

LEAPING OUT FOR CHARITY

ON June 20th, Becky Leggett, a former member of St Peter's Choir and nine fellow daredevils did a sponsored Bungee Jump and raised the magnificent total of £2001.20 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation between them. Well done!

Natasha, Becky's little cousin, who suffers from a liver disease called Biliary Atresia, is now one of the younger members of Cherubim, where she thoroughly enjoys herself, especially during the 'Band' session. Perhaps in a few years she will follow in the family footsteps and sing with St Peter's Choir.

Her family would like to thank everyone who sponsored Becky and her friends and especially all at St Peter's for their continuing prayers and solicitude for Natasha's well-being.

Readers who are not familiar with these problems will be able to learn more in an article to appear in next month's issue.



Anthea Taylor with Natasha (centre) receives the cheque on behalf of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

Photo: Courtesy Reading Chronicle



Bungee jumpers Becky, Joe, Nicky, Dawn, Simon, Mark, Vic, Andy, Mat and Loic.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S 'PARTING SHOT'



Winding up a highly successful year as the Rotary International District Governor is (centre) Stan Eldon seen congratulating (left) David Sleep, the new 1993/94 President of the Rotary Club of Caversham.

For Stan Eldon, a member of the Caversham Club, it was an especially poignant moment as he is joined with out-going President Bob Croft who with the support of the Caversham Club backed up Stan's hectic year as District Governor.

Said David Sleep, who lives in Kidmore Road, Caversham, "It's a special honour for me to accept the chain of office from two club colleagues who have given so much to the Organisation over the past year — it is my intention to see those achievements carried on during my year of office."

HOW IT'S DONE!



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM UNITED SERVICE
 Sunday 5th September at 3.00pm
 in Caversham Court
 Preacher — The Rt Revd. John Bone, Bishop of Reading
 Please come and make this a joyful gathering together

D/EX1758/30/9

TALKING POINT

by

Rev. Christine Rowe,
Parish Deacon, St John the Baptist



MARY, Mother, and bearer of the Word

"All around us we have known you,
all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying we are bringing you to birth."

Mary, the mother of our Lord, stands beside us as the one supremely chosen by God to incarnate (or show forth, reveal) the Word. She was chosen, and accepted that choice, to be the only person ever to carry and bear the Word which became flesh, and could only become flesh through the faithful openness of a woman. There could only be one incarnation, one Christmas Day, one stable, one coming to birth, and one Mother, who held and loved and nurtured a baby born of her flesh, yet separate, divine.

"All creation lives to hold you . . ." Mary was THE one who held the Christ child close. Close as he fell asleep, close as he cried, close as he felt a deep stirring inside when he heard about God the Creator, Yahweh. Close as the human shell of her son was lowered from the Cross.

Mary was brave. Mary was bold. She knew the consequences of the visit from the Angel Gabriel . . . She must have lived with Jesus at the centre of her existence, because she must have had God at the centre of her existence to have been able to make her own acclamation of faith, when she accepted to be God's chosen vessel, to bring to birth the Saviour of the World.

But Mary is not simply someone marvellous, unique, divinely chosen, who lived long ago, and who hugged the Christ child to herself. She stands beside us. For we too are called, chosen by God the Creator to be those living to hold Christ. As creatures of the living God we are each one called to be bearers of the Word, to live with Jesus the redeemer, with God the Creator, with the Holy Spirit the Sustainer at the centre of our being, in the depth of our existence.

Do we? Have we even begun to live with the wonder of the Love of God growing within us? Mary did. She enabled that love to grow, and to be manifest — for her in a very particular and unique way admittedly, but that love once planted in a heart has potential beyond our wildest imaginings. Potential to make us into the creatures God created us to be, beloved children, faithful servants, dependent witnesses, obedient sufferers.

"All around us we have known you,
all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying we are bringing you to birth."

We have been brought to birth by God, loved into birth by God, we reflect the image of the Creator, often distorted, but not beyond redemption. We must be bearers of the Word. We must open our shuttered eyes to see God all around us and give thanks; to long to hold him, with a longing that seeks only Love; and to use our living, our every moment, and our dying, throughout our lives, to bring to birth the true life which brings peace, unity, fellowship and hope in the coming of the Kingdom of God.

"All around us we have known you,
all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying we are bringing you to birth."*

* These words are taken from the hymn 'God, Beyond All Names' by Bernadette Farrell.

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 Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Family Eucharist (10am first Sunday)
11.15am Holy Communion (not 1st 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)

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 Anne's 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)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road
11am every Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading 10.30am
Caversham Church House — Meeting for Worship 7.30pm. (last Sunday)
House study groups Sept—June
Tel: 475783

POST BAG

GOLF COURSES

Dear Editors,

I take issue with R. Ferguson on the subject of the planning application for Golf Courses at Mapledurham.

Mr Eyston is a responsible landowner and we can have confidence in the quality of his development on an estate he clearly loves.

The same estate cannot be locked in a time warp, it has always been an economy in miniature, using industry appropriate to the time. This must be allowed to continue or the estate will die. Should that happen we are likely to see it broken up and far less sympathetic development take place.

The estate needs an ongoing revenue stream and preferably one which will preserve the underlying physical structure of the estate. Mr Eyston's proposal is rational and conservationist in its way and should be supported. I hope he wins his appeal!

Your etc.
John K. Milner

54 Grosvenor Road,
Caversham, Reading

CAVERSHAM INTER-CHURCH GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Saturday, 25th September, 1993

Dear Sir,

My apologies to St. Anne's! In last month's advance notice of the above, it was stated that St Andrew's had won this event over the last two years. This should of course have read "St Anne's". We are looking forward to another good fun competition and would especially like to hear from any Caversham church who has not so far entered the field.

Yours etc.
Marion Kitcher (Mrs)

Loppings,
55 Gatehanpton Road,
Goring-on-Thames,
Reading RG8 0EN
Tel. 0491 872103

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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 October issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 1 September.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 30 August.

The dates for November will be Monday 4 October and Wednesday 6 October.

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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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Where have all the Wheelchairs gone?

HAVING recently spent a short time in a local hospital, I have become increasingly aware that in the modernisation process hospitals, if ours is anything to go by, have lost something of the old individual caring attitude, in spite of the excellent work of doctors and nurses. Time and again I almost longed for the old days of order and discipline, though of course nobody really wants to go back to the days when a matron viewed a bed out of line with utter horror. But the confusion which has followed is sometimes past belief in some cases.

I'd like to know, for instance, where the wheelchairs have gone to. Not so long ago I wrote about our old friend, Liz Cheney who compiled and sold recipe books to raise money for wheelchairs in local hospitals. The day I was due to leave hospital the relative who came to collect me, on the advice of the ward nursing staff, was sent scuttling round the hospital to look for a wheelchair; even the casualty ward failed to produce anything in that line. A passing porter eventually got me as far as the reception unit, where I had to wait in hope that somebody, some time, would collect me, as my relative had been forced to leave.

