

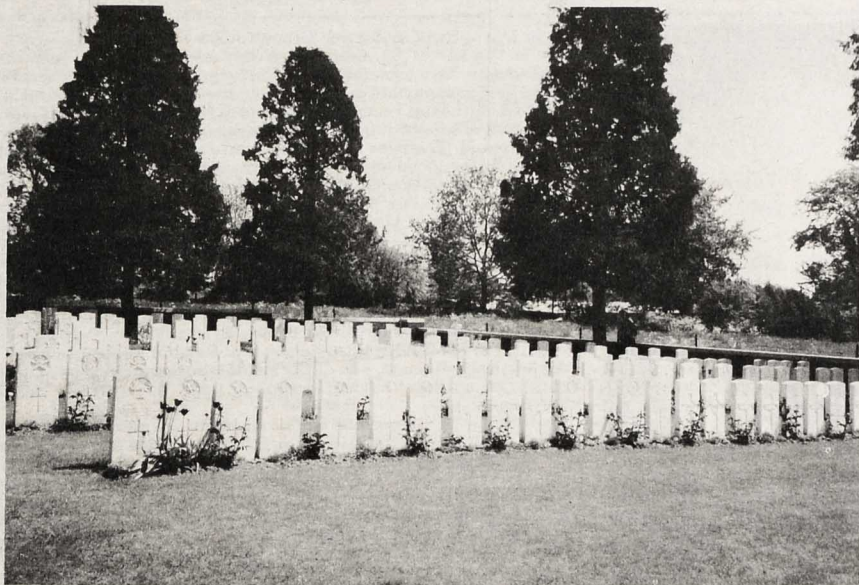
TALKING POINT

by

CANON RICHARD KINGSBURY

Rector of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's

“REMEMBER, REMEMBER...”



Was it Nat King Cole, Pat Boone, or the old crooner Bing Crosby, who immortalised that song 'Those Autumn Leaves.....'? Perhaps it was Johnny Mathis. Anyway, November is a month for remembering, as autumn leaves fall and fireworks go up.

Remembrance Sunday is increasingly poignant with the passing years, not least with the younger generation. I was a 'war baby' nurtured as bombs rained down on our cities, with hazy memories of sirens, searchlights and the roof blasted in onto my parents' bedroom in Twickenham. One of my earliest memories is of snuggling up by our dog in our air-raid shelter. I assumed, I suppose, that this is how people normally slept. What I didn't know was the cost of civilian lives, the cost of lives to our armed forces, that there were young men up there and out there of whom many died in their prime years. 'Lest we forget' is the best reason I know for observing Remembrance Sunday.

'Experience begets memory, memory begets judgement, judgement begets action.' That is how we learn. Memory plays a crucial part. A 'psychopath' cannot remember or learn from experience. God preserve us from becoming a nation of pleasure-bent psychopaths.

At school I had a walk-on part in 'Hamlet'. Which meant I could enjoy the play. I was haunted by the ghost in Act one, fading away over the misty ramparts with his call to Hamlet, pleading "Remember me, remember me..." Introduced from infancy to the liturgy of the Church in the Holy Communion, it took me until my late teens to make the link, via 'Hamlet's Ghost', with my own memoried experience and the plea of Jesus as he faded away from his Last Supper: "Do this in remembrance of me, remember me..."

The words of Jesus, pleading that his friends should remember him, should strike a chord

in our deepest subconscious at every Communion service. If you hear it as "re-member" then it begins to make sense. And is even more moving. "Re-member" means to "re-assemble together" — to "make real again". His broken body literally is "re-membered" as we commemorate his sacrifice, "made real again". This calls for deep reverence and wonder. We don't bow at the Cross as we make a cheery pass-by every Sunday, looking back to Good Friday. We find HIM in the sacrament of broken Body re-membered, in the loving cup of His Blood shed for us, at this point, now, in the Church's liturgy. HE IS RE-MEMBERED.

Week by week we hear his words: "Do this in remembrance of me". Week by week, Eucharist by Eucharist, He is real, bodily with us by our remembering with faith, using our imaginations, being open to His words, bringing our own memories, broken dreams, hopes and fears to His altar for healing.

The lumps of throats, the tears in eyes, on Remembrance Sunday as we commemorate the millions of 'lesser calvaries' of those who died in the wars of this century (and still die — for how can you fail to meet the eyes of Jesus in the dying eyes of the Somalian infant on your TV screen?) can rightly be written off as sentimentalism, a lapse from our normal controlled mode. Such a shame. Pitiful tragedies. Someone ought to do something....

Would that the power of a nation remembering, this November, many through hard experience, would beget judgement, and lead to **action!**

We cannot bring Jesus back from the dead. He could not raise Himself from death. God the Creator raised Jesus and, by our faithful remembrance this and every month, brings Him home to us in our worship. From our worship, we have no choice but to **act**. To say "He

did not die in vain: Good Friday was not the end".

The ranks of little crosses on thousands of war memorial swards this month are not pretty souvenirs. They are echoes of, reflections of, pointers to the Cross of Jesus. As the Reveille sounds out after 11am on Remembrance Sunday, remember too the tears, as we try to hide ours, of St Peter who wept bitterly as he let his Lord go to death without a word of recognition and who was roused to action for the Kingdom of peace and Christ's justice a few days later in the Easter garden. "Reveille!" signals an awakening and a call to action.

The alternative is sloppy romanticism, a collective loss of memory, from which God preserve us in the month of remembering.

They shall grow not old....

Mr Maurice Johnson visited Hedauville Cemetery in the summer where A.G.W. Gibbins, a young man from this parish, lay buried. He found the cemetery on the outskirts of a small, typically French village. On the day he visited a "sense of peace and utter quiet prevailed. The skylarks sang in the blue skies and we felt the young men were at peace. This is the prayer we said, taken from one of the stones.

*Teach us O Lord to live in thy presence
May thy voice encourage us
And thy arm defend us
And thy love surround us — Always"*

OBITUARIES

MRS ANNE HILLIARD

Mrs Hilliard, whose sudden death came as a shattering blow just before the start of the Autumn Term, had taught at Queen Anne's for twenty-two years. Born in Reading, Anne was educated at St Joseph's Convent and Reading University, where her degree was in natural sciences, specialising in psychology. She married Christopher, a naval officer who subsequently became a barrister and, when her two children were growing up, she returned to teaching, coming to Queen Anne's in 1970 from The Abbey where she had taught part-time.

At Queen Anne's she taught Biology and Geography. Miss Burge remembers that after the retirement of the previous Head of Biology, she and Anne turned out quantities of desiccated crayfish and preserved rats' intestines — jars and jars of, in Miss Burge's words, "yukky rubbish", and they, with Anne's young son, Nicholas, buried them outside the west wing door where the fuchsias now grow so well.

In 1986 Anne became second Deputy Head and gave up her Biology teaching. As a natural scientist it was physical geography that was her main interest and she continued to teach this to A level geographers, as well as teaching GCSE geography. Her teaching was lively, as well as enlightening; the school meant a great deal to her, and she was deeply concerned for its well-being and its reputation.

