

GUIDING GOES ON



The barrow boat well in construction.

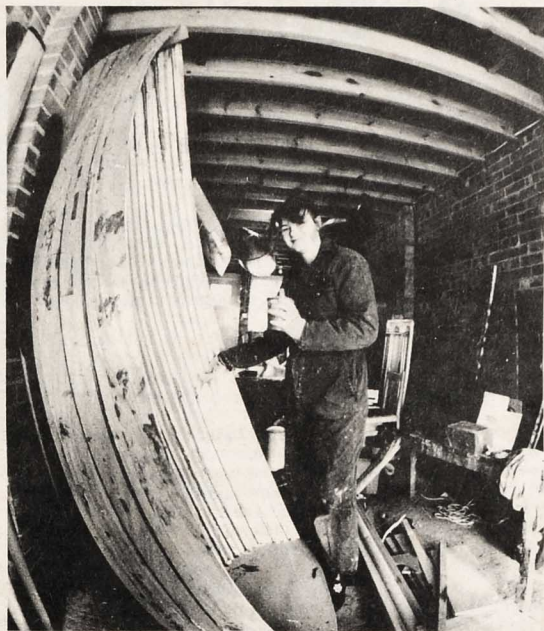
Reading Abbey Division (R.S. ACHILLES) Ranger Guide Unit

In October 1991, the Ranger Guides' boathouse suffered an arson attack and canoes, dinghies, equipment and the boathouse were lost. The two rowing dinghies were unique, which meant it was not possible to buy replacements, so the Unit decided to build their own. Several Rangers visited the Boat Show at Earls Court and decided that a kit boat from the Barrow Boat Company would suit the purpose. (These boats can have a wheel attached to the keel so that they may be wheeled along on dry land, hence the name). Boatbuilding is one option from the "skills" section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and two Rangers decided that building the boat would therefore fulfill a quarter of their Silver Award and provide the Unit with a new boat.

Spring, summer and autumn have passed and much sawing, glueing, sanding and painting has been done so that the boat was ready to be named officially by the Division Commissioner, Mrs. Cynthia Simmonds on Friday, 27th November, where it was the "special attraction" of the open evening for prospective members and their parents. The name is "Phoenix". She was then launched in the Thames from the riverside plot on 29th November and taken for a row by her builders.

Membership is open to any young woman aged between 14 and 25 and there are some vacancies, so if anyone would like information on the activities, which do include many dry-land pursuits such as rock climbing and camping, please contact Mrs. Jeffery, c/o Church House, Church Street Caversham.

Guiding does still go on and the photographs above prove what a varied and interesting time can be had! Guiders are still badly needed at all levels and if you could spare a little time for this rewarding work, please contact Miss Caroline Croft, c/o Church House, Church Street, Caversham, or phone her during working hours on Reading (0734) 578587.



The barrow boat.



1st Emmer Green Guides at Foxlease, Lyndhurst.

KEEP SUNDAY SPECIAL

Ray Powell, M.P. came third in the Private Members' Ballot and as he is a strong supporter of the Rest Proposals put forward by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign, he introduced a bill — the Shops Amendment Bill — on 12th June 1992. The second reading is due to take place on January 22nd 1993. Provided at least 100 M.P.s who support the Bill are present, there will be a vote.

The following is an extract from a letter by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign asking for action by all those who wish to keep Sunday as free as possible from Sunday trading:

"If the Bill wins a clear majority, it is almost certain to become the basis for new legislation: the anomalies and confusions of the 1950 Shops Act would be removed, whilst our Sunday would be kept special for rest, family, recreation and worship.

If the Bill is outvoted, we are faced with dire prospects: The Government's commitment to a positive reform of the law will weaken in view of the apparent lack of consensus; nothing will be done; more and more shops will be forced to open illegally on Sundays to protect their market share.

By Christmas 1993, we could be in a situation of widespread Sunday opening — by which stage it would be extremely difficult to go back to limited opening!

THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE AND THE FUTURE OF OUR SUNDAYS PARTLY DEPENDS ON YOU.

We need you to write to and visit your M.P. and urge him/her to be present on the day and to vote for the Bill. Please also encourage others to do so. At the end of the day, it will probably be the number of letters and visits received from constituents which will have the most impact on your M.P.!"

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

D/EX 1758/30/1

TALKING POINT

by

John Madeley

Lay Reader at St. Peter's



THE CHURCH AND 1993

One of the reasons why I am glad that the Church of England has finally decided to approve legislation that will permit the ordination of women to the priesthood, is that we can now put this issue behind us and turn to the many urgent issues that call out for the Christian voice.

Certainly the issue aroused intense interest. In my own postbag I heard from 1022 people, of whom 972 were in favour, and 50 people against. In other words, over 90 per cent of those who wrote to me were in favour.

My experience also is that the vast majority of people outside the Church — the people that we exist for — are in favour of the change. I believe that the church with a priesthood of both men and women will be better able to win souls for Christ and to speak out with conviction against injustices in society. For the Church cannot preach against injustices in society if we have injustice in our own structures.

I know of course that the issue has created divisions and that the Synod decision is causing pain for some. I could do no better than to quote the Archbishop of Canterbury who said after the vote: "God's goodness and God's grace are greater than all our divisions. Now is the moment to go forward together".

It is in that spirit that we enter 1993. We now have the opportunity to devote more of our energies to the decade of evangelism and to a world crying out for the Christian message in so many ways — a world of growing nationalism and ethnic-religious conflicts, a world of more hunger and refugees, a world desperate for the healing and reconciliation that Christ offers.

The "ethnic cleansing" that happened in Bosnia in 1992, the racial killings in Germany, the growing number of refugees tramping the world's streets, must wound the heart of our Lord and Saviour. The continuing problem of gross poverty, of 40,000 children dying every day from poverty-related disease (the equivalent of a jumbo-jet crashing every 15 minutes of the day, every day, with the loss of everyone on board) is a scandal that cries out for more concerted action by Christians individually and by the Churches together.

1993 — "indigenous peoples" year

But I want especially to mention an issue which has not received the publicity that it deserves. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1993 "The International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples". It is, I believe, a year for us to open our eyes, to understand and to act in Christian solidarity with the 300 million indigenous people around the world.

Again to refer to something that happened in 1992. Five hundred years after European colonialists began their brutal conquest of the Americas, sections of the mass media tried to glamorise this conquest by playing up the widespread myth that Christopher Columbus "discovered" America. The violence and brutality to which indigenous American groups were subjected 500 years ago were largely hidden from the world. Today the brutality goes on but is under-reported and little known.

A report published by Amnesty International, to coincide with the anniversary of the 1492 landing, says that while "mass killings of indigenous peoples may have reduced in scale over the past 500 years, they have never stopped". The report gave details of hundreds of cases of murder, torture, disappearance and rape by members of state forces, hired assassins and other groups.

While indigenous peoples of south and central America — over 60 million — continue to bear some of the heaviest burdens, another 240 million indigenous peoples live in around 50 countries in other continents, from the Arctic regions to Australia. They rank among the poorest and most disadvantaged people on Earth. The special relationship they have with their land is often threatened by the demands of outsiders for living space, food and resources.

The special "year" was requested by indigenous organisations who now want to communicate their concerns to the wider world. Through the special year the whole United Nations system has taken up the challenge of communicating to others about the needs of this oppressed minority.

