



YOUTH ROADSHOW

By Roy

Having written my first column, I have been waiting for a response to the competitions and requests for information. I was disappointed that only four replies were received, none of which was for the competitions.

This I can only guess is for a number of reasons:

- Few young people actually read Caversham Bridge.
- Young people don't like writing (BUT see the fourth letter below)
- The column is not written in an attractive or appropriate way.

I suspect the first may have some truth in it, which is sad as there are so many possibilities in a regular publication such as this.

Anyway, enough with the negative side, let me share the correspondence I have to date. If you remember I asked for your comments on meat eating:

Dear Roy,

I have not eaten meat since I heard a talk about the way animals were killed and prepared for shops. It seems so cruel that innocent animals have no choice but to be put through so much suffering. I also heard that red meat is not good for people. There are really good vegetarian dishes that you can buy or make so it's not a problem for me to have a good meal each day. Jane McEvoy, Peppard Road, Caversham.

Dear Roy,

Why do people have such a problem with eating meat? I'm quite healthy and I've always eaten meat. All the hype about killing

animals and their suffering isn't true. I know someone who works down at the abattoir and they tell me the animals don't feel a thing. Try telling someone who is starving that people are not eating meat when there is so much around and see what they say!

Susan Miles, Caversham Park Village.

P.S. 'Neighbours' is rubbish as well.

Dear Roy,

I like writing poems and short stories. How about asking young people to send them in to the Youth Column. If you can get enough you could print them in a book and sell them for charity.

Roy's Comment: I think this is a good idea so please send any poems and short stories you have and I will print as many as possible. If there are enough, I will certainly use Andrew's suggestion. Let me know what charity you think we ought to support: perhaps something like one that provides books for children who have special needs with reading and writing. Thank you Andrew.

Let's hear from a lot more of you this time. Feel free to write on any subject but if you want something specific to think about I'd like to hear your views on the legal age limits that you come across as a young person. For instance you can't vote, or drink alcohol in a pub until you are eighteen, yet you can legally marry and take on all its responsibilities at sixteen. Are

these ages right or should they be changed? Remember, if you don't want your name or address mentioned, that is quite alright.

Calling all experts in 'the charts'

I want one or two young people to help me out by writing a pop music column each month. It doesn't have to be very big, just an update on what is new on the scene and perhaps a list of all the gigs coming up. If you are interested — and really know about the subject — please get in touch with me.

Cayo Summer Show

Please could any group in the area who would like to put on a fund raising stall at the CAYO Summer Show get in touch with the Chairman of the Show Committee, Mark Hale, via the address below. ANY organisation can be involved. It is your chance to raise money for your group while helping CAYO raise money for all youth groups in the Caversham area.

Well that's all for the moment, but I welcome any communication on any subject — even if you are a parent or other adult wishing to comment on the column.

My name is Roy Burgess and you can write to me at: Milestone Youth Wing, Northbrook Road, Caversham Park Village RG4 0PF or c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. My tel no is 461329.

Thanks a lot. Bye for now.
Roy

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. Christine Allsopp
St. Peter's Caversham & St Margaret's Mapledurham



SPRINGTIME IN THE CHURCH

I don't know whether there is a date when spring officially begins. I remember my mother repeating the traditional advice: "Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out", but being impatient by nature I never paid any attention and I don't call recall that I came to any harm by regularly "casting clouts" considerably earlier! I always want to welcome spring as soon as I see signs of new life: winter aconites flowering in St Peter's churchyard and lambs in the fields around Mapledurham signal the end of winter as far as I'm concerned, even if it is only January.

As I write this article another sign of new life, a small bundle of black fluff (our new kitten) is trying to make friends with our large four-year-old tabby cat. The cat, though, isn't at all sure that this is a good idea. Even though he is much bigger than the kitten he looks absolutely terrified. Cats, like people, often find new experiences difficult to cope with. Yet I know that within a few weeks the cat and the kitten will be the best of friends.

I am sure that Jesus understood the difficulties we have in coming to terms with new experiences and ideas but he challenged people to respond to his new teaching about the Kingdom of God. On one occasion he used images which are considerably more dynamic (explosive, even!) than my picture of a fluffy kitten: "No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins..." (Mark 2:22)

During 1992 the General Synod of the Church of England will vote on legislation which, if passed, would allow women to be ordained as priests. Some people are fearful about what they see as a break with

tradition, they feel that they can't cope with the new experience. In some cases they feel threatened by the challenge of new ideas. Does this mean that all they have worked for over the years will be discarded? Those of us who are impatient for change find it difficult not to explode in frustration — it was, after all, the tradition which nurtured us.

The same tensions can be seen in the early church. The first Christians struggled to come to terms with the new idea that Jesus had come to save Gentiles as well as Jews. Did this mean that the Law and the prophets were to be discarded? The New Testament bears witness to the conclusion that Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it. Jewish Christians discovered that Christ had broken down the barrier between Jew and Gentile. But that discovery didn't come without a great deal of disagreement and debate and pain.

During this year observers of the Church of England will see a great deal of posturing. A bit like the posturing going on in my house at the moment when cat and kitten come face to face and don't quite know how to behave. The eager young kitten is anxious to make friends but doesn't quite know how to do it and sometimes ends up spitting instead. The cat wants to preserve his position and tries to remain dignified and aloof. Sometimes, though, he can't resist a swipe with his paw.

By the time spring turns to summer I know that the cat and kitten will happily curl up together on the chair and the only fights they have will be playful and short. I pray that there will be similar good sense and acceptance of change in the Church of England.

POSTBAG

Dear Sirs,

I was pleased to see the Scoops Owl article about birds, and especially the reference to the Reading Ornithological Club. We at the R.O.C. would be delighted to have anyone with an interest in birds attend our meeting on March 11th when we will hear about conservation on Ministry of Defence Land. Venue is 109 Palmer Building, University, Whiteknights at 8pm.