Actually I've spoken to Liz about this and she tells me that she once asked what had happened to the wheelchairs, only to be told that they were locked in cupboards to prevent their being stolen.

Books

FOR anyone interested the local bookshop has the national Booksellers Association petition to keep VAT off the price of books — heaven knows they cost enough already, so if you feel as strongly as I do perhaps you'll pop into the shop some time and sign up.

Bungee-Jumping

(I hope I've spelled that right.) It never ceases to amaze me what our young people do in good causes so I shouldn't have been surprised that Shelley, one of our young hairdressers, had been indulging in what sounds to me like a somewhat dangerous activity, in aid of much-needed cash for the children's ward. She did

well with sponsorship and hopes to do it again before long. Only, Shelly, do take care — we can't afford to lose you.

Cat Care

A couple of months ago I wrote about the loss of our dear little Scrap. Alas troubles never come singly and I'm afraid we've now lost Fluffy, who we acquired nearly two years ago, having lived for some time in a somewhat semi-wild condition. This time, when he became ill, we found a local vet who, after trying to do her best didn't hesitate to suggest that it would be kindest to have Fluffy put to sleep to avoid the pain which would obviously come. I wasn't there but I'm told it was quick and painless and no doubt saved Fluffy the misery which beset Scrap.

But I do miss him, just as I miss — as will many others — William who became a great favourite, particularly with children, in the local pet shop where latterly he reposed happily around the shop.

Can You Help?

And while on the subject, might I suggest that people could do worse than adopt some of the older cats who don't appear to have a home. In his short time with us Fluffy gave us such a lot of pleasure and in some ways caring for him was even more rewarding than the two for whom we've given a home for many years.

Why no People's Dispensary for Sick Animals?

Some years ago I had contact with the national PDSA and tried to explore the possibility of having a branch in Reading — I think Oxford is the nearest which is beyond the reach of many, particularly pensioners. The PDSA does marvellous work but what use if they aren't near enough. Eventually I was more or less told we could have one if I liked to organise it myself, I think by approaching vets in the area, something which at my age I wasn't able to do. Instead I finished up trying the flog raffle tickets on their behalf. But please, please, help with the Cats Protection League (local branch 482902) if you can. They do an excellent job in their own quiet way and deserve your support.

Flowers for The Hilton

Pat, our friendly florist, has done it again. Many of us are familiar with her displays at the Hexagon during snooker. Now it seems she is shortly doing the same thing at the Hilton during the cricket season. She seems to do a lot in this line but the service in the shop is as good as ever. Pat says this is due to the excellent help she gets from 'her girls'. I can certainly vouch for that.

New Shops

I'm hearing stories about new shops in the area. Once I become mobile I intend to go exploring. As you probably know I'd do a lot to encourage traders in this district.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG AND STILL GOING ON!

STARTING her married life in 1916, Mrs Winifred Lewis is still living in the house she moved into on that occasion. Daughter of a South Oxfordshire farmer, she married a member of the family firm of Timber Merchants in Caversham, George Lewis, of Caversham Road.

Congratulations were received from Buckingham Palace and from numerous members of the family and friends, some of whom came from as far as Canada and New Zealand.

Mrs Lewis is shown in the family group sitting on her father's lap surrounded by some of her sisters and her brother.



Photo: Courtesy of the Reading Chronicle




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THE committee of Caversham and District Residents' Association recently had a meeting with Cllr. A. Page, the Chairman of Reading Buses, who is also a member of the Borough Traffic sub-committee, and Colin Thompson, the Traffic Operations Director for Reading Buses. The purpose was to discuss some of Caversham's traffic problems, particularly those associated with the Bridge Street - Church Street - Church Road junction. Between the time of arranging the meeting and its actual taking place, the short bus lane in Church Street had been installed so that also came into the discussion.

The big problem for motorists at that junction is the right hand turn from Church Street into Church Road, which can only be done, with rare exceptions, either illegally or suicidally or both. For pedestrians the problem is in crossing Bridge Street from outside Lloyds bank to outside Barclays, as immediately traffic stops coming from Church Street, the lights allow it to start coming from Church Road. A different phase of the traffic lights, with a pause to allow a safe passage for motorists and pedestrians would alleviate both these problems at the same time. The introduction of the bus lane meanwhile has done nothing to ease these problems.

'What is the point of such a short bus lane', is the question being widely asked and to which Colin Thompson applied himself. Transport policy is to encourage the use of public transport as opposed to the private car. Park and Ride is part of the recognised strategy to achieve this, but Caversham has nowhere suitable for this, the nearest open places being in Oxfordshire and in the AONB, and so ruled out. The only option is for motorists to park at their own homes and ride into the town on the scheduled buses, and to encourage all those who can do this, the bus service must offer some advantage over car travel. One way of doing this is to speed up the bus journeys by the introduction of bus lanes, so the plan is to have a bus lane going from Hemdean Road as far as possible into the town centre. For various reasons it is being introduced in three parts, the Church Street section being the second. The next length will be on the other side of Caversham Bridge.

Seen in that way, this new short section makes some sense, but the committee members pointed out that the real problem for buses exiting from Hemdean Road was actually getting out and not going along Church Street. In fact because they had to get into their own lane, the problem had, if anything, worsened. Priority for traffic emerging from Hemdean Road, which should only be buses, would be a far more satisfactory solution and one which would not alienate motorists. Stricter enforcement of parking regulations in Hemdean Road by Scotts and in Church Street opposite Hemdean Road would also make passage for the buses easier.

All these points were given serious attention as being useful comments from those on the spot who can see what is happening and the committee was left with the impressions that if there were no over-riding reasons otherwise they would be acted on.

BLAGRAVE FARM

The fire at Blaggrave Farm, a listed building ripe for development, and its subsequent demolition has attracted more than local attention, as it has implications for similar types of property across the country. The Borough Planning Committee made it clear that all they would accept on the site was a replica (in the footprints) of the former building.

Plans have now been put in, but they are not at all clear and certainly are not a copy of the old building. Whilst it has to be accepted that an exact replica of an eighteenth century building on medieval foundations would be neither possible nor even desirable, something as near as the materials now available and the requirements of modern living allowed must be insisted on. There must be no suggestion that fires, even accidental ones, should be the means of obtaining financial advantage.

CAVERSHAM COURT

Another set of useful talks Caversham Residents' Association has been having is with Borough officers responsible for the care, maintenance and use of Caversham Court. Problems there arising from lack of resources and vandalism are now being systematically tackled, and although overnight solutions are not going to occur, improvements can already be seen.

Recently the herb garden has been re-planted and very well it looks too. The sundial has attracted so much vandalism that its replacement does not seem a very good idea, and some other centre-piece, less tempting to mindless yobs, is being considered.

