



MY YEAR AS MAYOR

HAVING been Deputy Mayor 1991-92, we expected that my wife, Pam, would become Mayor 1992-93. The election result in May '92 ruled this out and I suddenly found myself as Mayor!

This suited Pam well as she was quite apprehensive about chairing Council meetings. This held no terrors for me — in fact I have rather enjoyed it and must thank Councillors for the respect they have shown to the Office of Mayor during my year.

The Mayor has to maintain links with as many aspects of life in the town as possible, by responding to invitations at all times, seven days a week, and by entertaining visitors in the Parlour. Pam, being retired, has been able to undertake, as Mayoress, all the duties my work has prevented me from fulfilling, so there has been a "joint" Mayoralty this year.

We have been kept very busy, sometimes with two, even three engagements the same day. These are co-ordinated by the Mayor's Organiser, Helen Kirk, who has also made sure our transport was available when required.

This has been provided by an impeccable chauffeur service, with a stretch limousine bearing the Reading crest on its doors and roof and a flag on the bonnet. Everyone has been pleased to see the Mayor arriving in a manner befitting the Office again.

My allergy to many foods and cigarette smoke has been a problem this year, and I am grateful to all our hosts who adapted menus and discouraged their other guests from smoking near me.

Pam and I are very easy to interest and entertain, and have thoroughly enjoyed the many excellent functions to which we have been invited. Plays, musical events, parties, dances have all been a pleasure, except for "Batman Two", which she found hard to take!

The Mayor is the President of many Charities and so they, and many others, have asked us to their A.G.M.'s. This has given us insight into the work of these voluntary organisations who are giving wonderful service in our Community. We hope to maintain contact with some of them.

Happily, some of our invitations came from Caversham. Pam attended the Rededication Service for Berkshire Organists at St. Peter's conducted by our Chaplain Richard Kingsbury. We also attended the induction of the new Vicar and Deacon at St. John the Baptist. The 25th Birthday Party of Caversham Residents' Association and the A.R.M.S. (Caversham) Christmas Party were good fun, and Pam was extremely impressed with the music at Caversham Primary School, when she opened their new Conservatory extension.

Pam has given visitors to the Parlour a brief account of Reading's history, with special reference to the Mayoralty and civic regalia. Many have come from abroad and some have had limited English. This was true of a group of charming Japanese students who were on a course at the Chiltern Nursery College. Pam later presented them with certificates at the College and addressed them through an interpreter.

Visitors have come from Germany (several groups from Düsseldorf) Bosnia, Ireland, France, Canada, U.S.A., and Korea. We have also received parties from Reading schools, and many varied special interest groups, such as the Caversham Horticultural Society.



Pam and Hamza Fuad.

To give an idea of the variety of our engagements, here is the diary for a typical week in September:

Saturday:

9.30 a.m. — To Gyosei International College for Opening Ceremony of Friendship Gates by Lord Carrington.

11 a.m. — Conferment of Honorary Degrees by University on Dorothy Tutin and others as part of Centenary Celebrations.

1 p.m. — Lunch at Wantage Hall as guests of the University.

Sunday:

8.30 a.m. — Watch Autumn Amble — Veteran Cars — setting off from Prospect Park for Brighton.

2.30 p.m. — Art Exhibition at Sue Ryder Home.

Monday:

2 p.m. — League of Friends of Reading Hospitals A.G.M. preceded by a service in the Royal Berkshire Hospital Chapel.

Tuesday:

10 a.m. — Pam — rehearsal at St. Mary's in the Butts for reading the lesson letter later in the day.

12 noon — Town Centre Exhibition by Marks & Spencer's in Broad St.

6.30 p.m. — Service at St. Mary's, celebrating 100 years of University Education in Reading.

7.30 p.m. — Reception at Civic Centre for University guests, hosted by Mayor.

Wednesday:

10 a.m. — Party from Coley Primary School visits Parlour.

Thursday:

10 a.m. — A second group from Coley Primary visits Parlour.

Friday:

11.15 a.m. — Pam to Town Hall to discuss pictures for Mayoral Christmas Card.

12.45 p.m. — Thames Valley Society of Accountants Lunch.

3 p.m. — Meeting in Parlour to discuss Mayor's Charities.

7.30 p.m. — Reading Opera Society's production of 'Iolanthe' at the Hexagon.

Saturday:

10.30 a.m. — Opening of Save the Children Fayre at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

7 p.m. — Thames Valley Welsh Society's Hymn singing Festival at Tilehurst Methodist Church.

This week did not happen to include some of the major events such as the Royal Garden party, Remembrance Festivals, Carol Services, Christmas Lights Procession, Mayor's Market, visits to Düsseldorf and Clonmel, Co Tipperary, etc.

We are particularly glad if we have furthered links with these two towns as we believe strongly in promoting international friendship and understanding, especially between young people.

Our theme for the year was "proudly Reading". We have tried to project our pride in the Borough within and beyond its boundaries, and to present an image of Mayoralty of which Reading could be proud. One thing we have learned is how very important the Mayoralty is to the people of Reading, as a symbol of their Civic dignity. There would be real regret to see it contract any further.

We have been received with kindness and enthusiasm all over Reading and we know a similar welcome awaits the new Mayor, Rajinder Sohpal and his charming wife Nasseem, as they take over from us. They have our very best wishes for health and happiness in the year that lies ahead.

We thank everyone who has contributed in any way to our momentous year, and are now looking forward to resuming contact with our many friends who have, of necessity, been rather neglected by us recently.

Hamza Fuad

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TALKING POINT

by
The Rev. Chris Justice
Caversham Hill Chapel



"...AND NOW THE BAD NEWS!"

BAD news - bad news - and more bad news. You may have seen where, recently, the BBC newsreader Martyn Lewis complained of the lack of good news that was being broadcast in the media. And many of us would agree with him. It would make a pleasing change to wake up in the morning to a catalogue of pleasant, cheering events being broadcast by the radio, TV or newspapers. But, sadly, that is not likely to happen. And it's not simply because those who decide what is to be included have a morbid obsession with violence, misery and horror. The sobering fact is that there is a lot of bad news out there! Being a pastor, a minister in the church, I am asked for help and advice in all sorts of situations and I like to reassure people that they can tell me whatever they want to about themselves and I won't be shocked. But even the unshockable must, at times, feel nauseated and horrified by some of the images and incidents that are brought to our notice.

What has gone wrong? Where have the old, established restraints on behaviour gone? I am only in my forties, but I can remember days when there seemed to be in-built limits on what people in our society would even contemplate doing to other people. But some of those thresholds have been moved and some have even disappeared altogether. Now we hear and read of the unthinkable being done to little children and senior citizens and the incomprehensible being done to other people's property. What seemed like permanent unmoveable standards appear now to be not-so-permanent, and frighteningly moveable! This all seems to be made even worse by what, to many of us, appear to be unsuitable weak punishments for those who carry out these dreadful crimes. What may be reasons for people doing the things they do are now put forward as excuses, and we sometimes get the impression that more sympathy goes to the "doer" than to the "done-to". And, as we look forward and try to imagine the way things will develop, it's hard not to be fearful about the future.

Have I depressed you? Have I given you the impression that I am just another cynical old moaner who has nothing good to say about anything? Do you now feel more inclined to stand alongside Mr Lewis and bemoan the fact that even "Caversham Bridge" has now stooped to majoring on bad news! Do I only see the bad things around me? Of course not. But I am trying to express some of the uneasiness that many of us feel when faced with the day by day events we witness or hear about.

