

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED OF NEW HEADTEACHER



—O. Jewiss

The retiring and the newly appointed Headteachers at Highdown School greet each other at a recent meeting. Mr Andrew Clarke the retiring Headteacher is on the right and Mr Alan Furley, his successor, is on the left.

Berkshire County Council have announced the appointment of Mr Alan Furley as the new Headteacher at Highdown School in succession to Mr Andrew Clarke. He takes up his appointment on 24 April.

Mr Furley is currently Deputy Head at Easthampstead Park School, Bracknell, a post he has held for seven years. He was earlier Head of Mathematics at Bishop Reindorp School in Guildford. He graduated in Civil Engineering at Southampton University in 1961 and spent 16 years working in

industry, first with Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners in London, Malawi and Kenya and then with Soil Mechanics Ltd. He subsequently retrained as a mathematics and science teacher at Bulmershe College, gaining his Certificate of Education in 1981.

Mr Furley says that he is honoured to be joining Highdown at an exciting stage of its development. He refers to the large, successful and expanding sixth form, the recent excellent inspection report and its place in the forefront of many new initiatives,

including strong industrial links, and the possible addition of a new theatre and sports hall. He says "The school has a very bright future and I look forward to working with the staff, parents, pupils and the local community to enhance its reputation still further".

The *Caversham Bridge* congratulates Mr Furley on his appointment, wishes him every success in his new role, welcomes him to Caversham and Emmer Green, and looks forward to his contribution to the life of our community.

RETIREMENT OF HIGHDOWN HEADTEACHER

Mr Andrew Clarke, who has been at Highdown School for nearly a quarter of a century and Headteacher there for the past 20 years, retires at the end of the Easter holidays. He came to the School in 1972 as Deputy Head. This article anticipates his retirement and is based on an interview in which he was asked to reflect on his 35 year teaching career, a period over which he has seen many changes.

His career started in an all age school in the Salford Docks area, where boys from 5-15 years of age were taught with the limitations of one teacher per class for everything; only the woodwork classes had specialist staff. Now there are specialist staff and facilities for most

subjects and children stay on at school until 16, so expectations are infinitely greater. Mr Clarke believes that many of the changes initiated during his time in teaching will continue to evolve, so that eventually we shall have a better educational system which will be more responsive to the needs of the parents and the community. He has, however, some misgivings about the way education is being managed.

The National Curriculum and Local Management of Schools

The National Curriculum is a great advance which would give a better deal to the pupils than was the case 20 years ago but it still needs considerable

refinement and further slimming down. Over the past five years enormous effort has gone into assessment and recording and, while this was very necessary, the system that had been proposed was not only burdensome but the results that it would have produced were not necessarily valid or reliable. The effectiveness of the new system will be the focus of much attention in the coming year.

The advantages of Local Management of Schools, which allows them to make their own decisions and have greater control, had to be offset against a system which does not bring with it the necessary financial resources. This was

— Continued on page 2

TALKING POINT

by
THE REV. PETER EDWARDS
Pastor, Caversham Baptist Free Church



THE EASTER EXPERIENCE

On the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene came to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His corpse. Morning usually speaks to us of renewed life and light but for Mary it was clouded by the darkness of her grief and loss. Then she heard a voice addressing her by name – "Mary". It was the Risen Lord meeting her personal sorrow with a personal greeting.

This was the moment of resurrection – not simply a doctrine to be accepted for the sake of orthodoxy but a glad and personal encounter with the Risen Lord. Jesus came to Mary and turned her sorrow into indescribable joy and that is what the Easter experience has been doing for people ever since. The meaning of Easter is that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, lives can be transformed as suddenly as Mary's sorrow was turned to joy.

The Risen Lord met Mary in her deep distress. He met the disciples in their fear, hiding behind locked doors. He met Cleopas and his friend on the Emmaus road in their disappointment and dashed hopes. He met Thomas in his scepticism. He met Peter with all the guilt of denying his Lord still upon him. And it was a transforming experience in each case. They were ever afterwards walking in newness of life.

This is always what happens. The Saviour stands before us at Easter as the one who has conquered sin and death – man's greatest enemies. He was crucified that we might know the assurance of sins forgiven and freedom from the burden of guilt. He was raised on the third day that we might share His resurrection power and so know hope in our sorrow, courage in our fears and a joy which is independent of our circumstances. To meet Him; to turn to Him in our sorrow, our fear, our scepticism and our guilt; to know and love the Risen Christ; this is to be a changed person and to experience a new quality of life.

May the Easter message exercise its transforming power among us as we meditate on it afresh.

– Continued from page 1.

particularly so, when, in the interests of society, schools needed to expand the use of technology. As an example he cited the refusal of government to acknowledge that when a school is equipped with the hardware for modern information technology, it also needed to be matched by the provision of funds for software, technical staff, maintenance, the training of the teaching staff and for the eventual replacement of the equipment. At the same time Mr Clarke spoke appreciatively of the financial support from commerce and industry in sponsoring projects.

The satisfaction of teaching

The great satisfaction Mr Clarke obtained from teaching was clearly evident when he referred to the 'whiz' he felt at the attainment of pupils when they left after 5 or 7 years in the school with results far beyond the expectations of everyone when these individuals joined the school. A historian by training, he still managed to do a little teaching and spoke of the importance of maintaining classroom contact and where credibility in the classroom was the touchstone of everything. It was important for him, as Headteacher, to appreciate how things had changed for colleagues at a time when teaching is infinitely more demanding than it was 35 years ago. No longer can a teacher rely on notes produced when in training; continual revision and innovation are now necessary.

Assemblies

Mr Clarke spoke about the importance of religion and saw the churches as an essential part of the local community. He referred to the immense help he had received from the six local clergy who currently come into the school about once a week, according to their availability, to take assemblies. He saw a continuing reliance on local clergy to take assemblies. These are held for year groups; the number and frequency of assemblies depended on the availability of space in the year group areas.

Achievements

Highdown School has some 980 pupils, of whom 144 are in the sixth form, including 100 doing 'A' level; this was a rather higher proportion than usual. The majority go on to degree courses. Commenting on League Tables Mr Clarke indicated that they really did not give any more information about the school than they knew already; there was no indication of added value.

The School took pride in helping pupils reach their full potential, whether this would be by moving through good 'A' level results to the successful completion of a university degree course, achieving competence in literacy and numeracy, excelling in the field of sport, or serving the community in an unselfish fashion.

Work experience is another important feature of the School in which all year 10 pupils (the 15 year old age group) are involved, as are a high proportion of the sixth form. This provides a real opportunity for the students who are out there looking at real life. Over 100 firms a year are coming in to the School; their support and interest is tremendous.

