throughout the Caversham area.

This process has started and is known as Caversham Area Youth Organisations — or CAYO for short. We have about thirty groups on the books at present but we always want to hear from others. We offer a quarterly newsletter — which includes information, articles, puzzles, and book reviews by Jenny Hanley — who offers super book prizes. The next one is specially autographed by Sir Harry Secombe for us. In order that YOU don't miss out on this book prize I reproduce it in Caversham Bridge.* If you want to enter just put your answer, along with your name, address, telephone number, and age on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope and send it to Jenny Hanley c/o the address at the end of the article. If you would like a copy of the CAYO Newsletter to look at just give me a ring and I'll send you one, perhaps you would like a bigger number for your group. It is free at present, because local firms, such as Suprema Cleaners sponsor us.

*The question is: "What is the name of Sir Harry Secombe's highly successful television programme watched by 10 million people each Sunday?"

As a general note to any local firms reading this, if you would like to sponsor one edition then please get in touch. In return for your sup-

port we give you a quarter page advert on the front page. The newsletter goes to schools, doctors surgeries, clinics, libraries and Youth Groups, so it's good publicity.

We are also hoping to run a grand Youth Events Day in the summer. As a build up to a part of that we are trying to get an interclub football tournament running. So if you have a team — male or female — we want to hear from you soon.

Next edition I will start getting more issues, news and views. So if you want to send an article — max 200 words — letters on any subject that you might think is interesting, please do so. How about, for starters, sending me your views on cruelty to animals. At the time of writing this, and going vegetarian, were main themes on Neighbours. How do you feel about it?

Well, that's me introduced and the ball rolling. Don't forget, I want to hear from you if: —

- You have an entry for the 'title' competition.
- You want a copy of our CAYO newsletter
- You want to enter a football team
- You have views on cruelty to animals or going vegetarian.
- You are a local firm prepared to sponsor our CAYO newsletter (I will visit you and show you a copy if it is helpful)

To contact me, send me anything or enter the book competition, write to:
ROY BURGESS
Senior Youth & Community Worker
c/o Milestone Centre
Northbrook Road
Caversham Park Village
Reading RG4 0PF

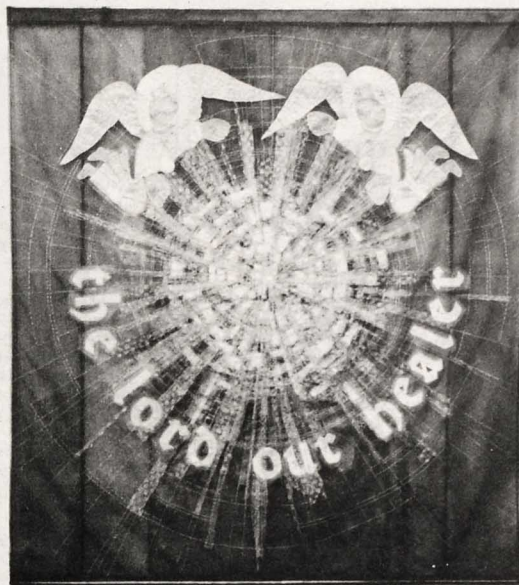
MEMORIAL EMBROIDERY

This embroidered panel was worked by Mrs Pat Iles as part of the requirements for the Diploma in Stched Textiles at the Roehampton Institute, Putney, London.

In the autumn of 1990, whilst attending a series of seminars on the Healing Ministry in Caversham, Reading, Pat met Frank and Peta Baker. They introduced Pat to Whitehill Chase, and she made the offer of the panel to the Reverend David Smethurst.

During the research into early Gothic design for the first part of the course angels particularly fascinated Pat, and inspired her. Often depicted in a flying position, with our Lord sitting majestically in the centre, the stylised body shape and clothing often appeals to the modern eye. The design of the angels on the panel relate directly to those which appear on a wall in the Church of St. Genis des Fontaines, in the Pyrenees in France, but the figure of Christ has been replaced by a blaze of radiant sunlight.

Now that the panel is completed Pat feels that it was worked, especially in the last stages, in memory of dear Peta who, with Frank, so trustingly brought her, a total stranger, to Whitehill Chase.



— Peter Weatherley

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.

