



When Mapledurham had its own Post Office

POSTMAN'S KNOCK



MDM.8.

THE VILLAGE, MAPLEDURHAM

Copyright
T.Sergeant

Looking up the road in Mapledurham village from the river. The Post Office and lodge stands at the far end on the right. This picture was taken several years ago and some of the large trees are now missing.

Looking at the wooden seat in Mapledurham churchyard this Spring to the memory of Mrs Joyce Crocker, Postmistress, I was reminded of the time when Mapledurham had its own Post Office.

There was a sub-post office here in Victorian times and it is reputed to have been one of the oldest in the country. Before 1903 a Mr Frost was in charge. The post office was in the lodge opposite Mill house. In an almost identical building at the other end of the Warren (which was a private carriage way in those days) lived Mr Beadle, who was the Mapledurham postman. You can still see his home at the bottom of Grass Hill, only now it is a private dwelling. He and his family were responsible for opening and shutting the attractive white wooden gate across the road which was then closed to all but authorised traffic.

In 1903 when Mr Frost retired, Mrs Crocker's parents, Mr and Mrs Burden, came from Wiltshire to take over the business. After her parents died Mrs Crocker subsequently became postmistress, retiring in 1979 when the office finally closed.

A Most Important Telegram

As a girl Joyce Burden, as she was then, always helped her parents. The hours were long before World War I. Originally opening time was 7am till 8pm. Later it became a twelve hour

day opening at 8am. At one time the post office had the only telephone in the village and when the messages came through an old pensioner called Miss Pocock, who lived in the Almshouses, used to take them by hand. Often she had to walk to Nuney Green or Chazey Heath and almost to Whitchurch. No doubt she knew all the shortcuts and used footpaths where she could. After Miss Pocock retired young Joyce took over and she remembered clearly the glass of milk and a sixpence that awaited her whenever she called at Chazey Court farm. Quite the most important phone call that Mrs Crocker had to take was in the nineteen thirties when a message came through to say that Queen Mary wished to take tea with Mrs Riddell Blount at Mapledurham House.

By 1934 it was decided that so few telegrams were phoned through on Sundays and public holidays that the post office should remain shut on these occasions. The rest of the week saw the village postman making the deliveries every day by cycle wearing his navy uniform piped with red and his peaked cap. Cups of tea were always ready for him when he reached the lodge.

Tea in the Garden

Mrs Burden served home made teas in her garden on hot summer days, with fresh salad from her

vegetable plot, for Mapledurham was as dearly loved then as it is today and many people enjoyed a peaceful country walk to this pretty Oxfordshire village.

Like so many village post offices, Mrs Crocker had quite a little shop, stocking cigarettes, sweets, writing materials and a small amount of tinned food and groceries. At one time daily papers were delivered to her for the village folk to collect, so was the milk.

Caversham had a postal collection and delivery as early as 1847. According to a Kelly's Post Office directory for that year Henry Hancock was the Receiver of Mail for the village. Letters were received from Reading at half-past seven am and half-past two pm and dispatched at half-past eight in the evening. By 1869 provision for the mail in Caversham had progressed and there was a wallbox at Emmer Green which was cleared at 11.20am and 6.50pm every weekday and 12.20pm on a Sunday. There was also a wallbox in Lower Caversham which was cleared at 11.50am and 7.20pm on weekdays and 12.59pm on Sundays. With only a handful of houses at the top of St Peter's Hill no provision appears to have been made for postal services on The Heights. That was yet to come.

M.K.

TALKING POINT

by

The Rev. Bill Carpenter
Vicar of St. Andrew's



YOU ARE WELCOME

It was in the Autumn of 1966 when Rosemary and I saw the advertisement board on the corner of a building site. "Homes for Sale... 4 Bedrooms... from £5750." It is hard to take in the price these days, sufficient to say the mortgage put us in penury for many years!

Homes for sale? As we picked our way through the mud, holes and (seemingly rather small) concrete foundations on our way to the site office, our imaginations had to work overtime to imagine any homes there. It was cold, wet, and inhospitable, but the site foreman was friendly enough. We put our name down for Plot 4, and waited with as much patience as we could muster for something to happen.

The Trade Description Act has now put into question the accuracy of the word HOME as a means of describing HOUSES IN THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION. Rightly so, because they are two very different things. We found this to be true, and after much hassle with the builder and postponed moving-in dates we finally took possession, and occupied the HOUSE. In spite of the fact that eventually there were nine identical houses on the estate, this one was unique because it was ours and it was us. It very quickly became a HOME. One friend paid us the backhanded compliment of saying that she liked untidy homes because they were so welcoming. Well what do you expect with four children under 10! The welcome we offered however, was never in doubt.

On May 30th all Christians celebrated Pentecost. We recalled the day when a small group of apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit and found that their lives were transformed. Some of us will have taken the opportunity to remember the day when we too received the same gift, either through Confirmation, Adult Baptism, or Commissioning.

Did we, (do we) allow the Holy Spirit make his home in us? or are we bare empty houses — or worse, merely concrete oversites full of potential but lacking the structure necessary to be of any real practical value. It is through our own willingness and by invitation that the Holy Spirit comes to us. Do we welcome him in that way which is us, and as such very special and precious to him?

The Spirit of God knocks on our door and comes in at our behest. He accepts our untidiness and all other shortcomings and transforms our lives just as he did so long ago to those early followers of Jesus. He comes to us, both as a community and as individuals because he loves us, and only wants us to love him in return. He comes as a friend who only wishes for us what we wish for ourselves. He is our own experience of God in our lives. If we welcome him into our hearts in the way that we would welcome any very special friend into our homes, we shall find ourselves richly blessed.