If all of us now take up the challenge of understanding more about them, then 1993 could be a landmark year in the history of indigenous peoples' struggle for survival and recognition of their rights. Our newspapers, radio and television will have news about indigenous peoples in 1993 — if not, let's ask them, why not?

POST BAG

A VIEW FROM THE BATTLEMENTS

Dear Sirs,

Amidst the euphoria and despair following the Battle of Synod, the not so neutral R.C. spectator may now be allowed a few comments. As a practising, though not perfect, Roman Catholic I see the spectre of Rome rising to haunt the survivors of the Anglican civil war.

It is threat, or promise, of thousands of clerically coloured front line troops all deserting to Rome an attempt at coercion or merely a childish, "I'm not going to play with you any more"?

The view from Rome's battlements of these approaching battalions is not at all enticing. Already Rome has sent signals distancing itself from the affray. What do Romans see from the battlements? A schismatic sect now at war with itself! Don't tell me there isn't some hand-rubbing, even if hid under voluminous chasubles. But is Rome willing to lower the drawbridge and welcome the defeated troops? This seems to be the line taken by the media pundits. How about asking Rome first? If membership of the Roman Catholic Church means anything it means recognising the authority of Rome. If these troops weren't willing to obey the decision of one set of generals, why should they be trusted to swear allegiance to another. They may share theological, scriptural and traditional views regarding women priests, but where do they stand on other issues? What about contraception, married priests, papal infallibility? Most important of all what about the doctrine of The Virgin Mary as co-redemptrix?

Perhaps after all they do conform with Rome in all things. Why then have they remained outside the walls till now?

As a rather bemused R.C. foot soldier standing on Rome's battlements, surveying the carnage, I must admit that I prefer to say no thank you to these would be comrades in arms. We have enough potential strife within our walls already without inviting in a defeated group of discontented deserters.

Yours etc.

Name and address supplied

Dear Sirs,

I hear that the Borough Council is looking for additional sites for paper skips because the St Martin's Precinct one gets filled so quickly. I understand that Watchdog is suggesting the Albert Road playing field car park. I would like to point out that the 69th Reading (1st Caversham) Cubs and Scouts collect newspapers and paper in the Albert Road area every two months, raising money to keep the packs solvent. Our next collection will be on January 24th 1993. We have three large skips in St Andrew's Hall Car park and there are Cub/Scout parents there between 11am — 1pm to load the skips. If anyone would like to help a worthy local cause we'd be happy to accept your papers. It would seriously affect our main fund raising source if the additional skip location was Albert Road playing field car park. The collection dates for the rest of 1993 are as follows: March 28th, May 16th, July 4th, September 19th.

I hope that the Council will find an alternative venue for its additional paper skip so that the Cubs and Scouts can go on helping themselves and the environment whilst raising funds.

Yours etc.

Catherine Blowers, Treasurer to 69th Reading Cubs.
Caversham.

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further information February issue

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(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.

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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 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 November issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 6 January.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 4 January.

The dates for February will be Monday 1 February and Wednesday 3 February.

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

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ADVERTISERS
SORRY — NO
SPARE SPACE
AT PRESENT

NOTES FROM NANJING RAY HUGHES

No 7 BY HARRIET BAKER
THE DAWN GARDEN

June 12th. Only another week of teaching, and today we had our last lesson with Senior 1 class. It was a complete riot as we played the chocolate game and progressive charades which involved much laughter, and hysterical shrieking — to the horror of the other teachers!

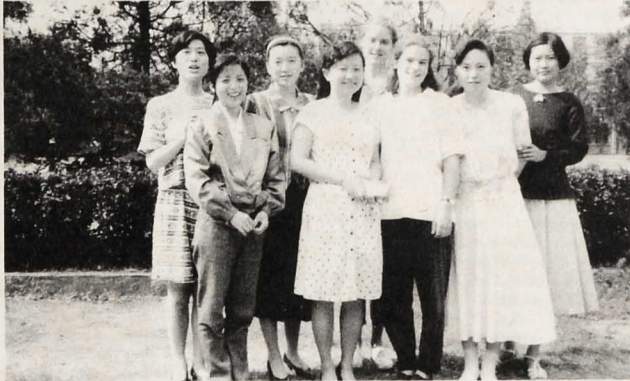
The hot and muggy weather makes us feel very drowsy — some of the locals say that the rainy season is about to begin. Annabelle and I have at last plucked up the courage to ask Nienke, the Dutch librarian, if we can swim in the pool for rich foreigners in the compound where she lives. We can go tomorrow which will be bliss. The compound is very smart and is guarded, as it is used by very senior officials such as Li Peng and Den Xiaoping. They use Mao's pool and zoom in and out of the compound in black limousines with tinted windows — very exciting!

Annabelle's mother arrived yesterday, to spend a week with us. In the evening we lent her the less ratty of our bicycles and teetered out for a

meal in the Green Saloon. She had a couple of collisions but remained intact and fairly unruffled. She already loved Nanjing and is happy to explore all the re-

against the current "reform" policies which try to combine the "good" parts of capitalism while resisting its evil aspects in the development of the Chinese economy.

tion and agree that it was a terrible mistake. They seem capable of turning a blind eye to the horrors of that time, and of publicly supporting the present corrupt



Harriet (front row) and Annabelle (just behind) with their group of engineers.

maining sights that we haven't yet had time to visit. It's lovely to have a "mother" to talk to, to get advice, be told to eat properly and to DRY our feet!

Now it is Tuesday evening and I MUST send this tomorrow. I taught the Engineers this morning and asked them to give me a lesson in Chinese history. They were very interesting on the subject of the re-emergence of support for Mao. His pictures, sayings and thoughts are used as a form of passive protest

He is almost revered as a god and superstitions abound — a picture of Mao hanging from a rear view mirror will bring good fortune and protect the driver from collisions. This seems amazing when one considers that most people here can remember the Cultural Revolution

and aged government. Only 1% of the population are Party members and the majority of these are members only so that they can obtain promotion; get good jobs as "officials" with the accompanying status and acquire personal gain from the perks. So much for the Socialist Ideology.

Now that our final week has arrived I find that I am quite sad to be leaving the security of the Dawn Garden and our friends among the teachers, students and Engineers. Setting off into China seems so daunting, as well as exciting of course. I hope that we shall have enough energy to cope with the sticky travelling and finding places to eat and sleep, and managing to buy our tickets for the next place. Annabelle and I have our route fairly decided, and we have fixed a rendezvous with Dave and John (two other Gap students) ten days after we begin our travels. So we shall be alone for only a short time which is better, as although we get on really well, the discomforts and frustrations of travel may make us a bit grouchy — with more people it's easier to keep laughing.

So our first stop will be the mountains in Anhui province — the real thing, and not just pictures in a Geography book!



After 32 years teaching at St. Anne's R.C. Primary School, Deputy Head Ray Hughes retires this term.

Ray has spent his entire teaching career in the Reading area, having come from Pontypridd in Wales to train at St. Mary's, Twickenham. He originally taught at St. James's All Age School and then at Sonning Common All Age School, which was reorganised to form Chiltern Edge School, where Ray was one of the founder teachers. He came to St. Anne's in 1960 and became Deputy Head in 1963.

Ray's great love both in school and outside of school has been sport, particularly cricket. He played for his college, whilst doing National Service and then for many years for Kidmore End C.C. He was a very distinguished opening bowler and played in the early games against Somerset C.C. with some success. Having retired from cricket, Ray concentrated on his other love, snooker, and he still plays with a great deal of skill in the local leagues.