The path along the terrace and beside the yew hedge needs quite a lot of attention as the gravel surface laid there is far from satisfactory. This is bound to be rather expensive so it was a cause of some dismay when the terrace wall started to collapse. It has been propped up, but its repair will cost good money that could have gone elsewhere.

At the entrance to the gardens the masonry near the gate is to be repaired and a better looking and more user friendly surface laid on the open space used by vehicles on occasions when a function is taking place in the gardens. The old wooden gate in this area (and it is really old) is also to be restored and it should then become an attractive feature of the gardens. Have you noticed that the walls in which it is set are much older than the similar looking walls designed by A. W. Pugin in the nineteenth century? They and the gate are probably seventeenth century.

There are other ideas also for the general up-grading of the gardens whilst maintaining their essential character of lawns and trees sloping gently down towards the water's edge. Making greater use of them, by such events as the Edwardian picnic and Mikron Theatre's performance (too late for inclusion in this column) is also seen as a way of combatting their misuse. Again, overnight results cannot be expected, but the movement is in the right direction.

The willingness of the providers of services to consult with the users of services, as in this case and in the case of traffic, is something to be welcomed. It is a far cry from the early days of the Residents' Association, when the two sides stood on opposite sides of the fence, each suspicious of the other.

OUT ON A LIMB

Residents of the Amersham Road area often feel they are forgotten, out of sight and out of mind. Like Hull, they are out on a limb, on the way to nowhere, but they have no intention of being forgotten. They have a lively and determined residents' association to promote their interests, something that the established and larger

Caversham and District Residents' Association, with its wide remit, could not do satisfactorily. They have already succeeded in getting agreement for a bus service to link them with the rest of Caversham. Now they have taken on the task of raising funds for a community centre. All good wishes for success in this venture go to them.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS

A letter in the July edition of the Bridge deplored the state into which the Hemdean Road cemetery had fallen. It is a long time since this was a neatly clipped and tidily set out place, but for many it has its own charm. In Spring it is lovely, with its drifts of snowdrops and primroses and the fresh green of its beech trees. It is now maintained as an unofficial nature reserve. Perhaps before one of its twice yearly cuts it does look a bit unkempt and certainly real neglect must be avoided. There are many however who wish it could be their last resting place, but now only those with family graves there can exercise that right. For the rest of us there is no chance of our joining the rude forefathers of the Hamlet as they sleep, each in his narrow cell, 'where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap!' It is an enchanting place, even if the paths could do with a sweep.

Another correspondent in the August issue expresses concern about the double golf course for which the Mapledurham Estate is applying for permission. SODC Planning Committee cannot but be aware that it is in effect two courses and that another already exists on the opposite side of the A4074. Similarly the Planning Appeal Inspector will have been made aware of it. He has to visit the site anyway, so he will see what is involved.

However, it is not, unfortunately, a clear cut black and white issue. It is a question of how to retain the character of this estate when current agricultural policies prevent the generation of sufficient income to maintain it. A spread of golf courses might be preferable to a totally neglected estate or one sold off in bits with unsuitable plans to maximise the purchasers' outlay. The reason for the deferment is to allow the SODC to take, for the first time, a serious look at all the problems involved.

RIVERSIDE SAVED

News came through as I concluded this column that the Secretary of State had turned down plans for a dual carriageway, the Cross Town Route, through Kings Meadows. The report is too long and complex to study and comment on at this stage, so more in the next issue. It is however great news for those who have always maintained that the high cost and environmental damage the road would cause far outweighed any benefit it could bring.

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YOUTH PAGE

ST. JOHN'S SCOUTING CELEBRATIONS

SEVENTY-FIVE continuous years of scouting based at St John's Church, Gosbrook Road, were celebrated in July with a party for present and ex members and their wives and with a special parade service conducted by the 22nd Group President, the Revd Stephen Rowe. Both events were extremely well supported.

Group Scout Leader, Jenny Allnutt, had managed to contact many ex members who came to the party in enthusiastic numbers, many with treasured albums of photographs and other memorabilia of their days with the 22nd.

With the help of Group Leaders, assistants, committee members and their spouses, Jenny organised a buffet supper for two hundred at Emmer Green Community Centre.

In his sermon on the Sunday morning, the Revd Stephen Rowe speculated on the power for good generated by scouting at St John's over seventy five years. He admitted it was impossible to know how many boys and young men had passed through the Group or to guess the number of leaders and helpers who had given freely of their time and energy to give those boys and young men a perspective on life which had a positive effect on their individual development.

He reminded the congregation that just eleven years after Lord Baden Powell took a party of boys to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour in 1907, a unit was formed at St John's. He informed his listeners that the 22nd was one of the earliest Groups established in Berkshire and added that it is one of only three or four in the County where scouting has been maintained continuously for seventy-five years.

After the service, Group Chairman Ian Lowry said it had been a highly successful and inspiring weekend. "Although there was a queue of boys waiting to join the Group, it was", he added, "becoming more and more difficult to attract men and women of the right calibre to act as leaders and assistants. 'Scouting', he concluded "gives the boys a wonderful opportunity to extend themselves and to meet new and exciting challenges. We really do need more volunteers to help us to guarantee that challenge to Caversham boys".

If any readers who live in or near Caversham feel they could help in any way — experience of the Scout movement is not necessary — they should call Jenny Allnutt on Reading 470726. Jenny will be very happy to explain what scouting is all about and to explain the commitment options the Group needs.

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR 2nd CAVERSHAM GUIDES

AT the end of July, the Guides who meet at St Andrew's Hall, celebrated seventy-five years since their formation in July 1918. Families, friends and the local Brownie Pack joined together in an evening of reminiscences and songs. Much interest was shown in the logbooks of the old days and the work of today's Guides.

The climax of the evening was the presentation of only the second Baden-Powell Trefoil Award to a member of the Company. Jackie Wing was congratulated on her achievement by the former Divisional Commissioner Mrs Cynthia Simmonds who presented her with her badge and certificate.

The evening ended with refreshments including a special seventy-fifth anniversary cake made by Mrs J. Perrin.



Jackie Wing with her Baden-Powell Trefoil Award. Left to right: Cynthia Simmonds, Former Abbey Divisional Commissioner, Sylvia Page, Guider 2nd Caversham Guides, Jackie, Valerie Wing, Assistant Guider 2nd Caversham Guides, Susan Wise, Caversham West District Commissioner.

— Peter Wing



Members of the 22nd Scout Group who attended the parade service to celebrate seventy-five years of scouting at St John's.

1ST CAVERSHAM BOYS BRIGADE JUNIOR SECTION

On the evening of Tuesday 25th May twenty one boys of the 1st Caversham junior section set out to achieve their seventy-fifth anniversary special achievement badges. They had been invited by Wing Commander Westwood of the Queen's Flight RAF Benson in Oxfordshire to wash seventy-five wheels on their transport fleet. This comprised a mixture of vehicles from cars, ambulance, Landrovers and assorted trucks.

