

GOLDEN WEDDING BELLS

1945, and the coming of peacetime and many people were clearly thinking about romance. Below, four couples that we've been told about have celebrated 50 years of marriage and congratulations go to them . . . as well as to those who are choosing to blush unseen.



Owen and Betty Clamp at St. Peter's



Bob and Dorothy Hine at St. John's



George and Gwyneth Davies at St Barnabas'



Ted and Olive Howard at St. John's



TALKING POINT

by
The Reverend Stephen Rowe
Vicar of St. John's



THE EVOLVING CHURCH

In the May edition of the Caversham Bridge, Owen & Daphne Jewiss wrote a comprehensive article about the Anglican Oxford Diocesan Conference which took place at Bognor in March. I would like to develop one part of that event a little further. For me the undoubted highlight was the keynote address by Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh.

Whilst Christine and I were training for the ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Richard Holloway was vicar of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford. During our middle year the single students lived in Oxford and I regret not spending more time listening to him, rather than being a 'good Anglican' and attending the local, parish church. A few of us also did a mini preaching course with him - producing three sermons on three consecutive mornings - but you'll have to ask the congregation at St John's if any of his wisdom or good technique has rubbed off on me.

Although at Bognor, Richard Holloway's address was mainly for an Anglican audience, his analysis of the Church has implications for all denominations as we face 'being the Church' at the end of the twentieth century.

He outlined the idea that we have a common image of the Church as being a building. Of course being responsible for a building makes our priorities face too often in the direction of maintenance rather than of mission. Indeed the buildings often sap our energy for the real task of ministry which is mission. Too often we are concerned with keeping the word 'in' (ie inside the Church literally and metaphorically), when we should be taking it out to the world.

The Bishop suggested that the Church has long since stopped being a gathering people, but instead had become a gathered people - managing the life we have made for ourselves - when of course we are not here for ourselves.

If God has a new message for us, Richard Holloway suggests, that message is as likely to come from society as from the Church. He believes that message is about community - emphasising plurality and mutuality. The old male-dominated, verticalised, centralised, highly concentrated model is becoming something of the past because it alienates people and makes them dependent. Therefore the Church of the future should model itself on horizontal structures.

Richard Holloway believes that we need to experiment with models of cooperation, which would mean that the Church's ministry would not be there to rule, but to stimulate and encourage, and the clergy would be the clowns and poets rather than the managing directors of the people of God! Indeed he believes that we need to make better use of our clergy who are not always used in the best way. Too often we have lost the notion that the ordained ministry is a joyful calling.

Another problem is that clergy have been trained to be pastors and the people have been 'trained' to be 'pastored'. The gathered people are 'pastored' because the mission is over. Instead, when the Church is able to use a model of cooperation to decide its priorities it will also mean the better use and deployment of properly trained and selected, non-stipendiary ministers, lay readers, and the lay apostolate. Yet Bishop Holloway acknowledges that in such a time of radical change many folk will feel both dread and confusion - such an adjustment would not be easy.

Richard Holloway's words and ideas are both disturbing and challenging - yet they are well worth considering in terms of trying to determine where the Church needs to be going in the future.

And his ideas have implications for the different denominations. As Father Tony said in the May 'Talking Point' we have a good number of Churches in Caversham, and we have good links between those Churches. Yet when it comes to interdenominational services the overall representation is often weak. It is a shame that more of the regular Church members don't support such occasions, instead it is left to the enthusiastic few. Of course many Christians are reluctant to change - for we all like things the way we like them. How liberating it would be, if when it came to the opportunities to go to another Church it was something as natural as going to our 'home' Church. And as Tony suggests what better time to see another denomination but at a festival - for we all have a great deal to learn from our sister Churches in the area.

The Church is always evolving - it never stands still, nor can it when it truly responds to the Holy Spirit. We need to break away from the security of being a gathered people, and go out into the community as a people on the move, not a gathered people but still a gathering people - responding and challenged by God's Holy Word.

POSTBAG

'LOLLIPOP' PERSON NEEDED

Can you help? We desperately need a 'Lollipop' person - or school crossing patrol person - to use the proper title, to help our children get to school safely. Could this be the job for you? If so, you would be providing a real service to the community.

As a Mum with children at Caversham Primary School, I am concerned that for some months now, children and parents have had to struggle to cross the busy intersection of Kidmore Road and Oakley Road unaided. This really is quite a 'black spot'.

If you can help, please contact Sue O'Brien at Shire Hall, Shinfield Park,

Can YOU give local children a helping hand?