Details of the club are available from myself, as are copies of our annual publication 'Birds of Berkshire'. The current issue has details of the birds on the Henley Road gravel pits.

Yours etc.

John Roberts
71 Kidmore Road,
Caversham.
Tel. 482137

Dear Sir,

Last Thursday I was happily driving home listening to a tape on the car radio: in no hurry and not at all perturbed by the traffic queue along Caversham Road. The usual pushing and shoving round the roundabout, and into the inside lane over the bridge. At the brow of the bridge it was evident why such a tail back — some inconsiderate motorist had parked outside a shop, just over the bridge, forcing everyone into the outside lane.

'All we like sheep...' I mused: but then didn't feel that I should be 'sheepish' at such blatant inconsideration, and honked my horn all the time I was rounding the parked car. Caused, at least, some embarrassment as the

car owner anxiously rushed out of the shop in some perturbation. At least, that's what I took the gesture to indicate. I gave a friendly wave.

But why should we allow such selfish-minded drivers to inconvenience hundreds of their fellow motorists? Especially as there happened to be 'waiting spaces' round the corner. If all motorists who lived in Caversham sounded their horns at such inconsiderate drivers we might cause them more than embarrassment. We might get them to cease their selfish bad habits.

Yours etc.
David J. Moody
(Revd.), 72 Highmoor
Road, Caversham.

Caversham Horticultural Society

The A.G.M. of the Caversham Horticultural Society will be held at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road, Caversham at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 13th March 1992.

However, for the superstitious this need NOT be an unlucky date, because it is proposed to mix business with pleasure by offering a free glass of wine to all present. All members are invited to attend and for those of you who are not members, there is still time to join by ringing either the Chairman, Peter Handy on 0734-473745 or the Membership Secretary, Sheila Bryant on 0734-473441, to register your name. The annual fee is £1.50 for husband and wife or only 75p if you are a Senior Citizen. The Trading Shed, open on Alternate Saturday and Sunday mornings offers a wide variety of gardening requirements at discounted prices and there is an interesting programme of free talks and other events from Spring right through to early Winter.

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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 April issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 March.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 March.

The dates for May will be Monday 1 April and Wednesday 3 April.

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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VISITORS TO THE VALLEY

As winter draws to a close, tree buds swell, daffodils and forsythia burst into bloom, and bird song heralds the Spring, with a promise of warmer months ahead.

Other signs too, as yet more subtle, form a part of the same pattern and plan.

As our winter birds depart for their home grounds in the high-arctic, millions of others are making a long and hazardous flight across the desert, sea and continent, many of whom will never complete their journey.

Soon, the fortunate few, will be adding their own voices to that of our resident species.

The Hemdean Valley, significantly, lies North to South,

and extends from the Thames into the heart of Oxfordshire. This directional bias is regularly used as a flight-path for both winter and summer migrants. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that those of us who live within this area will hear the songs of newly-arrived Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat and Turtle Dove, as they vie for suitable nesting sites.

For many years, Hemdean House School has entertained annual, breeding pairs of Willow Warbler, and Blackcap, whilst the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is a regular visitor to the School's sycamore trees for its supply of

insects. Although only sparrow sized, these diminutive and least common of our three Woodpeckers, have an extremely diagnostic and far carrying call, as well as the typically undulating flight of all the Woodpecker family.

For two years in succession, a pair of migrant, Spotted Flycatchers, successfully reared their young within the School grounds, truly a fine record, and one which it is to be hoped, was observed (at a distance), and appreciated, by teacher and pupil, alike!

Soon we will hear the early morning song of the "Dawn Chorus", in which both resident and migrant species harmoniously take part.

With each passing season our valley throughout its length, is vibrant with life of flora and fauna.

Can we truly, jeopardize a complete eco-system, by forfeiting ANY of the lives of, "the least of these", in the interests of a commercialism which invites an inappropriate, mass introduction of mankind?

Potential Bugs Bottom despoilers, please think again!

"Scoops Owl"

BEECHWOOD by J. TAIT



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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.

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

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NOT KATY!

How many of those going home from St Margaret's, Mapledurham on Sunday morning, January 26th, noticed the lambs at Bottom Farm. There were, some twenty of them in the winter sunshine, bringing us a sign of spring after the last few days of severe frost. They must have been less than a week old, but were not the first to arrive in 1992. Three

were real New Year babies.

News of Benny

Many people may have wondered what has happened to the elderly gentleman who sat for many hours all last summer and autumn on the seat at the beginning of Albert Road. During those months so many people chatted to

him and he became very much part of that little corner of Caversham.

Benny Gaster went to live in Sydney Harrison House, Shiplake, some time last November. He is well and happy and one day may come back to visit friends and even sit on his seat in the sun, if it shines, for an hour or so.

New High Sheriff
Congratulations to Mr. J.J. Eyston of Mapledurham on his appointment as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for the year ahead.

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"DROP-IN" CENTRE, CHURCH STREET, READING

In January 1989 Reading Friends (Quakers) invited the Reading Single Homeless Projects soup run in from the cold by offering a venue at their Meeting House. The soup run had been operating for several years out of doors in a street off the Oxford Road. During this period REAP operated a night shelter, and soup kitchens or 'drop ins' as they are known were also held at St James' Church and St Saviour's Church Hall; unfortunately these have closed. In the last twelve months two other groups have opened 'drop

ins', St Andrew's Church on Sundays and the Reading Churches three days a week. Every Wednesday evening Reading Meeting is open from five till seven, serving soup, sandwiches and whatever has been donated during the week. The cost of the sandwiches is borne by the R.S.H.P.; this amounts to about £1,000 per annum. The soup (home made) is donated by Friends and helpers. We distribute clothing, and can supply most things, although men's underwear, socks and shoes are always in short supply. We cater for fifty but this

fluctuates from thirty to sixty. Last January we were feeding nearly eighty. The highest attendance this winter is sixty-six.