As the Royal Air Force is also celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary they were keen to cooperate with our project. Under the watchful eye of Flight Lieutenant Simon Vicary and with the enthusiastic assistance of a number of his airmen the boys were allocated buckets, sponges and rags to complete their task.

When all vehicles had been completed Wing Commander Westwood presented Junior Section Leader, David Herbert, with a Certificate and all the Officers and boys received a booklet detailing the history of the RAF's seventy-five year history.



Ready to go!

A successful evening was rounded off when the Base fire crew gave the boys the freedom of their fire engine. (Their own opportunity to be part of

Blue Watch.)

This was one seventy-fifth anniversary which everyone will remember with pleasure thanks to the RAF.

FUN DAY AT HORSHAM

ON Saturday, 10th July, boys from all over the Reading area descended on Christ's Hospital at Horsham, Sussex, to take part in the climax of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Junior Section of the Boys' Brigade.

Each of the five hundred plus boys who attended the day were challenged to gain seventy-five or more points by taking part in as many of the ninety activities as possible. Every boy attending the day was given a souvenir booklet in which he could record his successes, also every boy attending had his name included in a special book commemorating the day.

At 12.15 there was a gathering of all the boys in the central arena followed by the cutting of the massive birthday cake.

Among the ninety activities challenging the boys were sporting activities, games of skill, tests of general knowledge, observation tests, in fact something for everyone.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Days continue to be full and busy with present attention on the formation of the Garden of Remembrance and all the necessary legal conditions and furnishings being finalised. The stone "Pelican in her Piety" is now being sculpted, a contract has been drawn up and a book of Remembrance complete with a cabinet have been chosen and funded by generous gifts and their making has been commissioned. Everybody is working to completion for the dedication service on October 10th by The Archdeacon.

July saw a very happy occasion when the 22nd Scout company celebrated 75 glorious years of unbroken service. A party was held and many old scouts marvelled at meeting their fellows again and joined the present company for a special parade service in celebration — the church was very full and many continued to reminisce for days afterwards.

Following two successful Lent house groups in 1992 and 1993 which have looked at ourselves and our church and where we all ought to be heading a Parish picnic was held in Christchurch Meadows following Sunday service at the end of July in order to give people a chance to meet each other socially — the weather was not very welcom-

ing but true to British form perseverance was shown!

Mother's Union members held their garden meeting indoors and welcomed Mrs Gillian Von Hoven, the Diocesan literature representative: several Christmas items were purchased including 1994 Diaries not to miss out this year — we shall soon be buying these items at Easter to be sure of them.

NEW VENTURE

Pram services will commence at St John's Church on Monday September 13th at 10 a.m. Any Mum, Dad, Aunt, Grandparent, who finds themselves in charge of a pre-school child is welcome to come. There will be a short service for the children with stories, choruses and prayers at their level followed by refreshments and a chance to chat. They will take place every week with a regular format.

Parents who already have a commitment and would like the opportunity to take part in a communion service will find a welcome on a Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. when an A.S.B. service is followed and small children are welcomed. (Parents wanting a quiet communion service will find a regular 1662 service on a Thursday morning, the second

Thursday being a Mother's Union Corporate service when all are particularly welcome). Evensong is to be reintroduced on the evening of the first Sunday in the Month starting in September — Please feel free to join us at 6.30 p.m.

Finally for this month Jane Robson will be giving a Piano recital in St. John's church on September 10th in aid of "Musicians in Hospitals and Hospices". This group of dedicated musicians give concerts to patients who would otherwise not be able to attend concert halls. Please come and support Jane — further details of tickets can be had from Jane on 481452.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

The next meeting will be hosted by the ladies of St John's and will take the form of Harvest Hospitality with a harvest giving service followed by tea in Caversham Hall afterwards. The service starts at 2 p.m. and the speaker will be Mrs Fi Radford from The Vine. Everybody is invited to bring a harvest gift suitable for the Drop-In Centre e.g. Baked Beans, Spaghetti, Soups, Luncheon Meat, Tuna, Pilchards, tins of Rice, Semolina etc. tins of fruit, Jars of Coffee, Packets of tea bags or Sugar.

ST MARGARET'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL



Richard Kingsbury celebrating Communion with the famous Savill flagon.

Dark clouds, a few heavy drops just as the tables were about to be laid in the garden, but St Margaret, bless her, kept the rain away and the congregation were able to celebrate her special day along with many friends from churches in Caversham, in the Old Vicarage Garden, Mapledurham after festal Communion. St Margaret's do sincerely thank Bridget and Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce for allowing them to use their beautiful garden once again. It is a delightful place in which to enjoy refreshment on a summer evening.

For the first time in fifteen years the Communion table was graced with the famous Savill flagon which had been specially transported from Eton College for the occasion under the watchful eye of the Archivist and his assistant, for this handsome

piece of silver is known worldwide. Almost five hundred years ago, four hundred and ninety five to be exact, Lady Margaret Savill bequeathed a pair of these beautiful vessels, one to the church at Worplesdon in Surrey, the other to Mapledurham (or Eton College?), the ownership of the latter is inconclusive. Lady Margaret was wife of Sir Henry Savill, Provost of Eton 1596-1622 and Eton College was patron of the living in Mapledurham, hence the connection. The piece stands eleven and a half inches high, weighs about twenty eight ounces, and round the coat of arms which adorns it is written "The Gift of Lady Margaret Savill".

St Margarets hopes they will be able to use this beautiful flagon once again before too long.

WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

For nearly five years, Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship has met in the Pavilion at Mapledurham Playing Fields on a Sunday morning. The congregation was formed by a group of people living in the Heights area who belonged to Caversham Hill Chapel which is on the Peppard Road.

At the time the Chapel was experiencing rapid growth and ran out of room in the already newly built worship hall at the back of the premises. It was expected that growth in numbers would continue in both congregations, but instead the new congregation shrank in size as members gradually moved away from the area without many joining to take their place. The congregation seemed to be dying and whilst there was a strong sense of loyalty and commitment of the remaining members, there were also feelings of disillusionment too.

A decision was made last June to bring the congregation back to the Chapel for Sunday

morning services. Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship had to "die".

The natural tendency in us all is to fight death. But out of death there can be some new life. Success is not everything. If we were always successful our growth towards maturity in Christ would be stunted, because God often uses 'trials of many kinds' to develop our spiritual muscles. The important question to ask in times of failure is, "What have we learnt through this experience?" If we have learnt significant lessons, if we have been positively changed by experience, then could it not be that God has his eye on the future for using the failure for his purposes?