In the classroom, Ray's teaching ability has been second to none, and the success and happiness of the many hundreds of children that have passed through his class has born testimony to this. Ray always maintained high standards academically and he was always fair but firm towards all the children in his care.

Ray has always been keen to coach both football and cricket at St. Anne's, in addition to running his own class. The culmination of this was the winning of the Reading Schools Cricket league and cup in his last season in charge.

In recognition of Ray's career and as a mark of the love, affection and esteem in which he is held, a series of celebrations have taken place, culminating in an assembly on the last day of term in which all of the children in the junior part of the school took part. Ray was presented with gifts from the staff, children and governors of St. Anne's School to show their appreciation of him.

To many hundreds of pupils and former pupils of St. Anne's Ray Hughes has been a very special figure. As a teacher, colleague and friend he will be sorely missed and we wish him and Joan, his wife, a long and happy retirement.

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SCF CAROL CONCERT

Christian charity is about overcoming pride and prejudices in order to help our neighbour. The many Christians from various denominations who gathered together at the Methodist Height's Church on Sunday 6 December attempted just this.

The annual SCF Carol Concert was a memorable afternoon of worship and fellowship. The Church was crowded and a total of £750 was raised.

Individual representatives and choirs from the Baptists, St John's, St Anne's and both Caversham Methodist churches contributed to the afternoon's events. Most fittingly, a great number of children took part.

Laura McCubbin, a young member of the host church, gave an impressive reading from Isaiah: "Comfort Ye, my people". Later, Joseph Freeman also compelled attention with another chapter from the Prophet relevant for today: "Let the thirsty land be glad, let the desert burst into flower".

St Anne's School Recorder Group demonstrated just how attractive that instrument can be. Janet Offord, in her address, reminded us of the reason for the concert, recalling that children just like those we had seen were dying round the world because of mankind's lack of Christian love.

After the Rev David Moody gave a final blessing, the Recorder Group gave a most innovative and exciting rendition of "Jingle Bells".

The afternoon ended with the Christian people of Caversham meeting and chatting over tea and biscuits in the Church Hall.

From the suffering children of the world, "Thank You to all who have helped us".

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

DARK DAYS FOR BUGS BOTTOM

As 1992 draws to its close, it is sad to have to record it as the year in which the millenia-old Bugs Bottom fell victim to the avarice of mankind. Can the attack, once begun, be stemmed before the whole valley falls to the desecration of the bulldozer? Only the years remaining to this millennium will be able to tell.

Those of a tender disposition are advised to avoid going and looking to see what is happening in the north-west corner of the valley. Huge mounds of gravel have been excavated, promoting the wry thought that had one of the big gravel companies known what lay beneath the surface they too might have moved in to exploit the potential of the valley. The only consolation is that at this stage, because of the lie of the land, the devastation cannot yet be seen from most other viewpoints. The noise however is there to remind those living in the vicinity of what is happening, and works lorries clatter along Richmond Road and Kidmore Road on their way to and from what is now a building site.

Construction workers are no doubt glad to get a job, any kind of a job. The construction industry is in a bad way, but sympathy for it is tempered by the memory of its greed to build over green sites because they are most profitable to develop, rather than to build for need which does not produce the inflated profits that it was able to make in the 80's.

WARREN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Warren Residents' Association, the oldest in the town, held its annual meeting in November and in spite of the gloomy dampness of the evening, there was a good turn-out. Four main areas had occupied their attention in the course of the year.

As residents of the Warren escarpment they are concerned about its condition after storms and the rising costs of maintenance have taken their toll. A series of meetings with the many bodies and individuals involved is in the process of formulating a management plan which will ensure its restoration and maintenance in the years to come.

The wooded escarpment is important, not only to those who live along it, but even more to the town to which it provides a back-drop along the

river bank and views from distant parts of the town. Look at it, for instance, from the footbridge at Reading railway station and from Tilehurst, far away on the other side of the river.

There was naturally much preoccupation with the Pop Festival from the one part of the town that gets all the aggro and none of the benefits. There were the usual calls to ban it altogether, though efforts to get the worst excesses removed stand a much better chance of success.

WOMAD also received a certain amount of stick, but the complaints were less indignant. The sheer numbers cause problems at the Pop Festival, making total overall control almost impossible.

Plans for the Mapledurham estate have also been carefully considered and the Association is not opposing plans for a golf course. It is seen as the most acceptable option if agriculture is no longer a practical alternative.

HELPING WILD LIFE SURVIVE

After the formal business, Dr. Paula Cox, Berkshire County Council ecologist, was the speaker. She is the county's first and only appointment to this position, though other counties have more and have had them longer. Apart from wild life, her remit includes rights of way, woodlands, and archaeology. Surprisingly, badgers, far from being a dying breed except on the roads which is where most of us see them, pop up all over the place, but their habitats, like those of many other forms of wild life, are constantly under threat in a county which is subject to five times the national average of development. Planning to incorporate the needs of wild life needs to be carried out at an early stage of development if it is to be effective.

Much of Dr. Cox's work consists of bringing back nature into development sites. Grass verges should only be cut at their least vulnerable stages. Forty of these are in fact specially protected across the county as they provide a habitat for a whole wild life eco-system.

Berkshire wild life heritage sites have been identified including the rapidly vanishing wetlands, heathlands and meadows, as well as woodlands.

Reading Borough Council identified their sites ahead of the rest of the districts, thanks to the groundwork mainly car-



- E.S. Archer

Coffee morning at Abbeyfield St. Peter's which raised over £100.

ried out by the Reading Urban Wildlife Group. The Warren itself is teeming with wild life, many of the dead trees themselves providing an invaluable home for many creatures. Some formerly unknown types are being found there.

At a time when what is going wrong seems more obvious than what is going right, Dr. Paula Cox gave an encouraging account of what can be achieved.

ABBIEFIELD

The Abbeyfield Society also held its AGM in November, attended by the Mayoress, Mrs. Pamela Fuad, standing in for the Mayor who was unable to be present. The Abbeyfield Society runs the Abbeyfield House in St. Peter's Avenue and another in Maitland Square, where residents have their own room with their own furniture, but where there is a resident house keeper and a common dining room. As the age at which people feel the need to give up their own home is rising all the time, it has brought about the need for extra care houses, and the Reading branch is setting up a fund to provide such a fund, though it is still early days. Abbeyfield's success can largely be attributed to the mixture of voluntary and professional management that goes into running their homes, bringing the best of dedication and expertise together. Residents of the homes are happy with the decisions they have made. Most of those from the two local homes were present at the annual meeting which attracted a full house. Could the excellent tea, always provided for this occasion, have anything to do with it?

BARCLAYS PULLS OUT

Much indignation has been caused by Barclays decision to close down their Emmer Green branch. It is used by a large number of people

who will be seriously inconvenienced if it is closed. It was not difficult to get hundreds of signatures to a petition requesting a change of mind, but Barclays say their decision stands as the bank is running at a loss.

Banks are not in the business of providing a charity. They are all about making money. With all those customers there must be some query as to what a loss actually means. Does it mean less profit than they could expect to make as there are not many customers with really large accounts? The modest accounts of ordinary customers are not the ones that really count. A caring bank is only caring to a degree. Hard commercial considerations are what it is really all about.

Sonning Common lost its bank. Another (not

Barclays) has been closed in Caversham. Next spring the Abbey National branch in Bridge Street, used by many as a bank, will close its doors. The remaining banks will become busier; customers will be less well served.