School was an important part of Anne's life, but it was by no means the only part. For some years she was a member of the Berkshire County Council and in recent years she sat as a magistrate on the Reading bench, taking her half day on Wednesday morning for the purpose. She was chair of the governors of her local primary school and a member of the Wax Chandlers livery company and set to become the first woman member of its court. As the wife of a Crown Court Judge (the youngest ever to sit at the Old Bailey), she entertained regularly, with seemingly effortless ease after a full day at school, and after Christopher's sudden death seven years ago, this hospitality was maintained — it was part of her real delight in other people. In recent years Anne travell-

ed extensively: within the last few years she visited Peru, the Galapagos Islands, Egypt, China and Japan to mention only some of her journeys, and it was on her return from a month in South Africa that she died.

What were the qualities in Anne that we shall remember? They seem to me to be so many: to the girls she was an interesting teacher; an always approachable tutor, slow to pass adverse judgement; an eminently sane and reassuringly 'un-petty' Deputy Head who nonetheless upheld the highest standards.

As a colleague she gave immeasurably to our community; a couple of days before her funeral one of our maintenance men spoke to me, with some emotion, about her warmth and interest in all with whom she came in contact. "You felt she really cared about you", he said, and her colleagues would readily testify to that sentiment. Her genuine concern for all of us and our families, and the time and trouble that she took to make newcomers feel at home con-

tributed enormously to the happiness and cohesion of the common room, which was irradiated by her warmth. As a companion, she was fun to be with, and there would always be laughter in plenty. I remember so many happy occasions, from the opera at Covent Garden to supper in country pubs, but especially I remember a splendid party that she arranged for me on my birthday last year (after a long school day) as a complete surprise. I cannot remember ever seeing her anything but calm, balanced in judgment and cheerful; her kindness were manifold. Most of all, her great sense of humour and consequent ability to see things in perspective helped us all in countless times of difficulty.

To live such an active, many-sided life requires great strength and considerable inner resource. Anne found this in the support of her family and in the great delight her grandchildren Naomi and James gave her, but she was also supported by the strength that came from her deep Christian faith; one

of the causes most dear to her was the work of the Gideons and the gift of New Testaments to new girls by the Gideons was arranged by Anne in memory of her husband.

We mourn Anne's loss, but we remember with joy and gratitude her life-enhancing qualities of warmth, concern and humour! Anne lived life to the full and her life, it seems to me, was a celebration of Life itself.

DIA



DAVID LEWIS

David Lewis lived in Emmer Green for 36 years until his death in July at the age of 83. Son of a Welsh miner, a gentle and warm hearted man, he was much respected by neighbours who knew that he had held responsible positions in Government service, but it was not until obituaries recently appeared in the national press that the full extent of his scholarship, experience and service to the country was revealed. This was because he was a very private person who cared little for social advancement and was happiest in the home and garden which he shared with his wife Mary.

He took a first class honours degree in chemistry at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1930 and then followed this with a doctorate. He taught chemistry at the Quakers Yard secondary school in South Wales and then lectured at University College, Cardiff until the outbreak of war in 1939. He was then recruited by the Ministry of Supply Armaments Division and after holding various research posts he became a principal scientific officer at the Research Establishment in 1941. He stayed there until 1947 when he moved to the AWRE at Aldermaston, a senior superintendent in the chemistry division, one of the small team assembled by William Penney to produce nuclear weapons tests in Australia and at Christmas Island.

In 1960 he was chosen to be Government Chemist, a post which he held for 10 years. His skills and enthusiasms made full use of many new developments as he accepted responsibility for research and analysis of chemicals used in industry and safety standards relevant to food and drink. A particular example of his work related to pesticide levels in food and drink. He was a scientific governor of the British Nutrition Foundation, and served as a member of the British National Committee for Chemistry (Royal Society). He was also a member of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission. His valued work in a notably varied career was recognised in 1963 when he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Whilst at Aldermaston he was author of the book "Ultimate Particles of Matter", and in contrast in 1964 he was the author of a volume of romantic poems "Mountain Harvest". In 1970 on his retirement from Government service he was appointed as the first honorary Professorial Fellow of Chemistry at Aberystwyth, and he returned there to lecture from time to time.

David is survived by Mary whom he married in 1959, and by Marilyn, daughter of his first marriage.

B.M.

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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.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mr K. Corrigan, Mr John Mullaney, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel: 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr. M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 472389.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr. H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 36 Auburn Court, Caversham. Tel: 473045.

All contributions for December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 November.

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

The dates for January will be Monday 30 November and Wednesday 2 December.

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

Wedding Photography

by Michael Blackburn

Old photographs reproduced
Passports and Portraits

M. B. Photography

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CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY LUNCH

At the latest Caversham Community Lunch held at Caversham Library, we were pleased to welcome as our speaker Martin Hayles, newly appointed Locality Manager for Reading Central and Caversham at the Social Services Department. He was keen to explain the new structure of the Social Services Department, which has been set up as a response to local need, and involves a total change in the way the Department is organised. Now that the structure is in place, the staff are keen to go into the community to explain what has happened.

Martin started by explaining the new structure of the department, which now divides Berkshire into East and West. Within that, there are three localities covering the Reading area and Martin leads the team for Central Reading and Caversham. Much of the terminology has changed — for example, social workers are now officially called "care managers". The idea is to provide a total care package for each individual with the Care Manager able to purchase services for the client from any sector, be it state, private or voluntary, with the aim of being as flexible as possible.

The main aims in the provision of care were highlighted as

- 1 improved access to the department and its staff
- 2 improved choice in services offered
- 3 more involvement by the community, for example in forming user groups
- 4 serving the customer
- 5 keeping people in their own homes wherever possible.

A lively discussion followed Martin's talk, with many questions and current issues raised and addressed!

This was a very successful meeting, with over thirty community groups and individuals represented. The aim of the community lunch is to enable representatives of local groups to meet together for an exchange of information and the build-up of contacts, as well as to listen to a speaker from a particular field of interest. Some speakers have arranged to visit groups as a result of a talk given in this way. The lunches are organised at present by Caversham Library, and the Librarian, Kathy Munns, would be pleased to hear of any community organisation which at present is not represented on the mailing list for an invitation to future events. She can be contacted at the Library, telephone 472228.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

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The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
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.
St. John's interregnum — all enquiries for baptisms and weddings to Mr. Stephen Cousins (churchwarden) 481679 and funeral enquiries and other pastoral matters to the Rev. T. Lee 312512.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 475152.

BAPTIST

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

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The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

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

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

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

(For Caversham Park Village)

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

LINK GROUP

The Chairman, Anthea Prescott, welcomed the Rev. David Moody to the first meeting of the new session at Pat Jenkins' home where he conducted a House Communion Service.

Members connected with various charities, including SPHERE (for single parents and babies), the Women's Refuge, Family Aid and the Drop-in Centre, gave reports.

Earlier in the year Jill Pitkeighly, from the National Carers' Association, had talked at the Group's open meeting and the interest aroused prompted them to arrange a meeting of representatives in the area involved with housebound and disabled people. The object would be to discuss the possible need of a Crossroads Group in Caversham. Invitations had been sent, and the meeting was planned for 24th October in the Baptist Centre.

In November, the 18th Anniversary of the founding of the Link Group will be celebrated.