As a church we have learnt some important lessons about church planting. Meeting together again in one location is a strategic move in the pursuance of our aim to see more people come to know the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

OPEN TO GOD

HAVE you ever wished for silence in a worship service so that you can hear God speak to you in the stillness, or for the opportunity to really tell God how much he means to you in praise and worship, the chance to be less restricted than in a more formal Sunday service? Well perhaps "Open to God" on the second Saturday evening of the month at Caversham Park Church may provide that space you have been looking for.

"Open to God" is for anyone who wants to build their relationship with Jesus Christ. Over the months we will build into the meeting the variety that is the hallmark of the Creator whom we worship, from led exuberant praise through quieter expressions of worship with a short address to the more meditative and reflective.

The meeting is led by different people and groups, both lay and ministers, from Caversham Park, other churches in Caversham and further afield.

The programme of meetings runs from 9th October through to 9th July next year, starting at 8pm at Caversham Park School, Queensway; you will receive a warm welcome. For further information contact Michael Benford on Reading 479182, Phil Abrey on 475152.

CAVERSHAM LINK GROUP

At the AGM on June 28th, the members thanked the retiring Chairman, Suzy Robinson, for all her hard work over the years as a Link member and wished her and her family every happiness in their move to Oxford.

The Treasurer reported that almost £1000 has been given to local charities this year.

The sponsored knit-in raised a record £981.75; a big thankyou to all our supporters.

Helpers are needed for the "Pop-In" centre held at Church House on Tuesday and Thursday from 10-12 noon. Please contact Susie Mee on 471742 for more details.

There will be an open meeting on September

27th at the Baptist Centre at 8pm when there will be a video and talk on the work of ARMS (Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis). Everyone welcome.

New members are always welcome to this Ecumenical group. For further information please contact the Chairman, Pat Jenkins, on 478502.

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP

The group is about to start its busiest period of sales and is very much looking for people who would be willing to make cakes, jams etc as well as handicrafts for them. We are sadly reduced by illness to fewer numbers and really struggle on big occasions to produce enough goods.

The following

dates are our present commitments:

1. September 5th - Tombola - at Swallowfield Show - gifts welcome.
2. October 9th - Good as new - at Caversham Hall.
3. November 25th - Mayors Market - at the Hexagon.

Any offers of help will be very gladly received on 473798 and 473840.

The Summer Fair at Nettlebed raised about £7,000 despite the weather and many, many other fund raising events taking place on the same day. Thank you to all the people who supported the show.

CHURCH GROWTH IN CAVERSHAM

Church Growth was the theme at the Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Caversham held in Caversham Baptist Free Church in July, when the Revd Harry Weatherley, Berkshire Baptist Association Evangelist, was the special speaker. From a series of studies over many years on 'Church Growth' he described the four dimensions of growth: growing more - numerically, growing up - maturity, growing together - organically, and growing out - in service and witness. He then highlighted the ten vital signs of Church growth: constant prayers, respect for Biblical authority, effective leadership (not dictatorship), mobilised membership, eventful worship, continuous evangelism, community life, compassionate service, openness to change, and released resources.



Our picture catches a glimpse of the Revd Harry Weatherley in company with the Revd Philip Abrey (centre) and Mrs Audrey Preston, chairman and secretary of Churches Together in Caversham, respectively.

- O. Jewiss

The enthusiastic and authoritative presentation was a fitting signpost during this 'Decade of Evangelism' and an instructive introduc-

tion for the forthcoming mission to Reading 'Thames Valley Alive - Good News '94'. Opportunities to delve deeper into the

ideas, dimensions and insights will probably emerge during the autumn with the likely formation of ecumenical growth groups in Caversham.

ST. PETER'S AND ST. MARGARET'S MOTHERS UNION

On 26th June eleven members of the Mothers' Union spent a very enjoyable day in Hungerford, at the invitation of the Hungerford branch of the Mothers' Union. The day started with coffee and members then looked round this interesting historic town which has some lovely shops and a pretty canal-side walk. The party met up for a delicious lunch at the Swan, Lower Inkpen which has a varied menu including Singapore dishes, and went on to St Lawrence's Church at Hungerford where they attended Evensong conducted by the Vicar. The Hungerford Mothers' Union gave members a warm welcome and provided them with a splendid strawberry tea after the service.

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 Hardcastle, 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.

The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474148.

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.

OBITUARY

Leslie Douglas George Coward 1917-1993

When Les Coward died on 1st July after a short illness a great sense of loss was felt by all his friends and the people in the organisations with which he was connected. Les was born and educated in Portsmouth. He was commissioned in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, receiving the DSO for outstanding service. He was involved in many spheres of naval activity including the Norwegian Campaign. He was a member of the Burma Star Association.

After the war Les worked at Harwell, Aldermaston and finally at the Tropical Products Institute. For his achievement in his career he was awarded the ISO medal. Following his successful career as an engineer, he was keen to promote engineering amongst school leavers and organised several exciting lectures for young people in conjunction with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He also supported careers evenings for school leavers.

When he lived in Earley he became involved with the cubs and scout movement through Earley St. Peter's Church, an interest which he continued when he moved to Caversham and joined St. Peter's Church.

His sons and grandson were educated at Reading Blue Coat School where Les took a strong and active interest in support of the school, especially with the school fete. This association continued long after his sons left the school and culminated in his introduction of a fete for St. Peter's and St. Margaret's in 1988. This has now become a popular and valuable fund raising event.

Always an active man, Les had many interests which included target shooting, fishing, gardening, the church and young peoples' movements.

He will be remembered for his enthusiasm, cheerful outlook and dedication to St. Peter's.

E.F.

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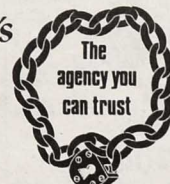
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TORCH COMES TO CAVERSHAM

THE Reading Torch Fellowship Group has now moved from the centre of Reading to the Baptist Church in Prospect St. Part of the Torch Trust for the Blind, the local fellowship is a monthly meeting for the visually handicapped and their friends. Songs, hymns, prayers and a short talk form the first part of the meeting, followed by chatting over a tea of sandwiches, cakes etc. Here blind and partially sighted people can share their difficulties and frustrations, their compensations and encouragements, and, not least, their faith, through meeting "someone in the same boat". Christian books, Bible Study notes and the various Torch magazines and publications are available in Giant Print, Braille and on cassettes, as well as Talking Books, from the Torch headquarters at Hallaton, Leicestershire.

Torch in one sense is no stranger to Caversham, for it was in Caversham, at the home and under the leadership of Joan Elford that the Torch Prayer Group began about twelve years ago. That monthly support group still continues in Caversham, but, since Joan's recent removal to Camberley, now meets at the home of Jeanne Smith, the leader of the Fellowship Group.

There are about thirty visually handicapped members in the Reading Group, most of whom are brought to the meeting and taken home by voluntary drivers. The tea is provided and served by a number of ladies, and other help by sitting at the tables to chat and help people know what sort of sandwich or cake they are being offered!