Thank you Mr Clarke

Mr Clarke indicated that he was retiring to enable him to do other things: walking, sailing, reading, and cinema going. The *Caversham Bridge* wishes Mr Clarke a long, healthy and rewarding retirement. On behalf of the local community, or at least those members of it who read the *Caversham Bridge*, the interviewer was able to express to Mr Clarke their gratitude for his contribution to education in the area over large number of years. He was also able to tell Mr Clarke how much the local community had appreciated the ability to use the premises for other activities. The interviewer left with the impression that here was a Headteacher who cared deeply for his pupils and his School. Mr Clarke left to supervise lunch duty, as was his daily custom, saying that later he would be doing his usual afternoon duty on the green supervising the bus queue.

Owen Jewiss

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Rev. A. N. Lawrence, 6A Hemdean Road. Tel: 470816.

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All contributions for May issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 6 April.

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

The dates for June will be Monday 1 May and Wednesday 3 May.

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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Oxfam is very grateful to the shoppers of Caversham who have given its shop in Prospect Street a record year. The shop, which is staffed by volunteers, has been a feature in the local shopping scene for more than twenty-five years, and is now providing a range of products greater than ever before.

On the first floor is a wide range of ladies' fashions with spring and summer items now making an appearance, a linen section and soft furnishings for the home, while on the ground floor everyone is catered for: Suits, shirts, ties and shoes for men, clothes for children of all ages,

records, books, toys, puzzles and a frequently changing assortment of curios. Whilst jewellery and works of art vie for space with china, glass, pots and pans, all donated by the people of Caversham.

However the Oxfam shop of today is not just a repository for second-hand items. Oxfam buys new goods from wherever in the world fair trade can alleviate hardship. Terracotta from Peru, basketware from Indonesia, lacquered boxes from India and all manner of crafts from the Philippines are just a few of the new items that can be found on its shelves. All these items make excellent

gifts with the added bonus that under Oxfam's fair trade policy you know that the producers of the item you buy will benefit directly from the profits gained from export. This is often not the case with international trade where large companies control the processing and distribution. Fair Trade enables small scale producers in developing countries to improve their standard of living.

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Pic - Walton Adams

jams and spices from wherever in the world Oxfam can give a fair deal? In 1995 Oxfam has an ambition to increase the range of food it carries to over

eighty items. Your shop in Caversham intends to stock as many of these new products as it can handle. We hope that you will encourage

this new venture and look forward to your continuing support for our traditional trade throughout 1995.

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CENTENARY CELEBRATION

New Bridge Nursery School, formerly St John's Caversham, opened its doors to celebrate one hundred years of education. Governors and staff were proudly overwhelmed by the response from the local community and former staff and pupils. Request for mementos from the past resulted in displays throughout the school of many years ago.

The open day brought in many visitors who looked around the school presented as "then" and "now". Elderly visitors were most keen to find out how

the children learn today, and some were overheard to say that they were "...born too soon!" For the children it was an opportunity to show around great grandparents and hear about their school days. Visitors were entertained with dancing around the Maypole until there was no longer a space in the hall to continue. The organisers were blessed with early spring sunshine throughout the day encouraging visitors to linger in the grounds and watch the younger pupils try out the adventure playground.

Visitors were joined by the Mayor of

Reading, Councillor John Oliver and his wife Mrs Shirley Oliver when the sun dial was unveiled. Amongst the many people who also called in were Sir Gerard Vaughan MP and a number of Borough Councillors, all wishing the present staff and pupils well. Children at the school each received a commemorative mug as a keepsake, and should have much to tell their children of the day their school reached its One Hundredth Birthday.

It is hoped that the friendships made and acquaintances renewed will continue firmly into the future.

Left to right: Mrs Edith Benn, Stephanie Bates, Philip McGowan, Mayor John Oliver and Mrs Ethel Payne.

Photo: Reading Chronicle



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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

A VIEW WORTH SAVING

The Warren provides a spectacular backdrop to Reading. The view upstream from Caversham Bridge can hold its own with that in any town in the country, and from the promenade bank the pleasures of a riverside walk are increased by the views across the water. But it does not stop there. The wooded escarpment can be seen from many points in Reading and visitors arriving at the railway station are given a foretaste of what lies beyond the traffic congested streets immediately around the railway station. For Caversham people, a walk along the Warren provides the attractions of instant countryside on the doorstep.

The tree coverage is what provides the main feature. Most of these are in private ownership in people's gardens. It is important though for far more than the residents' pleasure that this leafy area is kept green and not allowed to deteriorate by default.

To this end a Design Guidance for the Warren has been produced by Reading Borough Council which will, if acted upon, go a long way towards protecting the character of the area. The document describes the Warren as being a long narrow road with no pathways, poorly lit, with few passing places, its exit on to St Peter's Hill allowing poor visibility and other accesses being unmade

up and unsuitable for motorised vehicles. Fortunately no one is suggesting 'improving' all this, for it is these constraints that have largely permitted the Warren to retain its rural character.

However, there has been a nibbling away of all this which, if allowed to continue, will gradually destroy the whole appearance of the escarpment. Sub-division of plots bringing a motley collection of structures and increased parking and attempts to slip in residential development under the guise of boat houses with sleeping accommodation attached are some of the trends that the guidelines state must be resisted.

Trees will be protected and owners encouraged to adopt a management programmes for their woodlands. Boundary fences will be of a type that do not obstruct the view and that reflect the rural setting of the property. Mooring will be limited to one cruiser and one dinghy for each residential plot and on plots used by boat clubs high standards will be required.

If all the proposals are realised, the slow deterioration that has been evident for many years can be halted and this precious asset of Reading will be assured for future generations.

TREE TOPS

Hot on the heels of this guidance document comes an application for development on St. Peter's Hill. Now this is not part of the Warren, which must be regarded as land between St Peter's Avenue, Upper Warren Avenue and the river, but nevertheless when viewed from the other side of the river its trees merge with those of the Warren.

When Treetops was closed down last year as a hostel for emotionally impaired children, many regrets were expressed, but these were in some measure allayed when it was bought for residential development. It could have lain empty for a long period or been turned into offices. Now, however, comes the news that in addition to the house being converted into apartments an application has been made to build two houses in the grounds which will involve heavy

tree loss, including a magnificent cedar of Lebanon, and the opening up of the back of the property to provide vehicular access from the Mount, which can only mean part demolition of the fine brick and flint wall within the conservation area. This is totally unacceptable and must be refused.

LOTS OF WATER

Still in the river area of Caversham, the Waterways Forum of the Borough Council has recommended the rehabilitation of the Bucks Eyots so that all water fowl can use them. There is a wonderful variety there and they seem to co-exist peacefully.