Anthea Prescott (478865) or Susie Robinson (478371) are pleased to answer any queries about this ecumenical Group and to welcome new members.

WELL DONE ROTORACT!

Caversham Rotoract contacted Age Concern with a view to giving a day out to a group who would welcome it. This happy lot fell to some 17 residents of Mander Court who experienced the most marvellous outing to Bournemouth on September 27th, which was a beautiful Sunday. About a dozen of these young people (Rotoracts are between 18-29), under the organisation of Jonathan Chinnery provided a coach, a hot lunch at the Exhibition Centre and accompanied the group when they split up for a walk. The residents who took advantage of this splendid day out were so full of praise for these young people, who had devoted time to prepare for it and raised funds to pay for it. Well done!

"Time for Reflection"

Highmoor Hall is known to many readers as a place of beauty where warmth, both physical and spiritual, can be found. It has an extended programme this winter and meetings in the next few weeks include:-

Nov. 3/4 - Prayer & Walking, a 2 day residential retreat

10th - A practical day helping in the garden with a meditation 'Resting in God'

13th - A led quiet day

17th - 'Seasons of Life'

18th - Effective Communication

Dec. 1/2 - 'Jesus, the Light of the World', a 2 day Advent retreat.

More information and booking forms can be obtained from Ann Persson at Highmoor Hall Tel. 0491 641543.

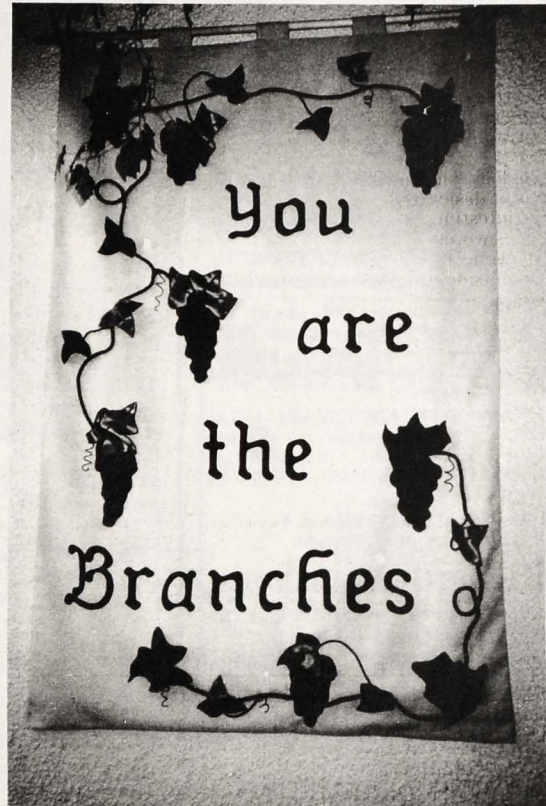
B.M.

The editors would like to thank those contributors who have sent in verse, but would remind all readers that it is a long-standing policy of the Board that copy in verse is not acceptable.



The Vine

A place of
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Listening



It is so appropriate at this time of the year that the fruit of a harvest of talent should be offered to "The Vine" in the form of this beautiful banner. Especially designed to complement the existing stained glass window, which bears the words "I am the True Vine", the banner is the work of the Ladies Banner Group from Caversham Baptist Free Church. "We really enjoyed doing it" said Mrs. Sheila Goldsmith, "and learnt a number of new techniques to give it a three dimensional effect". At least we can be sure that unlike the living vine in the chapel roof these leaves will not fall, and the grapes will not wither.

F.R.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM



Vera Scott

— D. Bennett

Calling All Grandparents

Having just heard the news that Alice Knight (nee Grimwade) has recently given birth to a daughter, Sophy, reminds me to give out with yet another of my appeals. May we please have more news of young people, many of whom were once familiar figures in Caversham, but who may now be living elsewhere. Alice, whom many of us remember as a young schoolgirl, now lives in Bradford with her husband, Andrew, also from Caversham, so our best wishes go to them and to both sets of grandparents. Anne and John, who now live at Cirencester, are just off to visit the latest arrival. Meanwhile we hear that David Grimwade is about to depart on a long visit to friends in the U.S. What memories!

The Card Shop

We should be used to seeing businesses close up but I for one was very sad to see the demise of the card shop on St. Martin's precinct, particularly now when the post office is already warning us of last posting dates for Christmas. When other things failed I could usually find there very attractive calendars (and what more suitable for overseas friends) and other small gifts. Apparently the shop is being taken over as a discount store and the gentleman in Jennings assures me that if it's anything like the one they have in Tilehurst it should be very useful.

Fond Farewells

I'm glad to see some of our readers are making the effort to send in obituary notices. So many of our friends, alas, are leaving us when, as happened recently, they are people who have served our community well, it is wonderful to have the opportunity to say a very big thank-you.

Mavis Hazel

And I've been asked to say that the memorial service recently held at St. Andrew's for Mavis was a very comforting occasion for all concerned. The choir, I'm told, was delightful, and it was good to know that Mavis's ashes were brought back by her sister from South Africa, to the place which she loved so much in her life.

Old Friends

I think I did suggest that if anyone has photographs like the one we recently acquired of the BBC Home Guard (Caversham) it would be nice to have them. At the party, given recently for retired members of the BBC staff not only did we have the pleasure of meeting so

many old friends, but we had a grand time trying to identify the people in the picture, including Mr. Greenwold whose widow, Mary, gave us this photo. Alas, many are no longer with us, but George Smith who still lives locally was able to pick out not only himself but his father. The party did bring together many who have not met for years and many of whom spent, as they said themselves, some of their happiest years in Caversham.

Cats Protection League

I mentioned the name of our local representative in last month's 'Bridge', and I'm now able to tell you that this Rescue Group has finally been able to open a shop, Creature Comforts, in Chatham Street. It will be open from 10-4 from Tuesday to Saturday, and they will be glad of your support. In the meantime if you can supply anything suitable for sale, 133 Mayfield Drive will be happy to accept anything left in the porch.

Books Again

I was pleased to see reviews of new books appropriate to Reading and Caversham in last month's 'Bridge'. I couldn't wait to get a copy of the book about Len Quelch which has also been reviewed in some national publications. It seems to be having a good sale, which shows how keen a lot of people are to read up on local history. And if your tastes turn to something a little more gruesome; there's always a recently published book on Murders in Berkshire. I was interested to see, in connection with a murder committed in 1866, a reference to 'one of the most disreputable parts of the Town', Union Street and the tenement buildings opposite where Sainsbury's supermarket and the shopping mall now stand — I recall a murder which took place in the tenement buildings on the day we moved to Caversham in 1960 — it was the excuse the removal men gave for turning up so late to move us — tho' I'm not quite sure of the connection.

Flower Festivals

On a more cheerful note I must mention the Harvest and Flower Festival at St. Peter's in September. A great deal of work went into this festival which was carried out entirely by local groups under the direction of Vera Scott who is to be congratulated on organising it in the best tradition of her predecessors, some of whom, alas, are no longer able to help us in this way. We hope she won't mind this photograph of herself in action during the preparation for it.