Meetings are at 3.0 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month, except in August, when there is no meeting, and in December, when it is on the second Saturday. September's meeting, on the 18th, will be a Harvest meeting, but the October meeting will be an extra-special event when we celebrate our seventh birthday. Sandy Clark, who is a blind member of the staff at Hallaton will be the special visitor on that occasion. Sandy has a wide ministry touring the country, singing and speaking in schools, prisons and wherever she can get a hearing for the Gospel. New members and helpers, especially drivers, are always welcome, so why not come along and see for yourself what goes on at Torch? Come and help us celebrate our birthday on 16th October, or phone Jeanne Smith on Reading 484153 for further information.

RESIDENTS & RARITIES

MANY of us will take a great delight in watching the birds which frequent our gardens, no matter what the weather may be.

Our colourful Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and perhaps the occasional, heavily-built Bullfinch, can truly lighten up the gloomiest days. Even the House Sparrow which is related to the remarkable Weaver Bird, provides ample room for contemplation. It can be found as readily in open meadows as in streets and gardens; indeed only today, I discovered a pair emerging from an old, well-rusted oil-drum, many miles from urbanisation. The 'Chirpings' within told their own story!

Long-standing garden bird-watchers will have had many years of golden opportunities for studying closely the habits and appearances of daily, resident species. This privilege may suggest an ability for being able to detect a visitor with only subtle variations from the 'regulars'. Such a bird could well be a very long-distance traveller from North America, Asia, or Siberia - perhaps even

a first-time record for Great Britain - a wonderful thrill, which like it or not, will have made its recipient a 'twitchee' overnight!

Surprisingly, these well-travelled visitors often feed quite amicably in a bird-table or lawn alongside the usual garden species, and I have listed the following few rarities which have occurred in gardens not too far removed from Reading.

1984 - Olive-backed Pipit (Asia) - First record for Mainland - frequented lawn at Bracknell.

1985 - Scarlet Rosefinch (E. Europe/Asia) - garden Lower Earley.
1986 - Yellow-browed Warbler (Asia) - fed on aphids for over a week - garden in Bath Road, Thatcham.

1987 - Rose-coloured Starling (S.E. Europe/S.W. Asia) - daily at bird-table near Aldershot.

1989 - Dark-eyed Junco (North American sparrow) - long-staying, regular visitor to bird-table/lawn, near Fleet.

Fortunately in each case, the knowledgeable 'hosts' advised or were themselves Members of the local Bird Group, which resulted in the British Birds Rarities Committee being promptly and properly informed.

In the event of a first-time record, identity will be confirmed and all aspects concerning its arrival will receive thorough investigation before forwarding to the British Ornithological Union, Records Committee, with a view to inclusion on the British List.

It should again be emphasized that anyone genuinely interested in progressing their knowledge of birds, would find invaluable, the Meetings and Excursions provided by the Reading Ornithological Club (R.O.C). New Members are always welcome.

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THE INNER WHEEL

Mrs Pamela Forsyth, President of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland in 1993/4, has chosen THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF for her charity this year. In addition donations to countless charities by Clubs approach £750,000 annually.

Inner Wheel is one of the largest women's organisations in the world, currently operating in eighty-four countries. In Great Britain and Ireland alone there are approximately thirty-four thousand members. Members of Inner Wheel are the wives or widows of Rotarians. Help is given by members to the Rotary movement on a regular basis.

Inner Wheel gives much service to the community at large, both in this country and overseas. Although not initially a fund-raising organisation, money is raised to help the needy locally, nationally and internationally.

Clubs meet regularly and usually have an interesting programme of speakers on a variety of subjects. The movement's aims of friendship, service and international understanding



President Marion presenting a cheque to Jeanette, a representative of the Samaritans.

bind all its members into an organisation dedicated to the same cause.

The Inner Wheel Club of Caversham has been busy whilst enjoying friendship. They have knitted lots of dolls for children in Albania, and completed several blankets from knitted squares.

President Marion Eldon chose 'The Samaritans' for the charity she wished to support for her year in office, and to raise money for this an 'evening of colour' was arranged, in which members and guests enjoyed a demonstration of colour coding, dried flower arrangements and hand-made jewellery.

A cheque for £250 was given to Jeanette, a representative from Samaritans by President Marion.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

The brand new TRENT Class Lifeboat, "The Earl and Countess Mountbatten of Burma" was launched by the Countess Mountbatten on July 17th, and is now in the Relief Fleet, which means she might be sent anywhere around the coast of the British Isles to replace an unseaworthy lifeboat, so you might get a chance to see her while you are on holiday.

Caversham Branch are having a Jumble Sale on Saturday September 18th at 2pm at the Caversham Hall, St John's Road, Lower Caversham. If you have any items to spare, please ring Sue on 471338, who will arrange collection.

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KEYBUNCH SUMMER TOUR '93

The Adventures of Dave the Knave.

Keybunch - the drama group from Caversham Hill Chapel - took to the road again during the end of the school summer term, visiting no less than eighteen local Primary schools with their latest production; *The Adventures of Dave the Knave*. Three thousand children experienced shall we say, a different kind of assembly, when the group performed their play with the customary hidden meaning.

The story centred around Dave, a knave at Banner Manor and loyal subject of the lord of the manor. Dave is summoned by the town crier to attend knight school where he is to learn how to become a right knight. At classes run by the lord of the manor, Dave is taught some important lessons

about being a knight, learns a battle cry and receives pieces of armour to remind him of these lessons. However, the 'baddy' - Dillan the villain - through various cunning disguises tricks Dave out of his armour, thus preventing him from becoming a knight. The big showdown comes towards the end of the sketch when Dave is shown by the lord how to use the battle cry to defeat Dillan. Riding Sniffer, the lord's charger, Dave sees Dillan off and is eventually knighted as Brave Dave.

Dave's part was shared by Marion Hedley-Lewis and Carolyn Steed, Dillan was played by Mark Hatcher (he's always the 'baddy!') and Mike Holmes was the town

crier and lord of the manor. Mike then explained what the sketch was all about. The lord of the manor is like Jesus who wants to help us through our lives. He wants us to be happy and if we do the right things e.g. tell the truth, give generously and care for and comfort others, lessons Dave learnt in the sketch, these things will help us lead happier lives. However there is a problem. There is an enemy, Satan, who tries to steal our happiness. By staying close to Jesus and knowing him as our special friend will help us win the battles in our lives.

All the children were invited to Keyhole Club on the Sunday afternoon following the tour. Fifty children came for the first time - making the number attending one hundred and four - a record since the club started two years ago.

Keyhole club is for children aged 5-11 years, the purpose of which is to have fun through games and crafts and to learn more about Christianity in a contemporary way through singing, sketches, memory verses, prayer etc.

