

HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY!

The Caversham Group Ministry is three years young this Easter.



April's departure of Alan Wilson from St John's makes the Rector the currently longest surviving Anglican minister. He inherited a parish of thirty thousand, with six churches. Why did he 'break up the empire'?



The Rector believed the decision was timely, though not greeted with global rejoicing. After three years, he felt a restructured

'parish' could better serve the needs of its people, from furthest Mapledurham cottage to newest house on Caversham Park. So he established over the next three years four new parishes (St John, St Andrew, St Barnabas, and Caversham Park LEP), leaving St Peter and St Margaret as a parish of eight thousand, eight hundred. On St David's Day 1989 the Queen in Privy Council formally approved the Scheme.



19th Century Kidmore End was part of Caversham but became a parish in its own right. Its



The Rev. Richard Kingsbury
 St. Peter's and St. Margaret's



The Rev. Alan Wilson
 St. John's



The Rev. Philip Abrey
 Caversham Park Village LEP

ANGLICAN
 CLERGY



The Rev. Bill Carpenter
 St. Andrew's

proven independence and self-reliance has also been the experience of Caversham's four new parishes. Not least in wedding couples having in law to turn to their new parish church, where the congregation can affirm the marriage of their own local parishioners.



The Anglican Group clergy meet weekly (fortnightly with ecumenical colleague ministers). Joint Confirmation training, mutual help for services, ecumenical study groups, Lent

courses Good Neighbours Scheme, Link Group, United Services, 'Churches Together in Caversham', the annual inter-church Holiday, and of course the Caversham Bridge, all reflect our commitment to work together.



The Caversham Group Ministry (including its recent Local Ecumenical Project in Caversham Park Parish now formally established) is up and jogging.



Happy Third Birthday to the Anglican parishes of our Group Ministry!

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OPEN

Mapledurham House, first opened to the public in 1967, will be celebrating these twenty-five years at Easter. As a special attraction, a Craft Fair will be held next to the car park by the river, and will take place over the three days of the Easter weekend. This means that for the first time, the house will open on Saturday of that weekend, April



18th and the opening hours of the house and mill will be slightly different for this occasion. The Craft Fair itself will be open from 10.30am until 5pm. The house and tea rooms will be open from 2 - 5.30pm and the mill from 11.30am.

It is good to have this lovely Elizabethan house and mill in such a superb setting so close to Caversham and Reading.

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. Richard Kingsbury
Rector of
St. Peter's Caversham & St Margaret's Mapledurham



'ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING'

Near Caversham Rectory is a large, spectacular tree. It bothers me. From 2 a.m. its top branch is occupied by a nightingale, who hands over at 5 a.m. to a blackbird. Their ancestors probably sang from this tree to somnolent Canons Hewitson Nash and Grimwade. The present incumbent sleeps tittily, mindful of the bye-law forbidding discharge of a shotgun within 200 metres of a dwelling.

Frost, fog, rain, don't affect the birds or their repertoire. I lie there, tense. On balance, I'm grateful for them. They teach a good lesson.

What crazy instinct makes a bird leave its dormitory twig, fly to another twig, and make such a noise daily, regardless of weather? The same instinct which draws us to Church weekly to sing or song to God's tune. It's primal. Like to church bells calling all people, whatever the weather, to worship.

The first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene went to the Garden of Repose. Her dear friend Jesus has been in a nearby Garden two nights earlier. Had He heard nightingales sing in Gethsemane? Did Mary hear dawn birdsong in the Easter Garden? We can only imagine...

Jesus pointed, in his teaching, to the birds of the air. Watching and praying before the Cross, I wonder what were the last sounds he heard. I wonder what the dawn chorus was like for Mary Magdalene. Church practices change. Birdsong doesn't.

Through Holy Week into Eastertide, consider the birds of the air. Put the general election jingles and jargon into the timeframe of God's creation. Christ taught, healed, died and was resurrected in the open air. Surely he went to Synagogue — as we must to Church — to respond to God's call of love.

Did the robin get its red breast from the Saviour's crown of thorn wounds? Did Christ in Gethsemane agony hear a nightingale? Did rooks wheel and cry over Calvary? and every bird in Jerusalem sing at dawn on Easter Day?

All I know is the birds I hear in the wee small hours. I like to think my Saviour heard the same sounds as I do and that he found consolation and his Father's reassurance to his creatures in them.

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 May issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 8 April.

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

The dates for June will be Monday 4 May and Wednesday 6 May.

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

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Tel: Reading 471703.

Typeset by Microtype, 149 Cardiff Road, Reading. Printed by Reading Newspaper Printing Company Limited, Portman Road, Reading.

POSTBAG

Dear Sirs,

The Caversham Community Association are holding a Spring Fair on April 4th at 2 o'clock at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road. Various stalls include home made cakes, White Elephant, fancy goods, Sue Ryder, tombola, plants and home produce, competitions, raffle, tea and biscuits. Entrance for adults 10p, children free.

Yours etc.

Maida Feast

Secretary

90 Gosbrook Road
Caversham.

Dear Sirs,

Having read, with interest, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle's 'Talking Point' (February's Caversham Bridge), I'd like to put forward the viewpoint of a Spiritualist — after all, this newspaper is a 'bridge' between all denominations.

Contrary to popular belief, all Spiritualists

do believe in God — where else does the life-force come from? We also believe in life after death and healing (laying-on of hands) as do all other Churches. The only difference between our religion and others is that we have proof of an after-life, given by Mediums of Spirit. To put the record straight, a true Medium does not 'tell fortunes', nor 'call up the dead' but acts as a go-between, or to simplify, a radio or telephone — e.g. if one doesn't switch on the radio one doesn't hear anything or if someone doesn't dial your number your telephone won't ring. A medium cannot say 'I'll get in touch with your Mother/Elvis Presley/Queen Victoria etc.

all sects, Hitler exercised his right of free-will and went ahead, albeit on the wrong path.

Now, to 'throw the cat right amongst the pigeons', what else were the Disciples but Mediums? They saw and heard Jesus after He had died and as printed in the article, Jesus also told of the future, but where did he get the fore-knowledge of Judas' betrayal and of St Peter's denial (three times before the cock crows) etc? From Spirit of course, alias God.

Please don't keep 'knocking' the religion of Spiritualism because we do, all, believe in the same God
Yours etc,
 Sylvia Brown

Mr Hardcastle mentions the Spiritualists of the 1930's and Hitler. Every living soul is given the choice of free-will and in spite of millions of prayers from

Editors' Note

The views expressed in this letter do not conform with the views of the mainstream churches. Readers' comments are invited.

STILL REMEMBERED

As someone with more than a passing interest in World War I, I frequently stop at village churches to visit war memorials and pay my respects; in some churches are plaques to the fallen or to individual service men or women. In doing so I had entirely overlooked the private memorial in my own church, St. Peter's, to a young soldier who lies in a village I have visited many times during trips to the Somme. After some research I now know where he lived in Caversham, where he served in France and almost certainly how and where he died. On my next visit I will be able to visit his grave and pay my respects.

When my friends learn of my interest they either say "You must be mad" or "How interesting; I had a relative who was in the Great War. I wonder what happened to him?". If any of our readers have the second reaction it is not too hard to find out what happened to Grandfather or Uncle Fred. Given some simple facts which may be available such as the name of the Regiment he served in, or even a photograph, it is sometimes possible to discover a wealth of information. I would be pleased to help if I can.