The river has been in full spate, and an impressive sight after weeks of heavy rain, and there has been flooding, but nothing like on the scale that used regularly to affect the town in the first half of this century.

Perhaps it was to escape the flooded banks that extra large numbers of swans have congregated at Caversham bridge. Many of them are last year's cygnets, far more than those raised in the Caversham reaches.

Swan Lifeline, the charity which helps swans in trouble, and they do encounter a lot in one way or another, is in need of additions to its rescue team in the Caversham area. Anyone who can help, if only at weekends, should contact Tim Heron of Swan Lifeline on 01753 859397. There's a knack to rescuing a swan, so training will be given. From their News Letters there are no dull moments in the life of the rescue teams.

AWARD TO ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Congratulations to the organisers of the Environment Centre at Caversham Court, which has been presented with a Green Apple Environmental Award. This is a national award in its first year and to the best Green council in the country. It is a recognition of the high standard of work being carried out at the Centre.

BROKEN PAVEMENTS

Footpaths all over Caversham are being dug up in a frenzy of

activity for cable TV. The workers are a polite and cheerful lot but the noise and mess they cannot help creating in wet weather has tried the patience of both householders and road users, who have experienced hold-ups where the road-works spill out into the carriageway. It is also very trying to see pavements that have only just been repaired and made even after years of deterioration, dug up and the smooth surface once more scarred. The trenches are filled in and levelled off within a few days, but what is going to happen after about six months when settling has finally taken place? Will the firm come back and complete the job, or shall we be left with uneven pavements once again?

Flagstones have, in most cases, been replaced badly, and many have been cracked. Bridge Street is particularly bad, and is

likely to be the cause of accidents resulting from tripping on the uneven surfaces.

West of St. Peter's Avenue, the streets will be saved from this disturbance as there are so many street or garden trees with their roots in the road that the requirement to excavate by hand in such cases would have added enormously to the task. Anyone living in those parts who pines for Cable TV or dreams of being linked one day to the information super-highway, will either have to move or put up with the deprivation.

BUTCHERED TREES

Other traffic hold-ups were caused by the pollarding of trees in Caversham Road and Vastern Road. The pathetic stumps left will remain like that all through the summer,

Continued on page 5



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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

SATURDAY 8th April
08.00pm — "Open to God" — In School

SUNDAY 9th APRIL
11.00am — Palm Sunday led by Godsquad — In School

MONDAY 10th April
07.00pm — Meditative Workshop — Church House

TUESDAY 11th April
07.30pm — Meal & Communion — In School
Informal meal for everyone

WEDNESDAY 12th April
10.30am — Communion — 26 Donkin Hill
07.00pm — Meditation & Communion — Church House

THURSDAY 13th April
08.00pm — April Seder & Washing of Hands — 2 Cherwell Rd.

EASTER DAY 16th April
09.45am — Egg Hunt & Decoration — In School
11.00am — Easter Communion — In School
07.00pm — Songs of Praise for Easter — In School

ST JOHN the BAPTIST

PALM SUNDAY, 9th April
08.00am — Holy Communion (BCP)
09.45am — Meet at New Bridge Nursery for PROCESSION OF PALMS AND PARISH EUCHARIST

Monday in Holy Week
08.00pm — Eucharist (with Stations of the Cross)

Tuesday in Holy Week
08.00pm — Eucharist (with Stations of the Cross)

Wednesday in Holy Week
10.30-12 — "Journey to the Cross" a session for young people 5+
08.00pm — Eucharist (with Stations of the Cross)

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April
10.00am — Holy Communion (BCP)
08.00pm — SUNG EUCHARIST & STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR (followed by Gethsemane Watch)

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
10.30-12 — "At the Cross" including All age Service at 11.15 (a session for young people)
12 noon — Stations of the Cross
02.00pm — THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

HOLY SATURDAY 15th APRIL
10.30-12 — "Journey to Easter Day" (a session for young people)
08.00pm — THE EASTER LITURGY: the Service of Light, Lighting of the Paschal Candle & first Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY 16th April
08.00am — Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00am — EASTER EUCHARIST FOR ALL AGES

ST. MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM

PALM SUNDAY, 9th April
11.00am — Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 13th April
07.30pm — Trench Green Hall, which will take the form of a Passover Meal with a Eucharist, to be followed by a Service in church at 9.00pm and an opportunity to keep vigil until midnight. (If you would like to come to the meal, please get in touch with Sheila Nunn in order to help with the catering).

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
09.30am — Meditation

EASTER DAY 16th April
11.00am — Parish Eucharist

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th APRIL
07.30pm — Communion in the Free Church Tradition
Rev. Elizabeth Brazell (CTR Chairman)

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
10.30am — Joint Service with Methodists: Speaker Revd David Moody

EASTER DAY 16th April
08.45am — Communion Breakfast
10.30am — Family Service. Rev. Peter Edwards
06.30pm — Easter Praise Rev. Peter Edwards

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY 9th April
11.00am — Service: Revd M. Temple
06.30pm — Service: Revd David Moody. Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April
08.00pm — The Last Supper. Communion in Wesley Lounge

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
10.30am — Joint Service at Baptist Free Church: Speaker Revd David Moody

EASTER DAY 16th April
08.30am — Communion: Revd David Moody
09.30am — Easter breakfast
11.00am — "Christ is risen" Communion: Revd David Moody
06.30pm — "Christ is alive": Mr David Wise

ST ANDREW'S

07.30pm — Monday to Wednesday: The Eucharist with Address (Fr Damian Garwood CR)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 13th April
07.30pm — Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil

GOOD FRIDAY, 14th April
09.30am — Good Friday Liturgy
11.00am — Children's Service

EASTER EVE, 15th April
09.00pm — Vigil and Holy Fire Ceremonies

EASTER DAY, 16th April — He is risen!
08.00am — The Eucharist
10.00am — Parish Sung Eucharist
11.30am — The Eucharist (with hymns)
06.30am — Easter Evensong

ST PETER'S

PALM SUNDAY 9th April
08.00am — Holy Communion
09.15am — Sung Eucharist (able-bodied meet for procession from Caversham Court 9.10am)
11.15am — Morning Prayer
06.30pm — "The Crucifixion" (Stainer)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week
07.00pm — Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 13th April
09.30am — Holy Communion
08.00pm — Sung Eucharist and Vigil to midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, 14th April
08.00am — Holy Communion
12-3.00pm — Three Hours' Devotion conducted by Revd Adrian Dorber (Chaplain, Portsmouth University)

EASTER DAY, 16th April
08.00am — Holy Communion
09.15am — Sung Eucharist
11.15am — Morning Prayer
06.30pm — Evensong

ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY, 9th April
11.00am — Family Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, 16th April
11.00am — Festival Service including Holy Communion

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

GOOD FRIDAY, 14th April
11.00-4.00 — Family Worship

EASTER SATURDAY, 15th April
11.00am-2.00pm

EASTER DAY, 16th April
11.00-1pm — Morning Service
6.30-9pm — Evening Service

ST BARNABAS

PALM SUNDAY, 9th April
08.00am — Eucharist (1662) blessing of Palms
09.30am — PROCESSION WITH PALMS AND PARISH COMMUNION (Starting from Church Hall)
04.30pm — Evensong

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April
07.30pm — The Last Supper Eucharist in the Context of a Meal in the church hall. (Bring a main course).