If you would like to know more about the work of Keybunch or the Keyhole Club, phone Mark or Mike at Caversham Hill Chapel 474529.



From left to right:
Lord of the Manor - Mike Holmes
Dillan the Villain - Mark Hatcher
Dave the Knave - Marion Hedley-Lewis



Dillan in his jester disguise



↑
Sniffer to the rescue



The Town Crier (Mike Holmes)

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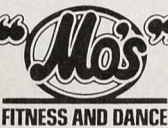
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the CLUBS

Caversham W.I.

'A Chance of a Lifetime' was the apt title of the talk by Mrs Nina Lamb from Devizes W.I. She was lucky enough to be granted a Churchill Fellowship to visit Canada and attend the ACWW Conference in 1983. The highlight of her stay was a visit and overnight stay at Stoney Creek, home of the W.I. Strong bonds of friendship were formed which have continued through subsequent visits.

Reminders were given of the garden meeting in August and Harvest Supper on September 16th. The competition winner was Miss M. Cameron.

Rosehill W.I.

The July meeting was on the 7th and Mrs Stockill welcomed members and visitors, reporting a most enjoyable day spent with a visit to Newbury and a trip on the River Kennet, at the beginning of the month. The meeting continued with the minutes and dates of events. Mrs Olga Gilmarin will take the bursary for Denman College.

Mrs Stockill won the silver salver, and the goblet was shared by Mrs Fry, Mrs Turner and the late Mrs Burtenshaw for points won in competitions.

The speaker was Mrs Barnes, her subject "Flower arrangement for a small room". She kept members riveted whilst doing four lovely arrangements, at the same time giving useful tips to help with this artwork.

The competition for "The best rose in your garden" was won by Mrs Barge, second Mrs Mann.

Reading Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the July meeting of the Guild the chairman, Mrs J. Spall, introduced the Speaker, Mr D. Noyes, whose subject was Reading Past and Present. Throughout a fascinating series of slides and the entertaining commentary which accompanied them, members were enabled once again to view the older shops and buildings which since the early 1960s have disappeared to allow the building of the Inner Distribution Road. Mr Noyes' knowledge of the area included the recall of the various shop traders of that time and in some cases even the shop owners' names and history.

Many members found that their own memories of that area of Reading appeared in many ways preferable to the changes that have taken place! Altogether a programme which provoked much lively discussion.

The competition was for a "Reading Souvenir". Members produced some widely varied souvenirs, including a catalogue current in 1873 from Bulls the Drapers. The winner was Mrs S. Froud with her report from the "Reading Standard" of April 1986 of the life and death of a local man, Mr Jack Bryant, a Master Icer in the employ of Huntley and Palmers. This talented craftsman was feted for his skills, icing cakes for Royal Weddings being one of his specialities. Pictured alongside the report was the beautiful model he had completed of Westminster Abbey.

Visits to Blakes Lock Museum, including a boat trip on the Kennet, also a visit to the new Aircraft Museum at Woodley, are planned. Four members have recently ventured on a shared holiday at Cromer.

During a new members' afternoon at Mrs Spall's home much enjoyment was gained from a talk by the Presi-

dent, Mrs A. Smith, and from perusing the Scrapbooks of the Guild's past activities.

The Guild meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm in Church House. Visitors and new members most welcome.

St. Peter's Wives

On the third Tuesday in May St Peter's Wives held their monthly meeting in Church House and were welcomed by a display of cheeses arranged by Andy and Ann Wigmore — 'Village Maid Cheeses'. With slides, Andy and Ann explained their beginnings as cheese makers and the development of their now thriving business.

The weather was kind in June and some thirty members gathered at Chairman, Lyn Butler's house and enjoyed a strawberry supper.

When Sue Ryder held their Summer Fete at the beginning of July a generous supply of cakes was baked by members, and a loyal band of helpers was on duty in the main hall to sell drinks and cakes etc. Over £200 was raised.

At their regular monthly meeting in July, St Peter's Wives welcomed Mrs Jean Debney, who aroused members' interest in their ancestry and gave them, with the help of slides, very sound advice how to go about assembling their family trees.

The next few months' programme looks extremely interesting with a visit from Mrs Hazel Blackburn in September to talk about "Bee Keeping and Its Products", a return visit in October from Mr K. Sands to tell members more about "Old Time Music Hall" and on the 24th October, members will again be involved with the 9.15am Family Service at St Peter's Church. On the 6th November, the Wives' Autumn Fayre will again be held in St Martin's Precinct and the members will be raising money to send to Sue Ryder. The AGM will be held at Church House on the 16th November.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

DEVOTEES OF OLD READING

At Margaret Mellin's cheese and wine afternoon in August there was an opportunity to

see again on video the French cabaret devised by the drama group and successfully performed at the birthday party. At the main meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's guild vice-chairman Mrs M Hutchinson read a report from the National Council held at Blackpool.

The Speaker, Mr H Godwin-Arnold, felt strongly that Reading is an under rated town. The co-author of a book, he wanted more to be known about its interesting Benedictine abbey founded in 1121, and Caversham Court by the Thames, for example. He showed a number of exhibits including a description of the house. The Old Rectory or Striped House, as it was variously known, was in 1538 the property of Notley Priory, the home of Augustinian monks noted for welfare work. Later Christ Church College, Oxford bought the rights of the property, and leased it to families. There had been a statue of Cardinal Wolsey in the gateway. Sadly everything disappeared in 1933 to make way for a road that was never built.

At social studies there was another glimpse of the old house. Mr RW Puddephatt MBE, who served 30 years with the fire brigade and lived in a house at the back of the fire station in Caversham Road, is not a historian but is interested in photography which converts old postcards into slides. He formed his excellent collection with help from Reading university and numerous friends. There was a picture of Mr

David Lloyd George at the old Town Hall, of trams at the terminus outside Caversham Bridge Hotel, and of floods in 1907, 1927 and 1947. Trams could cope well with floods, it appeared. Everyone enjoyed a good laugh.

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July Activities

The Open Meeting at the Kennet Room had for its speaker Norman Brown on 'In the clutches of the Law'. His comparison of penalties in the Western World was particularly interesting, also his library of divorce laws since the eighteenth century. The Books group had such a lively meeting on Anthony Trollope they decided to continue on this author in September. The French group has moved from plays to short stories. The Play reading group read 'A Woman of No Importance' by Oscar Wilde.

The Music group were delighted by an amateur group, the Tuesday Quartet, playing Mozart and Borodin. The Discussion group reached the conclusion that a political party representing pensioners' interests was impractical but a pressure group was needed. The Travel group saw a video on New Zealand and heard a largely historical talk on Rhodesia. The Local

turn to page 11

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the CLUBS

from page 10

History group heard reminiscences of Reading during the War. The Writers could choose to write a piece on a shipwreck, snowstorm or fire.