Pray these words tonight, and every night. They are the last three lines of my favourite hymn: "Come down O love divine"

For none can guess its grace
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling'

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

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

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
10.00am Sunday School

St Andrew's

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

St Barnabas'

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

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

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

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

(Caversham Park Primary School)

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

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

10.45am Worship at Mapledurham Pavilion

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

Our Lady of Caversham 8.30am and 11.15am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday)

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Caversham Church House —
Meeting for Worship
7.30pm. (last Sunday)
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SPRING REVERIE

"Oh to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England — now!"

so wrote Robert Browning — actually it was at the beginning of May that "A walk through the Bluebell Woods" set out from Highmoor Hall. After meeting in the house for a brief time for devotions sixteen adults (and one baby) set out into the beautiful South Oxfordshire countryside on a glorious sunny day to walk to Nuffield. We were provided with a picnic lunch, and a list of 36 different kinds of wild flowers which we might find, and guided by Ann managed to find all but four. The trees were bursting into new growth and we were entertained by varied birdsong as we walked. The bluebell woods were breathtakingly beautiful, especially as we approached Nuffield.

We were met by the Rector, who provided drinks to go with our lunch and we rested on the Rectory lawn to enjoy a break. We visited the Church and looked in the Churchyard for the many varieties of wild flowers which grow naturally there.

The return journey was via an ancient track called English Lane, and again we saw carpets of bluebells.

Many thanks to Ann for this happy day, and to her helpers for the excellent lunch. This 6 mile bluebell walk cannot be repeated until next spring, but the very varied Highmoor Hall programme may offer something that will interest you — contact Ann Persson for a copy. The address is Highmoor Hall, Highmoor, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5DH Tel: 0491 641543.

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.

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All contributions for July issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 2 June.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 31 May.

The dates for August will be Monday 28 June and Wednesday 30 June.

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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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

DESTRUCTION OF VALLEY CONTINUES

AFTER Easter, the Oakley Road-Hemdean Road-Rotherfield Way junction was reopened and traffic, including buses, could once more flow along these through routes. The road works then moved into the northern section of Hemdean Road, where they proceeded to harass those living in their vicinity with noise, dust and general upheaval. As before, heavy equipment and materials are left piled up in the road protected by nothing but a strip of plastic or some nylon netting, an irresistible temptation to children playing outside on light evenings. Higgs and Hill meanwhile plead difficulties of exercising control over their contractors when faced with proven infringements of their planning conditions.

Their houses continue to spread along the side of the valley. Their glossy sales brochure speaks of high quality homes in an attractive rural setting. A delightful photograph of the

Warren in autumn sunlight decorates the cover. Inside they are even shameless enough to use a picture of Bugs Bottom before they spoiled it to illustrate its rural setting. (Surely there is something for the Advertising Standards Authority here.) Pictures of St. Peter's Church and the riverside all tell of a settled welcoming community without a mention of the united and sustained opposition to this damaging and unwanted development.

Several protestors have already visited the site at weekends when the sales office is open and asked pointed questions. Anyone who feels like mounting a small peaceful demonstration there should not hesitate to do so. Higgs and Hill have objected to what they call acts of vandalism such as the painting over of signs (though they cannot compare with their own acts of vandalism in destroying the valley), and these cannot be condoned, even if the strength of feeling behind them can be understood. A few home made posters can make equally telling points. Keep ears

and eyes open for notice of possible organised protests.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Warren House in St. Peter's Avenue has been at the centre of planning controversy for some years. Its importance lies in the visual impact of its grounds as seen from the other side of the river. Already trees (some protected) have been felled there in hopeful anticipation of permission being granted for flats and houses on the site. Now plans for a block of six flats and another four have been refused at public inquiry level. It is to be hoped that this is the last to be heard of efforts to over-develop this site and that permission already granted to convert the house itself will be regarded as suffi-

cient. Unfortunately the trees already felled have left a gap in the wooded coverage of the Warren escarpment.

Plans for a petrol station, car-wash and valeting service just off the big Richfield Avenue roundabout have been refused, but nevertheless, one will go there all the same, because another set of plans gained consent in 1991. Work this one out if you can. The law, as Mr. Bumble said, is an ass, and he had no experience of planning laws. What everyone knows is that a petrol station so close to a large busy roundabout can only increase the hazards already existing there.

By an error, it was stated in the April issue of the Caversham Bridge that plans for a thirty-six hole golf course in the Mapledurham

Estate had been refused. In fact, a decision was deferred.

HARD WATER

People who have lived any length of time in the chalky areas of southern England are familiar enough with the problems of hard water, but in recent years in the Caversham area it seems to have got harder. Equipment furs up in no time and taps, baths and wash basins require more frequent and vigorous cleaning. It is not all imagination. Since the opening up of supplies from South Oxfordshire, tests show that water in this area is indeed harder than in the rest of Reading by a noticeable margin. It is however not nearly as hard as that in the areas around Twyford and Shiplake. Nevertheless there is a feeling that in those places where the hardness of water is above a certain level, there should be a reduction in the water rate to compensate for the extra expenses involved in descaling, cleaning

and damage to equipment.

NEW BUS LANE

The new bus lane in Church Street led to angry reactions when it was first introduced as traffic piled up and motorists were late for work. How far this was due to road works further along the route into Reading town centre and to motorists being unprepared for it (advance publicity was minimal) and how far to the bus lane itself, was not clear and is still not clear at the time of writing. It only covers a short distance and as most of the delay to buses occurs in making the right hand turn out of Hemdean Road it might have saved more time and avoided the wrath of motorists if priority had been given to buses turning out of Hemdean Road instead of making a bus lane.

With public transport being the only long-term answer to ever increasing congestion on our roads, anything that improves it is to be

welcomed. The private car has its uses, but there are places, mainly in urban areas, where it must take second place to public transport.

SPRING BURSTS OUT

Easter Sunday's weather did not reflect the message of the festival this year, but in spite of earlier impressions, there were still plenty of daffodils around, though St. Peter's churchyard display had faded. Contrary to the poet's plaint, modern daffodils do not 'haste away so soon' but stay with us for anything from the end of January till well on in April, and even longer in the shops.

By then we are regaled with the magnificent annual display of bluebells in our local beechwoods, all fresh and green and fringed with cherry blossom. We are fortunate in Caversham to live so close to beautiful countryside. No wonder local people are so protective when it is threatened by unsuitable development.

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

Canon 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 Hardecastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.

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

The Rev. Stephen Rowe, The Rev. Christine Rowe, The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

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

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

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

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Cariton 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.

