



BUGS BOTTOM

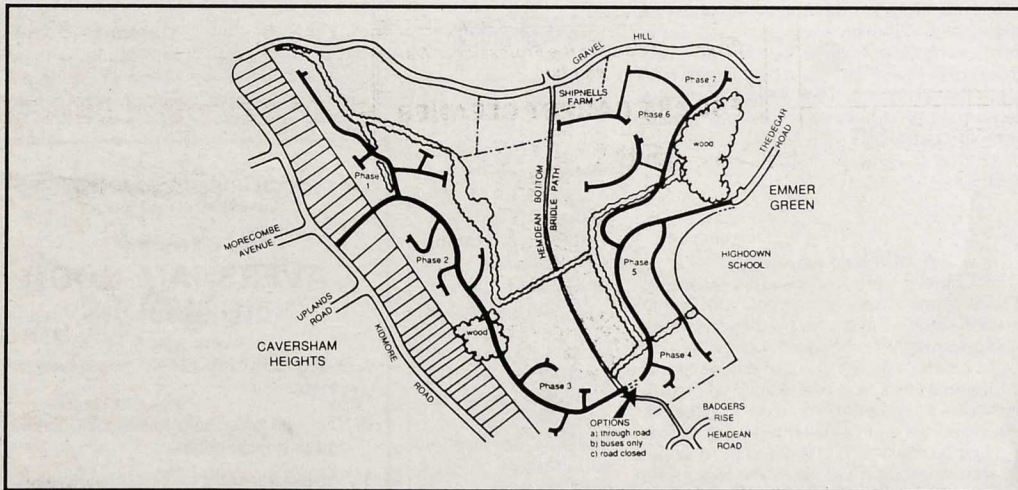
The Fight Goes On – The Next Stage

THE detailed planning application from Higgs and Hill will probably be considered at the March or April Planning Sub-committee. Objections to these plans should be sent to the Director of Planning and Technical Services, Mr. G. Kenworthy at Reading Borough Council, BOX 17, Reading RG1 7TD.

It is important that objections should include a request that copies of the letter be sent to all members of the Planning Sub-committee.

It is essential that objections should relate to the detailed planning application. It is pointless to make generalised objections to the concept of the development in Bugs Bottom. Consequently letters should object to one or two specific areas such as detailed below on this page.

Keep your letters brief and to the point!



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BUGS BOTTOM

LANDSCAPE

1. An ancient hedgerow is scheduled for removal
2. A number of mature trees are scheduled for felling and the excavations for foundations will cause damage to the roots of other trees
3. No excavation is allowed close to badger sets at anytime

GENERAL

1. Unacceptable cramming of house, particularly within phase six (gardens do not comply with council specifications)
2. Insufficient allowance made for steepness of

land leading to: steep gardens which are unsuitable for children and the infirm, two storey properties on the edge of the site overlook existing properties to an unacceptable degree, possible problems with existing gardens due to adjacent earthworks

3. Concern that access to the bridle path could be threatened during construction and that the spine road could cross the bridle path and, generally that satisfactory provision should be made for pedestrians

4. Steepness of the land makes siting of the primary school unsatisfactory

5. Little provision for low cost houses or bungalows for the less physically fit (council policy calls for proportion of social housing)

STORY SO FAR

- March 1984**
Higgs and Hill applies for planning permission
- Oct 84**
Reading Borough Council refuses
- Jan 85**
Higgs and Hill appeals to Department of Environment
- Oct - Nov 85**
Public inquiry
- July 87**
Inspector recommends permission be granted
- Jan 89**
Secretary of State for Environment Nicholas Ridley gives development go ahead
- Mar 89**
Reading Borough Council refers decision to High Court
- Feb 90**
In his high court judgement, Justice Schiemann finds in favour of the development
- Apr 90**
Reading Borough Council (backed by BBAG) applies to Court of Appeal
- July 90**
Higgs and Hill applies for detailed planning permission for phase one: 92 houses on south west of the valley
- Dec 90**
Monster poster push from Bugs Bottom to the Houses of Parliament to present 19,000 signature petition to MP Sir Gerard Vaughan
- June 91**
BBAG attends annual meeting of Higgs and Hill and questions the board
Reading Borough Council forced to withdraw from court of appeal because of a change in the law
Public meeting to explain the way forward ... in particular the disinvestment campaign
- July 91**
Michael Heseltine visits Reading and is given a dossier on Bugs Bottom
- Aug 91**
Landscape proposals from Higgs and Hill
- Sept 91**
BBAG meets with Higgs and Hill representatives, including Sir Brian Hill, chairman and CEO. Neither side compromises.
- Oct 91**
Higgs and Hill submits revised plan for a development of 326 houses

FACILITIES

1. No provision for shops – every minor need will necessitate a journey
2. Concern over ability of sewers in Hemdean Road to cope with foul and surface water from the site
3. There is already a shortfall of water supplying the area and no plans to increase the supply

TRAFFIC

1. The proposed junctions at Kidmore Road and St Barnabus/Tredegar Road are inadequate with poor sight lines and inadequate provision for footways
2. Gradients on major roads are from 1:10 - 1:12.5 which presents problems in places for emergency service and other vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. Nigel Hardcastle
Vicar of St. Barnabas' Emmer Green



TELLING THE FUTURE

As I write it is New Year's Eve. The media is full of predictions for the new year. I have just written a sermon about the astrologers who visited Jesus. I thought I would write about telling the future. There have been many different fascinating methods developed for telling the future. None of them works, with the possible exception of very short range weather forecasting.

Most of the rest should be avoided as dangerous nonsense. Most people still treat them as harmless fun. Unfortunately more and more people are taking them seriously. Some people seek darkness and unreason as an escape from the impersonal harshness of the world. In Germany Christian ministers are out numbered 3 to 1 by people making their living through pagan practices like astrology, magic crystals, spiritualism, shamanism and magic. While great religions seek a God of truth and reason, superstitions encourage retreat into the irrational. Recently the person who controls nuclear forces that can destroy the world was having his diary planned by an astrologer! The last western leader before the Reagans to believe in astrology was Hitler. He used it to plan his unsuccessful military campaigns to establish his prediction of his thousand year empire.



Giblets and Gibberish

One very common ancient method was to examine the livers of recently killed animals — hepatoscopy. (I wonder if you can do it with frozen chicken giblets.)

Oracles were given by people apparently in a trance. They worded their oracles mysteriously but very carefully. One king asked a famous oracle what would happen if he carried out his plan to invade his neighbour. "If your armies cross the river that forms the border," said the oracle, "a mighty nation will be destroyed." Greatly encouraged he attacked. To his surprise he was utterly defeated and his own nation destroyed. Before he could sue under the Trades Description Act someone pointed out. "The oracle never said WHICH mighty nation would be destroyed." Here is the secret of most fortune telling.