Somebody has described society as being "filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil, they disobey their parents, they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless." A piece from an editorial comment from a British newspaper? No; a quote from the Bible (Romans 1: 29-31)! But still a fair and accurate description of much of what is happening today.

That piece of the Bible goes on to say: "They not only continue to do these very things, but also approve of those who practise them." As Jimmy Greaves would say — "It's a funny old world!" isn't it? Most of us would disapprove strongly of the things that are happening around us and causing so much misery to so many, but we seem powerless to do anything about it.

Is there anything we can do? Is there anything that anyone can do? If I'm honest, I have to admit that I don't have a great deal of confidence in mankind itself to make any great, over-all improvement of things. I also read in the Bible that God says that evil men will go from worse to worse — and I do have confidence that God knows what He's talking about!

But having said all that — having painted such a dark picture, let me now bring in a splash of light and colour. Into a world that was being described in that piece from the Bible, God sent a message of real, solid hope. Jesus came to declare and initiate something that He called the "kingdom of God" or the "kingdom of heaven". And everywhere He went — mixing in the sort of society that is described above — getting alongside ordinary people in ordinary families — Jesus said things and did things that

actually made a difference to the way people lived. And as, under His influence, people changed from the inside out, society also began to undergo remarkable changes. Literally, a little bit of heaven here on earth. In fact, the history of the world over the past two thousand years is stamped with indisputable evidence of changes for good in societies that have been brought about by men and women who were motivated and driven by a heart of compassion and concern that stemmed from a commitment to, and a love for, Jesus. In this way, His rule, His influence, His kingdom has touched this world in very significant ways — for the better.

Admittedly there has been much damage done in the name of religion — of all flavours — including christianity, but a good argument could be made for the fact that most of that damage was done by followers of a religion rather than by the followers of this remarkable man.

But what about today? Can this splash of light and colour still make any mark on the darkness of our society? I believe with all my heart that it can. Jesus still calls people to ask God that His "kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven". And He still calls those who have received Him into their lives to be changed, and be different, and make a difference.

We have just celebrated Easter — the demonstration that the power of God in Jesus is greater than even the strongest powers — death and evil. We have also celebrated Whitsun or Pentecost — the coming of God Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, into the lives of men and women, in such a way that they were motivated, mobilised, driven out into a desperately needy world with a message that was to be both spoken and lived out in such a way that they were to get the reputation of being those who "turned the world upside-down"!

If, as you read this, you are disillusioned with religion and do not have any confidence that it can change the world in which we live — I have to say that I share your pessimism in that respect. But I do have confidence that still, a man or woman who truly takes Jesus into their lives, and will follow Him wholeheartedly, can make a difference — not by simply tagging a bit of religion onto their lives but by letting Jesus' influence change the way they live, the attitudes they adopt, the causes they embrace. I still believe that it continues to be the will and purpose of God that His kingdom, His rule, His influence should be experienced and enjoyed here on earth as it is in heaven. May God help those of us who claim to know Him to be different enough to make a difference. And may the rest notice such a difference that they turn to the One who makes it!

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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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 August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 30 June.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 28 June.

The dates for September will be Monday 2 August and Wednesday 4 August.

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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'BUSYBODY'

BUSYBODY, alias Mrs Piper, is deputy caretaker of an office block in which Richard Marshall, played by Jonathan Brown, has a suite of rooms. In the course of her duties this quick-witted Londoner keeps her eye to the keyholes, her ear to the ground and her concealed pocket at the ready to receive any intriguing papers that come to light when she is emptying waste paper baskets. When this play — the latest production of Caversham Theatre — opens, Mrs Piper is just phoning the police to report the discovery of a body, apparently stabbed with a paper knife, which has appeared in one room, turned up later in another and eventually vanished altogether.

The detective who arrives is non other than Harry, Mrs Piper's boy friend from mixed infant days, but now elevated to Superintendent. Busybody is no respecter of persons, least of all Harry, and uses her stock of ill-gotten evidence to tease and eventually outwit the superintendent, who was played with suitable pomposity and intensifying exasperation by Bob Green.

Mrs Piper has all the office staff relationships sorted out. She knows that Richard's wife Clair is out of love with him and that she is probably having an affair with a

member of his staff, Robert Westerby. In love with Richard, however, is his secretary Marion Selby, whilst Richard has made a pass or two at the typist, Vicki Reynolds. The denouement in the third act is somewhat bewildering but there has been a wealth of laughs en route.

En route, Sue Stainthorp conveyed the unease of Clair and Penny Mason the mistress of Marion. Andrew Button was an admirable Detective Constable, Kathy Munns was a delightfully flighty typist whilst Peter Lord successfully transformed Robert Westerby from nice guy to nasty guy — he was, in fact, the murderer.

'Busybody' does have the shortcoming that the author has provided the supporting actors, with the exception of the Superintendent and the typist, with little scope for developing distinctive characters. They are all foils to the tart responses, the lightning interruptions and the throw-away malapropisms of Mrs Piper, and it was fortuitous that this part was so splendidly played by Jackie Case. Jackie was in her element, and her poker faced expressions, no-nonsense stances and excellent timing ensured that there was no let-up in the laughs.

Directors Liz Martin and Bob Green squeezed the maximum humour out of the script and kept the performance moving at a cracking pace. Even if a little over-furnished, the set met adequately the needs of the play, and Stage Manager Peter Ludlow kept the show free of hitches.

EMA

CHAZEY WOOD BLUEBELLS

THANKS to the kindness of Mr John Eyston of the Mapledurham Estate, the beauty of Chazey Wood in bluebell time was open to all this year. It is not known exactly how many people made the pilgrimage to see the pools of intense blue colour beneath the

beech trees, in their delicate new foliage, but the impressive sum of £60.71 was raised in aid of the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed from collecting boxes placed in three Caversham shops.

Thanks are due to Caversham Bookshop, the Purewal family at

25 Church Road and Mrs Pickersgill in the typewriter shop on Caversham Bridge. Mr Eyston hopes that the opening of Chazey Wood in bluebell time in aid of Sue Ryder will become an annual event. Thanks again to Mr Eyston for his generosity.

NEW GROUP SCOUT LEADER FOR ST. PETER'S

ST. PETER'S Scouts Group (3rd Reading) has a new Group Scout Leader — Mr. Peter Batley — a much loved member of St. Peter's congregation. Peter follows in the footsteps of Brian Ebbs and Peter

Asquith as GSL.

Peter and Sheelagh, living at Hemdean Hill, know the area well and are well known and respected in church and community. Peter has years of Scout leadership experience, from his first appointment at Sevenoaks as Scoutmaster in 1957. Since then he has received many awards for his leadership in scouting.

Now he leads a strong team of leaders, helpers, scouts, cubs and beavers in the St. Peter's Group. His genial character and his wise guidance will ensure the Group grows from strength to strength.

Congratulations and best wishes to Peter Batley on his appointment, with thanks and support to him in his leadership.

PAINTING TO SPRINT

THE U.K. Champion Veteran Sprinter, Wally Franklyn, is currently a familiar face at the Milestone Centre, Caversham Park where he is leading a team of painters who are brightening up the Centre on Saturday mornings.