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etc, etc

NOTES FROM NANJING

THE DAWN GARDEN

No 5 IN A SERIES BY HARRIET BAKER

April 30th. We have been visiting two other Gap students in Hangzhou and have had a wonderful four days with them. Alison and Emma are teaching at the Institute of Technology there and their students are between 18 and 22 years of age. They don't seem to know as much English as our younger students do and they are very reluctant to participate in class, so Emma and Alison are finding the lessons very frustrating. I am so lucky with my hilarious and enthusiastic Juniors who cheer and clap when I come into the classroom!

Hangzhou is beautiful. The weather was hot and sunny and we borrowed bikes and rode to Lonjing for "Dragon Well" which is a famous tea growing area. Many women, wearing conical hats and carrying large bamboo baskets on their backs, were picking the young Spring leaves which make the best tea and fetch the highest prices. A friendly young woman "adopted" us and invited us to her home to drink tea. She led us up the hill to the edge of the village to her house where her husband was sitting in the doorway "toasting" the fresh tea leaves in a huge heated metal bowl like a deep Wok. We were given a glass of hot, very green tea which smelled more like vegetable soup but tasted quite nice, and so we bought some of the best leaves. The lady was delighted, I am sure she uses the same tactics for all tourists but she was so friendly and chatty that it didn't matter. And I was delighted to find that I could understand her and reply in Mandarin.

We then whizzed down the hill (no brakes), and up another one to the

Lingjin Temple — a very famous one which was swarming with Chinese tourists, and littered with shops, cafés, and trinket stalls. We were able to watch the 5.00 p.m. service which made the visit worthwhile. The monks used incense, gongs and chanting in the service and prostrated themselves frequently. Opposite the Temple, in the cliff face, there remains one of the few genuinely original historic sights of carved Buddhas, elephants, gods and horses. Zhou Enlai himself issued a special order to save them, and the Temple, from destruction during the Cultural Revolution. But for us the atmosphere of the whole place was ruined by the noisy mobs of jabbering Chinese tourists, queuing up and posing for photos, shouting, pointing and dropping litter.

We had to return to Nanjing at 5.00 a.m. — so my birthday did not begin too well! The 8 hour bus journey was pretty awful in a noisy rattly bus, squashed in behind some heavy smokers but at last we arrived home to the haven of the Dawn Garden and a refreshing bath. And — a huge pile of letters and birthday parcels! Wonderful! We celebrated that evening in our favourite restaurant, the Green Saloon, eating delicious food, drinking beer, and chatting to two American friends.

After all that excitement it's back to the teaching routine again with all its ups and downs. We teach the Engineers daily now, first thing in the morning and it's very hard to think up fresh topics for them. I have just spent 3 lessons talking about the Queen and Royal Family so I think that I have flogged that horse almost into reincarnation.

There is a school trip planned to Yixing — a town on the shore of the big Tai lake, and famous for its "purple clay" pottery. We shall be staying 3 days as there is a festival there — so we shall miss lots of lessons! That sounds terrible, but it's true; we can't wait until the end of June when we can set off on our travels. It must be the hot weather that is making the teaching such uphill work. But we have our "fun" times too — especially when we are relaxing off duty in the Green Saloon. On Easter evening we met 3 very snazzy Chinese chaps there, who were very proud of the fact that they worked for a Coca Cola factory in Sichuan Province. They asked us to invite them to England and then one of them said, on behalf of his boss who couldn't speak English, that were very "preety" and that he was looking for an English wife and was very good at the Abacus! How could we refuse?!



Yixing Tea Plantation — H. Baker



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

TWENTY FIVE YEARS MINISTRY



"For me — really!" Three of the wardens with the Rector

— K.P. Bennett



Elizabeth Pannell with flowers for Angela

— K.P. Bennett



— K.P. Bennett

The Rector with three of the servers who made their own presentation

After the 9.15am service at St. Peter's church on Sunday, 27th September, a presentation was made to the Rev. Canon Richard Kingsbury in recognition of his completion of 25 years as an ordained priest. Members of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's congregations presented him with a new desk for his study and other gifts were made, including a basket of flowers for Angela Kingsbury which was given to her by a junior choir member, Elizabeth Pannell.

Richard was ordained in Newcastle and served in two Tyneside curacies, then Chaplain at King's College, London and Vicar of Hungerford prior to moving to Caversham. Before training at Lincoln Theological College he was an advertising copywriter and then Assistant Information Officer at the International Planned Parenthood Federation. He has served on General Synod and on many Diocesan committees, but outside the parish his first concern is with prisons. He has been on Parole Board, and is the new Chairman of the Diocesan Order and Law Group besides being a Governor of Ripon Theological College and Chairman of the Anglo-Scandinavian Pastoral Conference.

ST. MARGARET'S NEWS

When St. Margaret's celebrated their Harvest Home on Saturday, 3rd October, there was a real village atmosphere in Trench Green Hall — a sense of community. Everyone joined in making it a very happy evening, bringing along plates of wonderful home cooking, dainty flower decorations for the tables and providing their own brand of entertainment after the feast. Thanks go to John Meston who organised everything and to all who helped in any way. It

was good to have Richard and Angela as well as Christine and her family to join in the rejoicing.

Most of us met again the next morning with many more of St. Margaret's congregation for Harvest Thanksgiving. It was also Family Service, so the church was full to overflowing and it was lovely to see so many children. They, too, had helped to decorate the church with a bunch of gaily coloured balloons, on each of which a child had written a little thank you

prayer. There seem to be several budding musicians among these young people for they were very proficient at using bells and shakers to accompany some the church music.

After the service Richard was presented with a brass plaque to go on the desk which was given a week earlier from St. Margaret's and St. Peter's in thanksgiving for his twentyfive years in the Ministry.

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ST JOHN'S
CHURCH

Well we might be in the middle of an interregnum but we are certainly not resting on our laurels. The gardeners have been very diligent and the flowers and shrubs have never looked better. The hedge in the front is slowly recovering from its pruning and the long hedge has been trimmed ready for winter. The more observant will have noticed the scaffolding which is up to reach the bell. The bell was damaged in the famous hurricane and is now to be re-hung and some spring cleaning and maintenance is to happen while the opportunity to reach our upper limits is open. Are you deaf? Hopefully not much longer in St. John's as thanks to extreme generosity of their family a full sound system with loop is to be installed in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Whiteway. Plans are also well advanced for the garden of remembrance which will enable ashes to be interred and will also contain a work by a local sculptor.

Many hands are very busy preparing for the Autumn Bazaar on Saturday November 7th — Lots of Christmas goodies will be on sale.

November 22nd will see another Requiem which Len David, the Choir, and friends have been working on. It will be held in St. John's at 6.30 p.m. — any names for commemoration will be gladly received by Stephen Cousins or Ann Deane (473798).

ST. JOHN'S
MOTHER'S UNION

The summer meetings were all held in the church this year and were well attended. Informal talk and relaxation is the order of these meetings with a competition, raffle and sales table. The rose competition was particularly successful despite the torrential rain in the days prior to the meeting with 28 roses on display and a very apt poem by Frank Topping.

We are collecting old hand sewing machines for some young people in a developing country so that they may learn a trade. Twelve have already been sent and so gratefully received that Deanery officials have received a jumper made on one of the knitting machines sent that bore the mother's union badge. We also need any sewing materials that can be used — needles, pins, tapes, cottons, lightweight material, knitting needles, crochet hooks — in fact any useful item that can be packed in the crates used for the machines' transport. Mrs Anne Deane (473798) will gladly collect items as will members at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's.