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POSTBAG

CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Sir,

Why is it that you felt that the letter — "Which Way ahead for our Primary Schools?" should be placed on the front page of the April edition of the Caversham Bridge instead of in the Postbag Section on page 2, and is it usual to publish anonymous letters? Could it be that you wanted it to have the maximum impact before the ballot of parents which took place in April? If so, I feel this is very unfair.

Both the Headteacher and Governors have been very fair in all the information they have given to the parents of Caversham Primary. They were asking the parents if they wanted their school to become grant maintained. Unfortunately a minority of politically motivated parents felt that they must act in an underhand manner, circulating leaflets to selected parents which at times contained inaccurate information, thus putting doubts into the minds of some parents. They also, I believe were impertinent enough to ask some parents how they would be voting.

Grant Maintained Status does not affect the school's relationship with the community — just the Local Education Authority. Therefore I feel that it was a matter for the parents of Caversham Primary to discuss and decide and the front page of the Caversham Bridge seems a very inap-

propriate forum indeed.

Yours etc

E. Brunwin, A parent,
employee and wife of a School Governor
4 Albert Rd,
Caversham

Dear Sir,

I have always considered the Caversham Bridge to be an entertaining 'read'. It provides a balanced collection of local views and news, without political influence — or so I thought.

On the front page of your April issue was a letter from a 'concerned parent' in respect of Caversham Primary School and grant maintained status.

If the Caversham Bridge is to print this sort of letter, I and many others would have expected a comment from the subject concerned — in this case Caversham Bridge or its Governing Body. I am sorry that the Caversham Bridge has fallen into the trap of political pawn.

Yours etc

J. Cottam
27 Kidmore Road,
Caversham.

Editors' Note

"Postbag" is fitted in wherever convenient and not necessarily on page 2, and it so happened that in the April edition a space on the front page was used for a longer letter. No bias was intended.

COUNTRY PARK

Dear Sirs,

Instead of golf courses, which very few local people would use, have the owners of the Mapledurham estate

considered a country park that would offer a wide range of leisure facilities and would be open to many more people? It might be possible, for example, for such a park to include a "pitch and putt" course that could be used by all the family.

I believe there would be widespread local support for the right kind of planning application for such a park.

Yours etc.

John Madeley
19 Woodford Close,
Caversham.

THAMES VALLEY ASSOCIATION FOR VICTIM SUPPORT SCHEMES

Dear Sir,

I would like to ask your help on behalf of the Thames Valley Association for Victim Support Schemes. We are currently setting up a new service in the Reading Crown Court to provide help and support for victims and witnesses of crime who are having to attend court proceedings. As you will appreciate, this can be a very upsetting experience and the Victim Support Scheme is hoping to alleviate this with the help of trained volunteers.

If you are aware of any individuals who may have some time to spare for this worthwhile project, or you could make this information known to your congregation via Church magazines or notice boards etc. it would be much appreciated. Volunteers are welcomed from all sectors of the com-

munity and training will be given. Volunteers will be reimbursed travelling expenses and will be provided with lunches whilst on duty.

We are hoping to have this scheme operating very soon and would be most grateful if you could publicise our urgent need for volunteers.

Yours etc.

Janet Pettipher,
Court Co-ordinator
Witness Support
Scheme, Reading,
Artillery House,
Tilehurst Road,
Reading. Tel: 393807

BOSNIAN REFUGEES

Dear Editors,

The Bosnian refugees mentioned on the front page of May's "Caversham Bridge" have now been here just over six months and are at last allowed to seek jobs. They appreciate that this is difficult enough for British people, and that they must be selected entirely on merit in the face of local competition.

However, these refugees are not peasants, and have professional and trade skills which could bring a new aspect to local work, proving of extra benefit to British

employers.

The range of abilities they have includes: Qualified Architects (including advanced commercial building techniques), motor engine foundry and factory management, electrical equipment manufacture and sales, Geography and History Tutoring, food & drink laboratory analysis, de luxe chocolate manufacture and sales, local government, motor transport costs monitoring, sales progression and credit control, shoe and other leather goods manufacture and repair, commercial motor vehicle driving, bank clerical and electronic communications. Many have keyboard skills, and some of the ladies are particularly adept at lace-making and other needlework, and cookery, especially "party delicacies".

If any of your readers could suggest approaches which might be made towards finding employment for these worthy people, even on a temporary basis, the writer would be very glad if they would let any of the Editors know.

(Name and address supplied)



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IN THE STEPS OF WILLIAM CAREY

A tour of Bangladesh and India to mark the Bicentennial of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Part Two INDIA



picture: J. Sawyer

IN Bangladesh, the party was informed that plans were made to be changed. This reminder was also true of the Indian part of the tour, but at least more warning was given. On arrival in Dhaka it was discovered that no tickets had been booked for the flight to Calcutta — both the British & the Bangladeshi tourist companies thought the other had done so! Tickets were obtained, but on 2 separate flights. At least the later flight was not the 2 hours late some feared it could be. The flight from Calcutta to Varanasi had been withdrawn from the timetable, so the party had a train journey

after all, but at the expense of seeing various places in Calcutta and a night's sleep. In Delhi a rally had been planned by the opposition party the day after the group was to leave for home. The Government had banned this and thousands of troops were drafted in as was evidenced by the hundreds of tents erected outside the Fort. It was decided that it was advisable to leave a day early and the last night was spent in Bombay. This proved to be a bonus.

The first day in India was spent visiting Sermapore, where Carey, Marsham & Ward settled and worked for so many years. It was the focal point of the tour

and especially significant for Edward Williams, the group's escort, and Rosemary his wife who had lived and worked there for 10 years from late 1950's. Carey certainly put his motto "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God" into practice. George Smith his biographer wrote "Carey was successively, and often at the same time, a captain of labour, a printer, the developer of vernacular speech, the expounder of classical language, the translator, the purifier of the society, the watchful philanthropist, and the saviour of the widow and fatherless". He founded the oldest private college and University in India and it is still flourishing today. The ecumenical Theological College draws students from all over India and the University draws students from the local area. Members of the party were able to meet many of the Theological College's staff and some of the students in their canteen, visited the Carey museum for which a larger building is being constructed, walked round the cemetery where Carey, Marsham & Ward and members of their families are buried, saw the Church which was their original home, relaxed in the guest quarters of Carey's old house and prayed in the college chapel.