Maurice Johnson

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HARDWICK FARM SHOP

Once more I have to start with apologies and hope I've not misdirected too many people. It now appears that the phone number of Path Hill Farm is not the one we gave in our February issue but is in fact (0734) 842392 and I am told that in case anyone wants to visit — and it is well worth while — Lady Rose would be more than willing to supply a leaflet giving directions as to how to get there. So if you're organically minded do give them a ring and go over and see for yourself what is on offer.

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS

We've often been concerned that our

paper doesn't always include matters which may well be of interest to many of our readers. This month we have been fortunate enough to get permission to reprint an item which appeared in a recent issue of Caversham Horticultural Society's bulletin. And in case you want to know more and are not already a member of the Association, why not join and take advantage of the very professional advice on offer and the below-shop-price garden requirements available. Unfortunately we are too late to advertise their AGM but on 10th April there will be a talk and demonstration on Hanging Baskets, at Arthur Legge Centre at 7.30 — as good an opportunity as any to introduce yourself. You'll

find a lot of people you know there.

REQUESTS CATERED FOR

The item by Maurice Johnson (Tel: 479794) is, we hope, the first of many of that kind. In the meanwhile Mr. Johnson repeats that he is only too willing to be contacted if he can help anyone with their research into relatives lost during World War I.

We could do with more offers like this, so get writing.

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

Some of us were fortunate enough to attend an event of entertainment at the Oratory School recently. We

were treated to an excellent miscellany of words and music produced by Pamela Chilvers, who will be known to many local people, and Sonya Delamere, a worthy dramatist who currently teaches at the Avenue Special School. Each included works of their own and Pamela was assisted by Richard Line, who produced a splendid arrangement of part of 'The Planets'. Richard is currently teaching at Reading Blue Coat School, so he too was a familiar figure to many.

The items chosen were, in many cases, unusual and it was a very interesting evening, made more so by an exhibition of the paintings of Martin

Beck, our local artist who, among other things, has illustrated 'Bugs Bottom'. I sincerely hope that somebody better qualified than me will be able to produce a fuller review of a very unusual event.

FEED THE CHILDREN

And I've been asked to mention that this organisation, the first British-based aid agency to alert the public to the plight of Albania's children, has now moved to 1 Priory Avenue, Caversham (Tel: 464444) where they will be glad to give more information about the many ways in which they can help in this very worthy cause. The need is urgent and your help, not only in pro-

viding supplies, but in sorting and packing, is required. So do give them a ring and find out how you can fit into the programme. I know many Caversham people are already heavily involved in so many good causes, but there may be those new to the district perhaps, who have not yet signed on.

GOOD OLD WOOLIES

One of our readers, longing for the old days when one could go into Woolworths and pick up an assortment of items without wandering round the town to various shops, wrote to Woolworth's Head Office and asked if there was any possibility of a return to such a store — not, of course, at 6d. for everything,

but who expects miracles these days.

To her surprise she received a prompt reply saying that the new store will carry the full range of Woolworth goods "which includes most of the product groups mentioned in your letter". The letter goes on to say that market research in Reading will be carried out before deciding on the range of goods as far as possible 'to reflect what the shoppers of Reading need and will want to buy'. If you'd like to add your voice to this request do write to Woolworths PLC, Woolworth House, 242/246 Marylebone Road, London, NW1. Incidentally, they hope to have the new store open for trading by next Christmas.

HINTS FROM THE POTTING SHED

Do you live in Caversham or Emmer Green and garden a thick deposit of sand and gravel that passes for soil in the area? If so have you ever wondered why your vegetable yields in general are lower than expected and root crops in particular are often poor? Then read on — below is the most likely solution to your problem.

The problem lies in the past history of the sand and gravel deposit and it is necessary to look back in geological time to find the answer. A great number of years ago the River Thames was much wider than it is today. The north bank water lapped around the top of

Caversham Park Village while the south bank was up to Southampton Street. In time the river shrank leaving two major terraces on which the river deposited a thick layer of sand and gravel. These terraces are still easily seen today by taking a walk up Peppard Road and Buckingham Drive. The first terrace starts by the Prince of Wales pub, rising sharply at first then becoming flat as it passes the Chiltern Nurses Training College. The second terrace starts to rise by Picton Way and levels off as Peppard Road becomes Buckingham Drive. All of the sand and gravel deposited on these terraces has been worked many

times by the geologic Father Thames — deposited, eroded and re-deposited. Most of the primary minerals have disappeared eons ago and this includes the readily soluble and easily leached trace element Boron. Boron in large amounts is poisonous to all plants but in very small amounts is essential for cell growth and the differentiation of the growing point. Without Boron the plant is stunted, the growing point dies back and often a corkiness appears on the base of the leaves and stems. In root vegetables the root often fails to swell. If you suspect that this might be your problem then try the following solution which is both simple and cheap. Buy 200 g (8 oz.) of Borax B.P. Powder from Boots. Take **one half of a level teaspoon only** and dissolve it in a cupful of hot water.

Add this to a watering can of water and mix well. Use this to

water 20-25ft. of double row of vegetables, 8 sq. yds. of potatoes or one moderate size fruit tree. If Boron deficiency is suspected in flower beds or rose beds etc., use the same amount for 10-12 sq.yds. Immediately wash the solution off the leaves with clean water. This should be sufficient for one crop. Neither home produced compost (which will be low in Boron if your own garden rubbish is used) nor any amount of Growmore will increase vegetable yields if Boron is lacking. But remember, **Boron in large amounts is poisonous** to all plants, so do not exceed the amounts indicated — Good luck with your 1992 root crops!! (Supplies of Borax can be obtained from your local chemist) JOHN VARLEY, President of Caversham Horticultural Society and Agricultural Adviser to the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

HAVE WE PASSED?



Some of the St Anne's Guides having their work assessed for the Craft badge. They were all successful!

— E.S. Archer

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Moves at St. John's

Good wishes go to the Revd. Alan Wilson on his appointment as Rector of St. Michael's Sandhurst. Alan has been at St. John's for ten years, first as priest-in-charge and then as St. John's first vicar.

During this period he married and has

two daughters, and has moved into a newly built vicarage. He will be preaching his last sermon on Easter Day and there will be a further report next month.

His time at St. John's has been well spent and he and the family will be missed by the congregation.

Wedding Photography

by Michael Blackburn

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Jesus says "I am the True Vine"

'Give ear and come to me;
hear me that your soul may live'.

Isaiah 55.v.3.

"Testing, testing — one, two, three." These were the words that I heard being whispered into the microphone in the chapel where I had crept for a few last moments of peace before emerging into the pre-Christmas madness last December. I was therefore, far from pleased to discover a workman there installing a PA system and

struggled to concentrate on 'higher things' and blot out that insistent whispering. Suddenly the whisper became a shout "TESTING, TESTING — ONE, TWO, THREE," as the microphone came alive. That was it. I had had enough and got up to leave, but found myself sitting down again. I can not explain how, but somehow I felt compell-

ed to stay and listen to something which seemed to be communicating itself to me through this unexpected intruder.