A visit to a 'drop-in' will dispel the myth that the homeless are all dirty and hopeless drunks; a large proportion of them are in their teens or early twenties. Children arrive with a parent, probably from a B & B hotel. At one time we had seven children coming regularly, aged between five and eleven. We also keep a supply of tinned food for the dogs that come along.

Our helpers come from most sections of the community and religious groups. We have a Sister from the Sisters of Mercy, Baptists, Catholics, Anglicans and of course Quakers.

Food has been donated by Reading University Students, a Hare Krishna group, the Liberal Jewish Community, Sikhs, an Asian spiritual group and many anonymous donors. We clean Jumble Sales and collect from other charities. Any items of clothing we cannot use are given to Oxfam, groups collecting for Romanians, or some one known

to be in need. At the beginning of our fourth year we realise that homelessness is not receding and 'drop ins' will be with us for a long time, but we are encouraged by the generosity and kindness of those who have helped us.

Quakers meet in Church House Caversham at 7.30pm on the third Sunday of each month. We join in worship, often silent for an hour and then have tea, biscuits and a chat. Donations for the 'Drop In' could be taken to this Meeting.

Ewart Adey

OBITUARIES

ROBERT CORP

In recent decades those of us who live in the centre of Caversham have been remarkably lucky with the very friendly folk who have run our small shops, and we don't forget them when they eventually move away. So it is no surprise that so many people were saddened to hear of the death on 22nd January in Northampton of Bob Corp who, for many years, was our local watchmaker. With his wife, Miriam, who took care of the gift shop, they made one of the friendliest teams in the district and it was always a pleasure to go into the shop. They were unfailingly helpful with Bob always willing to tackle any job that came his way, and it was with great regret, several years ago, that we had to

say goodbye to them when they decided to move to Northampton. Miriam herself says that Bob was the backbone and mainstay of the business and speaks of many hours he worked away at his bench. He loved his work and it must have been hard for him to give it up, particularly as the main reason was the illness of later years.

Until things got too bad they would pay a visit to Caversham whenever they could and it would certainly be true to say they greatly regretted having to leave this home town and friends and relations.

Miriam, who has been quite ill herself in recent weeks, is already a little worried that she has not yet been able to acknowledge personally all the letters and cards she has received, but she intends to do so in time. In the meanwhile she has asked if we would thank everyone concerned for their expression of sympathy and says she is deeply touched and heartened by the knowledge of how much Bob was valued.

Perhaps it would not come amiss to quote, appropriately, from an epitaph to watchmaker who died in 1801 and is buried in Lydford Churchyard.

"Integrity was the mainspring and prudence the regulator of all the actions of his life; humane, generous and liberal, His hand never stopped till he had relieved distress."

Don't worry Miriam, Bob is not likely to be forgotten while any of us are still here. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this time.

WD

JIM LECKIE

James Keachie Leckie died on 16 January 1992 peacefully at home after a short illness.

He was born in Glasgow in December 1929 whilst his father was on a business trip in South America. He trained as an accountant in London during the earlier part of his career travelling extensively throughout the country whilst auditing.

Jim was brought up as a Presbyterian and his parents were active in their local church in Wallington Surrey. It was at a Presbyterian "Fellowship of Youth" conference in Chester that he met Maureen. Jim and Maureen were married at St Paul's church, York Road in July 1957. His interests included Scout-

ing, badminton and bowls. He was also a great and active supporter of Maureen in her musical activities. He became the first treasurer of the Caversham Bridge and The Caversham Heights Society. He continued to serve as a member of the Society Committee until his death. Jim will be remembered most among

his friends at Caversham Heights Methodist Church as a trustee and property steward for 28 years. In his latter role he forged many links with bodies outside the church who used its premises.

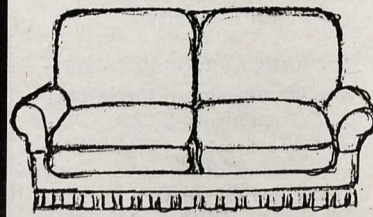
Jim will be sadly missed by his many friends in Caversham and his family, Maureen, David and Martin and their families.

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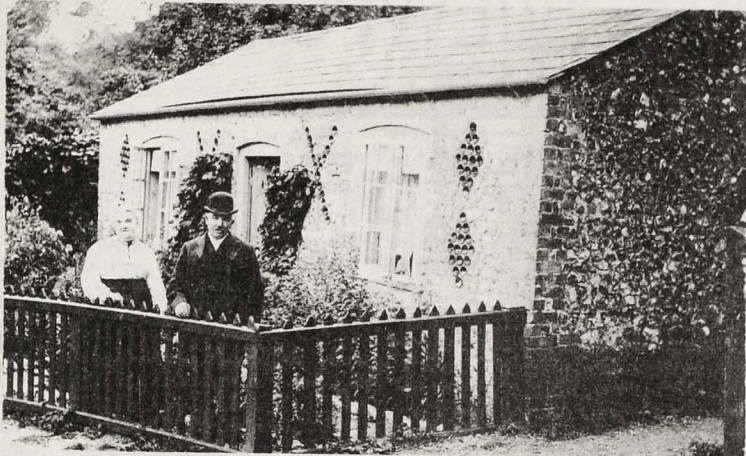
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MEMORIES FROM STAR ROAD



Mr Kent's father's sister, Aunt "Sykes" with her husband "Blossom" Taylor outside their home at Bottle Cottage, Surley Row. Now pulled down, it stood near the Gardener's Arms.

Twice this winter I have enjoyed a very interesting afternoon with Mr and Mrs Kent who live in Star Road and have been in the area for many, many years - in fact Mrs Kent was born in Caversham.