The Rev Christine Allsopp, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT
The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Mesagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

(For Caversham Park Village)

The Rev J. Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

CAVERSHAM DIARY

Tuesday, 7.45pm Church House Caversham:
28th January Annual General Meeting of
Caversham Good Neighbours.

Sunday, 6.30pm St Peter's Church
2nd February Caversham: Requiem by Len David.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Many of you will be reading this either during the holidays or immediately after, so I'm sure it isn't too late for me to say thankyou to all those who from time to time have contributed items to this column during 1991. And another very big acknowledgement is to all those shops, services etc., who look after us so well throughout the year. Mind you, I'm fortunate in living where I do so near to the centre of Caversham. One big drawback in Caversham is still the lack of bus services etc. linking parts of Caversham together, especially now that some areas are so bereft of shops.

PLEA FOR PROSPECT STREET

I hate to seem a bore but once again I have to take up cudgels on behalf of my friends — and I do mean that word — who run small shops in Prospect Street. As I said before over the years many of these people have been hard hit by changes in the district, yellow lines down the road making it impossible to take advantage of passing trade, followed by the opening up of the shopping precinct in Church Street. Sometimes it almost seems as though the powers-that-be are jealous of what we have in Caversham

and would like to see the shopping area as we know it disappear altogether.

Some of these shops have suffered recently and been beset by vandals and thieves. Last month I touched on the subject of unfair competition in this area. Well, I don't know the current state of play over car park charges for the Chester Street Car Park. We thought the shop people would be given a concession for at least one car each to be parked there with little or no charge but when I last had news it seemed this was far from the case and in many instances the possibility of a heavy daily charge was the last straw for shop people. I agree something had to be done about this car park; I understand it is no uncommon thing for three commuters' cars to turn up here early morning, for the drivers to instal themselves in one car and drive off to Reading, leaving the other two cluttering up the place. But if there must be charges, surely the council can at least afford discount rates for those shopkeepers who have to leave cars here all day and use them for business. But it is possible that public opinion has by now forced the Council

to think twice about this — I sincerely hope so because if problems continue to arise at this rate I can see the day coming when all we have in Prospect Street are estate agents, restaurants and take-away food shops.

MORE WRITERS PLEASE!

It seems likely that some of our writers will have to drop out in the near future, so please if anyone feels like lending a hand with this, it would be more than welcome. You don't have to be a Will Shakespeare to send in the odd bit of news or gossip, so what about it?

SUE RYDER

Many Caversham people have lent a hand in one way or another to help with the local Sue Ryder Home, which has earned the admiration of all those who have had anything to do with it. I've lost count of the number of people who have expressed a wish to be found a place in this Home should the need arise. So it was with some indignation that I read that the local health authority were having to withdraw their financial support — I believe to the tune of one fifth the income of the Home — because

of the opening of the new Dellwood Home. But whatever the reason I'm sure this must have come as a severe blow to the Sue Ryder people who, nevertheless, still bravely say they will try to increase their funds through voluntary activities. For heaven's sake — anybody who has ever been to the regular 'sales' there must realise what an enormous amount of work already goes into raising funds; and with the current recession it is hard to see how they can increase them. At the moment some of us are considering ways in which we can get the health authority to think twice about cutting off all financial support. It's doubtful if any other place could supply such wonderful service.

SUNDAY OPENING

I was glad to see that Waitrose will not be opening on Sundays before Christmas. Quite apart from any religious feeling on this matter, many of us do like to see Sundays as 'different' and it is difficult to see how Sunday opening will not penalise those assistants who do not want to work on Sundays, especially in these days of high unemployment. And after all, if we do run short of food items there are one or two splendid 'corner' shops to supply emergency provisions. I think in particular of the one in Hemdean Road. It would be nice if Caversham, as a whole, could go on record as lending their support to the 'Keep Sunday Special' campaign. And if anyone tries to tell me — as somebody once did

— that shopping on Sundays makes a 'real treat' for the kids they should try shopping on normal days. A few perhaps enjoy it, though these are probably the ones who try to fill up Mum's basket when she isn't looking.

CATS AGAIN

We seem to be getting an increasing number of cats in our garden these days. Some of them certainly do seem to be a bit hungry but on the whole they are well fed and I still think a lot of the trouble is their owners making no provision for the cats to get back indoors on their own when everyone is out. Our three seem to prefer indoors most of the time in the winter and I hate to think what would happen to them if couldn't get in.