He urgently needs help towards his travel to Japan in October where he has been invited to represent Britain in the Worlds Veterans' Track and Field Championships. The Reading Chronicle have set up a Sponsorship Fund which will help him to raise the £1500 needed by each individual competitor, in order to join the team. Any donations, company sponsorships (however large or small) should be sent via the Chronicle fund.

Everybody is looking forward to seeing Wally competing in this prestigious event in October.

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 Allnutt, the Group Scout Leader on Reading 470726.



A MAGICAL AFTERNOON

MEMBERS of the Ladies Circle of the Caversham Round Table gave pleasure to a bumper turn out of residents in Mander Court recently. Mrs Izzard, the organiser, produced a marvellous tea, all of which was brought and cleared away by the group concerned.

The room was decorated with balloons and flowers, and the rousing finale was a magician, Roy Heath, a member of the Magic Circle, who completed the entertainment. Those present from Mander Court asked that their grateful thanks for this voluntary act was given publicly.

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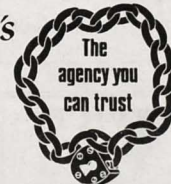
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

CAVERSHAM CONFOUNDS TREND

CONFOUNDING the pattern across the rest of the county where Conservative votes tumbled in the face of the triumphant advance of the Lib-Dems, in Caversham (the place as opposed to the ward) there was little change after the County elections at the beginning of May.

In Caversham (the ward, as opposed to the place) Pauline Palmer repeated her triumph in last year's borough election by romping home with the third largest number of votes in the whole town, leaving her nearest rival, the Labour candidate, 732 votes behind her. In Peppard (the ward, not the village) Gareth Gimblett, the sitting member and the only non-home grown successful candidate in Caversham, held on to his seat though with a heavily reduced majority, Ian Fenwick, the Liberal candidate, being only 172 votes behind him. Perhaps this was due to members of his back-up team being at Newbury helping in the battle for supremacy on which the nation's eyes were focused.

Thames, not for the first time, had an interesting power struggle going on, where Hamza Fuad, Reading's mayor, and a Conservative of his own particular brand, was being challenged for his county seat by Vic Angell, a former Reading Borough Liberal Councillor, but now carrying the banner for the official Conservative party. It was virtually a two-horse race, as there was no Lib-Dem candidate and the Labour and Green candidates could hardly be regarded as serious contenders in the sense of having any hope of winning the seat. In the event, Vic Angell defeated Hamza Fuad by 429 votes, almost the same number as the Labour candidate gained, but it cannot be assumed that all her votes would have gone to Hamza had she stood down. His share of the poll was very high for someone without a party organisation behind him and was, without doubt, a recognition of the hard work he has put in in furthering the interests of his ward.

The result showed once more the difficulties of successfully contesting an election, without party backing and, what all politicians soon find out, that 'there ain't no such thing as gratitude in politics'. So after their mayoral year, the Fuads, who just over a year ago held three seats between them, now hold only one, and a betting man would not risk money on that one being safe.

CAVERSHAM COURT

Caversham Court is about to have a face lift when the stable block entrance and yard will be improved. Presumably, as the back entrance, it always was a bit of a Cinderella, but now as one of the few remaining parts of the old buildings that used to occupy the site, it merits better treatment. There will also be interior alterations to make the entrance more welcoming.

This is all part of a plan to put the buildings to better use for the community activities of a kind that are compatible with the character of the gardens.

In the summer we can look forward to an Edwardian picnic and to a visit from the Mikron Theatre Company. Details of these will be found later in the local press and in the Park Rangers' magazine which can be picked up at Caversham Court. By making greater community use of Caversham Court it is hoped that the less desirable elements who have targeted it as a meeting place, will be discouraged from their present unsocial activities.

RECYCLING

Misgivings about whether the Albert Road playing field was the right place for a recycling site unfortunately proved to be justified and the facilities have had to be withdrawn. It was too close to houses, not many it is true, but separated only by the width of the road, and the car park was not really large enough particularly at busy periods. Caversham Residents' Association tends to the opinion that the Mapledurham Playing Field would be more suitable, having the advantages of Albert Road in being well used, and close to a recycling conscious area, whilst being further away from houses and with a much bigger car park. They would like to know what public reaction to this is.

Although new recycling schemes have several advantages over the former ones, the paper one is having teething problems. The first Saturday in the month routine had fixed itself so firmly into some people's minds that they continue to bring so much paper then that the skips, which are smaller than the old ones, cannot contain it. It is then left, and has to be collected up and just dumped on the waste tip.

Another problem is that under the present scheme, you have to put your own paper into the skip, instead of having a

volunteer waiting there who does it for you. This extra bit of effort and time is more than some people are able or willing to give, and so this paper is also just left. As far as St. Martin's car park goes this could lead to a withdrawal of the facilities, as St. Martin's Corporation are very particular about their site being kept neat and tidy — at least by others.

The can banks also are getting over full of unquashed tins. If the bottom as well as the top of the can is removed it can quite easily be flattened by standing on it and then the skip holds far more cans.

The textile banks have been such a success that Oxfam have had to draft in extra volunteers to deal with it. Cardboard and plastic banks would also be successful if they were introduced.

BUGS BOTTOM

Bugs Bottom is now the scene of such devastation that great areas of it are unrecognisable from what was there under a year ago. Having at the Public Inquiry repeatedly claimed that Bugs Bottom was not all that attractive, Higgs & Hill are now marketing their houses as being in beautiful rural surroundings, whilst their machinery tears the same beautiful surroundings to pieces.

The firm gave a donation to National Croquet Day for prizes and running expenses, which in the context of what they have done to Caversham can hardly be interpreted as a generous gesture. Croquet has the appearance of being a gentle soothing game, though I am told by aficionados that it brings out the worst in players. It was a shame that damp grey weather deterred many from taking part. Some Bugs Bottom protestors turned up, making the point that whilst croquet in the playing field was fine, what was going on in Bugs Bottom was not cricket.

TREE TOPS

Tree Tops hostel, the house half way up St. Peter's Hill, is threatened with imminent closure. It is a home for young hyperactive children, who spend the week there and return home for week ends and holidays, thus maintaining family links. There are very few such homes for young children with these difficulties in the whole country, yet if they are to be helped, it is too late to leave it until they are older. What is to happen to these children and their families is not clear. To close such a well-run home doing such

valuable work for short-term benefit is short sighted to say the least.

TURNER ON THE THAMES

Many of us know that Turner painted views of the old Caversham Bridge and that at least one is in the Tate Gallery, even if we have not seen it. In a recently published book, 'Turner on the Thames', three of these pictures are reproduced in black and white with interesting detailed commentary. It would appear that Turner folded up an oil painting of the bridge and stuffed it in his nineteenth century equivalent of a ruck sack, doing it no good at all, and with scant regard for the high sums his paintings would later be fetching.

Turner journeyed along the Thames in

1805, painting and sketching as he went. Many of these works are reproduced on beautiful colour plates in this splendid book, which does not come cheap, but at £25 could be a special present to give lasting pleasure.