Early in the nineteen twenties Mr Kent was van boy for the well known grocer, Mr Baylis. It was part of his work to stack all the orders (which had already been collected by the traveller the day before) in the correct position for easy delivery on the round. Each was placed in a collapsible wooden container so that when empty there was more space to deal with the rest of the deliveries. One round each week was very special and it was known as The Thursday Journey, when the early motor van went out into the countryside around Mapledurham. Young Mr Kent went along

to help the driver. The route took them along the Warren to all the farms and it was interesting to find that Mr Kent recalled that there was a walnut tree near each farm house. He remembered too, the geese, hens and chicks at Lilley farm, and Hendry's orchard where no doubt he gathered a few apples to go with his walnuts in the autumn. It was a time consuming journey and in one place meant a walk across a field to hand in the grocery, so the driver was always pleased to arrive at Noke End, near the Pack Saddle. Here he was revived by a glass of Mrs Parker's elderberry wine. Then it was on again to Chazy Heath, Rokeby Drive and Tokers Green and back to the grocer's shop between 3 and 4 pm.

A Chelsea Bun
There was just time

for a quick dash over Caversham Bridge to the temperance coffee stall on the far side, run by Mrs Cusden for a quick cup of tea and a Chelsea Bun. That hastily eaten it was back again to start off once more on two rounds up on Caversham Heights. These usually finished around nine, if not later. Not a very pleasant end to a Thursday in bad winter weather, but it had to be done.

Mr Kent's father worked at Messer's timber yard in Queens Road, Reading and in his spare time made lots of spinning or whip tops from oddments of wood. His wife made umbrella handles and walking sticks. This must have been a useful supplement to the family income.

Mrs Kent's father worked the barges from Bristol to Reading via the Kennet and Avon canal, and eventually settled in Caversham. She told me that early this century the Miller's Arms, Paddock Road, was a favourite place for barges to stay at when they reached the end of their journey to Reading. Her memories of Caversham were most interesting. She recalled the large gracious house on View Island near the lock, with its lovely garden. Mr Kent remembered, not so long ago, falling over some hidden rubble from the old homestead whilst walking about the

place where it once stood.

"Rumps and Burrs"

In her reminiscing Mrs Kent told me of the pond between Ardlor and St John's roads where huge bullrushes grew. She mentioned the two small fairs that came to the area yearly, one in Star Road and one on the Moor. As a child she would go to Granny Fuller who sold pickle and jam from huge glass jars. The old lady lived in a cottage opposite the present Star public house, then a real country inn. Here you could get a pennyworth of pickle or jam if you brought along a dish. There was also a little laundry in the road and a smithy known as Trinder's forge.

Times were hard in those early days, so hard that Mrs Kent said workers used to scrape the flesh off a skin brought in for tanning if it was fresh enough to take this home to cook. It was known as "rump and burrs". It was not often that a little girl could afford a small ball of wool but if she could it was a delight to have a little skein of multi-coloured thread to knit up with a pair of meat skewers as needles.

Even in the dark days of the Great Depression, however, there was kindness abroad in Caversham. One person who gave help to the community was Mr Carter a church warden at St Peter's. Each Christ-

mas he went round every shop in the village and gave all the employees ten shillings each. It was a very generous gift in those days. He also set up a work centre in Caversham where men and lads who could not get work learnt snobbing (shoe mending) and the repairing and making of furniture. Not only did he hire the hall for this project, he also paid for all the materials needed, I am told. Mr Carter lived in Church Road and it seems that he lost a dearly loved son in the First World War and gave the money that would have gone to this young man to good causes. I remember him reading the lessons in church. He was a quiet, gentle, man.

Returning to the walnut trees, I am reminded of yet another fine old specimen which once grew close to the Victorian farm house in Darell Road. Known as Tootsie farm it has signs of an earlier building within its construction and was most certainly a very ancient farmstead. Certainly walnut trees were most useful in Medieval times providing nuts for eating, pickled or otherwise and oil, and of course, timber for furniture and firing. William Havell, the famous local artist, painted a fine composition of walnut harvesting at Marlow in the eighteenth hundreds.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Change or Decay

On a cold clear January afternoon a group of representatives from local amenity organisations in Caversham and South Oxfordshire, well muffled up in scarves, woolly hats, thick gloves and boots, clambered aboard an agricultural trailer to take a tour of all those parts of the Mapledurham Estate that feature in the proposed development plan. On their return they were glad of home made cakes and tea in front of a roaring log fire in the tea room of the medieval manor.

At the start of the journey the problems were soon to be seen. In the village the almshouses (actually holiday cottages now in spite of retaining their old name) needed restoration work on the stones surrounds of the doors and windows, and at the entrance to the village a flint and

brick wall had started to fall down. Further along the bridleway, the barns at Park Farm were still only partly repaired after the damage inflicted by the winter storms of 1990. At New Farm outbuildings, for the most part not much to write home about, were in a deplorable state, whilst the farmhouse itself, a half timbered building of considerable age in spite of its name, was in such poor shape that its attractions were difficult to appreciate. Two ponds there had long vanished under invasive plants.

And so the story was repeated all over the estate. The farm houses themselves were mostly in a reasonable condition, some of them very attractive but almost without exception the farm buildings, many of them listed, were falling or had already fallen into disrepair. Because

they are listed they cannot be patched up but must be properly repaired. The woods, one of the glories of the estate, have also been severely damaged in the gales but the management they require would be expensive and as trees are a long term crop, would not show any returns for decades. The land at the top of the escarpment is not very fertile and is moreover overrun with rabbits.

One conclusion was inescapable. The estate needed a lot of money spending on it, money it was not producing from its present activities. The proposals being put forward are seen as bringing in a regular revenue for the foreseeable future without inflicting visual damage on the countryside. They are also intended to form a green buffer between Reading and the deeper countryside and to pro-

vide jobs for local people. Farming will still be carried on on the lower ground, particularly sheep and dairying.