Reading. Tel: Reading 233528. Training and uniform will be provided. Perhaps two people might like to share the task. The times are from 8.25 - 9.05am and 3.05-3.35pm. Pay is £85.00 per month. If anyone could help occasionally as a relief, that would be helpful too. Thank you in advance.

Grace Jones,
86 Woodcote Road
Tel: 477469.

ACORN HEALING GROUP

Dear Editors,

Father Tony Jones, writing in the Talking Point column in the May issue of Caversham Bridge, stresses the importance of Christian Unity and poses the question "How are the Christians of Caversham going to find out what makes their neighbours tick?"

I would like to tell Father Jones, and other readers, about the Acorn Christian Healing

Prayer Group. We are an ecumenical group, who meet together regularly to pray for the sick. We also hold monthly Services of Praise and Prayer for Healing at Caversham Baptist Free Church, on the last Saturday of every month. The members of our group come from all different Christian traditions, (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Free Church), and at the services our speakers (ordained ministers, lay preachers, medical practitioners) come from a variety of denominations also. I feel myself to be richly blessed to be involved in this ministry, and I value the opportunity to pray with, and learn from, my fellow Christians.

The Services are open to anyone who would like to attend. You don't have to be sick to come to a Healing Service! Come if you are ill or well, happy or sad; come if you are a believer or a non-believer; come if you would like to receive a blessing; come if you are simply curious. We would love to see you.

(Next services: Saturday 27 May 7pm and Saturday 24 June 7pm Caversham Baptist Free church).

Yours etc., Susan Roberts
15 St Anne's Road,
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The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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All contributions for July issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 June.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 5 June.

The dates for August will be Monday 5 July and Wednesday 7 July.

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

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Any Caversham Questions?

It is said that people only attend Annual General Meetings out of a sense of duty, in which case there must be a lot of dutiful people in Caversham, as the annual meeting of Caversham and District Residents' Association attracted a full house. Perhaps though it was the opportunity to grill councillors and potential councillors that pulled them in. Certainly the formal business was dealt with in record time.

A busy year and a healthy financial position were reported and a new committee was duly elected for 1995-1996. Molly Casey, who has been secretary for several years, gave notice that she would be retiring from that position at the end of the coming year. An active organisation like the Residents' Association must have a secretary, so it is hoped that in the course of the next twelve months a future incumbent of that position will be found.

With that part of the meeting disposed of, the Caversham Questions sessions took over, with Cllr Pauline Palmer (Conservative, Caversham) Steve Waite (Prospective Labour candidate, Caversham), and Bob Green (prospective Liberal-Democrat, Peppard) laying themselves open to the field.

The first question, or rather questions, as so many wanted to ask about it, concerned Telecentral's cable laying, which was in full swing at Caversham at

the time, and had clearly caused a lot of discontent, something that members of the panel concurred with. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Telecentral on behalf of the meeting setting out the main causes of complaint.

The forcing of wheeled bins on occupiers of terraced houses also had the panel agreeing that such properties should have been exempted. However for those living in suitable houses, they and members of the audience agreed they were a great improvement on conventional bins and black bags, though it took Cllr. Fred Pugh, speaking from the floor, to point out that in his ward, steep gradients and steps made properties other than terraces unsuitable.

Traffic calming measures also produced a surprising degree of unanimity from panel members who were all preparing to do battle with each other in the coming elections. These were fine where their effect was confined to the street in which they were requested, but where they would simply result in the problem being shifted to neighbouring streets they should only be introduced after wide consultation and as part of a package.

The future of small shops was again something that everyone wanted to see ensured. Steve Waite saw out of town shopping malls as one of the main threats to local shops. Bob Green stressed the importance

of improving the environment of local shopping centres to attract and retain customers. Pauline Palmer made the point that people do the bulk of their shopping where they find it convenient, but if we wanted to keep our local shops it behoved us to use them. We should also refrain from buying newspapers, flowers etc. from large outlets, who ought not to be stocking them, a sentiment with which her listeners concurred.

The mooted traffic gyratory system from Westfield Road, Prospect Street and Gosbrook Road, as was to be expected, roused strong feelings as questioners from the floor forgot the requirement to pose questions and voiced their objections instead, but Ian Brown in the chair managed to keep the whole thing under control. Pauline Palmer, with the advantage of being a sitting councillor, was able to reveal that opposition to the proposals had been far from unanimous, support for it growing the further from the streets concerned people lived. In fact, those in favour heavily outnumbered those against. This was something of which the other two panellists were becoming aware. The meeting was unable to resolve the problem of the rights of those living on the spot, who would have to put up with the results every day and all day, and the rights of the greater number, who use the roads daily.