Stars in the West

By about 500 BC, Pythagoras and his followers applied their new found geometry to the stars. They believed the world was round. By the 2nd century BC people were measuring the distance to the sun, calculating the precession of the equinoxes and much more. For the first time ever, some people could predict specific events with reasonable

accuracy — when eclipses were likely — where a planet would be at a given time years in advance. This was much more impressive than the ambiguous messages of the oracles.

The only trouble was — not many people wanted to know about eclipses and the positions of the planets. Everyone wanted to know, who they were going to marry — how to avoid danger — how to get rich.

Most of the great ancient astronomers kept fairly well away from the fortune telling game, but lesser men cashed in. How impressive to be able to say, "I calculate that in May the planet Venus will be in the constellation of the Ram (true); and so the power of love will be strong (as usual!)"

Needless to say astrologers did not use astrology to make a fortune in business or gain power in politics themselves. No astrologer believes in astrology enough to risk that. Then as now, the fortunes could only safely be made by selling the advice to others.

This time last year Old Moore's almanac was embarrassed. Although it was published a couple of months after Maggie Thatcher was sacked and John Major had taken over it predicted that in the summer of 1991 Maggie Thatcher would fight off a leadership bid and remain firmly in control as Prime Minister. This was advice that could only help the person selling it.



A Different Astrology

The Chinese were also good astronomers. Their astronomy basically agreed with that of the west. They were looking at the same stars. Their astrology was, however, very different. Not 12 different signs a year but different signs for different years. It didn't matter when you were born. It was when you were conceived. New emperors were chosen not by who was born first but by who had the best horoscope. Thus it was important to know the exact time of every conception. In the early days there was a strict rota. Only the Empress shared the imperial bed on the luckiest day of the month. Varying numbers of queens, consorts and wived shared it on others, until on the 14 most unlucky days he had to share it with about 14 concubines at a time. Later, in less disciplined days when emperors were wont to come and go in the harem just as they felt lead, scribes kept a record of events in vermilion ink. So the stars chose the emperors, most of whom were pretty useless. Medieval Europe is no better as an advert for success based on the stars.

In one eastern country the love of astrology and gambling go hand in hand. Market traders will let you buy food or gamble for it. Astrologers tell you which are your lucky days so you can beat the odds. If there was any truth in the system housewives would become rich and traders universally bankrupt. Unfortunately astrologers and traders grow rich and the housewives all too often go home empty handed.



Lucky Numbers

In the same way Chinese and Greeks came to the same conclusions when they studied arithmetic, but different conclusions when they studied numerology — the "science" of lucky numbers. Europe assumed that the important base number was 4, India assumed that it was 3, while China assumed it was 5. Whatever your house number, you can be fairly sure that it is a lucky number in one of the systems.



Amazing Predictions

Every once in a while someone seems to make an amazingly accurate prediction. It almost seems that someone has had a glimpse of the future. But for every almost convincing case in favour, there are hundreds which are clearly wrong. If anyone ever does see into the future, the process is so unreliable as to be completely useless. There is no way of telling which predictions are true and which are the normal nonsense.

But don't think for a minute that wrong predictions ever put anyone off their chosen system. If you want to retreat into unreason enough, no reason however powerful can convince you otherwise. Indeed reasons against a system simply prove that the system is the escape from reality you seek. In the 1930s the spiritualists predicted there would never be a war with Hitler.

That never put anyone off spiritualism or clairvoyance.



Know the True Future

People want peace of mind. Some are so desperate they are quite willing to suspend their belief and pay hard cash. Jesus prophesied for free. He began by saying the obvious. There will be wars and rumours of wars, persecutions, signs in the heavens natural disasters etc.. He did not need astrology or a mystic revelation to say that. I will make the same prediction for 1992. There will be wars, persecutions and natural disasters. (£5 to the church fund if I am wrong.) But Jesus then went on to add the only prophecy that matters. Whoever holds out to the end will be saved. In the end, Jesus, the Saviour comes. The only prophecy that matters is that Jesus will reign as king on earth and in heaven.

The wise men came in to see Jesus. They saw the future. They knew all they needed to know. They knew the one we all need to know.

Escape from the Impersonal

Some people are fed up with the impersonality of the modern scientific world. They want to believe in mystery. But it is no good escaping from the impersonality of science into magic or superstition. What is the point of replacing an impersonal drug with an impersonal potion, charm, crystal or an impersonal fate? Magic is only science that isn't true and doesn't work. Magic, astrology and all sorts of pseudo sciences have all the problems of impersonal modern science, without any of its blessings or its love of truth. If we long for something beyond the impersonal world of science, then what we are looking for is not magic. What we are looking for is a person.

The wise men came — led by their impersonal system — bringing their impersonal magic tokens. But it was not really the stars that led them. It was God. They came to Jesus and saw a person. They move from the impersonal and the untrue and worship the person who is truth.

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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 March issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 5 February.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 3 February.

The dates for April will be Monday 2 March and Wednesday 4 March.

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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STUDIO VISIT

Melody Radio's Signal Restricted

Readers of last May's issue of the "Bridge" will remember my letter extolling the music broadcast by Melody Radio on 104.9 FM 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Now, regrettably, I can no longer receive this station because of the strength of the test transmissions from BBC Radio Berkshire being broadcast on 104.1 FM which officially takes to the air in early 1992. Melody Radio's output is restricted to 1 KW whereas Berkshire's output will be 5 KW!

Recently I was invited by the Managing Director of Melody Radio, Sheila Porritt, to visit their studio and offices in London, a stone's throw away from Harrods. On entering their third floor I was immediately struck by the quietness, and air of efficiency of the place as well as the faint background music they were playing over the air.

Naturally the centrepiece of their suite is the transmission studio, and its announcer (somehow the title of "disc jockey" seems inappropriate). There is

also a complete duplicate back-up studio in case of any part of the main studio's equipment fails. The signal from the studio is taken by land line to the transmitter at Croydon, and there is also a second alternative standby land line should the main line cease to function.

Nothing is left to chance. As well as the two land lines, and two studios, each studio also has two of each piece of equipment such as the turntables and tape decks for the music cassettes, and the adverts. It is from the adverts that the station royalties also have to be paid to the artists and record companies, whose records or tapes are played. Adjacent to the two studios is a large record library of LPs and cassettes which in the fulness of time will all be transferred on to compact discs, and ultimately on to the new mini cassettes. Records of the playing time

of each piece of music are kept as well as that of the adverts so that the day's programme can be set up well in advance. By statute law each radiostation has to keep an audio record of its broadcasts for the last month, but Melody goes one better and keeps them for the last three months.