AMALANCHIER PLANTED

An amalanchier was planted in Caversham Court, again on a gloomy wet November day, in memory of Sheila Clifton, who died in the summer. An amalanchier is a large shrub, less tempting to vandals than a tree, and also chosen because Caversham Court has its full quota of trees. It bears white flowers in the spring and brilliant foliage in the autumn. It has edible berries which would have pleased Sheila, whose delight in and skill with good food was legendary.



Her friends of many generations watch as a shrub is planted in memory of Sheila Clifton.

turn to page 5

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Not a proper column this month, but perhaps a foretaste of what is to come.

We recently received a rather sad letter telling us of the closure of the Abbey National agency in Caversham, a matter of some inconvenience to Caversham investors. It has occurred to us

that we might, before too long, try to do an item covering the changing face of Caversham, particularly as it affects Caversham people, of no little importance particularly to those who find the trip to Reading difficult. So wait for it!

More photographs please

We have also

had some response to our quest for old photographs and the identification of those included. We hope to deal with that too in the New Year.

Caversham Personalities

We have also had news of people who should be featured in our paper and for-

tunately we have been able to pass on these items to those who knew the individuals concerned so elsewhere you will, we hope, find news of them.

A request

One we can't leave till later as it will be out of time. But more than one person asked us to

pass on our thanks to the shopkeepers of Caversham, particularly the lads and lassies in Waitrose who have been so friendly and helpful recently, in particular the lady who, confessing to difficulty in getting around, actually had her shopping list dealt with by a Waitrose assistant.

POST BAG

Dear Sirs,

On Remembrance Sunday, while getting ready to march in the Caversham Parade from Coldicot Street to Caversham Bridge memorial, my thoughts turned to Mr Rampton who many years ago as Chairman of the Caversham Community Association was upset that no one put a wreath on the memorial. Our Club decided to start and for a few years we were the only people there. We were so pleased when the British Legion and others joined us; Mr Rampton would have been so proud to see the great turn out this year when six wreaths were laid.

Yours etc.

(Mrs) Maida Feast
Caversham.



— E.S. Archer

YVONNE HALLETT

Yvonne Hallett, a receptionist with Doctors D.W.A. Rosser and partners, left at the end of November, after nearly twenty years with them. She joined the doctors' practice at their original premises in Bridge Street, and then moved with them to their present surgery at 2 Priory Avenue.

Yvonne enjoyed her working as part of the Surgery team, also the day to day contact with patients. Yvonne was a familiar figure and there is no doubt she will be missed.

Still residing in the Caversham area, Yvonne is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, two married daughters, and two grandchildren (a third grand-child is expected in the New Year), and participating in her many activities and hobbies. We wish her well in her retirement.

POP-IN CENTRE

The POP-in Centre held its annual Christmas Fayre at the end of November. Charity Christmas cards, wrapping paper, gifts, calendars and cakes were on sale at the centre in Church House. The stalls were manned by members of each charity, R.N.L.I., League of Friends of Reading Hospitals, Save the Children, Mencap, Sue Ryder, Traidcraft, and Age Concern. Cakes, mincepies and biscuits made by helpers of Pop-in were on sale. The Fayre was well attended considering the present economic climate. People came to browse around the stalls and choose the Christmas cards in a very relaxed atmosphere, away from the bustle of Reading. Coffee and biscuits were served during the two mornings of the Fayre.

All the helpers agreed it had been a success and a cheque for £50 a percentage of the two days profit is going to be given to the charity, 'FEED THE CHILDREN'.

taking from it.

BOROUGH PLAN

The Borough Plan was published in November with comments to be in before the end of December. This gives little chance to members of the public who may be

unaware that copies can be seen in public libraries and the Civic Offices. Caversham Residents' Association has however looked closely at it and will comment on its effects on the well being of Caversham as well as the town as a whole.

from page 4

Many of her friends, from the youngest to the oldest, were present and representatives of her many interests, as well as her daughter and young grandson, threw a

spade of very muddy earth round the shrub.

Escaping from the rain the company then took tea in the stable block, a happy occasion which Sheila would have enjoyed. The fund in her memory will allow a sum in excess of £130 to be

paid to Feed the Children after the costs of planting the amalanchier have been covered. This fund was chosen as it is Caversham based and cares for children, two of the main concerns in Sheila's life. She was one of those who gave to life rather than

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SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP

The group have recently held their Annual General Meeting and have been delighted with the progress made in fund raising despite the recession. We would like to express our thanks to all who have given, supported or bought at our fairs and stalls and helped us to raise over £1000. A very successful raffle was initiated by one of our members winning a toy dog and donating it and by the time the raffle was drawn we had 14 prizes which were very fairly distributed around the buyers by the draw made at the A.G.M.. We also had a very good day at the Mayor's Market. We have a short break now until the New Year when a jumble sale is planned as well as a chocolate party before Easter.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHURCHWOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

This organisation came into being because Keith Saunders was unhappy about the lack of progress in getting Churches Together in Caversham off the ground. His wife, Monica, suggested that he should leave it with the women for a bit and see what they could do. Since then, the organisation, like Topsy in "Uncle Tom's Cabin", "just grewed". We are not feminist, however; we welcome any men who care to join us at our meetings.

The latest meeting, held on 12th November was attended by over one hundred women and one man who was very welcome. Held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, and attended by Anglicans, Baptists, Roman Catholics, and members of the Caversham Park Group, as well as our own Methodists, it was addressed by Revd Elizabeth Brazell, a deaconess from the parish of St Agnes and St Paul in South Reading.

Her subject, "Music in Worship with illustration and participation" had us enthralled as she ranged from Roman Orgies (did you know that the first organ was a water organ developed to be loud enough to be heard above the noise of a Roman orgy?), through a "Crusader" (modern) camp in the Malvern Hills to the Community at Taizé in France; from a thrilling rendering of "I know that my Redeemer liveth" sung by a woman whose husband had just walked out on her, through Bach and Stainer to Taizé music which we all sang in Latin, and a modern action Grace by the end of which we were all holding hands all round the church. It was an exhilarating meeting finishing with the theme of Churches Together: "Bind us together, Lord".

After that, tea might almost have been a come-down except that we all enjoyed the scones with butter cream and jam, washed down with hot tea and enhanced with lively conversation, often with people we had never met before, but who will henceforward be more friendly faces as we shop around Caversham. As usual the tea and entertainment were free but a "begging bowl" was put on each tea-table to raise money for Bosnian Refugees.

The next meeting will be at St Andrew's on 2nd February 1993. Come and join us and see how Churchwomen get Together in Caversham.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Church life has been very full and with the interregnum coming to an end shortly all credit must be given to our two wardens for all their hard work and also to the Rev. Terry Lee who has very willingly taken most of our services so allowing us to maintain a full programme of services at 8 a.m. and at 10 a.m. as well as our mid-week communions. He has also conducted weddings, baptisms and funerals and given freely pastoral care around the parish when it was needed.

Remembrance Sunday saw ever increasing numbers marching to the memorial at the riverside. Uniformed groups led by the St John's Scouts walked from Coldicutt Street and were met by the Salvation Army and the British Legion at Westfield Road. The service was led by Rev. Terry Lee.

The Autumn Fair proved to be a great success and a very happy afternoon — a large raffle resulted in prizes finding homes in Tilehurst and Woodley as well as far reaches of Caversham.