CORRECTION Warren House

The item in last month's column was based on an inaccurate report. The appeal was allowed, not refused. Conditions about tree planting and landscaping were attached but with ten flats (possibly twelve) on the site with associated parking, this can only be minimal. The view of the escarpment from across the river will be seriously impaired.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHURCHES TOGETHER — AGAIN & AGAIN & AGAIN

— IN BERKSHIRE

THE Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Berkshire is now one of those events in the calendar eagerly awaited and greatly enjoyed by ecumenians throughout the county and not least by those in Caversham. On a Saturday in early May well over a hundred gathered at St. Peter's, Earley, for the 1993 Assembly. Under the Chairmanship of the Bishop of Reading, who currently doubles as Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire, the Keynote Address was given by guest speaker the Revd Elizabeth Welch, URC Minister from the now famous Ecumenical Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes; the opening worship was led by YELP, the newly formed Youth Ecumenical Link Project, about which more later. Church Leaders from all the mainline denominations were present, sometimes more than one for a denomination as county and denominational boundaries are not often coterminous.

Elizabeth Welch's contribution provided a spiritual underpinning to, and a challenging message for, our ecumenical activity and experience. Sandwiched between an exposition of part of John 17, Jesus' prayer after the Last Supper, were examples of what happened in Milton Keynes. Unity needed to be rooted in prayer, which would take away the focus from ourselves and point beyond us. The prayer of Jesus demonstrated the unity of love of the Father and the Son, who were bound together as one. He prayed that the disciples would be bound together as the Father and the Son; so we also might be drawn together in unity, having both a knowledge of our own tradition and an experience of the richness of those of others. Jesus prayed that through the binding together of the disciples in the love of God the world might believe; so we too, bound together, would be renewed and thus be better able to be sent out to the world in witness and service.

The Bishop of Reading, in his analysis of the present situation as Chairman, reflected that those involved in ecumenism were sadly in a minority, people did not understand what we were about and there was a need for effective communication. He warned about being prisoners to the old ecumenism, to our denomination, to financial constraints and to the constitution of CTB. In so far as the constitution was concerned he indicated that there was a need to separate out CTB's role as a Sponsoring Body and the other work of its Council. There needed to be a clarity of function between Churches Together at different levels; it was not the intention of reverting to the top down situation that existed before the new Ecumenical Instruments or of doing at county level what could be done at local level. The Bishop called upon the people of God to spend a year of praying



— O. Jewiss

From left to right: Revd Elizabeth Welch (Speaker), Sister Janet Wilcox (County Ecumenical Officer), Rt. Revd Crispian Hollis (Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth), Revd Nelson Bainbridge (URC Wessex Provincial Moderator) and Rt. Revd John Bone (Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire and Bishop of Reading).



— O. Jewiss

Jo Queen of Reading YMCA, the Liaison Officer for Youth and driving force behind Youth Ecumenical Link Project, is seen kneeling with guitar.

and studying together. The future was God's vision, not ours.

Workshop sessions led or facilitated by the CTB Liaison Officers for Youth, the Media, Justice and Peace, Evangelisation, Social Responsibility,

Christian Education, and Industrial Mission occupied the major part of the day. Particular attention was given to the participants in the Youth Ecumenical Link Project who, in a further presentation, not only demonstrated through drama that they were

capable of turning the church round, but also had the whole Assembly on its feet engaged in action songs and almost dancing in the aisles. The infectious enthusiasm of this group of 16-25 year olds bodes well for the future of the Church and ecumenism.

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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

7.45pm on Tuesday 6 July

at Caversham Baptist Free Church

Speaker: REVD HARRY WEATHERLEY
Berkshire Baptist Association Evangelist

Subject: CHURCH GROWTH

ALL WELCOME!

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS to Revds Christine and Stephen Lowe on the birth of Thomas.

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— N. Kent

In February this year Jim George retired as Verger of St Andrews where he had been Verger for seven years.

The Revd Bill Carpenter is seen making a presentation to Jim together with all good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CAVERSHAM FOLK MEASURE UP



The Baptist Church during the festival. — E. S. Archer

IN line with a recent national survey whose findings have just been published showing that 70% of people in Britain express a belief in God, a poll taken in Caversham found that 75% of those questioned believed in God, 50% believed in life after death, and 53% expressed a desire to know God better. Sadly, 27% of those who were questioned had no ambition in life and 32% had no sense of purpose for living.

The survey was taken during the week 16th — 23rd May either in the Caversham Shopping Centre, or from door to door along Chester Street, Oxford Road, and Hemdean Road. The survey was taken by members of Caversham Baptist Free Church, as part of the varied programme of their "Spring Festival". This also included a Men's Evening at the Pipers Island Restaurant, Ladies' Meeting, Youth events, an "Open Church" Exhibition, and a Barn Dance. The "Spring Festival" was led, and the survey produced, by a visiting team from "Maranatha Ministries" from Cumbria.

Details of the random survey are as follows:-

1. Do you believe in God?
Yes 75% No 5% Not sure 20%
Interestingly 92% of men questioned stated they believed in God!
- 2.* What do you think Christianity is about?
A belief in Jesus 26% No idea 24% Caring for others 21%
3. Do you attend Church?
Regularly 33% Occasionally 20% Rarely 17% Never 30%
4. Do you read the Bible?
Regularly 13% Occasionally 26% Rarely 17% Never 44%
- 5.* What do you believe is the real purpose in living?
No idea 23% Loving and serving God and mankind 13% Family 9%
- 6.* What is your ambition in life?
Self contentment and success 43% No ambition 27% To serve God and other 13% Family 11%
- 7.* What do you think is the cause of all the unhappiness in the world?
Greed 26% People themselves 17% No idea 13% Lack of belief and morals 9% Natural aggression 7% Money 7% Religions 7%
Interestingly only 2% blamed either the media or politics.
8. Do you think that there is any life after death?
Yes 50% No 15% Not sure 35%
9. Would you call yourself a Christian?
Yes 70% No 17% Not sure 13%
- 10.* How do people become Christians nowadays?
The influence of the Bible, Church or other people 72% No idea 24%
- 11.* Why did Jesus die?
For us 61% No idea 13% As an example 4%
- 12.* Would you like to get to know God better?
Yes 53% No 35%

* There were various other replies to these questions but not overall opinion.

In response to the 53% of people who answered that they "would like to know God better", Caversham Baptist Free Church has responded by ordering 100 copies of the internationally known booklet "How To Know God Personally." These are available free and without obligation from Steve Cantwell, 33 Sheridan Close, Caversham. Tel: (0734) 477076.

HOSTS, GUESTS and STEWARDS

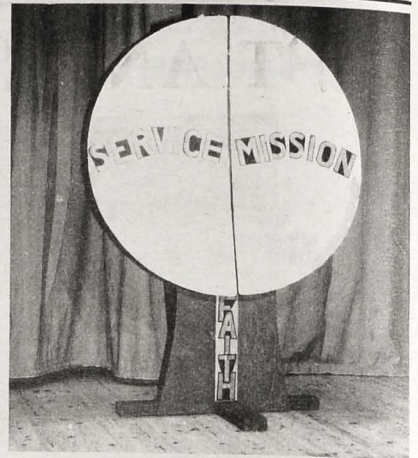
WHY, it is sometimes asked, not least by some Methodists, does a Stewardship Programme in a Methodist church have a family meal as its focus? The answer is, of course, that the high points in the life of a family, such as weddings and very special birthdays have a family meal as the focus, and a Stewardship Programme is — as it was at Caversham Heights this May — a high point in the life of a church.