I had gone to the Convent of St John the Baptist at Windsor that day to think about a new venture here in Caversham, which was beginning to take shape in my mind. For more than four years now I have

Bank Accounts

by Peter Littlewood

There are numerous local societies and associations formed for the promotion of various ideals and causes, and most, if not all, of such bodies find it necessary to open a bank account to keep track of their finances, and I am the treasurer of one such group.

My group's finances are very small but it is still necessary to draw an occasional cheque and to make periodic small deposits, and the group has both a current and a deposit account with one of the big three banks, and up until a few weeks ago the current account attracted no bank charges, there always being a small balance kept in the account.

We all know of the recent furore in the media

over the bank charges for small businesses, and the banks seemed to take this to heart and proceeded to publicise their various charges in order to promote the idea that they actually cared about their customers.

Imagine my surprise, therefore, when, in my capacity as treasurer I received a glossy booklet from our bank informing us that in future my group would be charged 75p for each deposit made plus 75p for each cheque drawn, and a monthly standing charge of £2.50.

Having spent a lifetime in local government finance I have always been very careful regarding money, especially when the money belongs to other people, and I

made a few enquiries. I found that Girobank PLC offered a current account with no charges (providing the account was never overdrawn) which they call a Society Account, and armed with this information I contacted my group's bank. Needless to say after fully explaining my group's miniscule financial transactions I was persuaded to leave the question of charges, or rather no charges, in their hands but this point was not arrived at until I suggested that if my group's current account did incur any charges I should immediately close both current and deposit accounts, and open up fresh accounts with Girobank PLC.

Food for thought for other similar societies and associations?

A Late, Late Christmas Story About Jackie and Joe

I know this is a Christmas story and should have been in the Caversham Bridge in February at the latest, but I have only just heard of it and was so impressed that I felt I had to share it with readers of this paper.

There is an elderly gentleman in Caversham who, like so many people who live alone, enjoys looking out of the window at passers by. One day

last Christmas the gentleman in the story received a Christmas card. On the envelope was printed TO YOU. Inside was a home made card, very well done, showing Santa speeding off on his yearly Christmas expedition. He is saying 'Blast! I think I've left the iron on.' He was quite right. Inside was a picture of his scarlet vest with an iron hole right through it and the words 'From Joe,

the lad who walks past your house with Jackie'.

The next day another card was popped through the same letter box. The envelope was addressed to The Gentleman in the Window and the card inside said 'Love from Jackie, the girl who waves'.

Jackie and Joe you are super. There ought to be lots like you.

MK

been involved as a tutor with the Christian Listeners, a project of the Acorn Christian Healing Trust, which seeks to promote the neglected but healing ministry of listening — just listening. Training is offered, to Christians of all churches, so that they are able not only to listen to others better but also to themselves and to God. The value of silence and waiting upon God is central to this training. Arising from this and spurred on by the needs of the other Listeners and I were hearing, the idea began to emerge of creating a safe place here in our home where others could experience the healing power both of being heard at a very deep level and most importantly of listening to God.

To return to the workman in the chapel, it seemed to me that God was saying "I am whispering all the time to my people 'Testing, testing — one, two, three,' but very few of them are receiving me. I want a place where ordinary people will come to hear my voice and where my voice will be amplified." On the way back to Reading I began to laugh out loud when I remembered that Caversham is the home of the BBC Monitoring Station, where many voices of the world are monitored twenty four

hours a day. Could this place be a mini monitoring station for the voice of God?

Six months later, on 21 May, Bishop Morris Maddocks with his wife Anne, co-founders of the Acorn Christian Healing Trust, will officially open and bless 'The Vine.' To begin with it will open for one day a week, from 10am to 4pm and all are welcome of any denomination or none.

The full programme will be published in next month's Caversham Bridge, but it will include quiet days with a creche nearby to allow parents of young children to come and trained Christian Listeners available should anyone need a friendly ear. There will also be more structured teaching days on aspects of listening to God, ourselves and one another and a monthly fellowship day with a Communion Service. Drinks and a simple lunch will be provided and a small donation will be requested towards costs. In the garden there is a summer house which has been equipped for individual retreats and which will be available when the main house is closed. If you would like to know more please contact Fi Radford, The Vine, 4 The Mount, Caversham. Tel. 483965.



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"THE SECRET OF PRAYER"

by
John Madeley

In 1989, the Collegiate Church of St Peter at Westminster, (also known as Westminster Abbey), closed its doors for a day for a school of prayer. The event was a great success and the day-long 'school' has become an annual event.

On the last Saturday of February this year I joined about 300 others to attend the fourth School of Prayer which was led by Bishop John V Taylor, the former Bishop of Winchester. I can say without hesitation that it was one of the most useful days I have ever spent.

Bishop Taylor gave two 50 minutes addresses, one to start the day, the other in the afternoon. These were preceded by worship and followed by groups, not discussion groups, but groups of 20 or so people praying silently together. "Prayer is protest", said Bishop Taylor, "a fight for freedom, our own and that of others, it is a struggle for human ways of living".

He stressed the im-

portance of silent prayer: "Silence is our resistance, God's resistance against the tyranny of false values and superficial opinions". The Bishop quoted Psalm 46 — "Be still and know that I am God". "This means — let go, relax, and know that I am God," he said.

Human beings were not made for perpetual rush, he went on; "the trouble is we don't know how to stop. We're often so busy we don't listen to others, because we're thinking about what we have to do next. We are for ever whizzing through the present moment, we hardly ever live in it. Prayer is *hanging about* until we catch up with ourselves."

When we come to pray, he said, we need to just "let go, drop it, leave things to God, relax your muscles, just gradually slow down. Look at the flame of a candle or at a bunch of green leaves if it helps. That can give our fidgetty minds something to concentrate on. The flame of the candle, the green leaves, are

just being themselves. Be as real as the flame, as the leaves".

A former missionary in Uganda, Bishop Taylor told the story of a child who walked into his office one day. Brief greetings were exchanged and then nothing was said. The child sat there, the Bishop carried on working. After about half an hour the boy got up and walked to the door, just saying as he went "I have seen you".

That is what being with God is like, said the Bishop. We can only pray, if we learn to be with him. He urged us to *be present to the presence of God*. The present moment is where God is present. Being present, means being present now — it can only be now, that is the only tense that God knows. "Being present, altogether present, is the secret of prayer. So give a present of yourself to God", he said.

"Silence may not come easily because we are so used to rush and noise", he went

on, "silence is rather like stopping suddenly. If you do that you might fall on your face. So it's best to start with your eyes open as you pray, looking at something in the world, because that is reality. Believe that God is with you in the silence, that he is at the heart of silence, and that he loves you. He seeks us in the silence, his love enfolds us, he longs to make us real, to change or empty self into an authentic being".

God simply wants you to be you, said the Bishop, "to relax in his love, loving him as much as you can in return. With every intake of breath we receive God's love. And don't be afraid of the nasty bits inside you. It's only by facing up to them and telling God about them that we will ever get rid of them. We are partners with God. He does not condemn us for our sins; he wants us to lay them at his feet. Tell God about them and the removal of the problem will have begun".

Bishop Taylor considered the question — is not prayer that concentrates on oneself rather selfish in face of all the world's problems? Should not our prayer be outward-looking?