A high point of worship was this year's Requiem — Camille Saint-Saen's setting, with friends from the Sainsbury Singers, St Andrew's choir and our locality joining the choir. The service was led by the Rev. Terry Lee, Rev. Christine Allsopp, Rev. John Cooper and Andrew Bosely and was a very moving experience. Many relatives and friends were commemorated and the retiring collection was donated to the Red Cross for their work in Yugoslavia.

St. John's now looks very smart with the internal decorations completed by the working party, the bell restored to the bell cote and a new sound system installed.

St. John's Mother's Union

The ladies too have been busy, welcoming the Rev. Terry Lee to the October meeting and Mrs. Shirley Kay, the Director of the Oxford Diocesan Council for social work, to the November meeting. Cakes and handicrafts were made for the Autumn Fair. Sadly we lost one of our older members with the death of Mrs. Edie Hamblin. She was a staunch Christian and had many friends who gathered for her funeral, some having the privilege of taking part in the service. Led by Rev. Christine Allsopp, her neighbour's daughter read the lesson, Kate Harris gave the homily and the intercessions were led by Anne Deane. As Kate ended, we were all quite sure her Lord would greet her with "Well done my good and faithful servant".

TIME FOR REFLECTION AT HIGHMOOR HALL

- January 12 "Be angry and sin not" — understanding anger and how to deal with it, led by Doris Swinbank.
- 19 A Patchwork of Quilts — come and learn how, led by Sue Haigh
- 22 Time for Reflection — a led quiet day
- February 2 Poetry by the fireside — enjoy listening to poetry and music on a winter's day
- 12 Time for Reflection — a led quiet day
- 16/17 Coming to God — a Lent Retreat for those in Christian Leadership led by David & Joyce Huggett
- 25 Anyone can draw — a day for those who think they can't — led by Ted Ripley

Further information, booking forms, and the programmes for March and April can be obtained from Ann Persson, Highmoor Hall, Highmoor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. Telephone (0491) 641543.



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The Vine

A place of Christian Listening

The programme for 1993 has now been published and the meetings during January and February are shown below.

- Thursday January 21st Teaching Day — Listening to God: an Introduction led by Maggie Barnes and Fi Radford
 - Wednesday January 27th Fellowship Day
 - Thursday February 4th Quiet Day
 - Wednesday February 10th Quiet Day when Creche is available
 - Thursday February 18th Teaching Day — Listening to God through Prayer led by Reverend Jeremy Anderson
- Enquiries regarding vacancies should be made to Fi Radford, The Vine, 4 The Mount, Caversham, Reading RG4 7RU, Telephone (0734) 483965 from whom the programme for the whole year is available.

POST BAG

Dear Sir,

I should like to quote from Canon Richard Kingsbury's reflections for Remembrance Sunday in November's Caversham Bridge. He writes — "We cannot bring Jesus back from the dead. He could not raise Himself from death. God the Creator raised Jesus..."

Canon Kingsbury would seem to imply that Jesus was not God. This I cannot believe because it would contradict the second of the thirty nine Articles of Faith which I quote...

"The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man; who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men."

This is an admirable summary of traditional Catholic teaching and I am sure that Canon Kingsbury with the great majority of Christians would subscribe to it.

May I finish with a final quotation? It is from John's Gospel ch 10 v17-18 "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."

Yours etc.

F. J. Sweeney

Caversham Park Village

CAVERSHAM CHURCH RAISES £2500 in 3 weeks for Feed The Children — Full report next month.

St. Peter's Autumn Fair



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

KEYBUNCH'S BIGGEST EVER PRIMARY SCHOOL TOUR

About three and a half thousand children in Caversham and surrounding district enjoyed an unusual assembly last November when Keybunch, a Christian drama group from Caversham Hill Chapel took to the road again with their latest Primary School sketch.

Seventeen schools were visited over a three week period: Emmer Green, Stoke Row, Micklands, Caversham Park Village, Caversham Primary School, The Avenue, Thameside, Our Lady of Peace (Slough), The Hill, Woodcote, Trinity (Henley), Checkendon, Shiplake, Kidmore End, Peppard, St Martin's and St Anne's.

The Sketch was based in the jungle where Norah the Explorer, a school teacher on holiday and something of a novice in the jungle, attempted to find her own way around, despite the care and repeated advice of Jungle Jim who, knowing everything about the jungle, tried to help her. Inevitably Norah found herself in all sorts of trouble. Jungle Jim, aided by his loyal friend Tiezan (suitably named because he wore a tie) rescued Norah from the "Sog-Bog", the "Tangle-Dangle" and then from the most fearsome danger of all, the

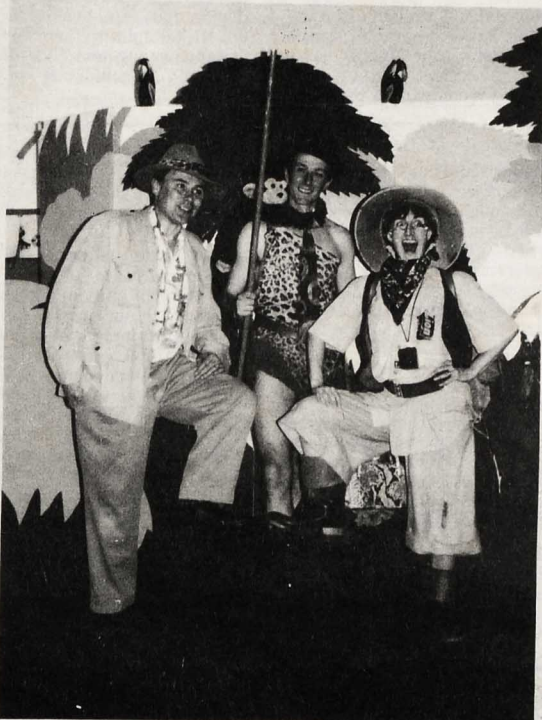
"Teacher Eature Creature". Eventually Norah realised that going her own way was too dangerous, she needed to listen to Jungle Jim's advice and read his book which he offered her.

The message of the sketch was simple but so important whatever age we are. Our lives can be dangerous places and in this jungle of a world we have a choice; we can try to live and go our own way, or we can follow the advice of our Creator who knows the best way for each one of us. It makes sense to read his book, the Bible, which he has so graciously made available to us.

Owing to availability, Norah was played by three people: Marion Hedley-Lewis (who was

also the main writer of the play), Sue Fairbairn and Carolyn Stead; Mark Hatcher was Jungle Jim and Mike Holmes, Tiezan.

Children had the opportunity to see the Further Adventures of Norah the Explorer at the November meeting of the Keyhole Club which Keybunch runs. Any children aged 5 to 11 are welcome to join the Keyhole Club which is held at the Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, on a monthly basis from 3 - 5pm. Games, crafts, singing sketches and lots of fun are the usual things on the menu. The dates of the next few meetings are: 17th January, 14th February, 21st March and 25th April. Just turn up on the day or phone Mark or Mike at Caversham Hill Chapel on 474529 for further details.



Keybunch — from left to right Mark Hatcher (Jungle Jim), Mike Holmes (Tiezan), and Marion Hedley Lewis (Norah).



Jungle Jim explains to Norah the best way.



Jungle Jim fights off the "Eature Creature".

CAVERSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
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A BRACE OF CLASSIC PLAYS

A Month in the Country

Thank you, Bob Green and Caversham Theatre, for boldly presenting Turgenev's 'A Month in the Country' on our local amateur stage. The action of this comedy has its focus in the complex character of Natalia Petrovna, an idle and imperious Russian grandee whose towering personality evokes dog-like devotion in her 'platonic' lover, Rakitin, affection and fear in her ward, Vera Alexandrovna, and nascent passion in the heart of Beliaev, the handsome young tutor she has engaged for her son Kolia.

If Jackie Case found it difficult to 'tower' in a role which is a testing one for professional actresses, she nevertheless gave a dignified and sensitive performance as Natalia. Peter Ludlow played Rakitin with appropriate patient complaisance but, when irritated beyond measure by Natalia's blowing hot and cold, reacted with rather more vigour than the petulance which would still have conceded her dominance. Kathy Munn as Vera gave a charming performance as her heart was also set afire by the attractive tutor as she resisted the jealousy of Natalia. Duncan Rozzier was cast as the bewildered tutor who felt calf love for Natalia, no love for Vera — and an urge to get away from it all!

Meantime, in an amusing sub-plot, Tony Hales — though often unfortunately inaudible — gave a very nicely drawn character sketch of the wily and smooth tongued Dr Shpichelsky, scheming to marry off Vera to the 'doughy' landowner Bolshintov, effectively played by Emyr Roberts, and to marry himself the lady's companion Lizaveta,

whose coy acceptance was delightfully portrayed by Janet Ward.

The cast included Jonathan Brown as Natalia's attentive but dreary husband Yslaev, Maggie Wild as her mother-in-law Anna, Richard Stainthorp as her servant Matvei, Christopher Hawthorne as her son Kolia and Geoff Ward as his German tutor Shaaf. Special mention must be made of a newcomer to the company, Isobel Pravda, who is barely in her teens yet played Katia with admirable composure and understanding of the part. Much work had gone into making an attractive set, though it could have been enhanced with some three dimensional floristry!

In Russian plays it seems customary for the action to conclude with everyone quitting the country for Moscow! A Month in the Country is no exception: Rakitin, Beliaev and Vera all decide that Natalia is too much for them and depart, taking with them all the interest in her life and leaving her to her idleness and the opportunity to soliloquise on why it all went wrong!
E.M.A.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Presenting on the amateur stage such a familiar and much loved classic as 'The Importance of Being Earnest' is no easy task: audience expectations have to be fulfilled and tempting pitfalls have to be avoided. One expectation of many of the audience is that they will be able to anticipate and relish favourite epigrams and parodies: another is that once again they will hear the ringing tones of Edith Evans exploding "A handbag?". Diction and timing must therefore be well nigh perfect and actors must not stray far from the characterisations expected of them.

The play may be a comedy of upper crust Victorian manners, yet the characters are not comedians but real people based on persons known to Wilde — Lady Bracknell owes much to his mother and his Aunt Emily, and Cecily to his cousin. By endowing them with overweening self-importance, wit, cynicism and hypocrisy in varying proportions he has provided laughs enough, and the temptation to guy any of them must be studiously avoided. That the Caversham Players very largely met these expectations and avoided the pitfalls is a tribute to Nancy Quinnell's production and their high acting standard.

Critical to the success of the play is a leisured pace, dignity of bearing, cool self-assertiveness, and restrained emotions dictated by impeccable manners. Anne Piper, as the charming iron-lady Gwendolen, and Laura Riddall as the sheltered but strong-willed Cecily, met the criteria admirably. The scene where they first believed that they

were engaged to the same Ernest and then discovered, to their chagrin, that they were engaged to a Jack and an Algernon, was a delight to watch.

Her substantial stage experience enabled Yvonne Maynard to invest Lady Bracknell with all the dignity and authority required of the part, though perhaps at times her personality dominated the other characters a little too strongly. Derek Spears, as John Worthing, did particularly well in his quieter moments — as in the delightful courting of Gwendolen — but blew his top rather too vigorously when nettled by Algernon. Ben Price, a promising young newcomer to the players, worked very hard on the character of the happy-go-lucky Algernon, but was let down by inaudibility largely due to too speedy speaking. A victim here was the cigarette denouement, where the effect depended on nicely judged timing.

All enjoyed the genial Canon Chasuble of Jim McClure and Sheila Hodson's simpering Miss Prism, terrified of Lady Bracknell and moonstruck by the Canon. Lane, Algernon's tactful manservant, was effectively played by Ken Etherington and Merriman, John's butler, by David Quinnell. The play was beautifully dressed and clever use of drapes, furniture and flowers was employed to effect the scene changes.

E.M.A.

THOSE EXCLUSIVE BIRDS

Some years ago, and elderly lady-friend, well-versed in her birds, and with an enviable 'check-list', wistfully proclaimed that her one regret was in never having seen a Golden Oriole.

I knew the feeling! During many years of birding, I have yet to see a Corncrake — which the Law of Probability suggests ought to have been achieved long ago!

I once pitched an emergency camp at 2 a.m. in semi-darkness, overlooking the breathtaking Kyle of Durness, just three miles from the North Coast of Scotland. Settling down to imbibe hot soup in our sleeping-bags, a Corncrake 'combed' through the rest of the night until dawn, barely ten metres from our tent — yet we never saw it.

More recently, whilst cooking a camping-dinner for three on the Norfolk Coast, TWO Corncrakes began 'singing' from a nearby ploughed field. My two companions reacted instantly and were just in time to see them flying off down-coast.

My own arrival moments later, produced not a glimpse of them! That 'Dip Out' haunts me to this day — but I digress.

Being determined that my friend would achieve her ambition, I arranged accommodation with an American friend and his wife from the U.S.A.A.F. fighter-base at Lakenheath, at their home in the nearby village of Hockwold.

After a very early breakfast, dawn the following morning found us surrounded by the spine-tingling, flute-like, onomatopoeic song of Golden Orioles. In spite of their size and exotic yellow and black plumage, these high-canopy birds of the black poplars, are usually only glimpsed as they commute from one tree-top to another, and yet on this particular morning, two males obliged by loudly singing from an exposed position on a fallen tree! Being late breeders, the Orioles were particularly active whilst the songs of Cuckoo, Green Woodpecker, Blackcap, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler completed the harmony of Nature on that glorious June morning.

As we withdrew, carrying the enchanting memory away on audiotape, our day concluded with fine views of Stone Curlew, and perhaps the last breeding pair of Red-backed Shrike at yet another site — and all within a very few miles.

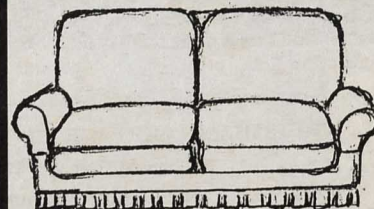
Following another comfortable night and large breakfasts, with packed lunches, courtesy of the fine hospitality of my American friends, the long drive home was faced with a glow of happiness and contentment.

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OBITUARIES

BERYL JOYCE STRATFORD

Beryl, who died on 21st November after a seemingly harmless fall in Reading was born and grew up in Swansea. She attended the Diocesan Training College, Brighton, and the Bishop Otter College, Chichester, then took up her first teaching appointment at Hungerford in 1939. In 1944 she moved to Coventry and a year later she came to teach at the George Palmer School, Reading. It was during this period that she met John. They were married in Swansea in 1947 and went to live in Bucks. After several moves, they finally arrived in Caversham in 1960.