Leading straight on from that came questions about a third bridge. Bob Green was firmly opposed to any kind of bridge with attendant major road links. He would also oppose the idea of a local bridge if it were

shown to move the problems elsewhere. He believed a new traffic count should be undertaken as the perceived need was based on 1982 figures.

Steve Waite said that any such bridge must be a local one only, but before coming to any decision it must be ensured that it would be the answer to the problem. Pauline Palmer supported the proposals for a third bridge or a Sonning by-pass, a term she favoured but said it must take the traffic out of Caversham and not bring it in.

From the floor, Pat Howard from the traders, said that cutting traffic in Caversham would also cut trade. Another speaker declared that the whole thing would be useless unless it were linked up to the national network of motorways. Refreshingly, a general trend of opinion from the floor was that massive road building did not solve traffic problems. The concept of a lorry ban on the A4074 had a lot of support though it is doubtful whether proponents of this idea realised it would have to start as far back as the northern end of the Oxford ring road if it were to be effective. By then it was throwing-out time and people went off still arguing amongst themselves. Although that had not been the original intention, the meeting was as near to a hustings as Caversham was likely to get and surprisingly revealed more agreement than dissension, perhaps a good omen for local government in Reading whoever wins.

Face Lifts

Caversham Library is having its first face lift for a long time and already looking the better for it. Chain link fencing is not exactly

handsome, but it is a considerable improvement on rusting broken wire.

The paddling pool in Christchurch Meadows is having some serious work done on it this time, as lesser jobs, which in recent years always seemed to coincide with warm summer weather, have never got to the root of the problem. Even so, it appears that quite a lot of the summer will have passed before the work is completed.

Outside Caversham Court the muddy area where cars can park has been gravelled and looks all the better for it. The paved footway outside could also do with some attention.

The work being done on the two chestnut trees in St. Martin's Precinct does not however come into the category of face lift. Rather is it a death sentence. Having survived previous mistreatment, on this occasion the earth previously built up round the trunks had been removed, roots have been severed and concrete has then been poured round the lower part of the trunks and then for good measure sealed in with granite sets. What the idea is, it is difficult to comprehend. Presumably St. Martin's think it improves the appearance of their precinct. As the trees are the most attractive things there, the best treatment for them would be to leave them alone. They have already killed a Holm oak and refused to replace it.

Green Day

This notice is probably going to be too late to remind readers of the Green Day being held in Caversham Court on 21st May, but there will have been plenty of

publicity about to draw attention to it.

Caversham Court houses the Borough Environment Centre where Green issues are the order of the day. It came then as a bit of a shock in April when notices appeared there warning of the need to take care as weed killer had been used on the paths and borders. A case of 'Do as I say, not as I do.'

Folk Festival

Caversham is where it all happens. Regattas, festivals, they are all

here or at any rate only just over the river. Now there is to be a Folk Festival in Caversham itself. Breathe a sigh of relief, Warren residents, as it will be held at the other end of Caversham, mostly around the Miller's Arms, on 16th and 17th June, and unlike the others, it's all free. It is in aid of local charities though, so do take some money with you. This festival is home grown, a lot of work has gone into it, and one way and another it all sounds like fun for everyone.

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AROMATHERAPY - A HEALING MINISTRY

When I left school I started training to be a physiotherapist.

Unfortunately, due to a combination of factors I did not complete my training. Over the years I have felt very disappointed about this and in spite of running my own catering business successfully for twelve years I never felt it was what I really wanted to do. I wanted to do something more worthwhile somehow. About four years ago I felt quite desperate to do something different but it was not easy to think of what. Eventually I came to the conclusion that if God wanted me to do something else He would show me. And so I waited (not very patiently I have to say!).

Then two years ago a friend "accidentally" left a leaflet on Aromatherapy at my house and on reading it I immediately felt that this was something I could do that would be satisfying and fulfilling. It would use some of the skills I had learnt as a Physiotherapist together with my long interest in essential oils. I was accepted on a full time course in London with

by Leslie Maynerd

the Tisserand Institute of Aromatherapy and qualified after nine months with a diploma in Holistic Aromatherapy.