Thus all members and friends of Caversham Heights Methodist Church were invited by a small army of hosts and hostesses to attend the Stewardship Meal at Chiltern Edge School on May 8th. More than two hundred were seated at charmingly decorated tables when the Revd Bill Carpenter, a special guest from nearby St Andrew's Church, said the Grace, and for the next hour they combined enjoyment of excellent beef casserole with conversation with other members of the church family to whom they might never have chatted informally before. So was the cohesion of the church strengthened by new or renewed bonds.

Meanwhile, in another room of the school, children of church members were enjoying a party arranged by Molly Sidwell and ladies of St Andrew's Church and being entertained by the Punch and Judy Show of Norman Kent.

Following the meal the aims of the Programme were demonstrated dramatically in a three act presentation featuring John Smith — but not the John Smith! In the first act John Smith volunteers for and takes on every job in the church and collapses under a mountain of church music, files, collection plate, guitar and DIY kit! In the second act the enthusiasm of John is blunted and he throws off an overburden of jobs and abandons the church. In the third act John still enthusiastically volunteers but the rest of the church enthusiastically volunteers as well!

Dominating the hall was a banner bearing the symbol of the Programme, a tree, devised and designed by the Minister of the church,



The symbolic Stewardship Tree.

the Revd David Moody. When, at the end of the presentation, a voice from the floor said: "Yes, we all ought to work together and play our parts, but what for?" the Stewardship Tree provided the answer. From a strong trunk rooted in Faith could grow a lusciant foliage of Service and Mission.

The Stewardship Programme plans for the church to Grow in Faith through a variety of new opportunities for Bible study and the practice of prayer; to Grow in Service by meeting more local social needs and supporting those suffering deprivation and injustice, and to Grow in Mission by making the local community more aware of the Christian message and seeking new opportunities for presenting the Gospel to young people.

Encircling the Stewardship Tree were the words "If your friendship with me is a real friendship it will bear a great harvest" — a quote from St. John's Gospel. The seed has been sown and now church members must begin painstaking work to ensure that the harvest is truly great.

EMA



Some well known local faces at the Stewardship meal.

NEARLY THERE!

Bill Carpenter, Vicar of St Andrew's, looks with satisfaction at the barometer outside the Church, showing the progress made in raising money for the Roof and Organ Fund.

The organ needed a considerable amount of work to be carried out on it, as did the Church roof. Victor Smith was appointed to arrange and organise all sorts of fund raising events throughout the year. His hard work and the support of the congregation of St Andrew's resulted in now almost reaching the target of £12,000 required.



— N. Kent

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST ANNE'S NEWS — Parish Concert



Some of St. Anne's School Recorder Group. — Gill Brown



Patti Naxton, Berna Macdonald, Eddie Moran and Father Meagher. — Gill Brown



St. Anne's Church Choir. — Gill Brown

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE'S HELD its third annual concert on Saturday 22nd May, a festival of music by members of the parish, in particular its choir who, in addition to singing together, also provided several individual and group performances both vocal and instrumental. Their efforts were complemented by a number of other instrumental soloists and the recorder group of St Anne's School. The hall was well filled for the occasion and those who attended enjoyed a variety of music, much of it performed to a high standard.

Proceedings opened with two contrasting piano pieces from Cliff Nash, followed by the solo trombone of Hilary Moss. Other solo instrumentalists were 10 year old flautist, Laura Zverko, Terry Bryanton, the concert's organiser, with his classical guitar, Victoria Naxton on the oboe and pianist, Fiona Stansbury who also provided accompaniment for a number of the evening's other soloists. By contrast, the recorder group from St Anne's school featured some twenty 7 to 11 year olds playing a combination of differently sized instruments.

On the vocal front, a variety of soloists and combinations emerged from the ranks of choir with individual recitals by Patti Naxton and Berna Macdonald, an original choice of duets by Anna Smith and Maria Featch and a quartet of Patti Naxton, Berna Macdonald, Eddie Moran and the parish's own Fr Meagher, introduced as Saint Anne's Talented Balladeers (SATB). Finally, and to round off the evening, the full choir took the stage.

It would be invidious to single out individual performances for praise, and probably a mistake too, for the occasion was not one of competition but a coming together to celebrate and enjoy the variety of musical talent with which the parish is blessed. However, mention must be made of the efforts of Terry Bryanton who, in addition to his guitar playing and singing, masterminded the whole occasion and must be credited with much of its undoubted success. Mentions too for Christine Bradbury and Mary Hardiman to whom the recorder group were such a credit and for all those who helped with furniture shifting, refreshments, tickets etc including Peter Lennon who brought a whole new meaning to the title of "chairman". K.C.

NEWS FROM ST. BARNABAS'

SPRING and early Summer are both seasons of growth and renewal and it would seem that growth and renewal are apparent in many aspects of Church life at St. Barnabas. At the most prosaic level of renewal — in the redecoration of the church hall, but at more fundamental levels in the growth of sharing and faith.

Through the Fellowships an atmosphere of warmth, friendship and

caring has started to develop and more importantly, over half the congregation at St Barnabas has helped prepare and take part in the Sunday intercessions. Recently there has also been a growth in the number of parishioners coming to help with flowers, Sunday School, Youth Groups and other aspects of church life. It is particularly good to see the happy, glowing faces of the choir,

which also seems to be enjoying a period of growth — even though a few more male voices wouldn't go amiss.

At the moment of writing, over twenty-three members of the congregation are preparing for a weekend of Renewal and Refreshment at Lee Abbey in North Devon. Some will go just for the rest, others will join in the Christian Arts workshop. However, whilst on the

subject of Christian Arts, congratulations must go to the Revd Nigel Hardcastle, vicar of St Barnabas, for the publication of a new blockbuster "Computing for Churches". A surprise party was held for him to celebrate this auspicious occasion, and it is hoped, in spite of a print run of only eighteen hundred, that after The Bible, its circulation will be second to none! Well done, Nigel.

OTHER NEWS.....

The Caversham library will be closed from Saturday, 24th July until Monday, 9th August. Call in for further details.

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.....AND MORE NEWS

CAVERSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULED for Friday, 16 July a Talk and Slide show titled "The History of Caversham Court and its Gardens" will be given by Mr Trevor Wilton to Members and Friends of the Society.

This talk will start 7.30 p.m. and will take place at the Arthur Legge Centre, Wolsey Road, Caversham.

Trevor, now retired, has over 40 years horticultural experience and was Parks Supervisor in the Reading Area. Initially he was in charge of the Forbury and Caversham Court gardens so his talk will be of special interest to local members. He will show a number of slides of the old house and give a brief resume of past owners.

Anyone interested in what promises to be a fascinating event is invited to attend and non-members can join the Society at the Centre if they wish. The annual subscription is still only £1.50 for a couple reduced to 75p for Senior Citizens.

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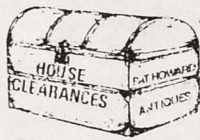
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POST BAG

HEMDEAN ROAD CEMETERY

Dear Editors,

I was quite amazed to see in the June edition of your newspaper that the Park Rangers have included the Hemdean Road Cemetery in their Spring/Summer programme. As one who struggles to keep a grave reasonably tidy in that abandoned place, I can tell you that a little less "Flora and Fauna" and a bit more care and maintenance would be appreciated.