Beryl had always been involved with the Girl Guide movement and for a while ran the 5th Caversham Girl Guides. She was a founder member of the Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild being its first secretary. She was very fond of music and sang in choral societies and small singing groups wherever she happened to be living. She played the violin and for a while played in a small orchestra. She was a member of St. Peter's choir for a fair number of years. She was perhaps above all a person who cared

for the elderly, and there never seemed to be a time when she did not have at least one on her calling list — and that often meant a daily call. She helped right to the end with the Old People's Luncheon Club and had been a regular and faithful deliverer of this newspaper since its inception. She loved her garden and was generous with cuttings and many friends around will have growing reminders of Beryl. She was the embodiment of a goodly kind Christian lady, stately and sweet in her bearing.

Our sympathies go to John, who as senior churchwarden at St. Peter's will have lost a great support, and to her three children, who themselves took part in Caversham life when they were growing up.

MARGARET JOYCE SHEARS

Joyce Shears, who died at the age of 84 on the nineteenth of November at Quantoxhead, where she had lived for over twenty years, had spent many years before that in Caversham where she was widely known.

She had been on the staff of Hemdean House School from 1938 to 1970 and many former pupils will remember her as a dedicated teacher

who worked far beyond the call of duty for the school. She was a graduate of London University and primarily taught maths but she also taught many other subjects, exemplifying the dictum 'If you can teach, you can teach anything', less true at the present day when subjects have become more specialised than it used to be when good teachers could indeed teach a wide range of subjects.

She came of a generation which from childhood had absorbed a sense of obligation to fulfil its public duty. Her grandfather was the archdeacon of Natal, but her father had returned to this country where Miss Shears was born. Service to others was part of her family background.

Miss Shears, in addition to teaching, ran a guide company in Caversham and was secretary of Berkshire Girl Guides. During the second World War she was an ARP warden, an ambulance driver, a Red Cross worker, and a special constable.

When she retired to Quantoxhead she soon became actively involved in local life as she had been in Caversham. In her day, school teachers were assumed not to have Christian names. She was always known as Miss Shears, and the contribution made to the life of the community by women such as she was inestimable and will probably never be equalled again.

M.C

HORACE THORNE

Some people can truly be said to be the salt of the earth and such a person was Horace Thorne who died on November 26th. Horace was the sort of man who would look after a neighbour who lived on his own and had become ill. Horace, too, would collect the pensions for old ladies who found it a struggle to get to the Post Office, despite the

fact that he had a bad leg himself. Horace was always cheery and never complained even when he suffered from a really bad attack of shingles.

Born in 1909, Horace was a twin, his brother Reg still lives in Reading. He worked for many years at Fullers Bakery, later at the Co-op Laundry and Beacon Electric. During the war he was in the Royal Air Force serving in Britain and Egypt. Happily married for over 25 years, Horace's wife Vera died in 1962, and he looked after himself up to the time of his death.

Horace enjoyed life, he liked to go to Ascot and Newbury for the horse-racing, in younger days he frequently watched the football at Elm Park and he was partial to a game of darts.

A loyal member of Caversham Methodist Church, Horace will be remembered by his friends in the Church in a score of ways; by the ladies in the Women's Fellowship whose meeting he regularly attended; by those of us who used to man-handle tons of waste paper and worrying if Horace would have a heart attack.

I shall always remember him when Remembrance Day comes around because Horace was a member of the British Legion and I can picture him now proudly placing a wreath of poppies at the foot of the Cenotaph on Caversham Prom.

Horace was extremely well-known in Caversham, and he delivered the Caversham Bridge from the day it started until just a few years ago. There will be many of us who will miss his bright presence. Horace leaves a daughter, Joan, five grandchildren, Susan, David, Philip, Gary and Linda, and six great grand-children.

'LITTLE' ELLEN CROWLEY

"When beggars die there are no

comets seen; The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of Princes".

It is true that Ellen Crowley was neither a beggar nor a prince, but when she died, as so often happens many of us realised we knew little about her except as a very cheerful lady, with a kind smile for everyone she met. So it was much appreciated that those of us who attended the Funeral Mass were able to hear a little of her history from her nephew, Peter, who with his wife Ann had been responsible for caring for her in recent years.

I would like to quote what he said.

"Ellen Crowley was born in 1905 at Carrickfergus, County Antrim, the youngest of four children. She lived in Ireland until 1946 when she moved to Reading, and worked at Burberry's and the BBC.

She married Joseph Crowley in 1956, but sadly Joe died only nine years later. The last part of her life was devoted to family and friends.

Ellen was one of the most cheerful people I ever met. Never selfish or mean she was a shining example of what love and kindness could achieve. She spent much of her time looking after others. Her father, brothers-in-law and sister were all looked after in the last years of their lives by Ellen. Yet she never complained and accepted life with a willingness and enthusiasm which never diminished.

Known as Little Ellen to distinguish her from a BBC colleague, she lived her life along true Christian principles. A devout Roman Catholic, she loved her neighbours often more than herself and never put herself before others.

She was a truly good woman."

The obituary in the November issue should have read DORIS WALLER NOT DORIS WALKER.

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Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Guild members were enthralled by Mr. Ian McCauley, the Oracle project manager who came to speak to them in October. He gave graphic descriptions of the plans at the three levels and how it all fitted together and linked up with Heelas. The plans were very ambitious but were designed to put Reading on the map and give people yet another opportunity to enjoy the river as it flows through the town. It is also planned to give every body something to do at all times of the day. The November speaker took us off to the many faces of Kenya. Mr. Taylor showed many excellent slides to illustrate the contrasts in this beautiful country from the mountain peaks to the deep river valleys and from the arid regions to the green plains.

Coffee mornings have proved successful and pleasant times designed to raise money rather than hold Jumble sales. We have also held several competitions at guild, the latest being home made sweets won by Mrs. Doris Smith with delicious strawberry fruits.

Members are now looking forward to a Christmas dinner to celebrate our 31st birthday being held at the Technical college. We are also very sorry to record the deaths of

Mrs. Beryl Stratford, a founder member of the guild and Ms. Christine Mitchell, a past chairman and one time caretaker of the old "Balmore Hall".

Rosehill W.I.

Mrs Jane Stockhill welcomed members to the November meeting (4th). After the minutes were read for the last meeting, various decisions were made about gifts to charities etc. for next year.

The Harvest Lunch, Coffee Morning and Car Boot Sale were all successful. The Ramblers continue their walks, though through inclement weather. Also Scrabble is much enjoyed.

The Talk, with slides, was by Mrs Hissey, on behalf of "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf". This charity was started ten years ago and training is at Lewknor where counsellors choose and match the dogs to deaf people and train both dogs and people there. Altogether this takes about four months, and visits are made regularly to the deaf person's home to see that all is well.

Members had a book stall and raffle this month and are looking forward to preparations for Christmas at the December meeting.

Caversham Ladies Club

The November Meeting opened with a warm welcome by Mrs Harwood.

After the usual business, birthday cards distributed and tea ladies chosen, Mr Moss with his slides of Old Caversham and Old Reading needed no introduction, having given many in-

teresting talks with slides on other occasions. This time many members were able to look back on the 'Good Old Days' with horse drawn carts and, later, trams in town, Caversham village as it was many years ago, Reading with small shops, Marks and Spencer and the Maple Butter shop, all of which brought back memories, shall I say, 'when we were young'. What a change has taken place throughout the years, and these slides reminded members how big it had been. I think it is called 'progress'. Mr Moss was warmly thanked for his talk and slides which had brought back so many memories.