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
02.00pm — The Proclamation of the Cross (no communion)

EASTER DAY 16th April
08.00am — Eucharist (1662)
09.30am — EASTER SERVICE. The Services of Light, Baptism and Communion
04.30pm — EASTER EGG SERVICE

GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April
08.00pm — Joint Service with St John's Church

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April
10.30am — Joint Service at Baptist Free Church. Speaker Revd David Moody

EASTER DAY 16th April
10.30am — Service with Holy Communion: Rev George Simons
06.30pm — Service with Holy Communion: Rev David Moody

OUR LADY AND ST ANNE

Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion 9th April
Palms will be blessed at all Masses
05.30pm — (Saturday 8th April) Vigil Mass
09.00am — Heights Chapel Mass
10.30am — Mass
05.00pm — Stations of the Cross and Benediction
06.30pm — Mass
07.30pm — Parish Passover Supper in the Hall

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

09.15am — Mass

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

09.15am — Mass
07.30pm — (St Aloysius, Oxford) Chrism Mass celebrated by the Archbishop

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (Spy Wednesday)

09.15am — Mass

MAUNDY THURSDAY

08.00pm — Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper. Bishop Pargeter will commission the Eucharist Ministers Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY A day of Fasting and Abstinence

09.00am — Morning Prayer of the Church
03.00pm — Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
07.00pm — Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion

HOLY SATURDAY

09.00am — Morning Prayer of the Church
09.00pm — Solemn Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

EASTER DAY

09.00am — (Heights Chapel) Mass
10.30am — Mass
06.30pm — Mass

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY
10.30am — Service

EASTER DAY
10.45am — Service
06.30pm — Service

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

GOOD FRIDAY
10.30AM — Family Service
EASTER DAY
10.30am — Family Service

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) CHURCH ST. READING

EASTER DAY
10.30am — Service

Watchdog continued from page 4

and Caversham Road will lose its one remaining grace of having trees giving it shade on at least one side. Why was it considered necessary to attack these trees which were far from being overgrown and were harming no one and

nothing? For a rate-capped Council this was an expense that could have been avoided.

CHANGES TO SHOPS

There are several changes on the shopping front going on in the centre of Caversham. First of all, welcome to Waring's who are now established in Scotts' former premises. It is pleasing to

have a master baker's there again and it looks as if they can be assured of a good trade. Waitrose is bound to feel the draught a bit, but with all their other lines they are not going to suffer a mortal blow. Their bread is good too, so now we have the choice of two good bakers. There will be no need to buy the mass produced plastic foam

that passes itself off as bread in other less fortunate areas.

It will be sad to bid farewell to Asher's, the friendly greengrocer in St. Martin's Precinct, where you could go and pick out your fruit and vegetables and were even invited to taste the grapes or from time to time presented with a free pear or some such. The front of the shop

usually had a bright array of reasonably priced flowers outside to cheer up a damp grey day, or add sparkle to a sunny one. We shall miss it.

In Prospect Street there will be a large unit vacant when Lexterten, now in receivership, departs. People do not, of course, buy furniture everyday of the week, and shops that are not continuously selling are

liable to be in trouble. On announcing its imminent closing, Lexterten had more people in it than ever it did before: vultures picking over the remains, it could be said, but perhaps that was the idea.

Over in Bridge Street the Collector's Gallery has experienced similar problems. Their windows were always a joy to

look at and those interested in good pictures made the occasional purchase, but there was the rub. Picture buying is not something you do everyday, or even every week or every month. Yet shopping areas without these specialist shops are the poorer for it. Support them when you can.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHURCHES TOGETHER BREAK NEW GROUND

Financial Services

In a series of events new ground has been broken recently by Churches Together in Berkshire and in Reading. In mid-February the Berkshire Industrial Mission Team held a consultation chaired by the Bishop of Reading in which Christians working in the Financial Services explored such questions as "What dilemmas do we face as Christians in our work in Financial Services?" and "What faith reserves do we need to engage in these issues?". Subsequently they reflected on what they really thought and did, what might Christ be saying to them and what could the church do on a number of financial issues. The day was facilitated by Adrian Mann, an Anglican chartered accountant and company director and author of a recent book entitled *No Small Change: Money, Christians and the Church*.

Housing and Homelessness

The Housing Working Party of Churches Together in Reading held a seminar on "Housing and Homelessness" in mid-February in the Churches in Reading Drop-in Centre. The purpose had been to raise awareness of what the Borough Council and Reading Emergency Aid Project are doing and to consider what else might be done. The Housing Working Party put forward some ideas for new initiatives, these included support for a Night Shelter, a Rent Guarantee Scheme for people moving out of hostels into private rented accommodation and a Night Stop Scheme for young people. There is a hard core of up to 50 people of all ages sleeping out in Reading and the most pressing need is the alleviation of this problem.

Empowering the Vision

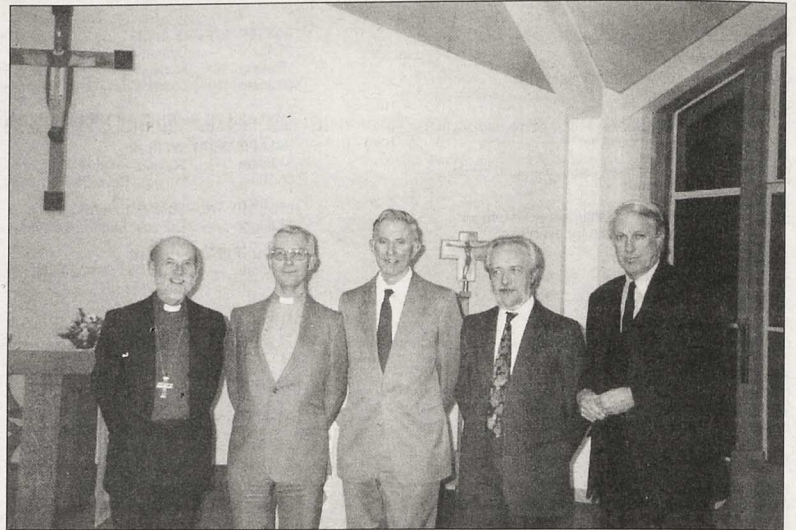
This was the title of a County-wide consultation held on 3 March at Douai Abbey by the Liaison Officers responsible for areas of mission and service in Churches Together in Berkshire. These included: religious education, mission and evangelism, social responsibility, industrial mission, youth, media, communications, emergency planning and spirituality. The consultation, at which Carol Cunio, County Ecumenical Officer for Hampshire and the Islands was the speaker, served to heighten awareness of these areas and increase the support base for their activities.