Melody Radio also has its own news desk and computer terminal which receives all the latest news from the various news agencies so that it can broadcast up-to-date news headlines every hour on the hour.

The news desk also receives the latest traffic and public transport news which is broadcast over peak rush-hour travelling times, as well as weather reports.

This was the first time I had seen at first hand the workings of a modern radio station and it was an eye-opener — I came away feeling that I had never before realized the complexities and planning involved

in the running of such an undertaking.

What struck me most about my visit? Well, obviously the camaraderie and team spirit of Melody's staff, but it was the gentle background music of the continuous transmission which remained with me long after I had left the studios. I know that there are some commercial firms which provide taped music for employers to play over to their employees to increase the employees' output, but, in my opinion, Melody's transmissions would do a far better job for employers.

Sadly now because of the test transmissions by BBC Radio Berkshire it is no longer possible to receive Melody's signal on hand-tuned VHF receivers in the Caversham area but I have not given up hope having raised this matter with my MP, and if you have enjoyed Melody's programmes I should advise you to do the same.

ADVICE FROM THE STARS

AQUARIUS

Deep down, you are an intelligent person but far too gullible. You pay too much attention to superstitions and astrology. Ignore these in future. Remember it is bad luck to be superstitious.

ARIES

Be careful to look in the right direction for guidance this year. In particular give up paying any attention to astrology and horoscopes.

CANCER

Although this is a leap year, you must avoid wasting time. Watch escapist TV if you must, but avoid all horoscopes, fortune tellers and other such nonsense. You do tend to be rather gullible.

CAPRICORN

With the moon in the solar system all this year you must avoid all superstition in general and astrology in particular. It is not cool to be gullible. Bad vibes man!

GEMINI

Deep down, you are an intelligent person but far too gullible. You pay too much attention to superstitions and astrology. Ignore these in future. Remember it is bad luck to be superstitious.

LEO

Be careful to look in the right direction for guidance this year. In particular give up paying attention to astrology and horoscopes.

LIBRA

Although this is a leap year, you must avoid wasting time this year. Watch escapist TV if you must, but avoid all horoscopes, fortune tellers and other such nonsense. You do tend to be rather gullible.

PISCES

With the moon in the solar system all this year you must avoid all superstition in general and astrology in particular. It is not cool to be gullible.

SAGITARIUS

Deep down, you are an intelligent person but too far gullible. You pay too much attention to superstitions and astrology. Ignore these in future. Remember it is bad luck to be superstitious.

SCORPIO

Be careful to look in the right direction for guidance this year. In particular give up paying attention to astrology and horoscopes.

TAURUS

Although this is a leap year, you must avoid wasting time this year. Watch escapist TV if you must, but avoid all horoscopes, fortune tellers and other such nonsense. You do tend to be rather gullible.

VIRGO

With the moon in the solar system all this year you must avoid all superstition in general and astrology in particular. It is not cool to be gullible.

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POST BAG

Dear Editor,
Has any reader of the Caversham Bridge a picture or print of Grove Hill House? An ancestor of mine lived there in the early 1900's.

The Reference Library does not have a picture of the house. Many thanks for your help.

Yours etc.
Margaret Hassard-Short

50 De Beauvoir Road
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

BUGS BOTTOM IN 1992

In the long drawn out war for Bugs Bottom, longer than the Thirty Years' War of history, the current battle enters its eighth year in 1992 and for the first time since a Secretary of State said in the Summer of 1987 that 'he was minded' to grant permission for development, what has been only a glimmer of hope that it could be saved has become much brighter. The arguments for saving it have always been far and away stronger than those for developing it, but ever since Nicholas Ridley, in the winter of 1989, decided to sign the document giving permission it has been impossible to use them to save the valley. Only comments on detailed permission were valid, which was little consolation for those who thought 'one house is one too many'.

Now all that looks like being altered within the next few weeks. In March, outline permission runs out, because of delays caused by the High Court and, later withdrawn, Appeal Court hearings, and Higgs and Hill have applied for a two year extension. This is not a uncommon procedure and usually the extension is granted unless there is good reason for refusal. What it does mean though, is that at last the whole matter of outline permission can be looked at again and in the

case of Bugs Bottom there have been plenty of changes, which if they had prevailed at the time would have made it extremely unlikely that permission would have been given.

If the Borough Planning Committee refuses an extension, then it will have to go to the Department of the Environment for decision. The Secretary of State could then make up his mind after looking into the case, but a more likely course in such a controversial application, and we do know he is aware of that, is for him to order a public inquiry. If that happens, a whole new field is open. At last it would be possible to get down to the real arguments, and it has always been maintained that permission would never have been given at any other time than during that brief period in which it was originally sought.

So now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of the valley and pick up their pens to write a letter to the Borough Planning Officer (at the Civic Offices) saying why they think the extension should not be granted; The County Structure Plans, the Borough Plan, guidelines about greenfield development from the D of E, new ideas on conservation and the increase in traffic since 1987 before

this development's quota is added to it, are all reasons for refusal now.

MIDWINTER MEETING

All this was explained at the public meeting called by Bugs Bottom activists in the middle of December, when in spite of a night when thick fog reduced visibility to practically nil, a goodly crowd groped its way to Caversham Primary School, where the children's displays brought a warm welcome on a dank gloomy night. Mike Devereux, Principal Planning officer for the North and West, took his audience through the intricacies of planning law whereby Higgs and Hill had submitted two identical planning applications for each of the separate phases of the whole development, thus keeping their options open if the Borough should reject one, which would mean keeping it on ice whilst queueing up at the D of E for a public inquiry, which is already the case with Phase I. It was this phase, with its unacceptably high density, which would have been the pattern for the succeeding phases, which led to the reduction of the originally proposed 500 houses to 326.

Doris Thomas, Planning Secretary for Caversham and District Residents' Association, gave a list of grounds on which objection could be made to

the development. Phone her on Reading 472864 if you need any help in writing your letter of objection. Marion Fallowfield gave details of a recent survey carried out by South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group on an ancient hedge, shaw and lynchet, of which the dates could only be surmised, but all of which were most likely very old, and which would be either damaged or endangered by building, particularly in Phase I. So it is a case of Forward into 1992 with renewed hope in the knowledge that it will be a make or break year, and with the determination that it will be the former. That means, at this stage, writing those letters and not leaving it to others.