My experience in setting up my catering business taught me that just because I now had a qualification clients wouldn't exactly be forming a queue outside my house! A lot of hard work was ahead of me to build up my business. Nearly a year on I have established a considerable client base and although it has been hard work it is without doubt the most satisfying and rewarding work I have ever done.

I feel that my work is very much part of the Christian healing ministry and that I can be used by God as a channel for His healing power. There has been much controversy about Aromatherapy and other complementary therapies in Christian circles recently but I believe that most complementary therapists, whether Christian, New Age,

Altheist or of other religions have one thing in common and that is a desire to make a difference to someone's life either by helping to restore that person to full health or, in the case of the terminally ill, to bring comfort and healing in the full sense of the word during the remainder of their lives.

I work mainly from home in a room converted to a clinic but also do home visits when necessary for the elderly or frail. Giving talks and demonstrations to local organisations is something I especially enjoy and I have also done teaching days at Highmoor Hall and more recently at The Vine.

Aromatherapy can benefit almost everybody and is particularly good for symptoms arising from stress, physical aches and pains such as arthritis, sciatica etc. but is also very good for those who just find it difficult to relax. An hour of soothing massage with fragrant oils chosen specifically for you has a beneficial effect on most people.

SAFETY STREET NEEDS YOU!

Are you interested in keeping kids safe?

Do you enjoy working with children of primary school age?

SAFETY STREET is a charitable trust which has been set up to teach children about accident and crime prevention. A disused building in Great Knollys Street has been converted into an exciting interactive environment where children can learn about dangerous situations in safety.

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- will feature a range of real-life scenarios, warning children of hazards such as: electricity, gas, water and railways, including live railway lines, faulty plugs, gas leaks and the dangers of deep water, household accidents, how to avoid them, how to give first-aid and how to call 999 for help, graffiti and vandalism, the consequences of criminal damage.

Volunteers are needed to help teach children to become safer people. You need to be enthusiastic and

capable of communicating easily with younger children, and the training course will help you develop these skills. Age is not a barrier, but you must be able to offer a regular commitment to the project from September onwards.

Training courses are available in June and July. If you would like more information on the project, please contact Irene Cameron, SAFETY STREET c/o Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Reading. Tel: 01734 390318.

PEACE with BIRDS

This year's memorable 'U.S. Masters Golf Tournament' in Augusta, Georgia, was won for a second time by the American Ben Crenshaw, a genuine ambassador for the sport. His respect and courtesy towards opponent and spectator, without any 'clenched-fist' gesture following his success, set him high above many a sportsman these days. Is it pure coincidence that he also happens to be an experienced twitcher?!

As bird-song accompanied him from tree-lined fairways during those three fine days, he surely derived relaxation and a peace of mind as he went on his way.

Spring should have arrived here too, but this year no song of Blackcap or other warbler has heralded us in this small, but oh so noisy, cul-de-sac in Caversham. As if to emphasize the point, even the local Blackbird has, with accurate dexterity, incorporated a 'two-tone car burglar-alarm' call within its unique and otherwise beautiful repertoire. Humorous perhaps, if it did not reflect loss of better things in life.

How very different from the tranquillity of summers long ago, when lasses sat quietly performing their studies on school-lawns whilst birds sweetly sang in nearby sycamores.

Let there are those who may 'frown upon' the possession of one, very small bird-pager, acquired in a quest for sanity amidst the daily rounds of vehicles constantly coming and going, I will enhance the less obvious aspects of its virtues.

Truly it does provide instant news of rarities with regular 'up-dates', the latter saving travelling expenses if a bird leaves for pastures new when one is 'on-the-way'. It is however, so much more than that.

Many times daily it counters the local 'hubhub' with news of birds which have landed on far away cliff-tops, dune-laced beaches, islands, Highlands, downs, meres, moorland, rivers, gravel-pits, Fair Isles and Emerald Isle.

Sometimes we are instantly advised about off-shore dolphins and, more recently, were first to know about the plight of an injured killer-whale, twice self-beached on the South coast which, in spite of great efforts to restore it to deeper waters, finally and sadly, had to be put down.

Even when circumstances may fail to permit a long journey, with pager to hand one can almost hear the call of gulls and terns as they wheel above sea-kissed shores.

Is seeking after calmness in the midst of commotion really so unacceptable, in a restless world?

SCOPS OWL



- A. Prescott

Once again, the Link Group annual Knit-in has successfully raised funds from which they can provide charitable assistance throughout the year. The sponsored knitters, including ladies from Abbeyfield, produced knitted squares which Save The Children will sew into blankets. The total figure raised is expected to be around £500; the Link Group would like to thank all concerned, and invite anyone interested in their work to ring Barbara Graham on 482043.