New Chairman for Churches Together in Berkshire

At the February Council Meeting of Churches Together in Berkshire Dr Owen Jewiss an Anglican from Caversham, was elected to succeed the Revd David Hawkes, Methodist Superintendent of the Newbury and Hungerford Circuit, as Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire. The Bishop of Reading, on behalf of Church Leaders in Berkshire, subsequently installed and commissioned Owen Jewiss in a short service. He is the first layperson to hold this office, which until a year ago had always been held by a Church Leader. The Revd David Clark, Minister at St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Reading, was elected to succeed Owen Jewiss as Vice-Chairman. The Council Meeting heard an encouraging report from the Revd Roger Nunn, Field Officer of Churches Together in England, on the involvement and progress within the Roman Catholic Church on church unity.

Emphasis on Prayer at Annual Assembly

The theme of the Annual Assembly of Churches Together in Berkshire to be held on Saturday, 6 May, at Douai Abbey, is 'Praying Together in Berkshire'. The Assembly is due to be addressed by Dennis Wrigley of the Maranatha Community. It will receive guidance on prayer as practised by many different denominations and groups including the Society of Friends, Salvation Army, Iona Community, Taizé and the monks at Douai Abbey. There will be a sharing of information on aids to prayer and worship. Further information may be obtained from Sister Janet Wilcox, County Ecumenical Officer, (tel no: 01635 552240) or Owen Jewiss (01734 475003).



D. Jewiss

Pictured at the Churches Together in Berkshire Council Meeting at St Nicolas, Earley, are from left to right: The Rt Revd John Bone, Bishop of Reading, The Revd David Hawkes (Past Chairman), Dr Owen Jewiss (Chairman), the Revd David Clark (Vice Chairman) and the Revd Roger Nunn (Field Officer of Churches Together in England).

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

After an interregnum which had lasted for almost two years the Induction to the Pastorate of Rev. Peter Edwards, B.D., on 4th February was a very special day in the life of the Baptist Church.

The service was led by Rev. Douglas Sparkes, Moderator of the Church, and the Act of Induction was performed by the General Superintendent of the Southern area of the Baptist Union, Rev. Geoffrey Reynolds. The statement outlining the call to the Pastorate had been prepared by Norman Ide, the Church Secretary, but in his absence through illness it was read by his wife Peggy. After Peter had responded, prayers were led by Rev. Vic Jackopson and the scripture was read by Nigel Price, Secretary of Cirencester Baptist Church where Peter has ministered for the past fourteen years. A very powerful address was then given by Dr George Beasley-Murray who had been Principal of Spurgeon's College at the time that Peter had trained for the ministry.

Representatives from all the other Caversham churches were present in a congregation of 300 which included many from Cirencester and other churches where Peter has served. Greetings followed and then tea was served in the Lounge and Upper Hall.

Peter, Shelagh and their daughter Sandra had moved to Caversham a few days earlier "camping out" in the Manse in Balmore Drive until 24th February, but with the completion of the purchase of the new Manse in Tredegar Road and the arrival of their furniture they are now settled in Emmer Green.

LINK NEWS

IT'S THAT LINK TIME AGAIN!

Beware of imitations! The ORIGINAL ANNUAL LINK Group Knit-In will take place this year on 24th April at Chazey Road, Caversham Heights. This is the group's main fund-raising event, and we invite knitters to enjoy refreshments and combined efforts in the excellent company of other "knit-wits"; if you're not a knitter, you may wish to show your support by sponsoring one.

ECUMENICAL LUNCH

The Ecumenical Lunch is a popular event for the Link Group, which was formed some twenty-one years ago, and around one hundred guests attended on Saturday 11th February at Caversham Baptist Church. The lunch was also a forum for local charities supported by the Link Group; representatives from Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Berkshire Women's Aid, Christian Community Action, Churches in Reading Drop In Centre, Reading Crossroads, Reading Family Aid, REAP Resettlement Agency, SPHERE and the Sue Ryder Home were on hand to supply information about their work.

The meeting held on Monday, 23rd January was full of blessings! It started with Phil Abrey of Caversham Park Church officiating at the group communion service; then a talk was given by Paula Andrews on the voluntary work of a hospital chaplaincy visitor.

The group welcomed new members Sally Wall, Hanne Baldwin and Jo Edwards. If you're still not sure what LINK does, and how it may help those in need ring Barbara Graham on 482043.

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At the Church Annual General Meeting held on 28th February reports were received from the various groups on their activities in 1994. Thanks were expressed to Bernard Miller and Alan Strong who were standing down from the Diaconate after serving for six years. Geoffrey Goldsmith, Bob Ponchaud and Steve Cantwell were elected to fill the vacancies.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

SUNDAY SERVICES

(EXCEPT EASTER)

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 The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns)
6.30pm Evening Prayer
An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

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, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st 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 10.30am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass
Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road

11.00am 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.

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service

A CARING COMMUNITY

Yvonne Smith, a young member of the Baptist Church, has had facial bone cancer for the past seven years, the illness being diagnosed during her last year at school. Constant medical care has meant spells in hospital with periods of remission in between. She is under the care of a consultant at Wexham Park Hospital, and in December she underwent an eight hour operation to rebuild part of her jaw using one of her ribs. Recover has been slow and it was arranged for her to have a period of convalescence at Burrswood, a Christian Medical Centre near to Tonbridge. Treatment

at Burrswood is costly, but there has been a wonderful response from friends in local churches — over £2,000 being raised in less than two weeks as the need became known by word of mouth.

She has sent us this letter regarding her stay at Burrswood, and she and her parents would like to say "thank you" to all who gave so generously towards the cost, many gifts coming from people that they do not know.

"On arriving at Burrswood I was feeling very nervous and drained, in need of a good rest and a small miracle. During the

three weeks that I was there I had all the care and help given that was humanly possible. Physio which included the Hydrotherapy Pool for breathing exercises, and electro packs from which flowed electric waves to help my damaged nerves and muscles to function and move more normally. This treatment was very good and eased the terrible headaches from which I suffered.