Varanasi station was reached at 2.30 am after a 14 hour journey in 2nd class carriages

with couchettes. The early part of the journey was enlivened by conversations with students and other fellow passengers. At 5.00 am the wake-up calls were made at the hotel and after tea and toast, the latter only arriving at the last minute, the group was on the bus, heading for the river to see the sunrise and the pilgrims bathing in the Ganges. The guide had some trouble in finding a boat at a suitable price to take the party down stream and back. It was a special festival day and the shores were crowded with people, but there was room for pats of cow dung and washing to be dried on the terraces. Later in the day the temple on the site where Buddha preached his first sermon, was visited. Its walls were covered with paintings telling his life story.

The Taj Mahal lived up to its expectations. After driving through noisy, narrow and dirty streets for so much of the time entering the extensive, well cared for grounds was like reaching an oasis in the desert. Plenty of time was available to soak in the atmosphere before visiting the Red Fort down the river. Its size surprised everyone and the marble with inlaid semi-precious stones was a beautiful sight.

Sunday morning saw most of the party worshipping at St. James Church, Delhi. It is near the University of St. Stephen's Christian hospital. Many of the staff there are regular members of the congregation. It is part of the Church of North India and Sheila Samuels, a B.M.S. Missionary, is married to the Presbyterian. Sheila later hailed taxis and took the group to see over the hospital where she is the chaplain. It has a large maternity unit and has now opened a department where open heart surgery is carried out.

Tours of both New and Old Delhi were made and the spaciousness of New Delhi was in marked contrast to most towns. Parliament buildings, government offices and embassies all were laid out in extensive grounds. The simple Ghandi memorial, though rather crowded with people, impressed the group. Most members visited the Fort twice — once to see Son et Lumière which depicted the history of the fort from its building by Shah Jahan in the 17th century to the arrival of

British troops in the 19th — the 2nd time to see it in daylight. It is very impressive.

Time was found to visit the offices of the Baptist Union of Northern India and the B.M. Gange Girls' Secondary School. The latter has a very energetic principal under whose leadership an extensive building programme has been implemented, 6 computers have been installed and up to date texts books are in use.

The group was glad to see something of Bombay — to walk along the front towards one of the harbours, to have lunch in the hotel's revolving restaurant, to see the Gateway to India and take a boat trip to Elephanta Island. On arrival at the latter about 200 steps, lined with stalls, were climbed to reach the cave in which images of Shiva had been carved.

Contrasting pictures are left. The first of crowds of people including many pressing, pathetic beggars and the hordes of vendors by all the tourist sites. The latter worked on the assumption that people wanted to buy their wares and it was a matter of negotiating a price. "Very good price" was their constant cry.

The second picture is of Jesudas Tiwari (Servant of Jesus). He was born into a high caste Brahmin family, was educated at a Christian school. Later he found that by himself he had not the strength to resist temptations peculiar to a young man. In desperation he prayed to the Jesus he had heard about at school saying "Lord if you are there, save me from myself." He found that he was given the strength he needed and committed himself to Christ. When he told his family of his decision they were furious. They tried to poison him and when this failed had him committed to a mental asylum. It was only through the influence of Christian friends that he was released. His family then sent him to Ghandi whose advice was to follow the path wherein he was convinced the truth lay. Jesudas went on to study Theology, spent some time at Regents Park College Oxford, and became a translator, lecturer and renowned scholar. He is a very humble man and in his long white Indian shirt, dhoti and shawl over his shoulder is a centre of calm and tranquility.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH IS UNIQUE



WE discovered recently that in Berkshire there is nothing quite like Caversham Park Church!

For the first time Churches Together in Berkshire had brought together representatives from all Local Ecumenical Projects (LEPs) and Covenanting Churches. The purpose of the Consultation, which was held shortly before Easter at Trinity Church, Lower Earley, was to share experiences, express needs which might be met from outside their Church and to hear something for ecumenical development in the future. Four representatives were present from Caversham Park Church.

Surprisingly there are only ten Churches which

fall into the category of the Consultation and two of those are not official LEPs or Covenanting Churches. Among those that are official some have yet to agree their constitution. There are three official LEPs: Caversham Park, Trinity Lower Earley and Wooshehill; each with a different mix of denominations. Trinity has its own church building, Wooshehill is currently building and Caversham Park are looking at the possibility for the future. Among others there is a shared church building in Cippenham, an embryonic LEP in Thatcham, a Covenant and Joint Ecumenical Council for central and west-central Slough, a shared church

but no agreement in Bracknell, and a Joint Church in Woodley. There are Covenants in Theale and Newbury.

The sharing of experiences was the most rewarding part of this Consultation, for, as will now be apparent, every Ecumenical Church is different. There are no common constitutions or covenants but each has developed to meet the needs of the local Christian community and therefore each brings something special to our ecumenical understanding and development.

The ecumenical body Churches Together in Berkshire sponsors all the official LEPs and Covenanting Churches. Their periodic review process ensures that

each development has the benefit of independent outside advice. The County Ecumenical Officer on behalf of Churches Together in Berkshire has a considerable enabling role. From the comments at the Consultation this is all greatly valued. Denominational support appears to vary, but is backed by denominational Ecumenical Officers. These new ecumenical churches which cross denominational boundaries clearly have to be protected legally but the paperwork involved often proves to be irksome.

Those of us in our denominational ghettos have much to learn from these ecumenical developments. Clearly it is through their experiences that there will be a move forward to church unity and not from anything imposed from the top. One thing this commentator learnt from the Consultation is that there are lively pockets of church unity in our county where the Holy Spirit is working and he is weaving a rich tapestry far removed from church uniformity.

Our pictures show the Revd Phil Abrey revealing all about Caversham Park Church to a Workshop Session of intensely interested people and Sister Janet Wilcox, the Churches Together in Berkshire County Ecumenical Officer, addressing the Consultation on one of the formal sessions.

O. Jewiss



BISHOP'S CHORISTER

Once again St. Peter's choir has produced a top singing voice. Our picture shows Jennifer Walker flanked by Canon Kingsbury (Rector) and Andrew Bosley (organist and choirmaster). She will receive her award from the Bishop of Oxford in the autumn.