Currently the grass is so long it is positively hazardous, and if we have much more rain between now and July when the annual grass cutting is promised it will be more of a disgrace than ever.

I have long since given up the struggle to get the Reading Borough Council to take any interest, but now the cemetery has been put on the list of interesting places to visit, maybe, when the grass has been cut, the Park Rangers will see there is a thorough tidy up, and that includes giving the paths a good sweep and removing ALL debris. Not a normal occurrence.

One can only live in hope.

Yours etc
Esther Youens
9 Gurney Drive,
Caversham.

Dear Sirs, State Education in the 20's and 30's

Born in London in 1924, my education was undertaken under the auspices of the former London County Council.

In 1929 I joined the Lena Gardens Infants and Primary School, and for the next four years I was taught to read - my favourite book being "The Swiss Family Robinson" - to write properly, and to understand the four basics of arithmetic - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

From the age of nine to eleven I attended Brackbury Road Elementary School where I was introduced to the mathematical intricacies of fractions and decimals, the English language, history and geography.

At eleven I sat an examination to test if I should continue my education at a grammar school, a central school, or remain at the elementary school. I had an app-

titude for maths and gained sufficient marks to be offered a place at the West Kensington Central School, known also as "Wonky Kids College" or "WKC".

For the next two years I was introduced to English literature, French, physics and chemistry. After two years the pupils were separated into two streams - one to study technical subjects such as carpentry, metal work, and technical drawing, and the other commercial subjects of book-keeping, shorthand, typewriting and economics. The latter was my choice and I excelled in both book-keeping and typewriting, gaining RSA Stage 2 certificates at the age of fifteen. My last year at WKC was spent studying for the Cambridge School Certificate, today's equivalent being pass marks of nine or ten in GCSE subjects.

Two special subjects deserve mention of my studies at WKC - spelling and history. We had a book which contained the two thousand most mis-spelt words, and a brief history book of seven chapters covering UK and European history from 1066 to the 20th

Century. Each year there would be ten spelling tests of fifty words chosen from two hundred studies words, and seven history tests - one for each chapter. At the end of my five years at WKC I had covered both the spelling and history books five times over!

I was never a brilliant scholar, always coming somewhere in the middle of the class end-of-year exams, but the education I received has stood me in good stead throughout my life, French being especially useful on the Continent in World War II. Will today's teachers instil similar gratitude to their pupils in the later years? I wonder!!

Yours etc.
Pete Littlewood
11 Moss Close,
Caversham.

Dear Editors, Exercise opportunity for North Caversham Community. Open to all adults - taster session July 5th at 10am. Weekly session starting September 13th 1993.

I have lived in Caversham for over ten years and made use of my training as a Health Education Tutor in many different ways. Many people have attended the lifestyle course 'Look

After Yourself', others have met me on a Relaxation Course, or attempting to stop smoking or lose weight.

I have now been asked to help make use of the brilliant Clubhouse facilities at the Caversham Lawn Tennis Club, Queensborough Drive, off Conisboro Way, North Caversham. I am keen for everyone to keep as active and healthy as possible in order to prevent many of today's ailments, which requires regular physical exercise to be safe and fun. Education for the future and making friends while meeting together are also important aspects of good health.

I therefore plan to run two levels of exercises (according to ability) to music, separated by refreshments, during which time I will update participants on health matters and encourage views and input from others.

Please come along to the taster day or let me hear your view on needs and wishes for this area. I plan to run these sessions on a Monday or Friday, but times can also be negotiated.

Please be in touch.
Lis Rout
65 Priest Hill,
Caversham. RG4 7RY
Tel: 471738

OBITUARY

THE sudden and early death of Geoff Ward following a short illness has greatly saddened all this Caversham friends and his loss will be keenly felt by them and by the local organisations with which he has been associated.

Geoff trained as an architect at the Oxford School of Architecture, working for a while in private practice for affluent clients, saw his vocation as serving the community through architecture and he then devoted his talents to designing schools, public buildings and Local Authority

housing.

Architecture was Geoff's work, his hobby and his absorbing interest. In his spare time he has designed small houses for his family and friends as well as not less than four extensions to Caversham Heights Methodist Church! He never tired of visiting historic buildings and churches nor of helping and encouraging young architects, including a son of the writer.

Geoff and his wife first came to Caversham in 1958 and he proceeded to build his most original house atop of a former air raid shelter in Upper Warren Avenue. Here their children Roz, Laurence, John and Phil were born and here Geoff took great pleasure in developing and planting with wild flowers his piece of woodland which sloped down to the Warren. This interest led him to be a founder member of the Warren and District Residents Association.

He soon became closely involved in the activities of the Methodist Church, serving as Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Club Leader and Property Steward. In recent years Geoff and Janet have played a leading role in Caversham Theatre, Geoff proving a versatile actor as well as being an invaluable worker back stage. The members of the Caversham Heights Society, of which Geoff was Vice-Chairman, are indebted to him for suggesting many of the speakers and visits which they have enjoyed.

Those who knew Geoff well - or even not so well - will cherish the memory of an exceptionally kind and helpful personality, imbued with a quiet but keen sense of humour and possessed of a lively enthusiasm for all things, and they were many, to which he put his mind or his hands.

EMA

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**PEGGY
DAINTY**

ONE of the sad things about growing older and sometimes not being in the best of health is that at times one has to make the decision to retire from active service. It was no surprise to me that Peggy, who now lives with her husband in Emmer Green, was very distressed at the thought of giving up a lot of her activities, including the delivery of the 'Bridge'. I recall the day we met on our very first delivery nearly thirty years ago and couldn't help thinking that she has done more than her share, despite illness and that of her husband, faithfully plodding round delivering the 'Bridge' each month, and for many years acting as membership secretary and sub-collector for the Residents Association. What can one say except thank you for such faithful service. It would be nice if

we were told more often of people like Peggy as I'm sure there must be a few who have delivered the paper and are still doing so, and it seems a pity we don't always get the chance to say thank you, remembering that the 'Bridge' delivery is, in many ways, the most important job in connection with this paper.

STILL CARRYING ON

Many people will remember the official retirement from the Prospect Street Post Office of Mr. and Mrs. Humphries who had run it for many years. That was a good many years ago, but they are still active. For one thing, they are faithful members of Caversham Residents Association. But it doesn't stop there. Recently, despite the fact that we no longer have a Co-op in Caversham, they turned up with other Caversham people to help solicit

funds in aid of Africa, an event arranged jointly, throughout the country, by the Co-op and OXFAM. Mr. and Mrs. Humphries took two very long stints in a Reading store and I am sure they, and many others, will be pleased to hear that over £30,000 is now on its way to aid OXFAM'S African projects.

SCRAP

I've never written an obituary for a pet before, but I'm sure you'll forgive me for breaking the rule and mentioning our dear Scrap, a little black cat who wandered in from somewhere about nine years ago. A little mischievous she may have been but much loved for all that and, like our other cats, well known to our neighbours, particularly given to sitting on fences and sheds in the road.

We like to think she had a lot of fun but, alas, she had an unhappy ending, having been ill for

several weeks. Visits to the vets - no, not our local ones - yielded a number of possible causes, but nothing definite. Eventually she ran away and for days we were unable to find her or feed her and it was only by the merest chance that we caught up with her in time for a final visit to the vets. But it has taught me a lesson. Never again will I keep an animal hanging around in distress if there is the remotest possibility of there being something seriously wrong. None of us likes parting with our loved pets but equally I know of nobody who would willingly see them suffer. I'll never forget poor little Scrap.