There are going to be misgivings about whether these proposals will really bring a long term solution to the problems and certainly there will be objections to individual projects. These are, however, proposals and not hard and fast plans. More detail will be sought, such as how many new houses, what kind of hotel, the exact location of the petrol station and what screening there will be of such accompaniments as car parks. In the end it seems as if the only choice is change or decay.

Bugs Bottom

The situation is little changed since last month. The Planning Committee has made its site visit. The valley had been staked out to indicate the road layout, though in one field they had mysteriously vanished overnight. Some of the committee members who were less familiar with the valley were even more amazed on looking at it in detail that buildings should even be contemplated, let alone permitted, on such a site.

Higgs & Hill, leaning over backwards (but not far enough) to overcome objections, have stated that no trees of any size or visual value

will be removed and that the unsatisfactory junction with Kidmore Road will be altered to take note of safety objections. They have also dropped Phase 7 in the north-east corner, and highly unsatisfactory because of its gradient problems, though the total number of houses, 326, will remain unaltered. All this means that, as far as detailed permission goes, reasons for objecting have been reduced in number.

Because of failing light (the Planning Committee had devoted the whole afternoon to the visit) members did not look in detail at the actual point of egress and access at Tredegar Road. This is a pity. They would have seen that it is covered with a belt of trees making it impossible to construct a road without removing most of them, and that at points the gradient is so steep that major destruction of the valley side would be inevitable, something else Higgs and Hill have said they will avoid.

This could be crucial, for if Tredegar Road does not comply with planning requirements, then the only access for all traffic will be from Kidmore Road, barely acceptable on planning grounds with what it is already destined to receive if the development goes forward.

March is the month of decision.

Rush those letters to the Planning Office if you have not already done so, objecting to both the detailed application and the extension of the outline permission. It means two separate letters, but that is a small price to pay if it is going to help with the final push to save Bugs Bottom. Look at last month's Caversham Bridge for an explanation as to why these applications are unacceptable.

Caversham Road

Caversham Road has been stripped of its trees on one side, some of them young trees that had just started to make a contribution to the street scene. Although as I write the job is not finished, the width of the pavement appears to be totally inadequate. It is a well used pavement by those living in and using the houses and shops and by those who choose to walk in to the town centre rather than clutter up the roads with yet more cars, yet if two people walking together meet another two coming in the opposite direction, one of the couples will have to give way. Here we have one more example of the low status accorded to pedestrians in Shire Hall, whose undemanding needs come at the bottom of the heap. When it comes to Phase III of the Cross Town Route (and it is as yet by no means clear whether Phase II will get per-

mission) there will not be much more apart from whole sale demolition, that will need to be done along what would have been another controversial section. In fact, this is CTR III in everything but name, pushed in as a routing road improvement scheme by County Councillors who only saw it as a line on a map, and avoiding the need for public consultation and a public inquiry. It may even improve traffic flow for a while, but at what cost.

Other Roads

Complaints about speeding traffic in residential areas continue to grow. Anyone who feels traffic calming measures, such as humps or chicanes, would improve the situation, should write to their local Councillor. In Thames Ward, where in spite of its bends and lack of a continuous footpath, Kidmore Road gets used as a race track, Cllr. Ken Putt, 7 Hewett Close, is prepared to receive your letters which he will use to put the case to the Council.

Forth we go

Spring is once more on its way, making the outdoors a much more attractive place than it was in the winter months. Aconites and snowdrops, late this year, were only

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WATCHDOG

from page 6

flowers should be the best within easy reach. out in Caversham old cemetery.

just beginning to push through at the start of February, but nevertheless by the time this appears in print, St. Peter's churchyard should have its usual display and further afield at Mapledurham there should be carpets of these early harbingers of Spring.

Reading Civic Society will be leading a walk through Caversham following their Town Trail No. 2 on Sunday, 8th March. Anyone is welcome to join it. Meet at the Library Corner of Hemdean Road at 2.30 p.m. Spring

The Borough's leaflet on Reading Parks, to be picked up in Caversham Court, is to be thoroughly recommended. Attractively produced, well written (apart from uncertainties about where and when the apostrophe should go in its) and informative, it introduces the reader to Reading's many parks which, generally speaking, are known to those living in the vicinity but would repay a visit from those living in other parts of the town, Caversham is fortunate in having many of

Diary Date

Caversham and District Residents' Association Annual General Meeting on Monday, 23rd March, 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Church Street. After the formal business has been completed there will be a speaker on the proposed changes for the Mapledurham Estate.

C.D.R.A. welcomes, as usual, offers to serve on its committee, an interesting job which keeps its members in touch with local developments whilst still in their early stages.

"A FULL LITURGICAL REQUIEM IS A TOTAL EXPERIENCE"

I don't know who wrote those words, but in Len David's "Red Book Requiem" at Candlemas, in St Peter's Church Caversham, the truth of that statement was fully borne out. The Composer conducted an augmented choir, which was accom-

panied most sympathetically by David Butler on the organ. Lucy Wilson and David Grey on the violin and trumpet respectively, joined the soloists and blended well in passages played and sung with great sensitivity. All the movements

fitted well into the Liturgy, and the well balanced choir produced good light and shade, and appeared not to be taxed by the adventurous harmonies.

Len David is to be congratulated on his great talent in composing and

conducting, as are the choir and soloists for providing such pleasing music, which greatly enhanced the impressive Liturgy of the "Communion of Saints."

Truly a moving and memorable evening.

MARCUS HARVEY

Many of you will remember previous reports concerning Marcus, who lost three limbs as a result of an attack of Bacterial Meningitis and Meningococcal Septicaemia in October last year, and of the efforts made by many to provide funds to support his recovery and pay for alterations to his home.