The doctors and nursing staff were really very good and in the first week realised that my medication was not doing a lot for me. With my agreement they made changes and now for the first time in

four years my pain is under control. I miss going down into the Church of Christ the Healer whenever I want to light candles and pray. On my first visit to my consultant on my return he was very pleased with my progress, so many thanks to all who had made it possible to go Burrswood. I can now close my right eye for the first time for 3 1/2 months, a simple task to most people, and I can now smile because of improvement to my muscles and nerves. Half of the splints have now come off, and I can now eat soft food and chew gently for the first time for four years. I

have a lot of catching up to do, so what out food here I come! Thank you for making all these things possible, for I know that without Burrswood, without friends and without prayer I would not have come this far — Yvonne"

"We would like to thank you all very much for your kind donations which made it possible for Yvonne to be able to go to the Burrswood to convalesce. There is a great improvement in her condition and we are sure she will continue to progress. — Mr & Mrs G. Downing"

A caring community in Caversham enabled Burrswood to care for

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Three generations of the Wale family took part in the BT Swimathon in memory of Jonathon Wale who died of Hodgkinson's disease in September, at the age of thirty-one. Jonathon's father, Gilbert Wale, his sister and niece, Caroline and Zoe Wakeman, and two family friends raised £200 for cancer research and other charities.

"SWEET SINGING IN THE CHOIR"



St Margaret's Choir, under the Mapledurham Christmas Tree with John Pynn, modestly in the background. New recruits warmly welcome (call Revd Sheila Nunn 472070).

St Andrew's Fellowship

The Fellowship met on a wet Thursday evening for a video and talk by one of their own church members, Mrs Jan Blakeley. Mrs Blakeley, who is secretary of the Church Missionary Committee, works for the Bible Society, and has travelled widely to conferences and meetings. Her main video was of China, where the Government now allows Bibles to be imported, and they are received with enthusiasm. Mrs Blakeley said the smuggling of Bibles into the country was now quite unnecessary and to be deplored as it did more harm than good. She ended by showing a few clips of last year's Thames Valley Alive activities.

The audience asked her many questions before reluctantly going home.

The Entertaining Cooks

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CAVERSHAM THEATRE PRODUCTION

'LOOK WHO'S TALKING'

You may well have sat next to the characters in 'Look who's Talking', which was presented by Caversham Theatre in February, in a 125 or on a number 11 bus. They have only first names, the action takes place in a house in an unspecified part of the country and the time is a Sunday in summer! They are, in short, everyman and everywoman who get caught up in a compromising situation as a result of an uncharacteristic lapse into alcoholic over-indulgence. The plot is simple. Dutiful wife Sheila has dined in a restaurant with her friend Jane and Jane's friend Brian. After a little too much wine she accepts an invitation to Brian's flat for coffee followed by memory loss. Her solicitor husband, Andrew, has also over-indulged, this time at an office party, where before similar loss of memory, he has invited his secretary, Carole, to do a flit with him to Italy. When Brian and Carole turn up at the house in the country, bent on taking advantage of invitations extended by Sheila and Andrew whilst in their cups, the couple's desperate endeavours to defuse the suspicions of their partners produce much confusion and an abundance of laughs. The play was very well cast. Martin Leckie confidently made the most of the smooth lady-killer however, not on Brian & Jackie Case exuded gloom and discomfiture as Sheila. Peter Ludlow as Andrew double takes and, above all, a probe his wife's mystery with good persistence and, this and as a simultaneously, the pressures to flit away made by a man-hunter has recently produced. A final mention must be made of the attractive set and the colourful garden backcloth painted by Una Warren. This play's success depended,

E.M.A.

OBITUARY

Audrey Denning, who died on February 21st 1995 aged eighty-two years, came to live in Caversham with her family in 1956. Four years later her husband, John died of cancer leaving her to bring up her young son, Michael on her own. She often found life hard, but her strong character and Christian faith enabled her to cope.

She was a keen tennis player and rambler, enjoying holidays and weekends with the Rambling Club. She enjoyed singing and belonged to several

choirs — The Caversham Singers, Townswomen's Guild Choir, Mothers' Union Choir and St Andrew's Church Choir who sang at her funeral. She also enjoyed the many musical events at the Hexagon. She was helped at the Hospital Tea Bar and was awarded a medal for her services. A keen member of the Townswomen's Guild, she was on

the committee for many years. Due to heart problems she became less active in recent years and spent her last months at Summerfield Rest Home, who gave her every comfort. She will be greatly missed by her son and wife and her twin brothers in Canada, and her many friends and relatives in Caversham and further afield.

POSTBAG

"WHEELIE" BINS

Dear Watchdog,

As a resident of Hemdean Road, I would like to add my voice to the protest about the introduction of "wheelie bins".

We live in an end terrace, Victorian house, which does have the advantage of a side entrance to the back garden. However, most of the terrace does not have such access, and so the bins will be left in the front gardens, ruining the appearance of the road, and being a health hazard, as doubtless they will get knocked or fall over at some time.

In an even worse position are those houses in Chester/Oxford Streets, where there is already a disproportionate amount of rubbish spilt onto the pavement. If bins were on the street front all week, the pavement would become impassable. With such small front 'gardens', the smell during the summer would be nauseous to the many who walk down these roads. I am sure that this will not help the cause of the struggling small traders in Prospect Street.

I have to agree that the introduction of "wheelie bins" does seem inevitable, but should we allow such damage to our environment?

Yours etc
(name and address supplied)

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WORRIES WITH WARBLERS

Mild winters have encouraged several species of warblers to remain in Britain. By so doing they avoid re-crossing the Sahara Desert and re-running the gauntlet of European 'gun-and-trap sportsmen' — a worthwhile bonus indeed.

Blackcaps have been over-wintering for many years and more recently Chiffchaff and Willow Warblers have joined them. These 'leaf' warblers are highly active little creatures which scour the trees for insects. They herald the spring with their sweet and usually, quite different songs — often the best of identification.

Each year there is a greater chance of seeing them in our gardens and one will be tempted to identify the songster — which is where the real problems begin! They are often in dense

foliage, near identical, and 'glimpsed' rather than clearly observed, creating difficulties in deciding which is the singer, especially if more than one.

Like it or not, in all innocence, you will have found yourself in the realms of the 'l'bj's' — those 'little brown jobs' whose identity sometimes confounds the hardest of birders, and you will have our sympathy.

Sing their hearts out they will, bewitchingly luring you on.

I will quote you an example of what you are up against.

By and large, Willow Warblers look very similar to Chiffchaffs, although having quite different songs, which is not much use unless singing. However, Willow Warblers have pale legs and Chiffchaff have black ones.