WILFRED OWEN

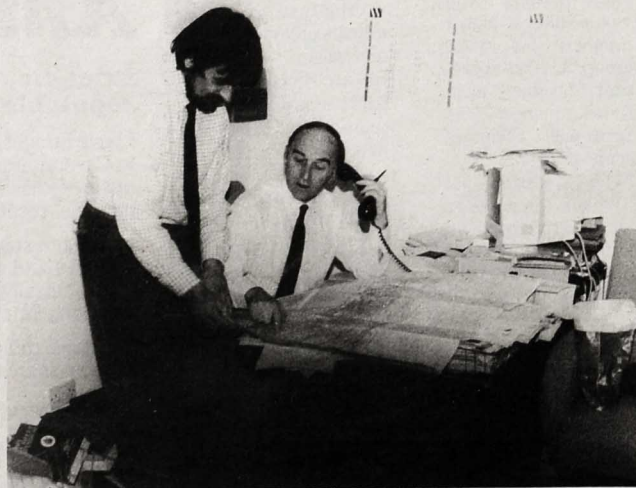
For the benefit of newcomers to the district I would like to point out that a few years ago a memorial tablet was added in Dunsden Church to acknowledge the fact that one of the very best, if not the best, of the first World War poets was once curate here. I did try to pay my own personal homage to this young man on Armistice Day but, alas, like most of our churches, it has to be kept locked most of the time. It would be nice if some churches would copy the example of St. Peter's, for instance, and get volunteers to man the fort for at least a few hours a week so that visitors can get the benefit of exploring them.

FEED THE CHILDREN

Last month produced an update of this very worth while charity which has its headquarters in

Prospect Street, Caversham and we were sorry that space did not allow us to print the photograph of

the staff hard at work in their office. Do wish them well when you pass them in the street.



— E.S. Archer

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PARISH OUTINGS IN VICTORIAN DAYS

"Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside."

So run the words of an old music hall song. At the time when it was written a trip to the coast was, for many, just wishful thinking. However there were the lucky ones who, once a year, journeyed to the sea and enjoyed "the briny" for one whole day.

Some of these fortunate were members of the Anglican churches in Caversham. The first record of such a parish outing was in July 1885, when the combined choirs went to Bournemouth and Southampton. More than forty members joined a Great Western Railway's day excursion.

Often these special trains took as many as seven hundred and fifty "trippers", some from the local firms, on their annual outing, others, like the choir party belonged to various clubs, societies or other institutions. For those from Caversham the day seems to have been a very uneventful but enjoyable occasion.

However, sometimes such a day out proved a little more exciting and was written up in greater detail in the little four page parish magazine, which then cost one and a half old pence, about one penny in today's money. Some accounts are both interesting and amusing to read.

On Wednesday, August 17th 1892, fifty

six members of the choirs of St Peter's, St John's and St Barnabas' went to Folkestone and Dover for the day. On arriving at their destination some of the more adventurous of the party crossed over to Boulogne and spent several hours there.

Others stayed at Dover. Bathing and boating occupied the morning and then at mid-day everyone left the beach and walked into the town for a meal. On the way they visited the parish church, some of the boys attending a funeral service which was taking place and expressing themselves much pleased with the very beautiful singing and chanting to which they had been privileged to listen.

The afternoon was spent on various activities which included watching a man dive off the pier with his arms and legs bound. No doubt such a spectacle gave everyone a thrill. What with the funeral and the hair raising happenings on the pier the day must have been almost as exciting as it was for those who had travelled to France and back.

RETURN JOURNEY

Apparently the return journey was not all it should have been owing to some misjudgement the five very comfortable carriages reserved for the party were not forthcoming. . . Confusion on the crowded plat-

form reigned supreme, but eventually the boys were crammed in. . . and the seniors had to be content with what third class accommodation they could get.