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that Marcus has now, after many months of intensive physiotherapy, resumed a normal banking career at Abingdon branch and is now completely mobile again. Marcus' agility is such that no adaptations have

had to be made to either Marcham Road or The Square branches and he has integrated extremely well with all the management and staff.

He has recently taken delivery of a new Vauxhall Cavalier fitted with all conceivable extras and adapted for his use under a Mobility Scheme.

Through these columns he would like to thank everyone who kindly contributed to the appeal fund; especially Chris How, Camberley, and the Directors and Staff at Regional Office for their help, encouragement and guidance over the last 12 months.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.00am Children's Service

St Andrew's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Family Service (5th Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)
6.30pm (in Chapel)

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10.45am Worship at Mapledurham Pavilion

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.00am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Annes Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.45am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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Men of St Andrew's

A voluntary visit to the second largest police station in Europe was more or less safely accomplished in January by the Men of St Andrew's. It was not entirely without adventure. Have you been interrogated, lined up for an identity parade or occupied a cell, or seen the control room? Brother, you have not lived unless you have, especially after accepting entertainment in the upper room and having to find your own way down.

Now there are passenger lifts and goods lifts; some wag had put a one in front of the number of permitted passengers and so the jolly company filled the lift and pressed the button for descent. Some lifts have a life of their own and this one had, stopping just short of the floor level and then like a mule it would not budge in spite of pressing all variations and combinations of the buttons and so the door would not open. Touching the emergency button caused the alarm bell to ring. Two friendly faces appeared at the window and gave advice but to NO avail, so - Don't go away, we'll call the engineer...

After some delay giving an opportunity for light banter (Good old Tony), the trap door in the roof was removed and after considerable squeezing up a ladder was lowered down and one by one the victims escaped on to the roof of the lift and then up some more stairs to the upper floor into the charging room, where fortunately no charge was made and the escape was accomplished.

LENT 1992

Ash Wednesday falls on March 4th and thereafter the ecumenical house groups will be meeting all over Caversham. The theme of this year's study will be "Living the Good News". Please contact your own churches for further details, or ring Bill Butler on 474046.

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CAVERSHAM THEATRE PRODUCTION

“KEY FOR TWO”

St Anne's parish hall saw the latest production by Caversham Theatre entitled "Key for Two", a modern farce written by John Chapman and Dave Freeman. Directed by Bob Green and Jackie Case, the more than somewhat risqué action of the play centres around a two timing "kept woman", Harriet, played by Julia Marshall. Harriet has used the device of an imaginary puritanical mother to keep her two lovers apart, and totally oblivious of each other's existence. The plot then revolves around her two friends, Gordon (Bob Green) and Alec (Peter Ludlow), remaining unaware of each other's relationship with Harriet.

THE DRAMA

The drama grows as the two men are kept in ignorance of the fact that they are both Harriet's lovers, aided by Anne, Harriet's friend (Sue Stainthorp). When Gordon slips on a halibut in Harriet's kitchen he is forced to tell his wife Magda (Penny Mason) over the phone that Harriet's flat is in fact a nursing home. Confusion escalates when Anne's vet husband, Richard (Tony Hales) arrives on the scene, almost paralytically drunk and whose performance reduced the audience to convulsions of mirth.

THE SCENE

The scene is utter chaos when Alec's wife, Mildred (Janet Ward) also arrives. A complete transformation of roles therefore takes place to convert the flat into a nursing home. Harriet becomes Matron, Anne becomes her assistant nurse and Richard literally crawls onto the scene as the somewhat dubious doctor.



Peter Ludlow, Sue Stainthorp, Julia Marshall

(Photo: G & J. Ward)



Sue Stainthorp, Bob Green

(Photo: G & J. Ward)



Tony Hales, Janet Ward, Penny Mason

(Photo: G & J. Ward)

THE PLAY

Amazingly the play returns to the status quo with none of the guilty parties being found out.

THE CREDIT

All credit goes to the actors who performed superbly, keeping the action and the pace of the play at a high pitch. The quality of the production was warmly appreciated by a large audience on Saturday evening when, in the second act especially, there was barely a laugh free moment. Congratulations are due to all the actors and those backstage for putting on a highly entertaining performance.

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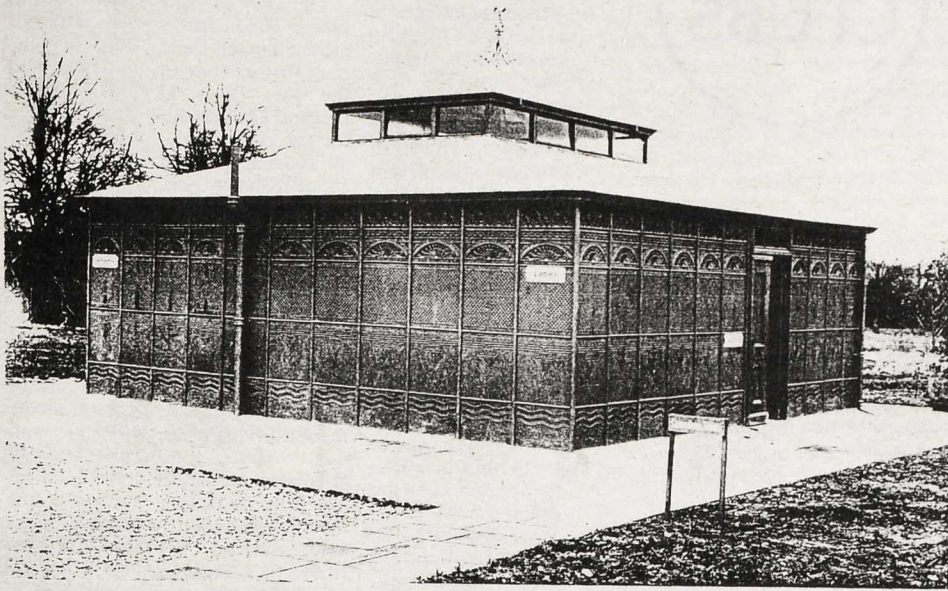
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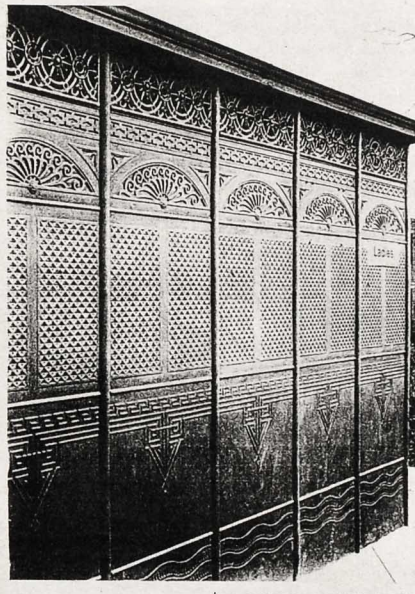
The building is constructed from four hundred and fifty-one