Members were reminded of the Christmas Lunch set for 17th December, names and payment being taken by Mrs Weston. They were also reminded that the December meeting would be the Christmas party when Christmas cards etc. would be distributed. The Sue Ryder Box has been sent to the Home at Nettlebed, the amount given to be notified at the next Meeting.

Tea was then served by three willing helpers and appreciated by all concerned. Members were asked to bring a small table decoration for Christmas tea tables if possible. The Meeting closed with a feeling that a happy afternoon had been had by all.

Caversham Heights TG

Travels in the West and East

While visiting Canada three years ago Mrs M Sutherland and her husband travelled in the Canadian Rockies, mountains which stretch from the 49th parallel into the wastes of the north and are now visited by millions. Always fascinated by the history and development of the Rockies, she told members of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild's meeting in November how the area first came to be explored and populated. Formerly a

fur trade developed between the French and the Indians, beavers being especially hunted for their waterproof fur. The Hudson Bay Company acquired rights over a huge area of land, but later Scottish traders formed another competing company. Immigrants from Scotland, city slums or poverty-stricken Ireland became trappers and learned the ways of Indians. There was a drive to the west; rivers were named after explorers; a small Dominion of Canada was formed; eventually a slow progress of railways. A slide showed a present-day freight train with 85 wagons. The hot springs in the Banff area encouraged the building of hotels for tourists who come to ease their rheumatic pains. Then there are national parks, to mention only some of the attractions for visitors.

Still on the subject of travel, Miss J Sawyer at social studies showed photographs taken 3½ years ago on her return journey from Tonga to England. There were pictures of rock paintings by aborigines, of wallabies and an ostrich in the northern territory of Australia, of high rise buildings in

Singapore at the time of the Chinese New Year, and some glimpses of temples and the Golden Buddha in Bangkok. A colourful stall in Singapore showed the history of the Japanese invasion and final defeat.

STAR Reading Branch of the University of the Third Age

November Activities

Members at the Annual General Meeting had to decide how to raise more money. This was because they now have to pay a fee for the venue where they meet. By a large majority they decided to double the subscription to £10 rather than pay individually for the meetings they attended.

The Classical Music group had a talk by one of their members, Mr Cyril Hosner on the effect on his life of music and sampled some of

turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

his favourite pieces. The Books group studied 'Germinal' by Emile Zola and learned how readable was his account of a coal strike in France in the nineteenth century. The Play-readers enjoyed the seasonal play 'The Holly and the Ivy' by Wynard Browne.

The Writers produced variations on 'A Winter's Tale'. The Travel group heard accounts of 'The Scillies' and 'The Malta Experience'. The Walkers turned out in force for a very enjoyable outing along the Warren.

A coachload of members went to the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham for the very entertaining play 'A Chorus of Disapproval' by Alan Ayckbourn.

New members are always welcome at STAR. Please ring the Membership Secretary Mrs Grace McGregor Reading 866037.

Maplewood W.I.

The November meeting featured a slide show 'China — The People's Republic' by Mr K. Eames which was an enthralling view of a country comparatively unknown to most of his audience. There were spectacular river scenes contrasting tall buildings and hills rising from the water front and a medley of vessels along the banks. There were colourful markets selling vegetables, flowers, orange, red and yellow fruits, clothes, wicker work and artists' pictures; street scenes with decorated shop fronts a blaze of colour after dark; restaurants and night clubs; a busy airport with a runway into the sea; spacious boulevards lined with trees and high buildings. There were pictures of busy suburbs where wooden prams mingled with the ever-present bicycles. Such is the city life of Hong Kong and China.

In the countryside the ricefields showed another side of China, with its mountain peaks, shanty villages

and fishermen on the river where children and animals splashed in the water. The China of today permits some free markets where displays of farm produce show increasing prosperity. The show ended with a picture of the river in the golden glow of the moon at evening and an old Chinese saying 'Rich is he...who little wants'.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

At their November meeting members of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were given a most interesting insight into the work of a magistrate by Brigadier Needham. He gave an outline of the selection and duties of a magistrate and explained that total commitment and reliability are essential to the work. Magistrates are lay people with no legal training although they are always attended by the Clerk to the Court who is their legal adviser. Generally magistrates sit in threes although there are some occasions when only one is required, such as granting adjournments. Quite a number of people are ineligible for appointment to the bench, such as policemen, traffic wardens and serving members of the armed forces. A large majority of cases are dealt with in the Magistrates' Court with only a small percentage reaching the Crown Court. The minimum commitment for each magistrate is twenty-six sittings per year and can be a problem to those in employment who are unable to be released for their duties, resulting in resignations or those who are interested in the work being unable to go forward for selection. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs A. Dalzell.

A competition was held for a home made Christmas tree decoration, members being asked to put ten pence against the one they liked the best, no limits to how many votes one could have and the proceeds are to go to "Feed the Children".

Mrs MacArthur was the winner.

Thanks were given to all those involved in the organisation of the Guild's fortieth birthday party. This was a great success and very much enjoyed. The entertainment was Country and Western singing by Dennis and Sue. "Entertaining Cooks" provided a beautiful meal, and a delicious cake was baked by Mrs J. Smith and beautifully iced and decorated by Mrs M. Cooper. A champagne toast was drunk to the continual success of the Guild and the next forty years.

Caversham Community Association

Miss Clare Bishop, one of Reading's Park Rangers, visited the club on the 2nd November to give a talk and slide show. The slides showed the work that goes on to keep the parks and gardens of Reading and district attractive, including photographs of Caversham Court, Caversham Recreation Park and Clayfield Copse. Owing to cut backs the number of Rangers has been reduced and they are grateful for assistance from volunteers from the public in forming working parties. Schemes like the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Gosbrook-Westfield roads include the Caversham Recreation Park, where a watch is kept for vandals — this park is the only one in the country to be included in such a scheme. Rangers like to get children interested and find them enthusiastic helpers. Forks and spades made especially for them, to help at tree planting sessions, make the work easier for the youngsters. The members enjoyed this informative and interesting evening.

Members of the club marched in the procession on Remembrance Sunday to the Caversham War Memorial. After the service George Feast, Vice-Chairman, placed a wreath on behalf of the Association.

A Whistdrive was held on the 9th November with club

member — Doreen Crawley in charge of the proceedings. Beryl Latcham had the highest score and was awarded first prize.

The members met for a social evening and games on the 16th November, and had an enjoyable time.

At the meeting the following week, any members who wished to pay a contribution towards the club funds, each had a table to display their unwanted goods at a 'Suitcase' Sale. The rest of the members had a good time sorting out a bargain from a wide selection of cosmetics, Christmas gifts, clothes, toys and books etc.

Christine Hearne, the visiting speaker was waiting for the members when they arrived on the 30th November and had an impressive display of decorated eggs for their perusal. All the work on show had been created by Mrs. Hearne using eggs, including those of the duck, goose, emu, ostrich and reha obtained from recognised suppliers. Mrs. Hearne explained how the blown eggs were carefully sawn to form caskets and clock cases etc. and then decorated with flowers and trimmings to make ornaments in the style of Fabergé. Also displayed were ceramic models which Mrs. Hearne had painted and decorated, all of which were available for purchase as were the artistically decorated eggs. Beryl Latcham, the Chairman, thanked Mrs. Hearne for an entertaining evening.

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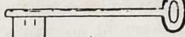
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