CHANGES AT MAPLEDURHAM

Caversham and District Residents' Association will be looking closely at the proposals for the Mapledurham Estate, which were featured in last month's Caver-

sham Bridge. John Eyston, current owner of the estate which has been in his family for five hundred years, is anxious to point out that they are not set in stone but are open to consultation. What they will mean however is a radical change from the agricultural estate it has been since it first emerged into history sometime around the Norman Conquest into an estate in tune with the life of the late twentieth and coming twenty first centuries, but at the same time retaining its rural character. The question is, can it be done?

With government policy requiring reduced output, 'set-aside' and diversification, agriculture is not enjoying an easy time, and estates such as Mapledurham, close to urban areas, particularly feel the effect of this. It could be asked whether this is a permanent pattern or something temporary, as people are always going to

turn to page 5

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BUGS BOTTOM

by J. Tait



Bugs Bottom

Second of Series Reproduced by Kind Permission of the Artist.

WATCHDOG

from page 4

need to eat, or whether it might be better to concentrate on less intensive methods which might be beneficial for the land, the animals and the consumer. However, it would be unrealistic to expect the individual

farmer to spearhead such a move.

One of the particular problems of Mapledurham Estate is the large number of listed buildings on its land, which need to be kept in a state of reasonable repair, a costly business as patching up will not normally do. Agriculture alone will not pay for this.

For people over a very wide area the estate is however their scenery, the countryside where they walk for pleasure and where overwhelmingly they want to see no major changes at all. Major changes however there will have to be. They could far worse than those proposed and, unless the predictions for British farming are completely off-course, could come into being even if nothing were done and things were just allowed to drift on. It will not be an easy road ahead, whatever happens.

SMART NEW ROAD

It is difficult to say whether the widening of Caversham Road had led to freer traffic flow as at the time of writing for most of

the period in which it has been operating, traffic has been distorted by Christmas and post-Christmas conditions. For several days before Christmas, when serious delays could have been expected, the improvement in traffic flow could be traced to the presence of a warden in Caversham Road who saw to it that the urban clearway was actually operating, thus freeing another lane.

The footway under the railway bridge is in much better shape than it has been for years, except that it is on the narrow side. I have yet to observe what happens if two mums pushing buggies meet in the middle. Can they pass each other, or does one have to do

a difficult reversing job? It is a fair bet that County Council traffic engineers never even considered that one. To them transport means private cars or HGV's, not something as humble as a pair of feet.

CAR PARK CHARGES

It was welcome news that wiser counsels prevailed in the end and the proposed charges for Chester Street car park were dropped, pending further consultations with all interested parties. This does not mean no charges will be introduced, but that they will be fair, acceptable to users, will not aggravate the situation and will bring in a bit of revenue to the hard pressed Borough Council.

Abbeycrest

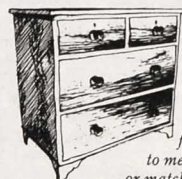
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

The joys of Christmas have come and gone, the Christmas tree has been packed away, and the decorations taken down, but hopefully some of the Christmas spirit found at Gosbrook Road, will be around for the rest of the year.

The Methodist Church in Lower Caversham, had plenty of services and events for people to enjoy, find fellowship, worship and most of all find the true meaning of Christmas. The Carol services on the Sunday before Christmas were well attended. Was this because of the Churches Together in Caversham's Christmas card? What a good idea this was, I am sure other churches must have benefited too.

One of the highlights of the Christmas celebrations was The Caversham Nativity Play, which was produced by Catherine Hackman and Kathleen Sweeting, and written by Les Cooper. The play was based on the Chester Mystery play, and the actors enjoyed learning lines in somewhat out of date English. Costumes were based on Medieval dress, with players and choir all looking the part. A well worthwhile event, a shame that it

was only performed once.

Another play in a very different vein was produced by The Sunshine Girls and Starshine Drama Group. This was a musical fantasy play, and told the story of "How the Star was Chosen".

The idea of the play was heavenly beings deciding who would lead the kings to Bethlehem, auditions were held and of course, the Bright Star won. Congratulations to Sarah Guthrie who played Bright Star, and to Sunita Dhillon who played The Great Sky Ruler, and also congratulations to all the cast for their hard work, and considerable talent shown. The girls were given a second opportunity to perform when they went to Helen Court, a James Butcher Home in Bath Road. From the two events £64.59 was raised for the Church roof fund.

The Sunday Club produced another meaningful Nativity play on the Sunday nearest to Christmas, the parts were beautifully spoken and this brought the Nativity tableau to life in a new and interesting way. All credit must be given to some of these young

people who took part in as many as three different plays leading up to Christmas. A herculean effort to fit in with their school work as well, who says the younger generation only watches television??

Carolsinging is a must isn't it? It's not Christmas until you have sung a few carols. Some of us enjoyed an evening singing around the immediate church area. The singing was all the better for being accompanied by guitar and piano accordion, and even better for the mince pies and coffee afterwards, thanks to Ann & Howard. If you didn't come this time, make a date for next year.

Other departments have had parties and get-togethers, each in their own way, much work has gone on in the background, so thanks to all the people who helped to make Christmas. But of course Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the worship which culminated on Christmas day in a joyful family service. The Rev John Boakes shared with the children in enjoying their presents, and a time of fellowship was shared by everyone on this very special day.

"BRING THE CHILDREN TO CHURCH"

Not quite what was meant by this request, but these children from Caversham Primary School came to Church to learn about it. They explored it, tried out the pulpit and the lectern and made notes and sketches, and generally seemed to enjoy their visit. Several Caversham Schools visited the Church in 1991.



— E.S. Archer

St. Barnabas News

In the December issue of the Caversham Bridge readers learnt of the steps forward in fellowship and evangelism which were to be taken as a result of the Parish conference and also heard about the successful series of meetings on Science and Religion. Even larger numbers attended the Advent meetings entitled Peace and the Presence of God. Was it the charismatic charms of the Vicar which attracted them or the dubious charms of their resident physiotherapist? Or could it have been the subject matter

itself? The course had two aims; one to help people to recognise and to cope with the adverse effects of stress in their lives and two, through an increased awareness of the presence of God to find the reality of his peace. The two apparently divergent aims were in fact seen to be convergent. Each meeting included exercises, in physical and mental relaxation, using dance, music, breathing, muscle tensing and relaxing techniques, meditations, visualisations, affirmations, prayer and buzz group sessions

when experiences could be shared and explored.