Those travelling by South Eastern Railway will know the five hours' misery which was entailed in those disgraceful carriages till Reading

was reached about twenty minutes to one! What a way to end the day. One wonders if a horse drawn vehicle was waiting at Reading to pick up any of the travellers and take them home - especially those from Emmer Green. If so they had a long wait, or perhaps they gave up and left the weary adventurers to foot it

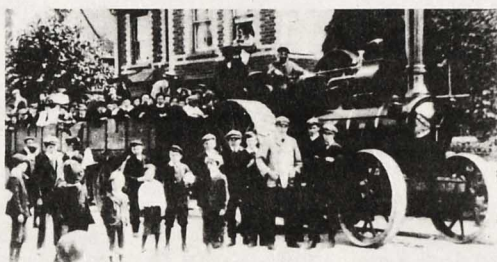
home, which some must have done anyway. At one o'clock in the morning the events of the last twenty-four hours must have seemed a lot less attractive to some of the party but the following year no doubt they joined in once again with a similar event with the same eager anticipation of a day out.

M.K.

Huntley and Palmer



An outing leaving Caversham pre 1914. Many of the workers lived in the Gosbrook Road area.



Yet another form of transport for a day out, this time for a Sunday School trip in 1911. The engine, new in 1898, belonged to Bishopsland farm, Emmer Green and the make of engine is a Marshall. Works No 30379.

BIRDS IN CAVERSHAM

Winter days are annually enriched by the arrival of birds from the Arctic, which have flown South in order to avoid the harshness of their native environment. Two of these species, both members of the thrush family, are the

Redwing and Fieldfare, and a garden containing berry-laden trees may well play host to them.

The high-pitched "See-ip" call of the Redwing can be heard day and night. Balmore, the Emmer Green and Woodcote

Road playing fields, and adjacent gardens are all ideal areas for this gregarious little bird, with its red flash beneath the wing and white eye-stripe. Once learnt, the call will soon lead you to its location.

A day's outing with a local knowledgeable bird-watcher, can be rewarding experience, as not only can one see well over fifty species, but it will soon become noticeable how significant bird songs and calls can be as an aid to identification.

A visit to Caversham Bridge during recent winters has provided close-up views of Whooper Swans. These are truly wild birds of the Arctic. Unlike the resident Mute Swans, which hiss and squeak, the Whooper gives forth a resonant, onomatopoeic, "Whoop, Whoop",

and is easily identified by its yellow and black-wedged bill.

Another regular, winter visitor is the Cormorant. This large, black, sea bird, regularly "Commutes" between Theale and Sonning, overflying Caversham en route occasionally alighting on the Thames. These fish eaters now annually, come inland to our well-stocked gravel pits.

Unlike the noisy flocks of feral, Canada Geese, the Cormorant usually flies higher, silently, and in much smaller parties, quite often being seen singly. Those who may be limited to the back-garden for their bird watching, need not despair, as so often species seen from the garden, as distinct "From" actually being "In" it, can be exciting in the extreme.

My own "In and From Garden" list from Caversham, includes such rarities as, Osprey, Buzzard, Hobby, Ring necked Parakeet, and Waxwing, and currently stands in excess of eighty species.

Get to "know" the birds and the reward could be a new and enhanced dimension, without ever leaving one's home.

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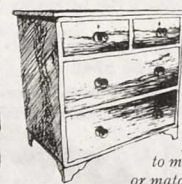
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the CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in November for a talk and slide show given by Mrs M Sutherland called a "Journey in The Rockies". The Rockies cover a vast area in the Americas with high mountains and many rivers.

The Indians hunted for fur to trade for Western blankets and beads with the Hudson Bay Company. Fur was very important at that time as all Europe used fur for clothes and military headgear. About this time the railways were being built using Chinese labour. This caused an influx of people, many from Scotland, hence a lot of Scottish place names.

In modern times these same railways bring in large numbers of tourists to the National Parks. The first of these parks was ten square miles at Banff, to be followed by another twenty-seven through-out the country.

The Guild's thirty-ninth birthday party was held at the end of October. Two guests from Federation and two from Caversham Heights Guild joined members in a Barn Dance presented by Joyce and David Barnett. Between the dances cheese and wine was enjoyed by all. The birthday cake was cut by the Federation Chairman, Mrs Maureen Dawson, and a most enjoyable evening was had by everyone.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The guest speaker in November was Mrs Heseltine about Lloyds of London. Today there are twenty-five thousand members. A long way from a small start, way back in 1688 when a few wealthy merchants used to meet in a coffee shop owned then by Mr Lloyd. This started the first premium on ships against loss of vessels in high waters and continued until 1900, when other things were insured, being aviation and motors. Today anything can be insured except life.