A few years ago at Dungeness, several of

us witnessed a Willow Warbler — pale legs and all — fly into a mist net, where a qualified B.T.O. Ringer carefully extracted it, weighed, measured and ringed it. Before its release he gently lifted the feathers covering the very top of the legs and astonishingly revealed them to be BLACK — it was a Chiffchaff! Being juvenile, it had only begun to develop its black legs — from the top — and literally IMPOSSIBLE to see 'in the field'.

So dear readers, become interested in 'your garden warblers' at your peril lest you be in danger of falling into 'the bug' of birding. Better to disregard them and turn your radio or television up higher — and by the way, several are partial to sun-flower seeds — but NOT whilst breeding!

SCOPS OWL

WEDDING



Alec Purver, only son of Mr and Mrs H. G. Purver of Reading and Zoë Brown, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.B. Brown of Bury, were married at St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood, London NW2 on Saturday, February 4. Friends and relations from far and wide attended the ceremony. They came from all over the home counties, from Belgium, Germany, Holland and Switzerland — not forgetting Lancashire! Mrs Purver, mother of the groom was in hospital and unable to attend. (Mr H G Purver has been associated with the production of the Caversham Bridge for many years).

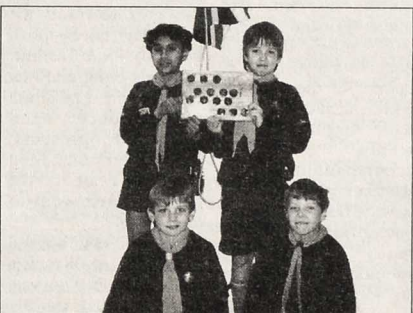
22nd (St John's) Reading Scout Group

Boys from the 22nd (St John's) Reading Scout Group have been working hard this last year and, as a result, have done extremely well in three District competitions.

Four boys from Hulse Cub Pack won this year's District quiz and with it a fine shield to display in the hut. A large group of boys from 22nd Scouts won "Roger's Hat", the trophy for the Group which gained the greatest number of individual achievement badges in the District. The same boys were close runners up in the District Grapevine Challenge. This

consisted of a series of competitions which took place over the course of last year. They ranged from swimming to chess, campcraft to canoeing and outdoor cooking to Monopoly.

After the presentation at the YMCA in Tilehurst, Scout leader Ken Tallett threw down a challenge to his boys. "This is the second year running that you have been second. Though we are a relatively small Group, with a little



more effort and organisation on your part we can win the Grapevine next year."

The 22nd Scouts are facing another challenge and that is to find a new leader for its very successful Beavers colony by this month, otherwise it will have to close. With a full colony and a waiting list of boys who wish to join, it is vital for the future success of the Group to find a volunteer to take over from Heather Walker who is retiring after many

years' valuable service.

If there is someone in Caversham who would like to discuss the possibility of helping in this way, please telephone Group Scout Leader, Jenni Allnutt on 01734 470726. It does not take up a lot of time and there will be sufficient training and lots of support for whoever is willing to give it a go.

If you think you could help, please do not hesitate to ring Jennie now.

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Caversham Ladies Club

The meeting was opened by Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, who gave a warm welcome to the members and said how pleasing it was to have so many present despite the bad weather. Club business was concluded. The Chairman reminded members that the next meeting was the AGM and nominations were asked for, giving members plenty of time for their choice of committee to serve over the year 1995/6.

The speaker for the afternoon, Mr Noyse, was then introduced; he was going to talk and show slides of Reading in 1950-60 and the present day. His equipment included two projectors. While one showed olden day sights on the screen, a second screen slid across with the modern day version. It was a very interesting eye-opener of the changes which certainly many had forgotten. The scenes were accompanied by the speaker pointing out various buildings in the background. It was a really enjoyable afternoon and members are looking forward to

further shows of Reading by Mr Noyse in the near future. Appreciation was shown by members in the usual manner.

There was time for a very welcome 'cuppa' before members departed, still chattering to their friends of various shops, remembered by some in which they themselves had worked.

Caversham Community Association

January started with the now traditional cheese and wine evening. The entertainment was provided by Barry Strong and his accordion group, and members joined in many familiar songs.

The following week Doreen Crawley led the whist drive, the winners being Frank Masterman, Betty Colton and Kit Ewer. The booby prize went to Joan Tarrant. January's bring and buy evening saw a table full of produce and unwanted presents. These were auctioned by Maude Feast and the money raised went to club funds.

At the end of the month the speaker was Major Paxton who was congratulated on his recent inclusion in the Honours List. He spoke about the early history of Huntley and Palmers. His many interesting experiences made fascinating listening and stirred some memories amongst members who had worked at the factory. A return visit is anticipated as there are some old films available which will make interesting viewing.

The first Monday in February found members enjoying scrabble, cards and other favourite games. A special Valentine party the following week included a celebration of founder members' Ted and Olive Howard's golden wedding. A presentation of gifts and a card was followed by a beautifully decorated cake which was cut and shared by all. May Plant presented a familiar red book 'This is Your Life

in the C.C.A.' telling of Ted and Olive's active involvement in the club over the years.

Quiz addicts had their turn the following Monday — these included a picture quiz and flower names. The speaker at the end of the month was Mr Ford from Feed the Children, the locally based International Charity. He spoke of the Charity's foundation and its involvement in taking and delivering relief directly where it is needed. Members filled several tables with warm clothes, knitted blankets, shoes and packet food and were assured of their value to those in need.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

This month's meeting opened with the welcoming of new members by the Chairman followed by congratulations to members whose birthdays fell in the month of February. It would seem February is one of the most popular months to be born! After minutes had been read discussions were directed towards the T.G. Federation display to take place in May. A group of enthusiastic members proposed holding a further get together shortly to discuss plans for this event.

Next month would be the AGM and the chairman asked that members might consider volunteering for committee work to replace those committee members whose term of office was now complete.

The Speakers, Mr and Mrs Farquhar gave a most interesting talk with accompanying slides of their work with Reading Talking Newspapers for the Blind. This organisation began in 1972. It supplies Registered Blind and Partially Sighted clients with a weekly recorded resume from local newspapers and magazines. The tapes are sent by post throughout the year with the exception of Christmas/New Year when postal deliveries are less reliable. One of the earlier venues for a team of four readers and their director was Radio 210 studios, but nowadays the recordings are made at Wilson Adult Centre. Offers of help with both funds and reading are always welcome it seems.

The month's competition for "An Old Publication" was won

hands down by Mrs I. Stokes with her six "Times" newspapers (one sheet only in those days!) dated late 1900 onwards, one paper bearing the report of the funeral of Admiral Lord Nelson.

The Guild meets on the third Thursday each month at 2pm in Church House. Visitors/new members welcome as always.

Caversham W.I.