Twenty-two walkers enjoyed a walk through fields and lanes through Mortimer. On July 8th Star joined in the Generation Day Street Market when information was dispersed on EC solidarity between the generations. Following the successful June meeting at Pegasus Court Tilehurst there will be a regular monthly visit to the venue from September. There was a very grateful letter from the German group which was entertained on various occasions in June by Star.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Duckworth was the speaker for the afternoon meeting which was about the RNLI, while her son, who accompanied her, had a video showing various aspects of this fine organisation. Mrs Duckworth said the RNLI was first started in 1823 by Sir William Hillary. Later Queen Victoria gave a warrant for the Lifeboat and so RNLI was the name, which persists today. They are one hundred per cent manned by volunteers and at present there are sixty eight women among the crews. They are called out on average four thousand times a

year and have saved one hundred and twenty thousand lives. It costs £80,000,000 a year to maintain; there are two hundred and fifty lifeboats and they depend entirely on voluntary contributions, receiving nothing from the government.

The video that followed the talk showed a true rescue off shore from Swanage and the lifeboat from Swanage and Isle of Wight was shown battling through, such treacherous seas and enormous, turbulent waves, that members watching held their breath; but to these wonderful bands of brave men it was a job that had to be done and danger never entered their minds. Regardless of the nationality of the men in danger, it was lives to be saved by these RNLI crews and they were there to do it.

Members showed their appreciation and all agreed they had enjoyed listening to Mrs Duckworth and her son for the talk and video. Mrs Bidwell was on the sales table.

Mrs Brenda Strong reminded members of the garden party at her home in the near future in aid of Sue Ryder Home.

Maplewood W.I.

Maplewood celebrated their thirty-eighth Birthday with a Tea Party, and welcomed several guests, including Mrs Christine Ingram, MBE, VCO, and members from Sonning, Woodley, Earley and Winnersh. The thing to remember about W.I. Tea Parties, and Birthday ones in particular, is be smart and skip lunch! It was an entertaining afternoon with a Beetle Drive, an unusual Quiz, and an amusing reading by the President, Mrs

Joan Baddeley, on "what is an Old Age Pensioner?". The birthday cake was made by Mrs Joan Allen and decorated by her sister, Mrs Vera Harris.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs Nettie Ogden, with a deep pink stripey lavender.

Don't forget, the next meeting is on Tuesday, September 14th at Mapledurham Pavilion at 2.15pm. You are most welcome. For details ring Reading 473990.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held in St Barnabas Hall in July. The talk for the evening was to have been "The Body Shop" but this was unfortunately cancelled. Two young ladies named "Elaine" and "Linda" from a local departmental store gave a talk on the range of products from a well known beauty company.

Elaine and Linda discussed with members a range of creams and lotions to clean, tone and feed the skin. They also gave lots of interesting information on body creams. Members had the chance to sample many perfumes as well. One of the members agreed to have her face made up with a tinted moisturising cream and foundation which gave her skin a "lovely glow". They told of the harmful rays of the sun and suggested several different sun blocks to prevent damage to the skin. All agreed it had been a very nice "feminine" type of evening and that they had enjoyed it very much.

Arts and Crafts

Members were asked to take their favourite recipe to their next meeting or if possible a sample of their favourite recipe. There will also be a certain number of geranium cuttings available for members.

Words and Music

The subject was "music for voice", or if possible members could bring "tapes for voice".

Ramblers

The ramblers had three walks, five miles around Nettlebed, four miles around Stoke Row, Borocourt and through nearby woods and the third walk was along the river and ending at the Forbury Gardens for lunch.

There was no guild meeting in August, but the garden party was

held at the beginning of August.

The talk for September will be on "Microwave Cookery".

Caversham Community Association

The July programme commenced on the 5th of the month with a members' evening. As 1993 was the 40th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation it had been suggested that members could give their recollections of events that happened to them personally in 1953. Olive Howard began by recalling how, after living in rooms, as many couples did at that time, her delight when she and her husband were allocated a flat in Coronation year. Maida Feast told the audience that at that time she was working at a handicraft shop at Donkin Hill. Her employer owned a television set and invited Maida and her parents, with thirty other people, into her lounge to view the television screening of the Coronation and share the happy occasion. This anecdote led to several members recounting how they had been glad to accept similar invitations to join relations and friends lucky enough to have a television at that time. Dorothy Osborne gave an amusing story when, as a young married woman living in rooms, she took the opportunity when the landlord was out, to have a bath in his tin portable bath. She was dismayed when the rusted metal bottom of the bath fell out and the kitchen floor was then awash with water. Muriel Waite also explained the difficulties of the lack of accommodation when, living with her husband in one room, she had to do the cooking or boil water for washing on a gas stove which was on the landing. Muriel was in hospital on Coronation day awaiting the birth of her first baby. Brenda Strong was also pregnant that year with her daughter Maureen. Brenda read a charming poem on 'Mother' given her years later from that same daughter. Other members departed from the Coronation memories, as did George Feast who recalled his time in the R.A.F. during the Second World War.

George's wife, Maida, made a delicious no-bake cake sampled by all the members. Peggy Jefferson described a memorable trip down the Rhine and Monica

Suggett read a Pam Ayres' poem. A fascinating evening then closed with thanks expressed by the Chairman Beryl Latcham, to all the members who had contributed.

The following week husband and wife, Sue and Stephen Hissey, visited the club. Members of the Kennet Valley branch of "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf", they came to give a talk and slide show on the work of the organisation. Sue gave the commentary and explained their aim was to raise local awareness and funds for training dogs to help profoundly deaf persons. The scheme, in operation since 1982, has a training base in Lewknor, Oxford, where dogs work in a homelike environment with their trainer. Young dogs are chosen, mainly from rescue centres for abandoned dogs, for their intelligence and responses to sound. After staying with a Puppy Socialiser, the young dogs start training at about 9 months — this takes usually 16 weeks. Sounds such as the door bell, alarm clock and smoke alarm are chosen for the dog to become familiar with and attract the future owner's attention by touching him or her with his paw. Owning a hearing dog has meant greater independence for the severely deaf owner and the hope is that the number of dogs trained is increased. It costs £2,500 to train a dog and anyone interested in helping with this charity work could contact Mr. Hissey, telephone 0734 479018. Members were given the opportunity to buy attractive gifts from a selection Sue and Stephen had provided.

The members met for a social evening on the 19th July, games were played and prizes awarded to the winners. An indoor games evening took place on the 26th July. There was a good attendance and members participated in games of Scrabble, darts, table tennis, various card games and shove ha'penny. It was also the annual fish and chip supper evening, therefore, at refreshment time, members Alan and Dorothy Osborne kindly collected the members' orders from a local fish and chip shop. The food was soon distributed and enjoyed very much by everyone. After a few more games, the Chairman reminded the players it was time to go home, so the members departed after a busy and successful meeting.

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