Large amounts of money are paid out for oil rigs, satellites, computers, plane crashes and other disasters. The twenty-five thousand members each have to pay a percentage should a big loss occur, totalling in all millions of pounds in some cases.

Each employee out of their salary has to pay Lloyds £50 a year, which is given to charities. The company is self run and can not be nationalised by the Government.

Women were not allowed in until 1970. In 1987 Mary Archer was elected on to the Council. Any one can look round the large building where the business is conducted, now by modern technology and computers, several stories high served by escalators.

The Lloyds list newspaper which started in 1734 still continues today in one hundred and twenty countries. Ten percent of members now are Americans; it is the largest insurance company in the world.

The Guild members were to have their thirtieth birthday lunch at the Technical College at the end of November and their Christmas party in December.

Townswomen's Guilds have each been doing a survey on the conditions of children's playgrounds. Two in the Reading area did not come up to scratch,

were considered dangerous and were reported.

New members are welcomed on the third Thursday in the month at 2.15 pm in Church House, Caversham.

The Jubilee Club Mapledurham

Once again pantomime time has come round and the Jubilee Club will start their New Year programme with a visit to Windsor to see Puss in Boots, a change from last year when they went to the Mill at Sonning to have Christmas lunch and watch an Old Time Music Hall. That was a very special occasion for it celebrated the Club's Silver Jubilee.

Although members only meet once a month the programme for this year has been full of interest and included talks on walking in the Pyrenees, Training Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, and a talk by Mrs Dismukisa entitled Ladies in Black about life in the Middle East.

During the better weather they try to get out and about as much as possible and were able to have two garden parties and two full day excursions, the latter instead of the usual afternoon outings. The first was a visit to Longleat and the second to the New Forest and Breamore House. Summer trips ended with an afternoon coach ride to the White Horse and tea in Wantage.

Two very successful jumble sales and an Open Afternoon keep the club's funds at a very satisfactory level and make all the hard work from helpers and club members really worthwhile.

Maplewood W.I.

At the November meeting of Maplewood W.I. the members heard a talk on the work of the British Red Cross and by Mrs Iris Binstead, who began by contrasting the work of the organisation in its early days in times of war with its varied activities today. An important international service in today's world is a Red Cross centre assisting victims of disasters to trace relatives and friends.

There are one hundred and forty-nine Red Cross signatories to the Geneva Convention and the local organisation is one section of the British Red Cross. Although there is a shortage of volunteers at this time, the various services to the community include providing transport to and from hospitals, assisting with library and welfare services, as well as running holidays for disabled children, and volunteers receive training by Red Cross instructors. There is a strong youth and junior section which

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COMMUNITY LUNCH

At the recent Community Lunch held at Caversham Library the speaker was Mr. Tony Gilbert, and the subject of his talk was Highdown School — "a wonderful place to work" was his description of the School. With 1,000 scholars including 140 in the 6th Form and more than 60 staff the School is well known to Caversham people, many of whom have a relative or friend at the School, which this year is 21 years old.

Mr Gilbert spoke of the school's links with the Community and mentioned projects such as work with disabled children and conservation work and he told of the way in which with the help of local employers the National Curriculum could be made more relevant to the world in which the youngsters live.

A recent National Curriculum Technology Project on "The Weather" had brought together subjects as diverse as Art, Geography and Science, and had been explored with the help of Reading University who provided basic information on the weather, the Prudential who provide insurance against hazards brought about by adverse weather, Thames Water whose pattern of supply and demand fluctuates according to the weather, and a local builder who told of the problems that weather could cause to his work.

With the help of local employers the project had come alive and both scholars and staff had seen the benefit of co-operation with industry.

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the CLUBS

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gives training in rescue, communications and survival skills.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs V. Houseden.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood welcomed members to the November meeting and after reading apologies for absence thanked all who had made the Autumn Fayre such a success by their contributions. Birthday cards were presented to the appropriate members. In the absence of the Secretary Mrs Harwood read minutes of the previous month and reminded members of the Christmas lunch at Chiltern Chase Restaurant, Woodcote, on Tuesday 17th December.