It has been a very busy year celebrating our Fifty years service and much of our work can now be seen. Still to come are our Kneelers — Two Mother's Union ones for the Lady Chapel use and a pair of wedding kneelers for our Marriage services. We had hoped to make these our Harvest Gift but as we could not find a priest to take the service, these and our new admissions have to wait a little longer.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEW VICAR FOR ST. JOHN'S CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

The Revd Stephen Rowe will be Instituted as Vicar of St. John's Caversham on 23 January 1993 at 2.30 pm. St. John's parishioners and colleague parishes in the Caversham Group Ministry will rejoice as a new chapter of ministry unfolds and we look forward to welcoming the Rowes as close friends.

Stephen was born into vicarage life in Coventry. His degree course was in Religion and Philosophy and Geography. He served with Missions to Seamen in Mombasa, Kenya, before entering Ripon College, Cuddesdon, where he met Christine.

Christine, also a clergy child, has always lived in Oxford Diocese except for her service overseas as a qualified teacher in Pakistan on missionary work. She married Stephen a term before their Ordination as Deacons.

The Rowes served as assistant curates at Denham, then moved to Aylesbury where Stephen was Team Vicar at St Peter's and Christine Parish Deacon at St Mary's town centre church. They now look forward to working together again as a partnership at St John's.

They have two children. Hannah is 5, Lucy is 3, and they will win many hearts at local schools and in the parish. Stephen will be Vicar, Christine will be Licensed as Parish Deacon.



Christine and Stephen Rowe, with Hannah and Lucy
— Courtesy Bucks Herald

They respond to this important appointment: "St. John's is clearly a lively and active parish." Stephen adds: "I look forward to serving as your Vicar. To be part of a group ministry is crucial, as we can learn, share and support each other in the building up of the Kingdom. For us all, 1993 promises to be an exciting year!"

Caversham looks forward to seeing the Rowes and wishes them well as they prepare to join us.

The advertisement in Caversham Bridge, poster displays, reminders in church notices and memories of open-air services on the first Sunday in September in previous years brought a large congregation to St Peter's Church on Sunday 6th September at 3pm. It was a fairly wet day but we hope next year to be able to continue our tradition of praising God in the open-air.

Six rousing hymns both ancient and modern were underpinned by prayer. Knowledge of our faith was extended by Mannafeast, a drama group from Christchurch, Woodley and in an address by the Rev Tom Stuckey, Methodist Superintendent Minister for Reading. The drama conveyed the thoughts of the crew of a space ship from outer space on coming into contact with local problems within our own church communities.

The Rev Tom Stuckey drew our attention to the need to make the best use of the time we all have at our disposal — time which accelerates faster as each of us journeys through life. The twin concepts of place and time really to put the individual in his or her place in God's Scheme for His universe.

During the coming months our churches will be involved in a wide range of activities. Here are some of the things they will be doing together — detailed publicity will be given through individual churches:

- Talk — The Church in Europe November 1992
- Carol Service December 1992
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 1992
- Crossroads — coordinating help for carers of sick and elderly
- Homelessness — taking part in national campaign to awaken the nation.

"OUR FIRST CAR BOOT SALE"



— E.S. Archer

Although the Sale was timed to begin at 10am, pitch holders were there at 8.30am with customers arriving soon after, making offers to purchase before the goods could be got on display.

There was an air of busy enthusiasm as the first twelve cars arrived to claim their pitch at £5 a go. The church also had a stall selling a variety of goods and raising £17, whilst another stall was selling some of the effects of the late Kay Solly, making a further £61, producing a grand net profit of £137 for the Roof and Organ Fund.

The event, our first attempt, was voted a great success by all present. The Men of St. Andrew's, who were the organisers agreed with the suggestion that it should become a regular three-monthly Saturday occasion.

Rodney Oliver

BAZAARAID

Each year the Caversham Heights Methodist Church devotes the proceeds of its Christmas Bazaar to a charitable cause, either overseas or in the United Kingdom. In 1991 the proceeds, amounting to over £1,700, went to the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India. The previous year the takings were shared between three projects in Africa — planting trees in Ghana, new ways of growing vegetables in South African townships and Christian lay training in the Ivory Coast.

There are, however, needy people in this country as well as in India and Africa, so the proceeds this year will be given to 'Mission

Alongside the Poor', the Methodist equivalent of the Anglican Church's Urban Fund. Mission Alongside the Poor supports Methodist Church work in deprived areas. Some churches bid for its resources to enable them to adapt their premises so that they may serve better the people in the neighbourhood: others are enabled to employ a necessary community or youth worker.

Please help us to help them by coming to the Bazaar in the Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham, on Saturday 14th November. The doors open at 2.30 pm.

CHURCHWOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

We hear sometimes about CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM. Did you know that there is a movement for combined meetings of the ladies of the various churches? They come from Mothers' Unions, Wives' Groups, Women's Network, sewing groups or whatever they each call it, (I knew of one church — not local — which called it Women's Quiet Hour, much to the merriment, not to say ribaldry, of the male members of the church,) and have been meeting regularly in each other's churches for the last three years. They meet for discussions, talks, services, entertainment etc. always followed, of course, by a cup of tea.

Eighteen months ago, at a meeting about making banners, several women indicated that they would like their own banner to complement the CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM banner which is always displayed at the open-air ecumenical service each summer. As a result, the banner for CHURCHWOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM was designed, incorporating some of the symbols which are common to all the Christian groups, together with the "Churches Together in Caversham" logo. All the church groups were approached to see if any of their members were able to contribute their skills and each symbol was made by a different lady using any method of portrayal she preferred.

This banner, displayed at this year's ecumenical service, held under cover in St Peter's Church because of the weather, shows how the women of the Caversham churches can co-operate.

At the moment the banner is displayed in Caversham Heights Methodist Church because they will host the next meeting on 12th November at 2.30. Thereafter it will be held by the next church to hold a meeting of the Churchwomen Together.



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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

LAST STAND ON BUGS BOTTOM

With the road junctions on either side of the valley having received planning permission, there is nothing except the financial position of the building construction industry to stand in the way of Higgs and Hill starting work, first on the road layouts, then on the landscaping, before going on to the actual houses. They do not even have to carry out the road schemes on the Emmer Green side of the valley before starting, having succeeded in being granted a relaxation of that condition.

The road schemes for both sides of the valley fall short of the standards that should be applied (on the Kidmore Road side there is, for instance, no footway on one side of the road) but road planners argue that they are the best that can be produced given the existing road patterns.

Is it unfair to discern here a feeling that Higgs and Hill having won anyhow, might just as well be given what they ask for as long as it is not too flagrant? After all they are always nice and polite. Those who have been campaigning against these plans for many years may recognise that they now have to get the best they can for the site if building goes ahead, but they are not prepared to support any relaxation of conditions already laid down.

BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS

During the closure of the Valbonne Night Club, residents in the locality were relieved of the worst excesses of late night anti-social parking in their streets. A condition of the planning consent, which was never enforced, was that all parking should be in the public car parks. It was alleged that the illegal parking was caused as much by clients of other establishments in the area, which did not stand up very well, in the way that it is always worse on club nights, and has been noticeably better since the club closed.