S. Walker

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A yellow balloon was picked up in Peppard road at Easter bearing the following happy message:

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

THIS year the Assembly, at which the reports of both the Baptist Union and the Baptist Missionary Society are presented, was held at Nottingham University. The campus is large, not unlike that of Reading University and the food was good. It was too good in the light of reports from Zaire that there was not enough food available for all members of many families to have even one meal a day.

The theme of the Assembly was The Fullness of Christ and its development took the delegates into many surprising places. Each day started with prayers at 7.30 am in the halls of residence and the evening sessions were held in the Royal Concert Hall. At the first of the latter, newly accredited ministers were presented and the President, the Rev. Brian Haymes, Principal of the Northern Baptist College gave the address, introducing the theme. Home Mission was the concern of the second evening when the new Baptist Union Video, "Where it matters — there you'll find us" was shown, and the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of "The Power and the Glory." The last evening was focussed

ed on overseas mission. Those soon to go overseas were bade farewell and the Rev. Dr. John Sundquist, the Director of the Board of Internal Ministries of the American Baptist Church spoke about the "Lunacy of Love."

During the 4 days there were 6 seminar sessions all relating to mission. There were at least 40 titles, ranging from Spirituality and Mission or Mission and Scripture to Mission and Ecology or Mission and Economics. Crossing Cultures for Christ, Mission and the Workplace and Shopping as World Christians were also included. They were all exploring the ways in which the theme "The Fullness of Christ," could be implemented and Brian Haymes address be put into practice. He emphasised that we should be the Church from Monday to Saturday, and not just on Sunday. It should not be just a place of escape but should be involved in reconciliation, redemption, and renewal of the whole world. He stated that we live with powers that can be liberating or demonic. It took a long time for Christians to realise that the slave trade was wrong, but today many people are slaves to hunger,

abuse and poverty. Many Africans for example have a harrowing story to relate and their condition is exacerbated by debt, and exploitation by the Western nations. Are we being slow in recognising that Christians must take a stand against today's slavery? Scripture confronts us with a large picture of Christ, but it should not just be spiritualised. The Assembly was reminded that God in His grace has called the Church to be the Kingdom of God on Earth and that we should continue to grow into Christ.

Throughout the sessions it was evident that personal salvation and commitment to Christ is only a beginning, an essential beginning. Through the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians, the implications of this commitment have to be put

into practice in the world as it is today. At least 2 practical steps were taken! At the Public Resolutions session resolutions concerning 1) Africa, 2) Poverty and 3) The funding of Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation centres were passed and will be sent to appropriate bodies. At the Shopping as World Consumers session Mr. Phil Wells, author of Global Consumer, spoke about the organisation that was looking to the working conditions of people particularly in the food industry, right back to the primary producers. If these are reasonable in the circumstances, firms who apply would be granted a licence and could then mark their goods to this effect. Shoppers could then see at a glance whether workers had a fair deal. Watch for the launch of this scheme in the Autumn.

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH CELEBRATES THE LAST SUPPER IN THE CONTEXT OF A MEAL



O. Jewiss

THE picture shows some of the congregation of almost 70 who gathered in St. Barnabas Hall on the evening of Maundy Thursday for a celebration of the Eucharist in the context of a meal. For many this was a very moving experience as we progressed through the Eucharist between courses and finally moved as a body into a darkened St. Barnabas Church for a vigil until midnight.

This is now the third successive year St. Barnabas has begun its observances of Jesus' death and resurrection in this way. It has become a very valuable part of our worship.

2ND CAVERSHAM GIRLS' BRIGADE

AFTER taking part in the London trials held at Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith a team of Junior girls from 2nd Caversham Company took part in the National Team Games final at The Royal Albert Hall on May 8th. The games were part of the Girls' Brigade Centenary Rally and Display.

Brigaders and Senior Girls from the Company also entered a National Competition to design and make a Banner. The aim was to show Girls' Brigade as an International and Christian Organisation. Two Banners were entered and the Banner featuring the Dove and the Brigade Motto "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ" was chosen as one of the three winning banners and will now go forward to represent England and Wales at the International Competition to be held at Dublin.

2nd Caversham Company meet at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on a Thursday evening. There are also Companies at Wycliffe Baptist and Whitley Hall and West Reading Methodist Churches.



— E.S. Archer

"Walking in the footsteps of God" Palm Sunday walk from St. Peter's Church, Caversham to St. Margaret's, Mapledurham.

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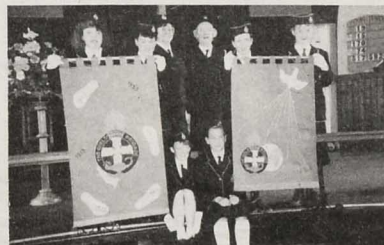
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SUMMER AWAKENS

DURING a visit to Kings Meadow in early April, I was delighted to see my first Swallow and Sand Martin of the year, with six more of the latter species just a few days later.

Cormorants, which Mr. John Roberts (R.O.C.) regularly witnesses from his office, are currently still to be seen commuting between Theale and Henley Road gravel-pits. Shortly, this movement will cease as they return to their coastal quarters.

It has to be said that the eastern end of Kings Meadow, just before Nurdin & Peacock, is a surprisingly good 'look-out' point for migrants, including raptors. My own list includes Slavonian Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Shag (all three species on Thames below the weir), Osprey, Goshawk, Hobbies (annually), Common Terns (daily in summer), with Siskin, Redwing and

Fieldfare in winter.

Early this morning, as if to confirm the arrival of Spring, I was saddened, yet saddened, to hear my first Blackcap in Hemdean House School's sycamore trees. As anticipated, at this earlier period of migration, its visit was brief. In recent years however, these Sylvia and Phylloscopus warblers which once bred within the School grounds, have been deterred by the persistent clatter of petrol and electric motors throughout Spring and Summer in this area.

I thus felt privileged to be standing in my open, back doorway, listening to the Blackcap's beautiful melody, bringing with it nostalgic memories of yester-years, when the variety of bird-song was listened to with keenness by pupils and teachers alike, as each species was identified with intelligent appreciation. Lessons

were sometimes wholesomely taken on the lawns whilst sitting in the shade of those same trees, which echoed to birds from far away Africa.