However, the crowning glory of St Barnabas' Christmas activities was the very successful Carol Service. The many visitors from other parts of the country were overhead expressing their admiration for one of the best Carol Services they could remember attending. Thanks must certainly go to the vicar, who had clearly put in a lot of thought and hard work. Entitled The Word Made Flesh it was particularly

meaningful for those who had attended the two pre-Christmas courses as it sought to explore through science the the wonder of the created world and to link the creation story with the Birth of Christ and the presence of Christ now, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". Thought provoking slides were shown to illustrate a dialogue between vicar and reader, and the music was a careful and refreshing selection of old and new. A good end to the old year and a promise for the new.

Wedding Photography

by Michael Blackburn

Old photographs reproduced
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

'An All-Embracing Love Bo Coward

On 27th November 1991 the body of Hilda Iris 'Bo' Coward was laid to rest in the tranquil riverside churchyard of St Margaret Mapledurham after her funeral service at a full St Peter's.

Born 10th June 1919 to Edith and Bertie New at Portsmouth, sister to Phyllis and George, Bo met Les as St Luke's School Southsea. They were married 28th October 1939, Les being on survivor's leave from the Royal Navy. Bo's indomitable spirit in dangerous wartime situations took her to see Les on the rare occasions his submarine berthed in British ports, regardless of air raids, restricted areas and emergency dawn patrols by her man whom she loved so dearly.

Their sons were October babes, Ian in 1942, Nigel in 1944, and fully reciprocated their mother's generous love. On Ian's fatal wounding on police service in 1971, Bo was a rock of strength to the family in a tragic and traumatic time. Nigel, with his father, was with her at her death. I

felt Ian also praying with us at Bo's bedside.

Bo was a VAD in the Red Cross at Abingdon, the family home town from 1947. For seven years she gave beyond the call of nursing duty at the Cottage Hospital. Moving to Earley in 1954, she was Red Cross Cadet Officer, continuing with hospital work and escorting patients by ambulance or train nationwide. Her mother, bedridden for two years, lived with Bo and Les and received loving care rarely found in families today.

Bo loved young people. Appointed Red Cross County Officer for training junior cadets in Berkshire, her empathy with handicapped children made her summer camps a wonderful learning and enriching experience for all.

When Les worked overseas from 1967, Bo joined him when possible in remote parts in Kenya, Fiji and the Caribbean. Back home in Caversham, until 1987 she helped handicapped children at Peppard House. Every week one of the children came to her home. And then her il-

ness began to take hold. . .

With Les, Bo's Christian love was unflinchingly supportive. She delighted in her family. Her daughters-in-law took her to their hearts. Her grandchildren rightly thought her marvellous. The night before she died peacefully, Bo smiled with pride at photos of her family. She smiled serenely when I told her of Terry Waite's release that day. "What a fine example he is to us all" she said. Her words apply no less to herself.

Her commitment at St Peter's, as member of the Sacristy Guild and worker in so many ways and friend to all, was typical of Bo. A gentle, teasing smile, utter integrity, and the gift of seeing lovingly the real people we are. Hers was an all-embracing love. We are the poorer by her death yet rejoice in having known, loved and admired her. To Les, Nigel and all their family and relatives, our love and thanks for sharing your beautiful lady with so many of us in God's service. She was and remains an example to us all. May she rest in peace.

RJK

ECUMENICAL ENTERPRISE

The Baptist Church hosted the Annual Ecumenical Carol Concert in aid of the Save the Children Fund. The programme consisted of a delightfully novel miscellany of items by individuals, music groups associated with Caversham Churches, the Caversham Park Handbell Group and children of St. Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School who merit special congratulations on their discipline and smart appearance in school uniform. The standard of presentation of all items was impeccable, the concert flowed without a hitch — it was 'all right on the night' so to speak, notwithstanding the numerous frustrations experienced by Mrs. Margaret Pilgrim who acted as coordinator on behalf of the Caversham Satellite Group of the Save the Children Fund.

The Minister of the Church, the Revd. Dennis Weller, welcomed those present including their Worship the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor Robert and Mrs. Margaret Dimmick, the Mayor reading the First Lesson.

Talented playing of the organ by Mrs. Phyllis Shattock, a well known Caversham resident and enthusiastic worker for S.C.F. as Area Representative for Berkshire and East Wiltshire, enhanced the singing of traditional carols and also one, the words of which were specially composed for the occasion by the Revd. Thomas Meagher, entitled: 'All You that Love this Christmas-time'.

An Address, based on St. Matthew's Gospel Chapter 25 Verse 40 — In as much as Ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren You have done it unto Me — was given by Mrs. Sue Divall, Area Organiser for S.C.F., linked the biblical account of events two thousand years ago with the situation today in that it is estimated that throughout the world there are twenty-five million 'Children-on-the-Move' — the slogan adopted by S.C.F. to spearhead its current appeal for children who have been orphaned, have become separated from parents and family or are otherwise wandering knowing not where.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

As usual the Fellowship Christmas Evening proved very popular despite the extreme cold of the evening. The large gathering was not disappointed. They were entertained in a delightful manner by the Network Singers who sang lovely carols and gave sensitive readings. It was a

wonderful prelude to Christmas and much appreciated by the audience. A delicious buffet supper prepared by the committee, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

CAROLS FOR ACTION RESEARCH

Mapledurham Pavilion was filled to capacity on 18th December for a splendid evening of carols and other entertainment organised by Action Research.



Sitting round candlelit tables, the large gathering enthusiastically sang carols compered by Father Christmas. These were interspersed by a 'Christmas Medley' sung by Sheila Kingdon and readings by Gillian Reid. After

a wonderful finger buffet supper served by the Committee to those at the tables, the evening's entertainment resumed with the performance of carols by the Shinfield handbell ringers and ended with more carols and readings. David Jordan accompanied the singing on the piano.



The whole evening was most enjoyable and a great credit to the organisers who were raising funds for medical research.

PEN FRIENDS WANTED

Mrs Wilma Tait, 2 Knowle Close, Caversham, writes that she has received requests from young Christians in Africa who are keen to have English pen-friends, and hopes that readers of the Caversham Bridge may be able to help. The following would like to hear from you:

GEORGE BOATENG
PO Box 1205,
Sunyani-Brong-Ahafo,
Ghana, W. Africa.
Age 16 at Junior
Secondary School

Alexander Asanti,
Box 4511, Kumasi,
Ghana, W. Africa
Age 34. A trader

Thierno Ibrahima-Sow
c/o Omar 'Laye,

PO Box 2020, Serre,
Isunda, The Gambia,
W. Africa

? Boy — helping father

Joyce Mann, PO Box
563

Sunyani B/A Ghana,
W. Africa, Age 19.
Hairdresser

Thompson Amponsah,
PO Box 9077,
Kumasi,
Ashanti, Ghana, W.
Africa
No more information

For further details contact Mrs Tait, who has the original letters or Parish Office, Church House, who has photo copies.

CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Recently the Abbeyfield Reading Society, which operates a Supportive Care Home for Elderly Persons in St. Peter's Avenue, held its Annual General Meeting at the Baptist Church. Following the short business session the assembled members and friends were addressed by the Chairman of the south Eastern Region, Lt. Col. John Dent M.B.E., whose subject was; 'Future Trends in Abbeyfield', in which he gave an overview of the way in which he saw the Society developing throughout the country.

Col. Dent, referring to the fact that the Society's original concept was the provision of Supportive Care Homes for 'young' pensioners, went on to point out that improvements in health and welfare services had resulted in the age of entry to such a home being in the mid to late eighties. Evidence, he said, indicated that such persons were invariably at, or very near to, the point at which they needed more personal care than could be provided in such homes. This trend had resulted in a rising number of vacancies but in some measure the situation had been anticipated

by the provision of 'Extra-Care' homes providing care 'round-the-clock'. 'Extra-Care' Homes were, however, few in number and of economic necessity operated at full occupancy hence the frail resident of a Supportive Care Home had to await a vacancy, which may be remote from family and friends, and, additionally, faced the trauma of a second move. Col. Dent considered such a practice both undesirable and unkind, he favoured what was sometimes referred to as 'continuous-care'. He went on to define 'continuous-care' as that sought by a potential resident for as long as it was required, even to death, unless hospital treatment or circumstances outside the control of the Society intervened. Such a 'one-move' concept would go far to ensure peace of mind in the knowledge that, having given up his/her home, the resident would feel secure. Col. Dent Commended this philosophy to the Reading Society which is currently seeking to expand its operations by the acquisition of a suitable property or site on which to develop a further home.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

No, it wasn't a deliberate mistake — it really was a genuine one, so I should thank all those who took pains to tell me, after last month's 'Bridge', that the poet Wilfred Owen, was never ordained and consequently could not have been a curate at Dunsden Church. When I first came here somebody told me he was and I remember hearing him referred to as Dunsden's unpaid curate. I never bothered to check but I did know he lived for a short time at Dunsden Vicarage (or should it be Rectory?). Now I really will have to get down to reading Wilfred's biography in detail — as an admirer of his work I should have done it a long while ago. Please accept my apologies.

HARDWICK ESTATE FARM SHOP

And while wandering around outside

Caversham, I've been reminded that (as far as any of us can remember) we have never mentioned Sir Julian Rose's farm shop on the Hardwick Estate. It came into the conversation recently when we were discussing the latest events regarding beef supplies to Russia. I do know many people have given up buying beef since the onset of BSE in cattle and I wonder if they know that this farm shop sell organic beef, pork from free range pigs, free range eggs, organic veg. and other things. Unfortunately the shop was closed for the Christmas holidays when I was taken there recently, but I did find the atmosphere quite refreshing, the cows wearing ribbons instead of ear tags, and the bull roaming happily in the paddock.

Normally the shop is open Wednesday to Saturday, from 10

a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 — 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 3 — 5 p.m. And if in doubt one can always ring Checkendon 681124 before setting out for Path Hill.

ANOTHER CAVERSHAM LOSS

Several people have asked me to comment on the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Moore are shortly giving up their shop in Prospect Street, still known to many as Harry Ellis's old shop. When Harry gave up four years ago to move to France with French-born wife, William Moore and Netta Hanlon Moore (a family name) agreed to take over for a short while at least and keep the business of antiques, upholstery etc., going. William knew a little about it as he'd been helping out there for a short time before the move. So he and his wife quickly settled in and kept it the same friendly

place it was before the change, a place where customers could browse in a relaxed atmosphere. But they were past retirement age when they took over, so one could not expect the shop to stay open there for ever. They had hoped to have kept it on a little longer, but illness, a massive break-in and other factors have forced an earlier closure and, alas, it seems unlikely the place will be taken over as another antique shop. Fortunately I'm told the upholsterer is not giving up but will probably be working from home, a fact which will please many of his very satisfied customers, so it is hoped we can give definite details at a later date. Let's hope the place doesn't become another estate agent or a take-away.

Meanwhile William and Netta, who live in Emmer Green, in-

tend to remain in the district. They have both done their share of wandering around. These two very friendly people met and married — at St. Anne's — after the deaths of their respective spouses — somehow they managed to get engaged while on holiday in Texas, in the middle of a caravan park. William was 27 years in the army, including a short spell with the Pay Corps at Ranikhet Camp in Tilehurst, which many may remember, and 15 years with Telecom. Neither of them are exactly local yokels, William originally coming from Southern Ireland and Netta from Scotland. But they really have made their home here and made many friends who at least will have the pleasure of seeing them around the district. We wish them well in their retirement.

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Pam Chilvers, assisted by Richard Line, will be performing works by such composers as Holst, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Delius at The Oratory School, Woodcote, on Saturday, 22nd February. Caversham Bookshop and Modern Music in the Broad Street Mall will be selling programmes and providing window displays for this concert. Sonya Delamere also has some also has some programmes. Reading Central Library will be holding a display two weeks before the concert on the second floor, in the music section.

Readings from Chaucers, Dickens, Shakespeare and William Blake, among others, will be presented by Sonya Delamere. Martin Beek has a collection of new paintings of England, notably several views of the now famous 'Bugs Bottom' and these will be on display and for sale at the back of the hall. Admission will be programme only, and it is advisable to book in advance to avoid disappointment. The concert will include two of Pam's own compositions: 'Kites' composed

for a friend's wedding in 1989, and 'Clouds', also written in 1989, inspired by watching cloud formations through a sun-roof. Sonya will also read two short poems that she wrote herself: 'Fragrant Images' and 'The Balloon'.

It is hoped that the Images series will continue to give an insight

into the dreams, fears and inspirations of the people of different countries and cultures portrayed by the composers and writers through the ages.

7.45 for 8.15
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The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
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The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 475152.
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The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.
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The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.
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The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.
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The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.
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The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.
ROMAN CATHOLIC
The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)
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THE ANGEL OF CAVERSHAM

Throughout the ages, in every community, there have always been Good Samaritans. In Caversham during the early eighteen hundreds one lady was so full of good works that she was named by local people the Angel of Caversham. She was, in fact, Miss Elizabeth Deane. Her home, close to the old mill, was Deans Farm, to which her family gave their name, the final "e" having become lost over the years.

At the time when Elizabeth lived there it was simply known as Caversham farm. A member of the family is mentioned in the Post Office directory for 1842. Mr Thomas Deane of Caversham farm is listed as Guardian of the Poor. However he was not Elizabeth's father, for his name was Robert. Perhaps it was a brother of this kindly young woman.