"Being God's partner means that we can ask him questions", he said, "silence gives God a chance to direct our prayers. When we are in prayer, the image of a refugee in Africa may come to mind, a suffering child in Albania perhaps. Welcome distractions as part of the reality of the present moment. Silence changes the one who prays. If there is any hope for the world, if there is any hope changing greed into concern for others, it has to be through people that change comes".

If anyone is interested in going to next year's school of prayer, which is likely to again be around the end of February, please drop me a line — 19 Woodford Close, Caversham — and I will let you have details when I have them.

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A RARITY AT CANE END

Strictly speaking the following article does not relate to Caversham, but it may be of much interest to several readers of this paper, and Cane End was once part of Mapledurham Parish till 1853.

Take the A4704 from Caversham and travel

towards Oxford. Pass the Fox Inn on your right and take the next turn on your left, some half a mile further on. A little way along this side road you will find a long, narrow field stretching gently upwards towards Woodcote. Once pylons marched its length. Now, if you are lucky, you will

see a small herd of most interesting cattle. They may be the only such collection of animals for miles around these parts.

They are Ancient White Cattle and have a black nose, feet and ears

posite of these docile creatures at Cane End. It is said they are descendants of the wild cattle that once roamed freely in such places as the New Forest. They may have possibly originated from the Celtic Ox (Bos

ble. Please do not feed them or try to get among them. This, I am sure, would not please the owner; but do enjoy watching these attractive creatures.

M.K.



The Cane End Herd.

—E.S. Archer

and wide curving horns. They are not a robust looking breed but have long and interesting history. According to Old British Livestock by John Vince there were about a dozen such herds in Britain early in the eighteen hundreds. At the end of that century some still survived. There is still the famous herd at Chillingham, though these are extremely wild, the op-

longifrons) which in turn may have been crossed with Roman stock and their progeny later crossed with cattle from the Low Countries in the Middle Ages.

Until the warmer weather causes the grass to grow the herd at Cane End will continue to be fed near the fence and will easily be seen, but later they are rarely visi-

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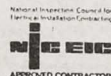
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

3000 SCHOOL CHILDREN DISCOVER THE ADMIRAL'S TREASURE

It was a great pleasure the other Sunday to sit down to a three course Sunday Lunch which I had not cooked. Gosbrook Road Church has always had a reputation for good catering and the latest Sunday lunch was no exception. Time to share fellowship and friendship over a meal. This was on March 1st, and it proved to be a very busy weekend. It was the Home Mission weekend, and on the Saturday friends enjoyed tea together followed by a short service and a talk with slides by the Rev. George Simons. He told of his ministry in Liverpool and Birkenhead. George Simons was the preacher for both services on the Sunday and the congregation gained from his ministry. Sunday lunch was shared and it was all hands to the pump to clear up in time for the Welsh Society to prepare for the

St. David's day service and tea which took place in the afternoon. A large congregation enjoyed some superb singing, and welcomed the visiting preacher Rev. Alistair Swinford from Cardiff.

Other visitors to the church have been friends from Cornwall who came for a weekend in February and led a sacred dance workshop. This proved to be a success with people taking part from other churches. The Sunday services were enriched by sacred dance which expressed the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology as well as other Christian songs.

Dates for your Diary:

Sat. April 4th Musical Concert 7 p.m.

Sat. May 9th Auction of Talents.

Sat. June 6th, June Fair.

Keybunch, the Christian drama group from Caversham Hill Chapel have recently just finished another two week tour of the local primary schools in Caversham, Kidmore End, Stoke Row, Henley and Slough. Approximately three thousand children were presented with the Christian message.

The thirty minute assemblies consisted of an introductory sketch, a song and a major sketch called "The Admiral's Treasure" which was written by Marion Hedley-Lewis.

The sketch was based around two characters, Captain Brain and Shipmate Deflate. A riddle was found concerning the whereabouts of some

treasure, in an old Admiral's jacket. The Captain and Deflate set about solving the riddle which eventually led to three other riddles. Unbeknown to the trusting Captain, Deflate was a secret pirate who only wanted the treasure for himself.

In addition to the two main characters, a lady kept appearing selling various wares which were needed during the sketch and provided a source of great amusement. The treasure was finally found by Deflate but instead of finding gold and silver, he found an old book which turned out to be the Admiral's book containing everything that a Captain needed to know in order to be successful. Deflate

thought this was worthless and so left it behind for the Captain to find. The Captain recognised the worth of this book and knew it was just what he needed to be a better Captain.

The moral of the story was that the Bible is a valuable piece of treasure which helps us to live our lives, but not everyone recognises it as that.

Keybunch's other work, that of the "Keyhole Club" which meets once a month, continues to thrive. This is open to all primary school children and meets in different locations every month. The aim of the club is to promote Christianity to children regardless of whether they go to church or not. It is seen as a complement to work already carried out with children active in other churches and especially as evangelistic to those children who would not normally go to church. It is a time of fun and games, craft activities, sketch by Keybunch and a time of singing and praising led by a band of young musicians.

If you would like further information either about the "Keyhole Club" or the work of Keybunch please telephone Mike Holmes at Caversham Hill Chapel.

St Andrew's Fellowship

Major Michael Paxton's reputation as a speaker drew a large audience to the Fellowship's February meeting on Thursday 13th.

A former regular army officer and public relations man at Huntley and Palmers, Major Paxton was struck down by multiple sclerosis in his fifties, and is now confined to a wheelchair. Far from being defeated by his initial almost total paralysis, he fought back, regained the use of the top half of his body and is now able to drive his car and lead an independent life.

He has recently been further debilitated by cancer, but is still cheerful, courageous and unbeaten. His talk was moving and encouraging, and he held



Nautical Nellie, played by Marion Hedley-Lewis.



Shipmate Deflate played by Mark Hatcher.



Captain Brain, played by Mike Holmes.

JUMBLE SALE

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St. Andrew's Fellowship — EARLY DAYS

Thursday 14th April 1942. For a Wiltshire schoolboy, just another ordinary day of the times. In his Charles Letts' diary, he records that Malta had been awarded the George Cross, whilst nearer home, Swindon had an air-raid alert from 2.40am to 3.10am.

For St Andrew's Church, Caversham, however, the day had far more significance, for it was then that the Church Fellowship was founded. The actual details of the original meeting are not extant. Nevertheless, a study of the Minute Book, which begins with the Second Annual General Meeting, 20th April 1944, makes fascinating reading.

During the winter months meetings were held fortnightly in the Small Hall (the large hall was built some years later), whilst in the summer outdoor events took place monthly. For the 1944-45 season, the average attendance was thirty-six with fifty-one being the highest number. One would imagine that the walls of the small hall must have been almost bulging on that evening! Finances were maintained by an

annual membership fee of Adults 2/- (10p) or juniors 1/- (5p).

In the pre-television days of 1944-45 the programme had a different style from that of 1991-92. Included were a Beetle Drive, a talk on Social Security, Folk Dancing, a Carol Party, a New Year's Dance, a play reading.

Thus it was for the Fellowship in 1945. What of the Fellowship fifty years on from its foundation in 1942? Meetings are held monthly throughout the year; average attendance is thirty and the membership fee has been replaced by a 40p collection at each meeting. Contrary to the general trend in most organisations, the Officers and Committee have been halved in numbers to ten.