OLD FRIENDS

I recently spent a day with Anne and John Grimwade, who left Caversham about ten years ago and after several years in

Stonesfield, finally retired to Cirencester. In all this they have obviously made a lot of new friends, but it was a surprise to me that neither of them seem to have forgotten any of their old Caversham friends. Most of the time we spent with them was used to exchange news and to hear how Caversham was still faring. I know several people have visited Cirencester in recent years but, for the benefit of those who haven't, I must say that John and Anne look extremely well and live a very full life, John still taking services, mainly in the surrounding villages.

Later, John took us on a tour of parts of the town, the history of which he has studied and explored, and, of course, finishing up in the church. It was a lovely day and we returned much refreshed after seeing our old friends.

Game, Set - and Match - the Birds

A SIXTEEN-year old bird-watcher once wrote an article for a London newspaper which he entitled, 'Kestrels in the London Area'. It was duly printed, and resulted in his being awarded an Honorary Membership of the 'Gilbert White Memorial Society' - a high honour indeed, and perhaps unique for one so young.

About the same time, I discovered him playing table-tennis one lunch-time, in the Company's Staff Association room. Realising his potential, I coached and enrolled him as a member of my team - with resounding results.

At his own request, we 'exchanged interests' and have been close friends - Twit-

chers and Table-tennis players - ever since.

His four children have all made great strides in life, and I am privileged to be Godfather to his only daughter (a fully-fledged ballet-dancer).

Throughout many years we have combined business in England and Scotland with our two diametrically opposed pursuits, the only connection seeming to be the speed of an oncoming table-tennis ball and the equal rapidity with which a usually interesting bird will repair to cover!

I have been humbled, not to say surprised, to learn that my bird-articles herein, have been well-read by certain Members of the Trench Green Table-tennis Club, among

whom, my friend Miss Nikki Spence has made very good progress.

Sometimes the question has been posed as to 'where my priority lies'. At risk of being 'ostracised' from the Table-tennis Club, I have to confess that 'getting' a rarity must take precedence, as it may well be gone within the hour, whilst most other matters can usually, 'await attention'.

Just how strong is the pull of a rare bird may be assessed by the following true incident.

Some years ago, a well-known twitcher and his bride-to-be, from Leigh-on-Sea, received news of a 'hot twitch' immediately prior to their wedding-ceremony. Their binoculars, 'scopes, tripods and cameras were speedily stowed in the car-boot.

A minimum of photographs of the happy, but fidgety, pair at the church, a quick change and dash down to the mud-flats of the Thames Estuary - hastily pursued by several of the 'equally-informed' and appropriately-equipped guests - found them in the company of some two-hundred twitchers from far and wide.

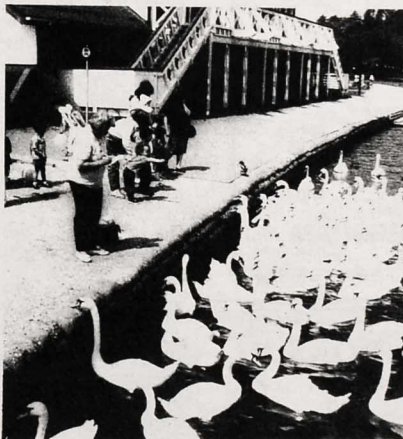
Soon they 'ticked' a Cream-coloured Courser, one of their most memorable 'Wedding Gifts', hurried back to 'Cut the Cake' - and have lived 'Happily ever after'!

'SCOPS OWL'

CAVERSHAM LINK GROUP

MEMBERS of the Link Group were pleased to welcome to their May meeting Mrs Molly Dussek of Cruse - Bereavement Care. Molly gave a most interesting talk about the work of Cruse in Reading after which members had the opportunity of asking questions and discussing in more detail particular aspects of their work. It was a most enlightening evening and the Group expressed their thanks to Molly for giving her time to come and talk to them.

'FEEDING THE SWANS'



- E.S. Archer

ON Monday, the 24th May Mr Tim Heron, Chairman of Swan Lifeline, came to Caversham to talk to younger children about feeding the swans on the Thames. Several mothers and children came along, armed with loaves of bread, and the swans (and ducks) soon gathered around!

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the CLUBS

Maplewood W.I.

THE main purpose of the May meeting was the discussion of and voting on the Resolutions to be put forward at the Intermediate General Meeting, being held at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on Tuesday 8th June; Maplewood's delegate was Mrs Joan Baddeley. The members either vote "for" the motion or "against", or if the Resolution is of a controversial nature, the delegate is given permission to use her own judgement as to how she votes. Mrs Angela Mottram, a Voluntary County Organiser, explained the Resolutions to the members.

Several Resolutions were what might be called "Domestic", that is amending certain rules in the W.I. Handbook. There were Resolutions on "The reform of Domestic Violence", "The use of Food Crops" (yes Butter Mountains etc.) and "Water Conservation".

Members were asked to support Battle Hospital Fete, which they always do, by supplying cakes. The Fete made £8,000 last year.

After a welcome "cuppa" and

delicious "eats" the meeting closed with the announcement of the winner of the Flower Competition, who was Mrs Vera Moodie.

Since then a very successful coffee morning was enjoyed, hosted by Mrs Eileen Fenning. The outcome was £60 for Institute funds.

The great news is that the Women's Institute have once again gained a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show for their "Woodland Garden".

STAR Reading Branch of the University of the Third Age

May activities

The Open Meeting at the Kennet Room had for its speaker Brian Benson on 'The Pitfalls of Public Speaking'. In his most amusing speech he urged the importance of preparation and research, and the avoidance of jargon and jokes — above all be natural. The Music group heard Gwyn Arch on 'The Evolution and Essence of Jazz'. The Books group discussed the books of Mary Wesley which produced a mixed response.

Playreaders finished 'A Night Must Fall' by Emyln Williams. A group visited the National Theatre to see the prize winning production of 'An Inspector Calls'. They were most impressed. The Writers group had to produce a fifty word mini saga about an ant, spider or dustmite. Technology and Change meetings resumed. The Travel group had talks on 'Israel and Jordan' and 'Tasmania'. The Discussion group were equally divided on the 'Merits or not of direct against indirect taxation'.

The Local History group enjoyed slides of Old Caversham and Reading shown by Mr Crozier and were told of preliminary research done on the Thames. Twenty-one walkers had a delightful walk along

the River Loddon, Dinton Pastures. Several members went to Oxford to hear Eric Midwinter on 'The Third Age - the new leisured class'. His amusing and instructive talk gave many useful pointers for Star.

New members are always welcome at Star. Ring Mrs McGregor, Reading 866037.

Caversham Community Association

There was a good attendance on the 10th May when Martin and Moira Rendall visited the club to share with the members their interest in antiques. They brought with them some of their own treasured possessions acquired over many years. Mr Rendall commenced by saying that they were interested in collecting, rather than selling, and suggested that it was better to like the pieces collected rather than obtain them just for the value. He then showed some beautiful coloured glassware, including Bristol blue, lovely old teapots, Spode china, Chinese porcelain and Sheffield plate. Mr Rendall discussed the history of these and other items on display which he and Mrs Rendall had collected, or had had in their families for many years. The club members had been invited to bring their own family treasures and many interesting and unusual items were displayed. Mr Rendall then gave his opinion of their origin and value as antiques. The members' display included carved ivory, Coronation mugs, a collection of medals from the First World War and some lovely silver. The members enjoyed looking at all the beautiful and fascinating objects on display, and expressed their appreciation of the informative lecture given by Mr Rendall.