The Deanes were already living in Reading in the early fifteen hundreds and they remained there for three centuries. By 1606 they had become wealthy clothiers owning much land in the town, and then according to a granddaughter of the Angel, in a letter written not so long after World War II, one of the family lost nearly all his fortune by supporting

the lost cause of Charles the first. So poor did he become that in his old age he was forced "to hawk vegetables around in a donkey cart".

However, as often happens the family once more became prosperous, perhaps through a successful marriage (often a great help!) for by 1785 a John Deane was Mayor of Reading and living in Castle Street. Perhaps it was he who eventually bought Caversham Farm from its previous owners, the Benwells, who were there as early as 1723.

Probably the Deanes had moved into the property by the turn of the eighteen hundreds as one of them had married into a Shiplake family by then, according to Mrs Climenson in her History of Shiplake (1894)

Gracious Home

In 1812 the Deanes had a barge on the Thames. No doubt they were not solely interested in farming and one wonders if they in fact owned the pulled down weaving shed in Prospect Street and used their barge for transport of wool and cloth as well as other goods.

The farmyard with its great outbuildings was a large one and obviously important and their old



Dean's Farm cottage in 1943.

house made a gracious home for the wealthy family, with its lawns reaching to the bank of the Thames and flanked by yew trees.

Only during the time of the Crawshays at Caversham Park did it become part of the lands of that estate. The Crawshays very probably bought it from the Deanes at some time. In 1910 its acreage was around the four hundred mark - a large farm indeed - the farmyard bears witness to this with its fine set of outbuildings.

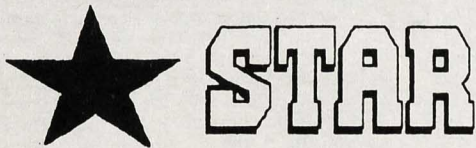
Sadly the interesting old house is no longer the grand residence it was in days past and much of the farm land has now been excavated for gravel and has become a large expanse of water, clearly visible from Western Region's main line as you leave for London by train.

In due course Elizabeth Deane married. Her husband was the Reverend Joseph Young who had a boys' school in Reading. One can imagine most of the village turning up at the church gate on her wed-

ding day to wish her well, for she was obviously dearly loved. Her husband later became Vicar of Heathfield in Sussex.

Elizabeth died some time in the eighteen sixties and but for the letter written by her granddaughter, an old lady in the nineteen-fifties, which by chance I was able to read, perhaps the Angel of Caversham would have become completely forgotten.

*Have you retired from work?
But not from life?*



**STUDENTS
OF THE
THIRD AGE.
READING**

There may be some who are still mystified by the name in the above heading though the organisation has been mentioned several times in this newspaper.

The University of the Third Age

started in France in 1972 and has been active in Britain for ten years and in Reading for five. Why 'Third Age'? After the first age of childhood and the second age of work and family and social respon-

sibility comes the third age. To this one fifth of the UK population now belongs and it may last thirty years. Much can be done during this time to make it one of fulfilment and personal development and it is this the U.3A is all about. There are one hundred and fifty local U.3As throughout the UK with some eighteen thousand individual members and new groups are constantly starting.

There is no need to be intimidated by the word 'University'. Each U.3A is completely individual as it relies on the enthusiasms of its own members to start up groups

and provide promoters for them.

On the cultural side the Reading U.3A has groups for Books, Classical Music, Play reading, Debating, Decade of the 1930s, Esperanto, Learning from Your Dreams, Writers and a Travel Discussion Meeting. On the physical side there is Gentle Yoga and Relaxation and Swimming. Also each month there is a very well researched walk of about two hours ending in Pub lunch. To keep the brain active Bridge and Scrabble, also periodical visits to the theatre are arranged.

As is obvious, the range of activities is very broad and it is always up to members to suggest more. Members come from all over Reading but those from Caversham are fortunate as most meetings take place in the Retirement Centre behind Waitrose.

If anyone is tempted to join they should contact the Membership Secretary Mrs Grace McGregor Tel. 866037.

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the CLUBS

Caversham Ladies Club

It was Christmas Party time once again; Mrs Harwood, the Chairman opened the meeting with warm welcome to the members, and thanked everyone who again had been so generous with their gifts, and she hoped they would all enjoy themselves. Before continuing with Club business Mrs Harwood said she had sad news to give out. Mrs Greenway had passed away very suddenly; she had been a lively and happy person and would be sadly missed. A minute's silence was held to her memory by the members.

Mrs Harwood reminded members that the coach for their Christmas lunch at Chiltern Chase would be leaving at 12.30am from the usual place in Hemdean Road.

By now the tables were looking very gay and tempting with decorations and lots of goodies, and after singing Christmas carols, Mrs Harwood said grace and members started their party, being waited on by the Committee, the usual procedure at Club parties. The centre piece, the Christmas cake,

had once again been iced and decorated by the artistic hands of Mrs Queenie Strong.

All too soon it was time to close this last meeting of 1991 so, amidst lots of Christmas greetings being passed around, members received a Christmas card with a small gift before wending their way home after a very enjoyable afternoon.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The Ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held the last meeting of the year in December. They were entertained by seven members of the Sainsbury Singers, who provided a varied programme with songs from the shows interspersed with some old standards. "We are the Bold Gendarmes" and "We're a Couple of Swells" provided a little comedy and they finished with an old favourite "White Christmas". The singers were accompanied by their own pianist. A vote of thanks was given by Marion Cooper.

The ramblers section had two winter walks and twenty-one members of the Arts and Crafts section attended a dried flower and jewellery demonstration.

A raffle was held and raised over £24 for Retts Syndrome.

The chairman ended the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Caversham's Pop In Centre

Did you know that every Tuesday and Thursday morning, between 10 am and 12 noon, for 15p you can have tea or coffee with biscuits, and relax after doing the shopping? Where? On the first floor of Church House, above Norman Kent & Son (the tailors) which is opposite the mini roundabout at the bottom of Prospect Street.

This is Caversham's Pop In Centre which was first opened in 1984 — Doreen Bennett, whose original idea it was, is still one of the helpers, and today there is a rota of thirty ladies who take turns to provide the amenity. The present

ed by Mrs B. King, and one member made the birthday cake, which was iced by the Chairman. Each member was given a gift, nicely wrapped by Mrs E. Manning, to take home. An enjoyable time to end the year was had by everybody.

the club to join in with the carol singing. During the meeting club members gave readings — including excerpts from Dickens' 'Christmas Carol' and descriptions of Christmas customs in earlier days. Susan Olyphant, from St



Enjoying coffee and a chat at the Pop-In Centre.