When one considers the tremendous changes that have occurred in all aspects of life during the last fifty years, it is gratifying to record that the Fellowship continues in its original role of fulfilling an important part in the social needs of the parish.

We look forward with confidence to our Diamond Jubilee in 2002!

K.H.B.

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SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



St. Peter's Caversham

PALM SUNDAY (12th April)

palm crosses at all services

- 8.00am—Holy Communion
- 9.15am—SUNG EUCHARIST (meet 9.10am in Caversham Court — weather permitting — for Procession)
- 11.15am—Morning Prayer
- 6.30pm—CHORAL EVENSONG

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of Holy Week —

7.00pm—Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 9.30am—Holy Communion
- 8.00pm—SUNG EUCHARIST — followed by stripping of altars and Vigil to midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

- 8.00am—Holy Communion
- 12.30pm—THREE HOURS' DEVOTIONAL SERVICE, conducted by Revd Martin Beaumont (Chaplain of Haileybury College)

EASTER DAY

- 8.00am—Holy Communion
- 9.15am—SUNG EUCHARIST
- 11.15am—Morning Prayer
- 6.30pm—'St Peter's Praise' — led by the young people of St Peter's

St. Andrew's

12 April — PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am—Eucharist & distribution of palms
- 9.15am—Family Eucharist (Sung) & distribution of palms
- 11.15am—Eucharist & distribution of palms
- 6.30pm—Evensong

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th

- 8.00pm—Eucharist
- 16th April — MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 8.00pm—Sung Eucharist
- 17th April — GOOD FRIDAY
- 9.30am—Good Friday Liturgy
- 11.00am—Children's Service
- 18th April — EASTER EVE
- 8.30pm—Easter Vigil and Service of Light
- 19th April — EASTER DAY
- 8.00am—Eucharist
- 9.15am—Family Eucharist
- 11.15am—Eucharist
- 6.30pm—Evensong

St. John's

12th April — PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am—Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am—Parish Communion (Parade)
- 13th April — Monday
- 8.00pm—Eucharist
- 14th April — Tuesday
- 2.30pm—Mothers Union
- 8.00pm—Eucharist
- 15th April — Wednesday
- 8.00pm—Eucharist
- 16th April — MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 8.00pm—Liturgy of the Day followed by watch to midnight
- 17th April — GOOD FRIDAY
- 2.00pm—Proclamation of the Cross
- 19th April — EASTER DAY
- 8.00am—Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am—Parish Communion
- 6.30pm—Informal Prayer & Praise in Church
- 20th April — Monday (Easter Week)
- 12.00noon—Eucharist

St Barnabas

12th April — PALM SUNDAY

- 8.00am—Eucharist (1662) with blessings of Palms
- 9.30am—Procession with Palms, and Parish Communion (Starting from Church Hall).
- 6.30pm—Evensong
- 16th April — MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 7.30pm—The Last Supper Eucharist in the Context of a Meal in the church hall. (Bring a main course)

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm—The Proclamation of the Cross (no communion)

18th April — EASTER EVE

9.00pm—Waiting for the Risen Christ (Reading for the Vigil)

19th April — EASTER DAY

- 8.00am—Eucharist (1662)
- 9.30am—EASTER SERVICE The Services of Light Baptism and Communion
- 6.30pm—Evensong

St Margaret's Mapledurham

12th April — PALM SUNDAY

11.00am—Sung Eucharist (with palm crosses)

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am—Devotional service

19th April — EASTER DAY

11.00am—Sung Eucharist

Caversham Park Church

12th April — PALM SUNDAY

11.00am—Morning Worship with Passion narrative

13th April — Monday

8.00pm—Communion and Meditation at 51 Galsworthy Drive

14th April — Tuesday

8.00pm—Communion and Meditation at 51 Galsworthy Drive

15th April — Wednesday

10.30am—Communion and Meditation at 51 Galsworthy Drive

16th April — MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.00pm—Joint service at St. Peter's

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am—12 noon Good Friday Family Workshop in school

8.00pm—Meditation at 51 Galsworthy Drive

19th April — EASTER DAY

11.00am—Easter Communion

Caversham Baptist Free Church

12th April — PALM SUNDAY

10.30am & 6.30pm Worship Services

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am—United Service — Caversham Heights Methodist Church

19th April — EASTER DAY

10.30am—Communion Service
6.30pm—Evening Praise

Caversham Hill Chapel

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am—Service for all the Family

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

10.30am—Service for all the family

Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am—Service for all the Family at Caversham Hill Chapel

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

10.45am—Celebration Service for all the Family at Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am—United Service at Caversham Heights

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am—Holy Communion
11.00am—Easter Celebration with Communion
6.30pm—Evening Worship

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am—United Service at Caversham Heights

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

10.30am—Morning Worship
6.30pm—Evening Worship

St Paul's URC

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

11.00am—Easter Festival Service and Holy Communion
6.30pm—Evening Holy Communion Service

Society of Friends

Services as usual

Our Lady and St Anne Parish Caversham

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, 11th April. Blessing of Palms (in School if fine), Procession and Mass with Reading of the Passion according to St Luke.

Principal Celebrant — His Lordship Bishop Terence Brain Auxiliary in Birmingham. (At St Anne's)

St Anne's — Sunday at 9.45am (Missa 'de Angelis') and 6.30pm Simple Blessing of Palms.

Our Lady of Caversham, Richmond Road

Mass at 8.30 and 11.15. Solemn Blessing of Palms before 11.15 Mass with Reading of Passion during Mass

13th April — Monday

Mass at St Anne's at 9am

14th April — Tuesday

Mass at the Convent at 7.15am, at Mapledurham House at 8am and at Richmond Road at 10am.

Mass of Chrism at St Aloysius' Oxford (His Grace the Archbishop) Details later.

15th April — Wednesday

Mass at St Anne's at 9am

16th April — MAUNDY THURSDAY

St Anne's Solemn Mass for the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm with Washing of the feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose and Watching until Midnight

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross and Sermon at 10.30am

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of our Lord, with the Reading of St John's Passion, the Universal Prayers, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Begins at 3pm. Principal Celebrant — Bishop Brain. Both ceremonies will be at St Anne's.

18th April — HOLY SATURDAY

St Anne's — Vigil of Easter, with Blessing of the New Fire, Blessing of Paschal Candle, Readings and First Mass of Easter, with Blessing of Baptismal Water, Service of Baptisms and Receptions into the Church, and renewal of Baptismal Promises. Begins at 8pm. Principal Celebrant — Bishop Brain.

19th April — EASTER SUNDAY

St Anne's — Masses at 9.45am and 6.30pm Richmond Road — Masses at 8.30am and 11.15am.

CONFESSIONS DURING THE WEEK AS ANNOUNCED.

17th April — GOOD FRIDAY 10.15am— Procession of Witness from St James R.C. Church, The Forbury, arranged by Churches Together in Central Reading.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

KEEPING BUGS BOTTOM GREEN

The fate of Bugs Bottom will largely have been decided at the March meeting of the Planning Committee and not being gifted with second sight I cannot predict what will be common knowledge by the time these words are read. All that can confidently be asserted is that whilst there is any chance of saving Bugs Bottom, its defenders will not give up.