The following week there was a social evening, with prizes for the winners of the various games played during the meeting. On the 24th May Mrs Audrey Callen was the visiting speaker, and came to

demonstrate how to make flowers from bread dough. Mrs Callen mixed bread, glycerine, lemon juice and acrylic paste into dough and then modelled it carefully into attractive flowers of various kinds. These she then mounted and placed in oval frames, or fixed in position on plates or dishes. A rose was modelled and coloured with acrylic paints by Mrs Callen and she explained that setting time was six hours. The items on display could be purchased by the members if they wished. Some members were interested in trying their own skill at making flowers in such a novel way, and were eager to examine and admire the artistically created work of Mrs Callen at the end of the demonstration.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The meeting in May opened in joyous mood with the chairman, Mrs J. Spall, congratulating members of the Arts and Crafts team who so ably presented their skills at the Federation Exhibition at Twyford, thereby winning the Silver Cup! This Exhibition proved to be a most entertaining "day out"; eye-catching

displays of many intricate crafts were on show from keen Guild teams. A fashion show comprised members' own attractive creations, entertainment was provided by a Pearly King and Queen and their Singers and later by a choir of melodic voices from Wokingham Guild. The Inter-Guild Quiz final was won by the team from Henley.

The monthly meeting was crowned by a visit from Mrs B. Simpson, who is a member of the Egg Decorators' Guild, who brought with her many fascinating examples of her work. Eggs ranging from a bunderigar's (minute!) to those of the goose, ostrich and emu, had been magically turned with meticulous detail into Faberge style gifts wondrous to behold.

The competition for a decorated plate was won by Mrs E. Manning. The meeting closed with members departing regretfully from an uplifting afternoon.

St. Andrew's Fellowship

Twenty-eight members set out in heavy rain one May morning for Polesden Lacey near Guildford. Their spirits were in no way dampened, and their optimism was justified as the rain had stopped by the time they arrived

turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

at this beautiful house, and later the sun actually appeared.

The day chosen for the outing happened to be a special annual day chosen by the National Trust to throw the magnificent gardens open free, and a great many disabled people were able to take advantage of this facility, though due to the extent of the grounds, they were never crowded. The house is most interesting with magnificent paintings and some beautiful porcelain, though the French furniture is not everyone's taste. After a visit to the restaurant, which was far more crowded than earlier in the day, for a cup of tea, the party left for home, all agreeing that it had been a most successful outing.

Caversham W.I.

Three current topical issues were debated by members at the resolutions meeting.

The delegate, Mrs Lewis, was instructed on members' voting wishes.

A bring and buy sale and refreshments ended the evening with the vote of thanks being given by Mrs Olive Harris.

Caversham Ladies Club

A very warm welcome greeted Mrs Harwood, Chairman, after an absence of five and a half months caused through an accident at her home. It was good to see her back in "harness" and members gave her a good round of applause on her recovery and return to the club. Club business was completed and the speaker, Mr Les Strong, was introduced.

He had brought along two videos of disabled people taking part in a water skiing event up in Scotland, where competitors from Australia, America and many other countries, gathered; and what a wonderful sight it was to see the skill and enjoyment they put into these competitive events. Some had lost one leg or an arm, others were paralyzed from waist down, but showed wonderful spirit and enjoyment, whether they were winning or losing. To compete was their objective and to win for their teams. Members were with them in mind as they watched the video; it was so full of endurance in a happy atmosphere that one felt a cheer should be raised. Mrs Les Strong, who was a judge at the event, said they, the competitors, had also taken part in an endurance test starting from Fort William and skiing to Inverness, a

distance of sixty miles. What an inspiration it must be to know that although disabled, there is still so much fun in life one can take part in.

Mr Richard Branson of airlines is their president and he was shown skiing between two competitors when alas they 'toppled', but all three came up laughing. There was also a second film shown of blind people water skiing. When one thinks of all these people who give their time in teaching all these wonderful competitors, and providing safety for them during their part in competitive events, it gives a glow. To hear and see such sportsmanship in these days of so many unhappy things being shown on TV, is most heartening.

Mr Strong was warmly thanked and members showed in their usual way how very much they had enjoyed their afternoon.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The May meeting of the guild was held in St Barnabas Hall on 11th at 7.30pm. The evening started with a talk by Mrs R. Campbell-Preston called "The Scented Garden". It included a lot of information on shrubs and plants grown all through the different seasons. Members already knew of some but many others were quite new to them. Mrs Campbell-Preston had brought along with her many plants and shrubs to

demonstrate all the wonderful different perfumes and smells. Mrs M. Hooper thanked Mrs Campbell-Preston on behalf of the guild members and they look forward to the second part of her talk in September.

Arts and Crafts have arranged a second trip to Harris Gardens at Reading University. Words and Music have included in their future events "Books you have loved", extracts to be read at their meeting. There is to be a Poetry Reading at a future meeting and also a visit to Littlewick Green for "The World of Ivor Novello". There will be a visit to Sonning Mill Theatre in October.

The T.G. Ramblers enjoyed their walk around Shiplake and have also enjoyed a holiday in Ireland. This the tenth holiday the Ramblers have been on together and four of the original members, R. Wingrove, V. Graham, K. Parrott and D. Prentice were on this last one.

Correction to last months press report — Mrs Glenys Francis who judged the cookery is not a member of the W.I.

The May Exhibition "Spring into Summer Show" at Loddon Hall Twyford was a great success. There were two entertainments, a Pearly King and Queen song and dance routine and the choir of Wokingham West Forest. There was a Fashion Show with everything from nightwear to bridal wear. The Raffle was won by Mrs Pam Harvey, a basket of fruit. The Guild tables were beautiful, a

remarkable display of talent. Every Guild within the Berkshire Federation except one was present and represented with a table display. Mrs Maureen Dawson, Federation Chairman, was Question Master of the Quiz. Henley won by two points in the final against Bracknell in the afternoon. Whiteknights won the fair cake section. Tilehurst won the shortbread section and Twyford won the fruit pie section.

Rosehill W.I.

On 5th May Mrs Stockhill opened the meeting which commenced with silence in memory of Mrs Freda Burtenshaw, who died on 7th April. She was a member for many years and was always cheerful and helpful, doing work for the ACWW, the monthly raffle, etc. She will be very much missed.

The outing to Mapledurham to see new-born lambs was enjoyed by everyone despite the dull weather.

At the present meeting Mrs Moss, VCO, came to take members through the resolutions for the AGM. This proved to be very interesting, due to her clear explanations.

Mrs Barbara Weller, a recent former president, left Emmer Green on 7th May, to retire to Cornwall with her husband. She will be missed and members wish them well.

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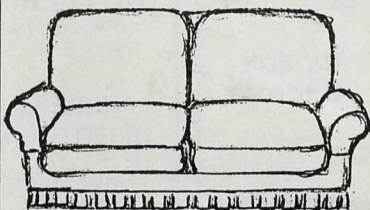
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