—E.S. Archer

day organisers are Judy Dooley and Viv Kennedy.

Why not avail yourself of that refreshing cup of tea or coffee next time you shop in Caversham on a Tuesday or Thursday morning?

Perhaps you could spare one Tuesday or Thursday morning each month to help at the Pop In? If so Viv Kennedy would be delighted to hear from you on Reading 474836.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The speaker for the December meeting was Mrs E. Kershaw on the subject of canine behaviour. She said owners should train their dogs from the age of seven weeks and try to understand them. They need regular exercise, grooming, and attention. If animals have an aggressive behaviour the owners are usually to blame.

The Guild celebrated their thirtieth year birthday lunch in November at the Technical College. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all. They also had a party in the hall in December before breaking up for Christmas. This year, for a change, and to give the Committee a break, the members supplied the tea. However, the Committee did the rest, some members putting on an excellent play, organis-

The next meeting is in the New Year, and new members are welcomed. Meetings are on the third Thursday in each month in Church House, Caversham.

Caversham Community Association

The December meetings commenced with a social evening on the 2nd of the month. Evelyn Cook was busy at the Nearly New stall on behalf of the members, selling their unwanted goods. A small percentage of the sales is given to club funds.

On the 9th December the members gathered for a carol evening, when they were given the opportunity to choose their favourite carols to sing. St. Peter's Wives Group was invited to

Peter's, played the recorder and another visitor gave a reading. Nancy Nelhams was the accompanist at the piano for the carol singing.

The Christmas party held on the 16th December was enjoyed by all who attended. A good meal of pork pie, ham, baked potatoes in their jackets and salad, followed by delicious trifles was partaken.

Later in the evening Christmas cake, made by Doreen Meadowcroft, was handed round with wine or soft drinks. The entertainment was provided by the Enterprise Two concert party, managed and produced by Lynne Davies, with Peggy Farry at the piano. Everyone enjoyed the show with the excellent singers, lovely costumes and the

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KNOWING THE BIRDS

Many species of birds world-wide, have become extinct or are on the "Endangered List". This vulnerability is very largely due to mankind's lack of understanding and perception, which has resulted in a direct abuse of his environment. It is tragic that so many of God's creatures should have been threatened and destroyed in this way.

Those of us with even a mild interest in wildlife are likely to be sympathetic towards its safe-keeping, and anyone with an interest in birds, would do well to pursue their knowledge a little further.

The annual slaughter in Europe of many millions of migrating birds, both large and small, just for "Sport", is nothing short of horrendous, and is proof enough, that nature needs all the help and protection that we can afford it.

A good introduction towards a better understanding of birds is to join Bird-Society.

The Reading Ornithological Club welcomes anyone of any age, no matter what their experience or lack of it, may be.

Since its inception in the late 1940's, it has maintained a very high level of illustrated talks and films, sometimes by radio and television personalities. Its President for many years, has been the well-respected, Robert Gillmor, an International Bird Artist of considerable repute. Meetings are held fortnightly, at the Reading University's Whiteknights Campus in Shinfield Road, and Outings are regularly organised to local and more distant areas, well-known for their bird-watching potential.

As with any Natural Science, a good Field Guide to hand, is always a helpful asset, even for the garden Bird-

watcher, who often has an excellent opportunity to see colour and plumage details at close quarters.

Once skill has been acquired in this way, one is instantly, able to spot, "A little bird like a Chaffinch, but with an Orange chest and a White rump", which was, "On the bird-table with a Chaffinch"! That fortunate observer had, one winter, in Caversham, witnessed the most common British bird alongside a far less common visitor from the Arctic, a Brambling.

At the time, he did not know what, "The Other" bird was, but by having committed its details to paper, rather than relying on his memory, accurate identification was later established.

But for his expert identification of the Chaffinch, he may so easily have overlooked the exciting Brambling! "Scoops Owl"

petition for a home-made Christmas party hat, was won by Margaret Payne, with Evelyn Cook in second place. At the end of the evening George Feast, the Vice-Chairman, thanked everyone who had arranged the tables for supper so attractively and put up the decorations in the club

THANKS TO BIMBO



Presentation to Ernest Jackson at Mapledurham Hall by local residents.

Photo provided by Peter Bean

Twenty-eight years ago the area of Caversham Heights which includes Woodcote Road, The Mount and Highmoor Road had a new dairyman. He was Mr Jackson; but it was not long before he gained an affectionate place in the hearts of his customers and was soon known as Bim or Bimbo.

Putting the milk on the doorstep six days a week at 4.30 in the morning in all weathers, especially in the bitter cold of winter, dealing with a variety of produce as well as dairy products, collecting the money in at the end of a busy week and balancing the books, made Bim's work something that most of us would prefer not to do. Yet he did it with the cheeriest of smiles and never had a day's absence except for annual holidays.

No wonder about sixty of his friends gathered together on Monday evening, December 30th at the Pavilion in Mapledurham Playing Fields to give Bim a farewell party and thank him for all the he had done for them over the years. Among those present was a representative from Clifford's Diaries. As a token of their great regard for him Bim was presented with a cheque and a book signed by many of his friends, including kisses from the children.

Bim — you will be remembered for many years to come in this patch of Caversham. We wish you the very best of good fortune in the years ahead and hope we shall often see you around.

MK

and members were entertained by two ladies, a singer and her accompanist, Mrs Lavender and Mrs Stephenson, with popular songs. Everybody joined in with carols. There was a full sales table with cakes, novelties, flower arrangements, etc.

Tea was then served by the committee, with cakes, sandwiches and Christmas cake, made and iced by Mrs Roberts. Members had put a small present into a basket on entering the hall and chose one during teatime for themselves.

The competition was for "The best wrapped Christmas Gift" and was won by Mrs Gilmartin, 2nd Mrs J. Martin, 3rd Mrs Roberts.

room, the committee and members who had helped with the meal and the concert party for their entertainment. The members obviously appreciated the efforts of all concerned and agreed that the party had been very successful. Everyone then departed homeward and looked forward to meeting again in the New Year.

Rosehill W.I.

The December meeting was very much a Christmas one, with separate tables decorated with a dried flower arrangement. The usual monthly business was curtailed

the CLUBS

from page 10

happy Christmas atmosphere. The com-



Pre-Christmas celebrations at Mander Court

— E.S. Archer

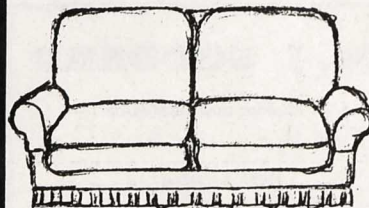
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