The involvement of Prudential in Bugs Bottom has been known for some time. They are in fact the fourth biggest corporate share holders in Higgs and Hill and must therefore bear some responsibility for covering this green site with houses, inflicting damage on its wild life and increasing vehicle emissions from the hundreds of cars it will bring onto the roads. This is the very kind of thing that Reading Borough Council Green Day was all about. It's the kind of thing to avoid if the planet, and particularly Reading's corner of it, is to survive as a habitat that can support healthy human, animal and plant life.

Prudential had been asked by supporters of Bugs Bottom several months ago to disinvest in Higgs and Hill, but had declined to do so, saying that it was not their policy to interfere with business decisions of companies in which they invest. It sounded all too like Higgs and Hill's defence for building in the valley, that the prime consideration was the interest of their shareholders, or in other words, given a choice between God and Mammon, they will back Mammon anyway of the week.

Then suddenly, after several months in which the issue lay relatively quiet, up pops the Prudential sponsoring the Borough's Green Day. The offer was naturally attractive to a Council so strapped for cash that it has to look where it can for money to put into operation anything except its bare statutory duties. There were serious misgivings however amongst participating bodies, who were nevertheless reluctant to endanger Green Day by protesting too much. It was finally the body most

closely concerned with Bugs Bottom that spoke up. The Bugs Bottom Action Group realised that a request to Prudential to disinvest from Higgs and Hill would only be refused, so instead offered a way out by inviting Prudential to endorse the wishes of the huge majority of Reading people that Bugs Bottom should remain green.

Prudential's re-action came as a surprise. Without any more ado, they pulled out of Green Day. Their offer of equipment, promotion and publicity, and the time of their two shortly to retire executives all vanished, leaving the Borough to fill the gaps. To give credit where it is due, they did not ask for their money back nor did they withdraw their offer of reserved places in their car park on the day itself.

The first re-action was that Bugs-Bottom Action Group and the Green Party, who had made their own separate protests, had rocked the boat badly. The second more considered one was that the Green movement in Reading was strong enough to mount a Green Day without the help of a firm who were involved in defeating one of the longest standing Green issues in the town. So it was that Green Day was launched by bodies and organisations that had some kind of proven record in the exercise of Green awareness.

GREEN ACRES

It does not look as if the proposals for Mapledurham Estate are going to have an easy ride. Not surprisingly, with such beautiful countryside so close to an urban area, the natural reaction is, 'Don't touch it; don't change it; leave it as it is'. A meeting called at very short notice at Tokers Green one Saturday afternoon in February attracted a large gathering and a lot of opposition. It is not going to be of much

consolation to Mapledurham Estate to know its major plans which would generate the most income, such as the double golf course and the petrol station and hotel were the most unwelcome while the lesser changes which would produce less income were deemed less unacceptable. A petition to South Oxon District Council urging the rejection of much of the proposals attracted many signatures.

The predicament remains. A landowner whose estate covers tracts of beautiful countryside inherits a responsibility to conserve its character. At the same time the countryside has evolved as a place where people earned their living and it puts a heavy burden on a landowner if he is expected to maintain it as a free leisure resource for townees from neighbouring areas.

As spring comes to the hills and woods of Mapledurham, everyone who enjoys it at this most beautiful of seasons will want it to stay like that for future generations to enjoy as well. It will not just go on happening though without some action being taken to ensure it does. It is in the light of this that the current proposals must be judged. It is not going to be easy to find an acceptable solution. One thing is sure; doing nothing and hoping it will go away is not the answer.

SUE RYDER HOME

As the news spread that the Sue Ryder Home was to lose a fifth of its funding by the withdrawal of the West Berkshire Health Authority Grant, it was greeted with dismay on all sides. It is true that the Health Authority is putting the money into the new unit at Dellwood, which will include residential places, a day unit and hospice facilities, and represents the final link in the arrangements that have been put into place for those suffering from cancer. No one doubts that it will be good, but it is no substitute for the larger hospice with the wealth of experience it can offer to those whose cancer is reaching its final stages and to their families and carers.

The Sue Ryder Home is dear to the hearts of Caversham people. Many of them work there as volunteers, support its fund raising activities or have experienced its care, either as relations of patients or as source of relief and comfort in their last days. The fund raisers are a devoted band who work hard to raise money from a sympathetic public. It is difficult to see how they can possibly raise another £195,000 per annum, the amount of the grant they are about to lose.

When Caversham Residents' Association drew the attention of Rosalind Renshaw of the Evening Post to the situation, the

newspaper launched a campaign to save the Hospice. If you would like to be part of this, then write a letter of support to the Evening Post, Tessa Road, who will pass on letters to the Health Authority. They will also pass on to the Home any cheques you care to enclose made payable to the Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed.

The Reading area needs both Dellwood and Sue Ryder; it should, not be a case of either/or. If West Berkshire Health Authority have insufficient money available to support the one and help with to other, they

turn to page 9

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One's thoughts may turn to the purchase of a pair of binoculars and it is important to give the matter careful, prior consideration.

A good "Starter" pair, light in weight, are "8 x 40", preferably of reliable make. The "8" indicates the number of magnifications, and the "40" the diameter of the object-glass, in millimeters.

A general guide to a binoculars' efficiency, in poor visibility, so often necessary when bird-watching, is to divide to the object-glass diameter by the magnification. If the result is five, or thereabouts, then they should prove serviceable for most occasions.

When in use, wear them around the neck, on a foreshortened lanyard, so that they lie upon the chest.

This will prevent them swinging from side to side when walking and they will be instantly "Ready for Action"! Take care not to knock or drop them as this could impair their efficiency.

When not in use, store them in their case, otherwise leave the case in the car or at home, as it is an unnecessary encumbrance in the field.

This is the season when I take a portable tape-recorder, as I find it useful to be able to "re-live" memorable moments.

To keen bird-watchers of like mind, however, may I offer of few words of caution!

Some years ago, I was "twitching" a very rare Two-barred Crossbill, in the New

Forest, which flew into a nearby tree — and began to sing. My excitement was so great, that my binoculars, in company with about fifty other pairs, were focussed fixedly upon the bird until it flew on. Only then did I realise that this "Golden Moment" had been lost forever — my tape-recorder having remained in the "Off" position, throughout!

"Otus Scops", better known as "SCOPS OWL" (my pseudonym), is a small, rare visitor to Britain, which occurred near Basingstoke over a decade ago. I regret having been credited, herein, with the erratum, "SCOOPS OWL", a non-existent specie!

"SCOPS OWL"



Pictures



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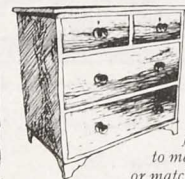
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CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS

— Thinking caps on for a new Secretary.

The twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Caversham Good Neighbours was held in Church House on Tuesday, 28th January 1992. Mr Ben Archer was in the Chair, and the Revd Richard Kingsbury opened the meeting with a short prayer.

The Secretary reported on the previous year's activities, seventy-five per cent of which continued to be transport. Well over four hundred trips were made to enable the elderly and/or disabled to keep hospital appointments, visit the dentist, optician, etc. and the small team of

visitors continued to call on the lonely and/or housebound, and to shop, change library books etc. There is a continuing need for drivers, and also any suitable person prepared to undertake visiting duties in the Caversham area.