Soon we may consider taking a leisurely, Passenger Boat trip to Henley, seeing again the beauty of the Thames and its wildlife, and the natural dispersal of Swans, Mallards, Coots and Grebes, along the way. Here and there, water-fowl may enjoy titbits from our steamer as it awaits entry into a lock, but they will soon scatter again once the boat has continued on its way.

Returning home, we may see the silhouette of a Heron as it gracefully lifts itself into the setting sun, having been disturbed by our approach, and Time will seem to stand still as Nature points the way to Peace throughout God's World.

SCOPS OWL

ST ANNE'S R.C. SCHOOL

THE sports team of St Anne's R.C. Primary School are having another successful year. The football teams finished second in the six-a-side. The 11-a-side team were in the semi-final of a competition run by Reading F.C. and for the first time in many years reached the final of the Reading Schools Cup where they lost to Calcot School, 1-0. Once again this has been proved to be an excellent season and the boys and girls involved have been

a credit to the school with their courtesy, enthusiasm and skill.

The school netball teams have also played against neighbouring schools and have done very well and been ably coached by Mrs Hardiman and Mrs Jarvis and also supported by many parents.

In a new departure, a short tennis group has been formed in the school in conjunction with the Berkshire LTA.

This has been aimed at six to seven year olds and coached by two parents, Mrs Magat and Mrs Falzon. The results have been outstanding, with over twenty children enjoying the coaching. Some have been selected for further coaching as a result of a trial. A great many of the children took part in the Berkshire Short Tennis Tournament at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre, Lower Earley, with some children reaching the semi-final stage.

NEWS FROM THE CAVERSHAM ART CENTRE



THIS very active community project which meets in Church House has recently enjoyed a well attended lecture, and is looking forward to 'Art Focus' which will last two weeks. As part of this Tutor Ted Burnell will be giving a slide lecture on Constable and Turner at 7.30pm on June 24th in Church House. There will also be a display of work by some of the senior members of the Group and light refreshments will be served. A small charge of £1 will be made to cover costs.

'READING'S OPEN SPACES'

READING Park Rangers, based in Caversham Court, have produced a most interesting Spring/Summer programme to help everyone to get the most out of the Town's parks, gardens, and even the old cemeteries, as well as the surrounding areas. Their magazine, called Evergreen, to be issued quarterly, amongst other valuable information, contains an 'Events Programme'. This is available at the Rangers' Office, Caversham Court Gardens, or the Information Office at the Town Hall, Reading. The photo shows a Group enjoying the 'Flora and Fauna' in the Hemdean Road Cemetery, and the interesting information about it given by Clare Bishop, Park Ranger. There is another Cemetery Exploration of St. Peter's Churchyard on Thursday, 3rd July at 6p.m. No need to book — just come along!



— E.S. Archer
A walk around the Old Cemetery in Hemdean Road.

BEAVERS 22ND READING SCOUTS

THERE are twenty Beavers, age between six and eight years at the 22nd Reading Scouts' at St John's ground, Gosbrook Road, Lower Caversham.

They meet in term time only from 6 to 7.15pm. It is a fully colony of eager Beavers, which are known for fun, friends and sharing. They love to go on visits, such as to The Fire Station and the Guide Dogs at Wokingham. But by September 1993 they will be two Beavers' Assistant Leaders short. Would anybody over the age of eighteen years be interested in helping on a voluntary basis after training given by the Scout movement?.

Anyone interested in helping, please contact Heather Walker, Reading 484779, the Beaver Leader.



WERE YOU EVER A SCOUT IN CAVERSHAM?

THE 22nd Reading Scout Group at St John's Church in Gosbrook Road is celebrating its seventy-fifth year in 1993. If you were ever a Cub, Scout, Leader or helper with them, then they would love to hear from you, as the present group are organising a Reunion party on Saturday 17th July. Invitations will be printed, but they need help to compile a list of previous members' names and addresses together with a display of photos and memorabilia.

If you can help in any way, then please contact Mrs Allnut, the Group Scout Leader on Reading 470726.



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The following extract is about just one of the many places that Mr. David Grubb, the Executive Director, visited earlier this year.

PAZARIC.....The Psychiatric Hospital

THE hospital at Pazaric, before hostilities, was well equipped and capable of maintaining good nursing care. The parents of mentally handicapped children visited regularly. Treatment rather than merely containment was in many cases possible. Now, since the war began, the patients are restrained from using the recreation yard.

They sit inside all day. The central heating supply has failed. Medicines are in short supply. Parents and relatives of the patients no longer visit. The doctors and nurses care as before but they face greater responsibility and the slowly debilitating force of fear.

The hospital borders no-man's land. There had been direct attacks from the high

hills a few kilometres away. Sarajevo itself is only 28 km away. In this war they shoot people at grave yards and deliberately bombard hospitals.

It is quite evident that even the most retarded patients are affected directly by the war. Normally four or five patients would die each year. Since the war began, 44 have died and their

deaths are directly related to the lack of heat and food. The hospital director is in no doubt about this. The soldiers on the hill top must be aware that this is a hospital and yet they still bombard it. Looking down from their vantage point they may or may not know that the hospital director is a Serb. They are so close to their target that they must be able

to see that the patients are deformed and if all of this is not clear to them what do they make of the 44 wooden crosses now marking the burial plots of those who have died. Each cross is a memorial to a person who despite gross debilitation had been given care and respect by the nursing staff. In this village now even the insane are being killed.

THE LINK GROUP

THE April meeting was held at the home of Audrey Preston in Caversham Park Village and members were delighted to hear that nearly £900 had been raised so far by the recent knit-in! It was agreed to make a donation to support an outing for the needy Reading families in the summer, and also to the Sue Ryder home towards running expenses. Other, smaller requirements from linked organisations were discussed and help will be

given over the coming months. At the Link meeting on Monday 24th May, Molly Dussek will be speaking about the work of CRUSE (counselling for the bereaved) and members would be pleased to welcome anyone who is interested. The venue is 58 Chazey Road, Caversham and the meeting starts at 8.00 pm. If you would like to know more about the Link Group or would like to come to the May meeting (transport can be

provided) please contact Suzy Robinson on Reading 478371 (or speak to the local Link representative in your church).