Members braved a very wet and windy night to attend the monthly meeting. The President gave the business news, including congratulations to the darts team on their latest win. Several entries for the limerick competition for April's group meeting were read; more will be forthcoming at the March meeting!

The speakers, Mrs Sue Hissey and her husband, showed slides to explain the work of 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'. The intensive training and careful placing of these dogs

enabled deaf people to have more independence in their own homes. The vote of thanks was given by Miss Sheila Bryant.

After refreshments and the raffle, members once more braved the elements after a most interesting and informative evening.

University of the Third Age

When this is in print members will have taken part in their annual Study Day entitled 'Beyond the Millennium' held at Reading University on Saturday March 25th. The subjects on the agenda were: The Millennium Commission and the Lottery, Agenda 21 (Go local on a better Environment) and Life in the Millennium, followed by a Panel of Speakers with their thoughts on Medicine, Transport, Communications in the year 2000, and what a young person expects in

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the CLUBS

From page 10

the next century. After which questions supplied by members would be put.

The association also has international contacts with, (1) the Chairman Jean Thompson as a Governor Ward of the International Commission of U3A, (2), Herr Borengasser, a member from Dusseldorf, who gave members a Recital of German Songs at one of the General Meetings, (3), Mr Shira Ishi, from Japan who attended the last committee meeting to gather information and ideas with a view to starting an association in his country.

Caversham Heights T.G.

The February meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was given a talk by a member of the family of Frederick Parker & Sons, now Parker Knoll Limited from High Wycombe in St Andrew's Hall.

"The business was founded in 1870 by Frederick Parker, a man who must have loved producing beautiful furniture. To aid him in this, he purchased

examples of the finest models of 17th and 18th century chairs and settees. These in every detail his workmen used faithfully as models. From 1870 and until 1939 Frederick Parker & Sons designed and manufactured the highest quality furniture of every type". These words were used in a forward to a booklet on the Collection in 1954. In 1930 the company introduced a new range of modern upholstery called Parker Knoll with the then revolutionary "Tension Suspension", and the company was enabled to produce fine quality chairs for a much larger market. Jonathan Arnold, Director of the Company and a great grandson of the founder, provided insight into the fascinating history of chairs from 1600-1900. Slides of the unique Collection illustrated the changes in style and fashion and some beautiful chairs had been brought along. The speaker was pleased to donate his time to help raise funds for the NSPCC. Heather Richards gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the guild.

At social studies later in the month Mr Vincent Kelly, who was accompanied by his wife, gave a

talk together with slides and historical and geographical information about the tomb of St James the Great (brother of the apostle John) at Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Mr Kelly made a pilgrimage there from St Jean Pied de Port in south-west France. There's good news for those who missed this talk at social studies group. Another one is planned!

Chazey WI

On Tuesday 7th February, Frances Mundy gave members an enthralling insight into the world of collectors of miniature houses and furnishings. There are over 200 shops and a large number of fairs where their fantasies can be indulged. For this is a fantasy world for grown-ups, which can become an addiction. Enthusiasts are likely to own more than two houses in different architectural styles.

Miniature artefacts have always fascinated people and in the 17th century fashionable ladies in continental Europe began to display their collections in cabinets, which gradually evolved into rooms. In the 18th century this idea spread across the channel and became the fashion to have a stack of these rooms full of tiny curios to be admired and envied by visitors. This led on to fully furnished "homes" which could actually be used as a teaching aid. Here was the ideal way to instruct a young lady in the art and science of household management, without embroiling her in the hubbub of "below-stairs". Not until the 19th century did

dolls houses become children's playthings. The 20th century saw the manufacture of toy houses especially for children and mass production of furniture and ornaments.

Nowadays dolls' house kits are available in a variety of period styles. Ordinary furnishings come from China and Taiwan which cuts down the cost, but adult collectors can buy from British craftsmen. Some have their house especially designed and built. It has become a hobby for retired couples. Men generally prefer construction and fittings, which will include electricity, but some are just as interested in furnishings. Imagine the excitement of finding the perfect bookcase for your chosen period, the books for it, candlesticks, and even the candles! Chazey members began to feel the pull that miniatures exert as they examined the house that Mrs Mundy had brought from her shop near Caversham Bridge. For those who are irresistibly drawn there is a club of collectors in Reading and a fair later in the year.

The following were elected at the AGM on 7th March: President - Kate Buckley; Treasurer - Marjorie Harrison; Secretary - Maureen Hubbard; Committee - Jean Earle, Rita Nash, Anthea Prescott, Annie Wilson. Coffee, Cake and Calendars follow the talk by Mr Agiss on Container Gardening at the Birthday Meeting on April 4th.

**Emmer Green
Townswomens Guild**
Emmer Green Townswomens Guild met in St Barnabas Hall on

Tuesday evening 14 February.

Ramblers have had two walks since the last meeting, local walks because of the very wet conditions. They decided on their second walk to go and view the flooding of the River Thames. It was a lovely, sunny, dry day for a change but it was sad to see the destruction of the small bridges etc and the landing stages which had been broken by the river. Three boats had broken away from their moorings and were stopped going any further by the Weir. The next walks by the Ramblers were on the 2nd and 16 March.

The 30 members of "Words & Music" enjoyed their evenings at the Hexagon for the ballet "Giselle" and looked forward to the talk in St Barnabas Hall on the 27 March given by Nancy Vincent on "Mrs Gaskell". There was no meeting February. Members of the Guild have voted that all the proceeds collected for Charity will go to "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf" and the Charity for 1995 will be "Readibus".

It was suggested by Pauline Young that the Guild should have a "Suggestion Box" to help decide the Annual outing.

The talk for the evening was by Mr Peter Ford on the local Charity "Feed the Children" it was an extremely informative talk and well received by members. The money collected from the evening's "Bring & Buy stall" and the Valentine competition was given to Mr Ford for his charity.

The Valentine Card competition was won by Marjorie Turner.

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OLD MEMORIES CONTINUE...



The Centenary celebrations at New Bridge Nursery School will continue to bring back memories for many local folk and a near neighbour was able to add to the information gleaned on that occasion. Mrs Sybil Abraham was married to a local man, Don Abraham, and HIS mother, before her marriage, was Miss

Hepzibiah Bobin, who was the Headmaster's assistant from the beginning of the first little school. When she left to be married her sister, Annie Elizabeth Bobin took over as teacher. Some time later she transferred to the Emmer Green School and the photograph above shows her and her class in ? when. We can only guess at the date by the clothes,

but maybe some readers can identify themselves and date the picture?

Interestingly enough Joseph Bobin, father of the two girls, was Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages and lived in Prospect Street just below the Prince of Wales pub. Later the office moved to Church Street. Fancy Caversham having its own Registrar!

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