Following any other business Mr Taylor, despite the fact he needed no introduction, was introduced to the meeting where he showed a miscellany of slides depicting

"Gates, old and new"
"Sheds old and new"
these being of particular interest to Mr Taylor, followed by reflections in the River and a beautiful selection of daisies from his garden. Mr Taylor was duly applauded and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his "show". He has been before and will no doubt come again.

Tea was then served and much appreciated. The Sue Ryder box has collected £50 plus since April for which members were thanked.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

A former townswoman, Mrs Pat Howard came along with her husband, Michael, and helper Cynthia to Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild main meeting in November at St Andrew's Hall, bringing a selection of objects from their antique shop in Prospect Street, Caversham. Mrs Howard's father had been a sales per-

son. She related the events, some of which were very sad, that had taken place before their business assumed its present form. They sold crafts and costume jewellery at first in the emporium in Merchants' Place, Reading.

Mrs Howard said that for her a love of old things was essential, also curiosity, a good reference book, and a willingness to burrow in, say, a dusty shed to find perhaps a set of tools for carpentry. She recommended looking through a microscope at precious stones in order to see their full beauty. Michael and Pat Howard both described the articles they had brought, and encouraged people to go there and talk.

Mrs Meryl Beek chose her title from a book, "a narrow track, a green serpent reaching and turning." At social studies she described her latest walk with her husband, this time from Ivinghoe at the north end of the Chilterns along the Icknield Way to Hunstanton at the end of Peddlars' Way in Norfolk. Walking in May this year, she said the weather was mostly favourable. They used maps as there are not signposts along the Icknield Way. This was probably used by animals and the green roads and footpaths walked by people for 4000 years. She showed excellent photographs taken on Dunstable Downs, in Hertfordshire, north Essex, Suffolk and elsewhere, and said they had a longer rest at Cambridge. Interesting flora and fauna and types of countryside were observed, and there were amusing and in-

teresting encounters with people at their various stopping places.

Caversham Community Association

The Autumn bazaar was held on the 2nd November. The weather was good and the event well attended. Members had been busy arranging the stalls for fancy goods, competitions, books, white elephant, cakes, tombola etc., and later were ready to welcome the visitors. £264 was raised, after expenses were deducted, for club funds.

A talk and demonstration of Clarins cosmetics was arranged for 4th November. Two demonstrators, from Debenhams store in Reading, arrived, with a display of the various types of make-up available in the Clarins range of cosmetics. Two of the club members volunteered to be models and were made up by Tracey Thompson in the course of her demonstration. Samples of the cosmetics used were distributed to the members to complete an enjoyable evening.

On the 11th November an Extraordinary Meeting was called and attended by many of the members. Due to various reasons, the rent for the clubroom is to be doubled, consequently more income is needed. After a lively discussion it was agreed that the yearly subscription is to be increased in the New Year from £3.00 to £8.00, with the option of paying in two instalments of £4.00 on January 1st and July 1st. This increase will

also help cover the cost of speakers. After this business was completed a mini-bazaar was held for members with the left-overs from the Autumn bazaar on sale, also a 'suitcase' sale for members wishing to dispose of their unwanted goods.

The whist players amongst the members enjoyed the whist-drive held on the 18th November. Doreen Crawley was the M.C. for the evening and awarded first prize to Mr Peter Snaith. 'Christmas Decorations' was the theme for the meeting on the 25th November. Some of the club members demonstrated their own ideas on arrangements for Christmas. Beryl Latcham made an attractive wreath of ivy, conifer, cones and artificial poinsettias, also a candle holder with foliage etc. Wendy Colton used real flowers and rosemary with baubles, tinsel and little presents to make a Christmas tree. Betty Colton made an oblong table centrepiece with three red candles, cones and artificial flowers. Maida Feast created some novelty crackers containing small gifts which could be used at a Christmas or birthday party. The members enjoyed the interesting evening which gave them ideas for their own decorations for the festive season.

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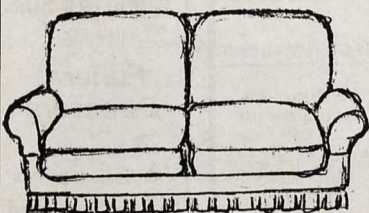
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Dear Editor,

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Yours etc


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