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CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTION WEEK

THIS year's collections in the parishes of St. Margaret's and St. Peter's raised a grand total of £848. This tremendous total is due to all the help and hard work of the collectors. We thank them all for their support, and thank all those who donated so generously.

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Reading**Caversham
W.I.**

THE islands of Hawaii were the exotic and colourful holiday destination visited by Caversham W.I., by way of the slides shown and described by Mr John Bird. Dramatic volcanoes, sunsets and tropical flowers followed in vivid colours. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Macgregor.

Final arrangements were made for the Group Meeting on May 13th and dates were also given for the season's darts matches.

**Rosehill
Emmer Green
W.I.**

The April meeting on 7th was opened by Mrs Jane Stockhill, using a microphone which has been purchased so that people at the back of St Barnabas Hall can hear the speakers better. Unfortunately the speaker did not turn up this month! However the afternoon was enjoyed as much business had to be done with the help of the new committee doing their various jobs. Members had a quiz about the Royal Family, devised by the President.

Outings were discussed, one of which took place the next day as Mrs Allwright had arranged a visit to the Mapledurham farms to see the shepherd at work with the lambs born this spring. More about this next month.

**Caversham
Ladies Club**

The meeting opened with Mrs Brenda Strong, Vice Chairman, in the Chair as Mrs May Harwood, the Chairman, was still indisposed, but making a good recovery and looking forward to returning to the Ladies Club in the near future.

The tables were beginning to look very tempting and a happy atmosphere was all around. Grace was then said and committee members took over their usual job at parties — waiting on the members. The top table had the usual simnel cake which Mrs Queenie Strong had decorated with marzipan in the traditional style of Easter, and this was cut later and a slice of cake and an Easter egg given to each member.

Before the closing of the afternoon's meeting, members were reminded that Mr Strong would be showing a video at the next club meeting, and Mrs Brenda Strong said that as there is no meeting in August, she would have a garden party at her house if members would like the idea. All agreed it would be very much appreciated and would break the long time between meetings. The meeting closed with members saying a very 'Enjoyable Afternoon'.

**Emmer Green
Townswomen's
Guild**

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held in St Barnabas Church Hall in April. The new Chairman, Mrs A. Dalzell, introduced some new members onto the committee. The Ramblers, Arts and Crafts and Drama Groups gave details of their latest ventures and it was also suggested that a Theatre Club should be started for Guild members. There was to be an exhibition on May 8th in Loddon

Hall starting at 11.00am for displays of Guild members' handcraft work, with a prize for the best Guild display.

The latest Federation news was discussed and then the rest of the evening was a Social evening with a Sales Table full of Easter Goodies. There were homemade cakes, tarts and pies made by Guild members which were judged by Mrs Glenys Francis, a member of the W.I. and later all these homemade goodies were added to the Sales table and quickly purchased by members.

There were two more competitions during the evening, one was to guess the weight of a beautifully decorated iced cake and the other to try and guess how many bags of various sizes were included inside a carrier bag. Proceeds of the evening to be added to funds for future charity donations. An enjoyable and lighthearted evening.

**St. Peter's
Wives**

At their February meeting in Church House, St. Peter's Wives' members listened with interest to Mr. J. McClure from the B.B.C. Monitoring Unit.

In March Mrs Meryl Beek illustrated her talk, entitled "Three Faces of France" with slides.

For their April Meeting members provided their own entertainment and thanks were expressed to the contributors for their "Poetry Desert Island Discs" evening.

To look forward, members will be meeting at their Chairman's house in June. In July support will again be given to the Sue Ryder Fete and for their regular meeting on the third Tuesday, members will be learning how to trace their family histories with Mrs Jean Debney. In August the Group will be enjoying a Summer evening walk.

**Caversham
Afternoon
Townswomen's
Guild**

The meeting in April was opened and members warmly welcomed by the new Chairwoman, Mrs Joan Spall. The entertainment this month was members' long-

awaited visit from the Firtree Club's choir. This pleasant choir of fine voices treated members to a programme comprising a wide range of songs, some serious, others light hearted and included an interesting monologue or two. The programme was rounded off most appropriately for the April meeting with a beautifully rendered arrangement of "All in an April Evening". By the way the initials FIRTREE represent "Friends In Retirement Taking Recreation, Exercise and Entertainment".

Members of the Arts and Crafts group are preparing for the Spring into Summer exhibition in May at Twyford. The final of the inter-Guild quiz will be part of the programme on that day also a fashion show.

At the AGM in March the play-readers performed "The Guinea Pigs", a comedy play, which judging by the laughter and happy faces of members was much enjoyed.

The Social Studies Group have been busy and recently visited the Fire Station in Caversham Road where they gained knowledge of just how proficient the Firemen are trained to be, the answers to the many questions proving they are prepared well for their duties which frequently entail personal risk.

The charity for this

year is to be the Sue Ryder Home. The competition at this meeting was for one's own poem, ode or limerick and next month's, for a decorated plate. The overall winner of competition entries is presented with a cup, to be cherished until next year's winner is announced!

**STAR
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The open Meeting at the Kennet Room had for its speaker Auriel Warwick on 'Music Therapy'. She told members how music was sometimes the only means of contact with those suffering a range of disabilities from stroke to autism. She showed a fascinating video of the patient, slow work needed to make an autistic child respond to eye contact.

The Books group discussed Joanna Trollope and the secret of her outstanding popular appeal. The playreaders began Emlyn Williams' 'Night Must Fall' and the French playreaders read 'Le feu sur la terre' by Francois Mauriac. The Music group heard Pat Lewis speak on 'Hap-

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the CLUBS

from page 10

py Days' illustrated with light happy music. Conversational German has made a good start.

The Local History group drew a large number for its inaugural meeting. It was decided to concentrate on research on the following areas, West Thames, S. Thames and Reading transport. The General Interest meeting at Pegasus Court heard Ernest Blackwell speak on 'Reproduction and Print'. Numbers ensured that there will be more meetings there for Tilehurst members. Walkers enjoyed the annual Bluebell walk at Turham's Farm.