Due to the generosity of those being transported, the Balance Sheet showed a healthy position.

Miss E.M. Youens, the Secretary, thanked all helpers, and the committee, and gave notice that she intends to step down in 1994 — earlier if possible! Any newly

retired Caversham resident (or other!) who would like a challenge, please step forward.

The published speaker, Mr R. Foa, of the West Berks Health Authority was unable to attend, and his place was ably taken by Miss Jean Sawyer who gave an interesting short talk on her time in spent in Tonga.

In closing the meeting Mr Archer added his thanks to all helpers, not forgetting the Kents who are helpful in so many ways. Most people then stayed on of coffee and to "socialise".

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should be kicking, screaming and protesting loud and long rather than trying to justify their decision.

THE LIBRARY

Writers, librarians and ordinary users, have recently demonstrated about the contraction of library services. Caversham Library is a lively place, served by an enthusiastic and dedicated staff. I have no doubt the same goes for other branch

libraries, and the Central Library is no exception. What is, however, only too noticeable is the reduction of opening hours. Whereas it used to be that you could drop in every day except Sundays, often into the early evening, that is no longer so. Whole day closures, half day closures, earlier closing times, all mean that you can arrive at the library only to find its doors closed. It can mean that people whose time is limited can no longer use the libraries.

What is particularly annoying when these cuts in services are announced, and it does not apply only to libraries, is to be told that they are to produce a leaner more efficient service. The ultimate logic of that is that supreme efficiency will be reached when only the skeleton is left. And to think, Reading alone had to spend an extra £7M to collect the community charge over and above what it used to cost to collect the rates. Just think of all the other really worth while things that could have been done with that money.

HONK HONK

It has not taken the Rev. David Moody, one of Caversham's more recent arrivals, very long to discover how one motorist can cause tail backs all the way into Reading by parking in Bridge Street, only for a few minutes. (March Postbag) There are plen-

ty more with equally reprehensible habits. If the Urban Clearway along Caversham Road and across the bridge had not been regularly ignored by motorists, millions of pounds, months of upheaval and several trees could have been saved. Hold-ups regularly occur when the bus lane section of Hemdean Road is blocked by cars only there 'for a few minutes'. The Prospect Street — Chester Street corner is another black spot, especially dangerous when vehicles park on the north part of Prospect Street. And there are even some idiots who park under the archway leading into Waitrose car park.

If you have not met all these already, David, you soon will, and many more besides. What a great cacophony of sound there will be if we all honk when we meet such drivers.

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Caversham W.I.

'Do you know your antiques' was the intriguing title of an evening with Mrs Brandon at the February meeting of the Caversham W.I. The evening took the form of a quiz, when members were able to handle some very unusual objects. The eventual winner was Mrs M. Jenkins. Mrs Hatcher, contributing an antique iron, was the competition winner. The evening ended with a lively discussion about the antiques on show.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

It has been a pleasure to welcome several new members to the Club over the past few months. Membership now stands at 54 with an average attendance of 40+. The usual mix of speakers, singing groups & Bingo continued during the Autumn session & early Spring. Once again we are very grateful to a number of — now — old friends; amongst whom are Mr & Mrs Allies, Mrs Beek, Mr Ferguson, Mr Frew, Mrs Goodman, Mr Moss, Mr Noyes, Mrs Priest, Miss Sawyer, & Miss Tyler. They have informed us on many topics and transported us in imagination to many parts of this

country and the world. To mention but a few — India & France, Sussex & Norway, America & The Thames. Reading before the I.D.R. & Tonga, Battle Hospital as a Work-house & a visit to Hong Kong. Mr Kirby showed us slides of a fascinating miniature hat collection belonging to his wife, this was his tenth visit to the club. Singing Groups have included The Network, The Rendezvous, The Firtree, Sonning W.I. & the Silver Liners. They have cheered many a Wednesday afternoon. Thanks, too, are due to Mrs E Wallis for helping to run the monthly Bingo Sessions (with the late Mr Arthur Painter) for several years. We are very sad to have to record Arthur's death last year. We are grateful to Mr & Mrs Henwood for taking over the running of Bingo. The Autumn Outing was to the New Forest with an excellent lunch at Winchester. Our very good Christmas Luncheon was at Chiltern Chase Lodge in December. Outings to Stow on the Wold & the sea-side are planned for this May & July. Cyprus, Bangkok, Singapore & Spain have yet to be visited (by magic & slides).

STAR Reading branch of the Students of the Third Age

The open meeting held in the Town Hall in February had one of the members, retired doctor Ken Wray, speaking on 'Health in the Third Age'. He was most encouraging and invigorating, emphasising the amount we can do for ourselves to improve our health. There is no need for expensive checkups.

The group on Books had the American author, John Hopkins, reading extracts from his novels on Morocco and Peru. He, his wife, and three children have lived for ten years in a National Trust House near Faringdon on the Thames. During questions afterwards members were disappointed that so far his English experience had not been used in his writing. The Classical Music

group was invited by Dr Douglas Latto to his house 4 Derby Road, for an afternoon of Puccini. Frank Terry introduced the arias from several Puccini operas, linking them with fascinating glimpses of his life. He and Freda Clarke then sang with Kathleen Robson at the piano. The thirty-four members present then had afternoon tea.

The debate this month was on the motion 'That animals have a right to life on a par with human beings'. This had seemed a winner but it was defeated by opponents who took the view that the motion meant that no animals whatsoever could be killed.

The Travel group had two stimulating accounts. The first, very humorous, told of experiences from the end of the war of a journey through the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbour. War had ended but much needed to be done, especially clearing up prisoners from both sides. The second told of a varied week in Katmandu, culminating in a plane trip alongside Everest.

The meeting on the Decade of the thirties discussed education. Members marvelled at the variety of school memories from all over Britain — only one member spoke of Reading.

The play reading group has enjoyed reading Alan Ayckbourn's 'Woman in Mind' this month.

The writer's group concentrated on helpful criticism while commenting on their own two contributions.

For the monthly walk members were blessed with the best weather for weeks. They walked from Sonning Bridge to Caversham Bridge, and revelled in the sight of the tranquil waters of the river and the wildlife. They then had a well earned lunch at the Griffin, Caversham.

Caversham Heights TG

At February's meeting of Caversham Townswomen's guild Mrs Maureen Dawson from the federation spoke about the forthcoming annual general meeting.

The ancient art form of decorating eggs was shown by Mrs J Fraser, who suggested ways of decorating an egg for Easter.

Recalling Mr R Oliver's talk at social studies, he mentioned the qualifications needed to become a solicitor, how he returned to Reading from Southampton, and that he enjoys working on wills and

probates. Making a will is a friendly thing to do, he said. Apart from a law case where you can obtain legal aid, there is now an alternative dispute resolution procedure. Some barristers are experts in say tax law, while many solicitors are becoming experts in their own right, for example in environment law, and drafting wills. Courses are run once a month on special subjects. Free advice can be obtained at a Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Miss J Sawyer at another social studies meeting threw some interesting light on experiences in Tonga some five years ago, from the point of view of the head of the science department of a school there. This with New Zealand forms part of the part of an ancient Polynesian land. She brought examples of handicrafts, often using tapa cloth, including a light-weight handbag, garlands, hats, mats, aprons and strings of beads.