decorative cast iron panels. These are fixed into slotted poles and hand made lead wedges, and the gaps filled with putty. Eleven panels were found to be beyond repair, and new ones were cast by Wagstaff Foundry in Slough. All the original cast iron-work was shotblasted, and the building has now been repainted with the original colour scheme — Brunswick green for the outside, and green and cream for the interior. The monumentally grand fittings have all been installed in working order, so the building is not only a fine addition to the Museum's collection of re-erected buildings, it also provides much-needed extra facilities for

visitors. One cubicle in both Gents and Ladies has been adapted for disabled access.

Finance for the project has been raised by the Museum from grant-giving trusts — one donation endorsed "for your partial pee palace" — and from the Friends of the Museum. Help in kind has been received from a number of companies including Caradon Twyford Ltd, the firm who made the original fittings in 1906. The cost of restoration has amounted to £37,000.

Chiltern Open Air Museum, at Newland Park, Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, is open from April to October, Wednesday to Sunday between 2pm and 6pm.



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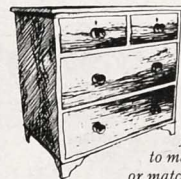
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The Special Joy of Seeing

At the January meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild in St Andrew's hall a new member was welcomed into the guild. Attention was drawn to the competition for making a matine jacket. Any gloomy feelings about the weather were effectively dispelled by Mr Jeffrey Taylor's talk, "The Special Joy of Seeing". Mr Taylor had earlier delighted an audience with pictures taken in Kenya. This time he gave a commentary on some of his collection which was well worth hearing. Pictures of a Punch and Judy show and its audience on a beach started the display. Then he went on to present a series of lovely sights, mostly round about Reading, for instance, ferns, flowers, trees, reflections on water, boats, bridges, birds and spiders' webs, not to mention gates, wheels and shops. Fields were misty and covered with hoarfrost. Interesting features of houses were framed in a tracery of branches. Children's heads he liked to photograph against the light so that they were outlined with luminosity. He sees pictures in situations where perhaps other people do not, and described how to alter the aperture of a camera and to vary the depth of field. A vote of thanks was given at the end of a period of rapt attention. Mr Rodney Oliver at social studies group recommended making a will and explained a little of the workings of the law. It is hoped to write more about this next time.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the January Guild meeting at the start of the New Year the Chairman gave out business arising, and minutes were read. To celebrate the Queen's fortieth anniversary on the throne, Federation suggested it would be a good idea for each Guild to do something constructive to help the Community in some way. The idea suggested was perhaps either to help the elderly, or to help in Junior Schools with teaching children crafts of some sort as teachers are always needing people to help.

Afterwards Mr K. Sands, on his second visit, carried on entertaining with tales of days gone by, and the Old Time Music Hall, which cheered members up, on an otherwise cold day, transporting them to a different era by means of a screen and tape recorder. The voices of well known artists such as Marie Lloyd sang songs — "The Boy I love is up in the Gallery", which was then considered vulgar, was the type she sang. Later Nellie Wallace in the thirties made famous other songs, like "You don't know Nellie like I do said the saucy little bird on Nellie's hat". As members were invited to join in and sing to the recordings, it cheered the afternoon along. A vote of thanks was given by a member of the Guild.

New Members are made welcome to meetings which are held in Church House Caversham the third Thursday of every month at 2.15 p.m.

St Peter's Wives

St. Peter's Wives continues to provide varied and interesting meetings for its members and any prospective new members would be welcome to join the Group on the third Tuesday of the month in Church House at 8 p.m.

Last October Ken and Doreen Bennet fascinated members with an illustrated talk of the visit to their daughter in Borneo.

At the beginning of November, members of the Group were to be found in St. Martin's Precinct and the Autumn Fayre raised over £200 in aid of Sue Ryder. On the third Tuesday of the month the Annual General Meeting was chaired by the Rev. Richard Kingsbury. Retiring Chairman, Margaret Oliphant, and retiring Committee members were thanked, a new Committee was elected and Lyn Butler took over as Chairman. Eunice Cooper provided an interesting second half to the evening, displaying her varied handmade greetings cards.

The Group met earlier in December and members arrived with a plate of food, games were arranged and the Christmas Party ended with carols. The following week, members were carol singing in aid of the Sue Ryder and thanks to the generosity of the Sheridan Avenue/Hemdean Road area over £100 was raised.

The Rev. Christine Allsopp was with the Group in January for their first meeting in 1992 and gave the members plenty to discuss with her talk "Women in the Church". Two presentations were made to Mary Woolley and Elsie South to mark their Golden Weddings.