The club itself seemed to be as well run as

such an establishment can be, and the owners certainly look after the once derelict building which they occupy. If their planning permission is to be renewed, they really must exercise better control over their clients' parking habits than was previously the case. Parking restrictions must be imposed and action taken if they are infringed. In too many cases across the borough people are being allowed to get away with ignoring what they regard as feeble planning conditions.

CHAZEY WOOD

The temporary planning permission for paint ball games in Chazey Wood having expired, the Mapledurham Estate has applied for a continuance of use, with an extension of the period to half an hour before sunset, instead of the present five p.m. It is difficult to find anyone who actually likes the idea of war games in a Chilterns wood, though this particular set seems not to have been the subject of complaint beyond the fact of being there at all. However, the estate is perhaps pushing its luck in asking for an extension as well as a continuation. The idea of incongruous noise and activity in the woods on a still summer's evening is particularly unattractive.

What will happen now is complicated by a decision on an appeal to the Department of the Environment by the Open Spaces Society that the footpath through Chazey Woods be designated a public footpath. The furore caused when this was closed back in 1973 has never died away. Plenty of people could be found who had been in the custom of using it for as long as fifty years, let alone the twenty required to establish the right of public use. Mapledurham Estate disputed this, saying that the path was only an extraction ride never shown on maps as a public right of way. The Secretary of State now says he is satisfied that a sufficient number of people

used the path openly and as of right for an uninterrupted period of twenty years to establish a presumption of dedication under Section 31 of the Highways Act of 1980 and hence to justify making an order.

So, on exercising your right to walk, once more if you are older, for the first time if you are younger, through Chazey Wood, it would be as well to keep a wary eye open if you are there on one of the 120 days on which paint ball games are permitted, as it is a moot point, still to be settled, as to who is responsible for the dry cleaning bill if a paint ball lands on you.

A MUSEUM PIECE

The Caversham Court Gazebo has stood in a corner of the gardens for well over three centuries, and for the last part of that period has been slowly mouldering away, neglected if not unloved. It is listed on account of its age and being the only one left on the Thames, and it belongs to the Borough Council who have a statutory duty to repair it, which they choose not to exercise, though they also have a statutory duty to require owners of listed buildings to carry out necessary repairs on them. Year after year they plead poverty, an excuse they are not required to accept in the case of other owners of listed buildings.

Now a bright idea has suddenly surfaced. Why not give it to the Chiltern Open Air Museum who were the recipients of the Victorian ironwork loos which once stood beside Caversham Bridge and on which they have done such a good job? Is this though the place for a riverside Gazebo? The loos are still fulfilling their original function, but the Gazebo's home is in Caversham Court beside the river, and that is where it should stay. The cost of dismantling, transporting and re-building it would go a long way towards repairing it — but perhaps the Borough Council thinks that would fall on someone else.

If the Gazebo cannot in the present climate of spending be properly restored, it should at least be made weather-proof so that it does not fall down before a more far seeing generation is prepared to give it more detailed treatment.

SAVING SWANS

The bunting on Caversham Bridge is not there for an out of season regatta, but as a lifeline for swans, several of whom have come to grief by misjudging their height as they fly over the bridge and hitting high sided vehicles. Sometimes they take the roadway for water in wet weather and land amongst the traffic, unable to take off again without assistance. The coloured rows of bunting are designed to attract their eyes and give them guidance as they take off to fly, mainly upstream.

The scheme was launched at a gathering held at the Caversham Hotel where the management has always been supportive of the charity Swan Life Line, whose hard-working volunteers have done so much to save the mute swans from needless death and injury.

This charity looked at the problem and possible solutions to it. Berkshire County Council, as the authority responsible for the Bridge, expressed a willingness to carry out the scheme but it was funded in the main by Safeway Stores plc, who have made what it is hoped is a safe way (!) for the swans across the bridge.

Details of Swan Lifeline membership can be obtained from its membership Secretary, 1 Markway House, Lower Hampton Road, Sunbury on Thames,

Middx., TW16 5PN (0932) 761176.

However, if you see a swan in distress the Number to ring is (0753) 575894, remembering to give full details, including your own name and address, if an answering service is in operation.

PEDESTRIANISATION

A correspondent in last month's issue of this newspaper appeared to think I had misinterpreted the wish for pedestrianisation. Whilst I would dispute this, certain problems have become apparent now the scheme is in operation. Some of these have already been dealt with. Meanwhile, as the six month trial period draws to an end, it is important that anyone who has experienced real difficulty should write to the Pedestrianisation Team at the Civic Offices explaining the problem.

SHEILA CLIFTON

Few of Sheila Clifton's friends were able to attend her funeral service at Cheltenham, coming as it did in the middle of the holiday period. In order to give an opportunity for her friends to gather together in her memory, a shrub will be planted in Caverham Court at 2.30 p.m. on the afternoon of Saturday 21st November.

If anyone would like to make a small contribution to this, with money left over to go to one of the children's charities Sheila would have supported, it can be paid into the Sheila Clifton Memorial Account at the Church Road branch of Barclay's Bank, or left with Annette Hendrey at 25 Blenheim Road, or Molly Casey at 14 Albert Road.

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 5th December
2.30 p.m.

St. Barnabas' Church Hall
Grove Road, Emmer Green

NEW HEAD TEACHER FOR ST. MARTIN'S R.C. SCHOOL.



Mrs. Helen Fletcher

— E.S. Archer

Our best wishes to Mrs. Helen Fletcher, who is the new Head Teacher at St. Martin's R.C. School, Caversham Park Village.

Mrs. Fletcher, who has lived in Caversham with her husband and two teenage children for the last nine years, is no stranger to St. Martin's, having previously taught there for a short period. She has also taught in Canada, Caversham Primary School and latterly has been acting Head Teacher at English Martyrs R.C. School in Tilehurst.

AUTUMN REMINISCENCES

The onset of winter's chill and foreshortened daylight hours gives one the opportunity to reflect upon times past.

Way back in the early 1950's, through an mutual 'exchange' of interests, I was introduced to the pleasure of watching birds, both locally and farther afield.

In innocence, I found myself as a complete, but very privileged novice, being invited to the North Norfolk coast, renowned for its rarities, by a young, but very talented group of Midland-based bird-watchers, one of whom was later to become a well-known bird artist.

The autumnal 'gravitation' to Norfolk was undertaken by 'hard' birders and eminent ornithologists alike, including the then teen-aged, Mr. Bill Oddie. The term 'Twitcher' was unknown, but unquestionably, my own group fully appreciated the rarity potential as well as the regular migrants.

It was from one of them, whose 'vademecum' was the Meteorological Handbook, that I learned the significance of weather-systems with relevance to bird movements, which later moved me to an 'In depth' study of Meteorology.

Each night, once our daily diary of bird sightings had been completed, (often 'Burning the midnight-oil!'), George would add his own important contribution of a weather-forecast, upon which we based our following day's itinerary.

The thrill and excitement of learning so much about birds, at first hand, in the company of such highly knowledgeable bird-watchers, and 'Eating and sleeping Ornithology' with them over a period of several years, will forever be remembered.