Rosehill W.I.

The February meeting was on the 5th and Mrs Weller welcomed members to the last one before the AGM in March. Dates were given for crafts, rambling, scrabble and play reading. The talk was by Mrs Ann Dismukes entitled 'Ladies in Black'. She was dressed all in black; underneath the outer garment she wore a full length gown embroidered in gold, a worn by Arabian women in Dubai. Mrs Dismukes was a former teacher there. This talk was most interesting and informative and very much enjoyed.

The competition for a Valentine card was won by Mrs Gilmartin.

The March meeting was on the 4th and after the usual business Mrs Dolphin

came to officiate at the AGM. She initially talked about her interests and work in the W.I. as a VCO, soon retiring. The Secretary and Treasurer made their yearly reports. Members voted for a new president as Mrs Weller is retiring after five years. A new committee was formed and Mrs Jane Stockhill agreed to be the new president.

There was an exhibition of thimbles; nine were shown, each different, all with a history.

Caversham Ladies Club

A warm welcome was given to Mrs Harwood the Chairman, on her return to the Club after her illness. Club business included a reminder that next meeting was the AGM and nominations were asked for, giving members plenty of time for their choice over the year '92.

The Speaker, Mrs Cooper, was the introduced who had brought along a beautiful selection of cards covering every occasion. Mrs Cooper said she had started her hobby when quite young and a small camera was given to her for a present. From then on and still continuing to this day, she was always alert for beautiful and interesting subjects to photograph. Proof of how successful Mrs Cooper had been was shown and explained by the wide and large selection of cards spread out on the table. Apart from these, Mrs Cooper had also brought along various books she had collected and read her choice of poems of children's delights and others with such lovely and poignant sentiments they brought a very warm applause

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from the members. Unfortunately time had caught up and it was with regret the meeting was brought to a close.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met in February to hear Meryl Beek present her talk and slide show on "The Oldest Road" of the Icknield Way, which extends from the Norfolk coast to Lyme Regis. In a two week walk during spring last year she was able to cover the section from Stratley to Lyme Regis and she showed slides of many interesting places, such as Avebury Ring which is believed to be

even older than Stonehenge.

One of the most unusual features of church architecture which she described was in the village of Sydling St Nicholas where the church porch contains a fireplace. This was apparently because at the time of building there was no village hall in which to hold meetings. After one hundred miles and thirteen days of walking she arrived at Lyme Regis.

The vote of thanks was given by Mrs E. Fuller.

The Social Studies section held a musical evening at 7.30pm on Monday 24th February at St Barnabas Church Hall.

The ramblers have enjoyed three walks, one of which included their annual lunch at The Black Horse, Emmer Green.

Five members of the Arts and Crafts group have entered garments for a baby's layette in the National Competition to be judged in April. Mrs D. Sharman and Mrs D. Prentice ran a bring and buy stall which was well supported by the members.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

After minutes were read, and business issues dealt with, members welcomed their guest speaker, who came on behalf of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. There are twenty-two mission centres who supply comfort and warmth, and sleeping quarters to those fishermen who come back from their boats after deep sea fishing. They fish in small boats, sometimes in hazardous conditions, to get our fish on the table. Around one thousand men fish around the Orkney Islands.

Should any men become sick while out at sea, the Mission provides an ambulance to take them to hospital when they arrive back on land. The Mission gives money to widows who have lost their husbands at sea, and others hit by hard times. They rely entirely on people giving generously, with house to house collections and boxes. Three members in the Guild help in this way. It's good to remember the men who risk their lives each day to provide the fish on our table.

The Guild has decided to hold a competition each meeting. The next one will be "Kitchen utensils" when members will be invited to guess the use of unusual ones.

The meetings are held the third Thursday in the month at Church House at 2.15pm. New members are welcomed.

Maplewood W.I.

At the February meeting members heard a talk 'Community Policing in Caversham' by PC Stratton, who is the local policeman for Thames Ward. He told his audience about his early life in the force and described his present work in Caver-

sham as an officer on the beat, including the time he spends at local schools familiarizing the children with his presence. He then answered questions, which centred mainly on the traffic problems which are a particular feature of life in Caversham.

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

Caversham Community Association

The members met on the 3rd February for a whistdrive with Doreen Crawley in charge and ready to give advice if required. The winner with the highest score was Joan Aldridge with Elsie Prett in second place.

A Valentine Party was held on the 10th February. The refreshments were provided by the members in the form of an American supper, everyone contributing by bringing food of their choice which was then shared out. Entertainment was given by visiting artistes George and Gladys. George played the electronic organ and provided a good variety of popular song and dance music. Gladys led the audience in community singing. The prize in the competition for a handmade Valentine card was won by Nancy Nelhams with Joyce Roddy receiving second prize. As the evening coincided with the 80th birthday of the club's President, Ted Howard, a surprise item had been arranged. Five of the lady members gave a clever imitation of the dancing act, the 'Roly Polys' and then 'Happy Birthday' was sung. Mr. Howard thanked the members for their good wishes and the dancers for their entertainment. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, then thanked everyone involved in making a successful party.

The visiting speaker

on the 17th February was David Chandler, whose subject was 'Wildlife in Focus'. His talk, which was illustrated by Mr. Chandler's excellent photographs on slide film, was of great interest to the members. Mr Chandler's garden borders Bugs Bottom and he spends many hours studying the wildlife, also taking some of the lovely photographs which he showed on screen of the owls, badgers, foxes and deer which live in the woods and glades. There were also some amusing pictures of Mr. Chandler's pet, a small brown owl and Ferdie, the fox, a frequent visitor to his garden. Some slides of sea birds were shown and at the end of his talk members could ask relevant questions. At refreshment time Mr Chandler had prints of some of his wildlife photographs for sale and leaflets available for those interested in helping preserve the wild creatures, so many of which are now at risk. The Chairman thanked Mr. Chandler for an enjoyable evening and invited him to come again.

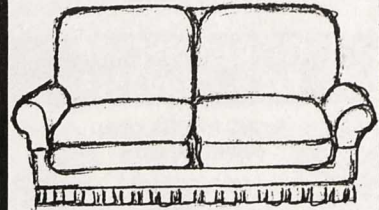
A Quiz evening the following week completed the February meetings. The members had a busy time taking part in quizzes on general knowledge, television programmes, pre-decimal currency and Royalty through the ages. The evening ended with games chosen so that everyone could compete. Prizes were awarded to all the winners.

Members were reminded to make handicrafts etc., for the Spring Fair, to be held at the Arthur Legge Centre on the 4th April at 2.00 p.m.

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If you are planning to go out for the day or to have visitors on 26th April you will need to take into account that it will be difficult to get in and out of Caversham by road in the morning, as streets will be closed for the Half-Marathon.

Richfield Avenue and Cow Lane will be out of use for the whole morning from 9.00am if not earlier. Both river bridges, Church Street and Gosbrook Road, will be closed between 9.45 and 10.30am, but after that

various roads in Reading will still be closed until 12.30, so it will not be possible to get to or come from most areas across the river. Your only sure way in and out will be over Sonning or Whitchurch Bridge and time should be allowed for this. Emergency services will however, be able to get through.

It would probably be better to give up trying and to come down to Church Road to cheer on the runners as they come pouring over the bridge.

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