The Wives will be at Church House on the 17th March to welcome Mr. G. Omer-Parsons, whose talk is entitled "Huntley & Palmer's Decorated Boxes".

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their first meeting of the New Year in January. The speaker for the evening was Mr Ted Smith talking about his experiences as a toastmaster. He made a grand entrance in the full dress of his profession, scarlet tail-coat with white dress shirt, white tie and black dress trousers. There are a large number of male toastmasters in the British Isles but only two lady members. Mr Smith has been a toastmaster for many years and is toastmaster for the House of Commons where there are six banqueting rooms. He uses a gavel to attract public attention and a small hand counter to make sure that everyone has arrived. It is important to do one's homework before the event using a reference book to check for correct titles for church, state and military figures. Pronunciation of surnames can be a problem without the use of a pronunciation dictionary. If the National Anthem is to be sung and no music is available the

resourceful toastmaster will produce a tone-pipe to give the starting note.

The toastmaster's duty is to ensure the smooth running of the particular function, covering up any mistakes without a fuss. The ladies were amused by a large number of stories related by Mr Smith. At one large wedding, the cake had been baked by different aunts of the bridal couple making the final assembly at the reception a risky affair. The reception room had a spring floor and as the guests arrived the cake collapsed. However, Mr Smith was even able to cope with this disaster. The vote of thanks was given by Miss B. Brann.

In December twelve members of the Arts and Crafts section, many of them in period costume, held a successful Victorian evening. Twenty members have also attended the pantomime at the Hexagon.

The Ramblers walked the Town Trail No.2 noting points of interest on the route which included "Bugs Bottom" and Surley Row.

The Sick Visitor

to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

saw three members during the month and was pleased to report all making good progress.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the month, 7.15pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Rd, when visitors and new members receive a warm welcome.

Caversham Ladies Club

In the absence of Mrs Harwood, the Chairman who had unfortunately joined the queue of flu sufferers, Mrs Brenda Strong chaired the meeting, opening it with a warm welcome to the members and wishing them all a very Happy New Year, this being the first meeting of 1992. Before continuing with club business, a card was given to Mrs Queenie Strong, the Treasurer, which members had all signed, in celebration of her recent Golden Wedding anniversary, and members showed how much they all wished Mr and Mrs Strong 'congratulations' in the usual way.

The January meeting is usually given over to members to sort out future outings that they would like,

and the chance to make suggestions or complaints. It was very welcoming to know that members were quite content with their club and very forthcoming with their choice of outings. They had very much enjoyed the Christmas lunch at Chiltern Chase, which was further enhanced by Mr Barry Strong who played music during the meal, followed at the end of it by a grand sing-song of all well known songs. Mr Strong was warmly thanked for coming and adding so much to an enjoyable celebration. The meeting closed with members looking forward to future events and the enjoyment of happy 'gossipy' afternoon.

Maplewood W.I.

At the January meeting members heard a talk with slides by Mrs D. Fletcher 'Nine Million Friends, ACWW'. Mrs Fletcher explained that the nine million members of the Association of Country Women of the World contribute "pennies for friendship" to the Association which fosters the relationship of the many associations for women in countries around the world. The member-societies must have no political

associations, and lately groups in Czechoslovakia and Rumania have joined the many members in countries from Sweden, Norway and Greenland to Japan, Australia and Africa. Mrs Fletcher showed slides of her visits to various countries and the members of different nationalities she has met there. This was a colourful talk much enjoyed by her audience.

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

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs Weller welcomed members by wishing everyone a happy new year. Business was as usual, with dates arranged for rambling, play reading and scrabble.

The talk was by representatives of the RSPCA, Mrs Bramblecombe and Mr Crook. They work for a very large area based near Wokingham, taking in stray cats and dogs, injured animals of all kinds — its a twenty-four hour day, seven days a week routine. They need money badly, of course, so a collection was made.

The competition was for 'A slice of Christmas cake', and was won by Mrs Tomlin, second Mrs Weller, third Mrs Martin.

Caversham Community Association

The first meeting in the New Year was on the 6th January when the members gathered for a Cheese and Wine party. It was also the time to pay the yearly subscription, this can now be paid in two instalments, the Treasurer, Ivy Masterman, had a busy time. Ron and Jean Geall were welcomed to the club again to provide the entertainment. Ron played a good selection of music on his electronic keyboard and the members had the chance to sing and dance to the music. At refreshment time a wide variety of cheeses and biscuits, with a choice of wine or fruit drinks, were enjoyed by everyone.

A games evening the following week was well attended. Table tennis, scrabble, shove ha'penny, card games and various board games were played by the members in friendly competition.

The visiting speaker on the 20th January was Mrs. Ann Dismukes, a former teacher in English in Dubai, the Arab Emirates. Her talk was entitled 'Ladies in Black'. Mrs. Dismukes was dressed from

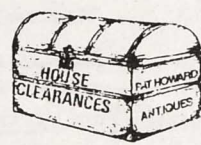
head to toe in black as worn by Arabian women in Dubai. Later she removed this outer garment, an abaya, to reveal a richly embroidered full length gown. Arranged marriages are the usual procedure there and weddings are very expensive. No special invitations are given but all are welcomed to the celebrations. A display of fascinating articles from Dubai was arranged for the members' perusal. A terra-cotta incense container in which sandalwood is burned, ornate bronze coffee pots and a huge metal bowl, for cooked pieces of lamb with rice, were on show. All the food is placed on a large tray around which the family gather, no knives and forks are provided and only the right hand is used to pick up the food at mealtimes. Mrs. Dismukes explained that the people were benefitting from the wealth obtained by the Sheikhs from the oil wells, as modern hospitals and schools had been built. Everyone agreed that the talk had been fascinating and informative.

A Bring and Buy evening was held on the 27th January in aid of club funds. The members brought their unwanted goods for auction and many useful articles and groceries were available.



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