Even to this day, their conclusive methods by which certain species could be identified, I have yet to read in any Field-guide.

We would always stay with the late warden of Blakeney Point, Mr. Ted Eales, O.B.E., and his family, either in his home at Morston, or actually in the Tea-house/Look-out post, on the Point.

On his world-wide travels for Anglian Television, he made numerous films, as far afield as Gan in the Indian Ocean, and the Falklands, and headed the Survival Team for many years.

Occasionally, Prince Philip would land his helicopter, quickly and quietly, on the extremities of Blakeney Point, and Ted would show him any 'Latest arrivals', and his thriving tern colony. In those days, Ted's hard work and long hours of unstinting service for the National Trust, made the Blakeney Point tern colony one of the largest in Britain.

Sitting with him at breakfast one morning on the Point, I drew his attention to a Tree Creeper which had landed on his radio-telephone pole. Instantly, he became a blur of activity; grabbing his movie-camera, he photographed it through the open window. He then advised me that it was a 'First' for that species on the Point!

Thus it is in humble and reverent memory of such fine people and places, that I can make no excuse for sharing with others, a little of the essence of those wonderful, early years, be it in writing or in re-visiting 'Old haunts'.
"SCOPS OWL"

Caversham Theatre's next production, Turgenev's "A Month in the Country" will take place at St. Anne's Parish Hall, Washington Road, on 4, 5 and 7 November at 7.30pm Tickets, at £3.50, including refreshments (Concessions £2.50) from the Caversham Bookshop or by telephone from 477372 or at the door.

B.M.

WATERWAYS OF READING

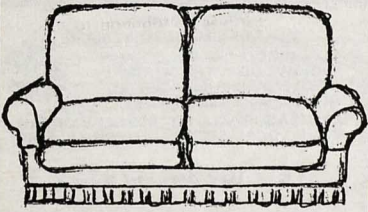
Gordon Spring, a resident of Emmer Green for many years, was employed as a Civil Engineer in the offices of Reading Corporation until his retirement in 1965.

His responsibilities included care of the waterways which pass through the town centre and safety of bridges. From a wealth of experience gained over forty years he has written a series of papers on the subject of the Waterways of Reading, in particular the Holybrook. These papers were first printed in a technical journal, but have now been published in booklet form and entitled "Casual Ramblings Concerning the Waterways of Early Reading and For Those in Peril on the Canal".

The booklet tells many interesting stories of the waterways, both covered and open, in the centre of Reading and copies are on sale at the Caversham Bookshop, price £3.00

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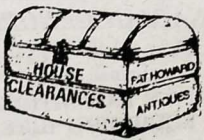
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Caversham W.I.

Owls, badgers and foxes were the subject of a fascinating talk by Mr David Chandler, a local naturalist. The talk was accompanied by a series of beautiful slides, mostly photographed in the local beauty spot, Bugs Bottom.

The competition was for a decorated egg. Arrangements were made for the W.I. Christmas Bazaar on November 28th.

Caversham Horticultural Society

On Friday 6th November, at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road, Caversham, Mr & Mrs Reg Henley will be giving a talk at 7.30 pm titled "WATER GARDENING"

The Henley's, of Wychwood Carp Farm, Odiham, have the largest collection of Water Lilies in the country, totalling nearly two hundred. They are the only people in England who hybridise and sell seed world wide. Their talk will cover the entire spectrum of water gardening.

Members and all those interested in this subject are invited to join the Society at this talk or by application to the Membership Secretary, Miss Sheila Bryant, 9 Hemdean Rise, Caversham, tel. 0734-473441.

Sue Ryder Support Group Caversham

Sincere thanks to everybody who bought and had a go at the Euro-quiz. Despite the truly awful weather for every one of our events this year £180 was made for the Home at Nettlebed from the quiz. Congratulations to the winners who look like they are trying to create records and make us do it all again next year! Those of you with long memories will remember that last year Miss Jansen and Mr. Bentley reached equal marks but Mr. Bentley won on the draw of the lot so this year it seems

almost fate that Miss Mary Jansen should be our worthy winner with 45 marks, but running her a very close second was Mr. C. Bentley with 44½. Both these clever people come from Caversham but the third place with 40½ went to Mrs. D. Murphy-Grumbar of Richmond, Surrey. We had one "Lucky-Dip" winner and that was Mr. P. South also from Caversham. Special thanks to Miss Gwyneth Wolters who puts all the hard work into these quizzes.

Christmas cards are with us again and ready for sale — they will be available on October 31st at the Arthur Legge Centre when Caversham Community Association have their Fair and also at the Mayor's Market on November 26th where you will find us with a stall.

We would like to thank all the people who give us saleable goods through the year and again despite the truly terrible weather we managed to have a very good day at the Reading and Wokingham show with a tombola realising over £200 and all the fun of a tow behind a tractor to escape the mud!

Any enquiries about cards or quiz answers can be had from Mrs. Ann Deane 473798.

Finally we would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs Avril Ormsby following the recent loss of her husband. Many of you will remember Avril as the

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first Matron of the home at Nettlebed as indeed you will have known Tony Ormsby as the first House Governor.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomens Guild

Guild members have had a very busy Summer. Our very interesting speakers have included Mr. Morris who told us all about the history of Marlow with excellent slides and a promise to give members a guided tour when people felt fit! Also Mr. Kay who made us feel very inadequate when he showed us what disabled people could do with a tall sailing ship given the opportunity — everything it seems but get a wheelchair up a mast!

Amazingly we managed to find a glorious sunny day for the garden party and members were hunting for a shade and trying to stop chocolate and ice-cream from melting.

Members also followed up an excellent talk by a park ranger by going with her on a visit to Caversham Court and seeing all the good work that they have been trying to achieve there despite vandalism. Miss Tina Gower is so enthusiastic about her work that she inspires everybody to have a go at something and she has set us thinking about a tree dressing project.

Lunch at the Sewage works? An offer far too intriguing to miss! In fact the sewage works were having an open day to advertise their new smell-free plant. The "Whitley Whiff" should be a thing of the past if the amount of money spent is anything to go by. Several thousands were spent replacing pipes that were worn out and thought to be the cause but to no avail, the problem was much bigger and needed total overhaul. The plant has now had a four million face-lift and is considerably sweeter for the trouble. M4 travellers may also smell sweeter air when similar work is done on the Slough plant.

Coffee mornings have provided the time for much needed gossip and a proper piece of socialising as well as raising much needed funds.

Our next meeting will be held on the Third Thursday in November when the speaker will be Mr. Taylor speaking about Kenya. We meet in Church House at 2 p.m. Visitors are very welcome.

Members have also been busy with their sewing machines making shoe bags for the Hill School parents association to sell in

their uniform shop. This was a project that came from suggestions of a community nature for the Queen's Jubilee year celebrations.

The Jubilee Club Mapledurham

Nineteen ninety two is now drawing to its close and the Jubilee Club has had a good year. Membership has stayed much the same in this happy little club but they have welcomed Shirley Hartley-Booth as a new helper and are most glad to have her with them.

The usual slide shows and talks have filled the winter months, also a musical afternoon. Fund raising has produced excellent results so some of the money raised will be spent to take people out next summer. This year there were four day or half-day trips including an afternoon on the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The year will be rounded off with a visit to The Mill at Sonning for a Christmas lunch and Old Time Music Hall.