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

Maplewood W.I.

At the April meeting Mrs Joan Baddeley was in the Chair. The new Secretary, Mrs Joan Allen, also arranged the year's programme, which sounds most interesting.

As the delegate to the Spring Council

Meeting, Mrs Margaret Anghelatos, was not present the report was read by Mrs Muriel Popplewell. The speaker on that occasion was Mrs Hawthorn, an ex-actress whose subject was "Knickers!" It made everyone present feel they had missed a lively meeting. Mrs Muriel Popplewell, who is also the Treasurer, presented the Budget for the year.

The speaker was Miss Clare Bishop, who showed the most delightful slides, and spoke on "The Park Ranger Service" whose main task is to conserve the countryside around Reading. Several groups, comprising families, the unemployed, and young people on Community Service, meet to work hard clearing trees, rubbish and paths to allow wild flowers, birds and insects to return. One Group is called CROW which means "Conserve Reading on Wednesday". Miss Bishop said they collect enough rubbish to furnish a house. Why do this? The Council will collect four bags of garden rubbish a week, free.

The Flower of the Month competition was won by Mrs Margaret Bolam and the competition for a decorated egg was won by Mrs Phyllis Duckworth.

Next month Mrs Clayton will be speak-

ing on "Embroidery with Islamic Inspirations".

Maplewood W.I. meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Mapledurham Pavilion at 2.30pm. Visitors are most welcome. Ring Reading 473990 for details.

Caversham Community Association

A well attended meeting was held on the 5th April when Pat Snow was welcomed again to the club by the many gardening enthusiasts in the audience. This time her subject was, 'Getting ready for summer', and Mrs. Snow had many useful tips to impart to the members. One suggestion was to take cuttings from the tips of fuschia, place in small pots of compost, spray with water every day, and roots should form in three weeks. The members could buy the plants that Mrs. Snow had on display, and many took this opportunity.

After the Easter holiday the members met for the club's 42nd birthday party. The tables were attractively decorated with vases of spring flowers and the meal of cold beef and salad, followed by trifles, gateaux and cheesecake, was prepared for the members. The entertainment was provided by Ron and Jean Geall. Ron played his electronic keyboard and provided music for dancing and singing. Jean led the dancing, including the popular 'Birdie' dance. During the evening, birthday cake, made by Maida Feast, was served with a choice of wine or fruit juice. The competition for the best hat, made from newspaper, was won by Margaret Briggs with Margaret Payne in second place. The Chairman thanked the committee and all who had helped with the party. Evelyn Cook, on behalf of the members, expressed their thanks for a very good party.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 26th April with Ted Howard, the President, opening the proceedings. The Chairman reported a successful year and thanked everyone for their support. A new committee and officers were elected, including Beryl Latnam, Maida Feast and Ivy Masterman who were re-elected as Chairman, Secretary and

Treasurer respectively. The charity chosen for the year was the Multiple Sclerosis Society, A.R.M.S., Margaret Cameron agreed to continue as the collector.

Caversham Heights TG

A cuddle for the Pups

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was fortunate to have David White as the speaker in St Andrew's hall at their April meeting. He said that he has been a freelance press photographer for most off his working life, which he regards as a privilege. In 1986 came the first opportunity to liaise with and to accompany a team of writers and photographers to the icefields of the Gulf of St Lawrence in Canada. They visited the herd of Harp seals and saw the mothers nursing their white-coated pups. This event was the culmination of a twenty year struggle by the IFAW (the International Fund for Animal Welfare) to stop the slaughter of these creatures, which were valued for their beautiful pelts. He has made six more visits to Canada, to take photographs of mother seals and their pups enjoying their freedom. The mothers are not disturbed by the visitors and the pups may be cuddled. So a new tourist industry has replaced the traditional seal hunt. His pictures of holiday makers and the beautiful changing landscape in a temperature of 50° below zero were truly fascinating.

Members of the guild were urged to come along to social studies group, when Miss Jackson was speaking about street names in Reading. There is to be another community lunch in May at Caversham library.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

The Club has continued to flourish since the last report 6 months ago. The 92/3 Autumn/Winter Session was one of great variety & included talks & slides on Canada by Miss Sawyer; Pompeii by Mr Goodman; Caversham Road in the past by Mr Noyes; The City of London by Mr Moss; English Cathedrals by Mr Ebbs & Cornwall by Mr Kirby. Miss Pat Tyler gave what was to be her final talk,

her 12th, on The Trials of a Tourist. Very sadly Pat died suddenly at the end of February. She will greatly missed, her charming witty talks were very popular with members and she had become not just an entertainer but a friend. The proceeds of a collection was sent to the R.N.L.I., in Pat's memory (a charity dear to her). Also in October we exercised our less than supple limbs under the guidance of Mrs Priest a Physiotherapist, and held our Harvest Auction.

Members enjoyed the Autumn Outing to Portsmouth, taking lunch at an excellent cafe on the sea front & visit to The Naval Heritage Centre.

The very good Christmas luncheon was held at the Miller of Mansfield, Goring & the Peppard W.I. singers delightfully entertained us at the Christmas Party. The Rondevous Singers & The Network Singers have provided other musical delights and Bingo remains popular on the 1st Wed of the month.

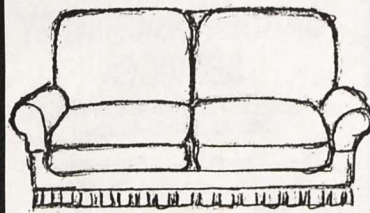
Subjects covered during early 1993 have been Mr Ebbs on Oxford and America, Miss Sawyer on Switzerland; Mr Frew on Scotland and Mr Goodman on Crete. During Lent Rev David Moody gave an interesting talk on the Origins of the Gospels. Yet to come are talks on Amsterdam, Africa, and Expo '92', and the Spring Outing is to the Cotswolds and the Summer one to Poole.

A legacy of £100 was received from the late Mrs Dorothy Dawkins, a dear long-standing member, and this has been spent on some new crockery and the refurbishment of tables.

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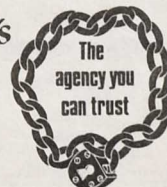
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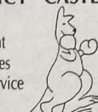
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