In November the club is holding its usual Open Afternoon with a couple of stalls and teas, so please, do come

along to Trench Green Hall around two o'clock on Monday November 9th if you would like to meet members. They will be delighted to see you.

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs Jane Stockill welcomed members and three visitors to the September meeting. All then kept a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Denning who died recently.

During the August break Mrs Hooper had a garden party at her home, on the 5th, when she and her husband welcomed everyone to see their lovely garden, with competitions, raffle and sales table. Two weeks later Mrs Weller had a coffee morning at her home.

Mrs S. Rixon gave her talk "The History of Dolls", showing a very large collection she has made over the years and giving the history of each one. There was an exhibition table of old dolls, which could not compete with Mrs Rixon's, some of which were as old as the Boer War, The Great War and

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the
CLUBS

from page 10

so on to modern times, most in very good condition.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to members returning after the summer break. It was nice to see so many attending and she hoped they had enjoyed the holiday, although the weather had not been very kind. Club business was soon dispensed with, and Mrs Harwood then reminded members of their afternoon mystery tour on September 24th, leaving at 12.00 noon from the usual stop in Hemdean Road.

The collecting box for the Sue Ryder Home had been picked up by a representative of their committee, and a letter thanking all the members for their generous contributions

sent to the Ladies Club. The grand sum of £26.98 had been in the box. An new one is already "jingling" thanks to the Club members present.

It was now time for the main event of the afternoon, the selling of the lovely show of harvest goods which members had so generously brought along. The sale as usual was in the capable hands of the Club's own "Resident Auctioneer", Mrs Brenda Strong, and amidst a happy, lively atmosphere the tables were soon emptied, just in time for the very welcome refreshments. A most enjoyable afternoon, members said at closure of the meeting.

Caversham Heights TG

Out of her wealth of experience in encouraging plants to grow, and backed by a stock of plants and bulbs, Mrs Pat Snow gave an interesting talk at the main

meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild recently in St. Andrew's Hall.

She said that bulbs that have been specially prepared for early flowering can be placed in 3½" pots which are half filled with bulb fibre or compost. A point to remember. Do not rub your eyes if you have handled these bulbs as irritation can set in. A newcomer to flying, Mrs Snow has recently flown to the Trossachs to see the heathers there.

Multiple sclerosis, formerly known as disseminated sclerosis, is an, as yet, incurable and sometimes unpredictable disease, affecting the central nervous system. At social studies members learnt that the disease can lead to physical disability of varying severity.

Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis (ARMS) is a national charity funding research into both cure for and management of the condition. The Reading ARMS centre is in Patrick Road, Caversham.

Two sufferers who help there voluntarily were introduced by a former TG member who gives part-time help. They explained how oxygen therapy, nutritional information and exercise have helped them to recover from some of the symptoms of the disease, and to live more normal lives. In this way stress, the worst enemy, is kept at bay. A collection was made towards the cost of the centre and need for research.

Muriel Holloway's coffee evening in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children raised £185, members were told.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

In August the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held a Garden Party in Mrs E. Weaver's large garden at which members and friends enjoyed trying their skills at the stalls, taking refreshments and spending their money at the Dutch Auction.

For the Arts and Crafts July meeting Mrs E. Barnes demonstrated flower arranging for beginners. She made it

look so easy, assembling a table arrangement and a large pedestal and everyone was able to make their own to take home. Mrs P. Ridley gave an interesting talk to the Words and Music group on Victorian Cookery books which she illustrated with books from her own collection.

Members of the Rambling Section went on several walks around the Ridgeway, Cockpole Green and Hambleton. There was also a ride in a horse drawn cart around Nettlebed and lunch at the "King William" at Hailey.

At the September meeting Mr Martyn Allies gave a talk and slide show explaining the Düsseldorf link, which was started by Mrs Phoebe Cusden (Mayor of Reading) and Major-General "Jack" Collins sending parcels of food, toys and clothing to the children of Düsseldorf. Six undernourished children came to Reading for three months, then the following year thirty more were guests of Reading. In 1949 Düsseldorf had recovered sufficiently to invite children from Reading and so the link started to grow with other groups, of sports, and youth orchestra and the camera club. To mark the thirtieth Anniversary Düsseldorf sent a sum of money to Reading and a sculptured relief of "the cartwheeling boy" can now be seen outside the Civic Centre, a permanent reminder of this link.

Caversham Community Association

The annual Arts and Crafts evening on the 7th September gave the members the chance to display their varied talents. The judges were welcomed, Mrs. Ann Haggerty for flower arranging, Mrs. Hazel Blackburn for photography, Mrs. Brenda Cowen for knitting and craftwork and Mrs. Kate Maitland for cookery. First prizewinners were as follows:

- Flower Arranging:-**
General — Wendy Colton.
Jam Jar — Ann Wright.
Miniature — Beryl Latcham.
Flower with foliage — Maida Feast.
Photography:-
Animal — Beryl Latcham.
View — Joyce Roddy.
Portrait — Betty Petherbridge.
Humorous — Freda Haines.
Knitting:-
Child's garment — Jean Hutton.
Adult garment — Betty Petherbridge.
Soft toy — Joyce Roddy
General Art:-
Wendy Colton.

Men's Class:-
George Feast.

- Cookery:-**
Sausage Rolls — Maida Feast.
Victoria Sponge — Evelyn Cook.
Biscuits — Maida Feast.
Rock Cakes — Maida Feast.

Ann Wright was awarded the Joe Rampton cup and also the Muriel Rampton cup for her jam jar flower arrangement.

The following week Rodney Hayward S.B., of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, was the visiting speaker. Mr. Hayward gave a short history of the origin of the brigade from its early start as a pilgrims' hospice in the Holy Land in 400 A.D. The well known uniform, as first worn on parade at Queens Victoria's jubilee, appears at many functions today from football matches to theatres etc. Members rely on donations, and the reimbursement of the costs of equipment used at events where their services are requested, to continue their work. Mr. Hayward, who is Divisional Superintendent of Reading Town Division of the Brigade, said that his group will celebrate their 100 year anniversary next year and plan many functions for the public. After refreshments the members were given good advice on first aid, especially for accidents or illness in the home, and how to keep patients alive until the doctor arrives. At the conclusion of his talk, Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked Mr. Hayward for his interesting and informative talk.

The Harvest supper is always a popular event at the club and there was a good attendance on the 21st September to welcome Victor Porter and his wife from Caversham Hill Chapel. Mr. Porter delivered the address and described how the corn was gathered when he was young. He read the parable of the wheat and tares from Matthew, chapter 13, verses 24-30, 36-43, and gave thanks for the good food on the tables and the harvest gifts brought by the members. Mr. Porter said a prayer for the many people suffering from hunger in the world today, before saying grace and leading the members in the harvest hymns. The delicious supper of tasty sandwiches, scones and jam, followed by apple pie and cream was appreciated by all. The Chairman thanked everyone who had prepared the meal and decorated the tables. The harvest gifts were then auctioned on behalf of club funds.

The month's activities ended with a quiz evening on January 28th. The winners of the quizzes and competitions were awarded prizes for their efforts.

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