CAVERSHAM CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL

Public
Entertainment
Licence

Notice is hereby given that I, Mike Tierney, applied on 24.4.95 to the Reading Borough Council in respect of the premises known as The Millers Arms, Caversham Hall and The Crown under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Section 1, Schedule 1 for the Grant/Renewal of a Licence for Public Entertainment. Any objections to this application must be sent in writing to:-

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST JOHN'S CHURCH...

IN, AROUND AND OUT....
THE VERY OLDEST...

Congratulations were in order for several very happy occasions — Mrs Elsie Cox reached the very grand age of 100 years while Mrs Kit Billingham and Mrs Eleanor Smith both achieved 90 years of age. Also enjoying happy anniversaries were two couples celebrating Golden Weddings i.e. Bob and Dorothy Hine and Ted and Olive Howard.

THE VERY YOUNGEST...

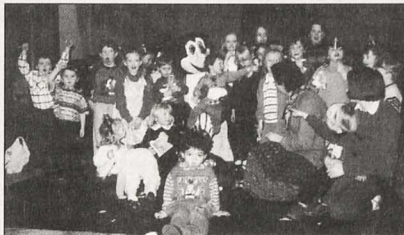
Congratulations also to Marion and Stephen Cousins on the birth of their twins Emily and Ben who are now at home with brothers Mark and Simon. While on this subject Alan and Lucy Wilson also had twins, boys this time, Nicholas and Stewart, to join Catherine and Stephanie in Sandhurst Vicarage — congratulations to them too. Linda and Alex Semple had Lauren, making Ron and Doreen Jobbins grandparents for the third time.

THE SLIGHTLY OLDER...

The pram service continues to meet on Monday mornings under joint leadership and great fun and activity is enjoyed by children and parents alike. This is a rapidly growing group who will willingly welcome any Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers who find themselves with the under threes. The group's output keeps the Baptistry walls full of interest for visitors and members alike.



St John's Sunday School Anniversary Party get down to tea!



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THE REALLY GROWN-UP GROUP
i.e. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is definitely the most active and lively group of the church with a fast growing membership and such a productive output to harness. They recently had their third anniversary party with fun, games, excellent food and the surprise visit from Mickey Mouse who made a book presentation to all the children. The children are currently working on the Children's Day project which is to renovate a church hall at St. James in Galeshewe, Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa. This is so that the under fives can go to nursery thus releasing the older children to go to school. At present they have to mind the younger ones to allow the parents to work. Monies are being raised and equipment is being made.

and THE YOUTH...

Under the leadership of Rev. Christine Rowe a new group has begun and is another growing group; based initially on the new confirmation group it has now extended to fifteen members who meet on a Sunday evening for worship, games and most important — tuck!

and ALL THE INBETWEENS...

The year was kick-started with a whole day spent with Bishop John in the parish. He visited a local school assembly and Nursery sessions as well as joining sick communicants, coffee and lunch group and finally celebrating with the Eucharist. An excellent time for discussion and inspiration.

Twenty kneelers made and dedicated by church members now adorn the Lady chapel and more have been promised.

An extended family of thirteen had a very stimulating few days in Bognor where, despite the lack of facilities for families and self catering, all had a good time from the two under-threes in the nursery to the two teenagers who were not really catered for but had a good time eventually meeting personalities, producing their newspaper, and making props for some of the worship as well as joining the Bishops for final worship taking part in banner carrying and handbell ringing. The adults followed the programme well written about by Owen and Daphne last month but found house groups difficult to attend with children and might have welcomed a family unit, or even another twenty four hours in each day, but all returned stimulated if exhausted. Celebrations began again with the anniversary of Christine's ordination and the planting of a Prunus, called Pink Perfecta, by the Mother's Union to mark this major event and Christine's appointment to the Diocese as Mother's Union Chaplain. The tree was enjoyed for ten days before being dug up and stolen, like all cowardly acts, under the cover of night. Maybe it will not flourish on unhallowed ground!

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST BARNABAS



Pictures - Owen Jewiss

Our photographs show part of the Palm Sunday procession outside St Barnabas Church, the nailing of Jesus to the Cross during the Easter Egg Service (Joanna Wilson played the role of Christ) and the three from one family who were baptised at that service on Easter Day; they were baby Victoria Holloway, who is seen in the arms of her mother, Joanna; looking on is cousin Tamara Godden, to the right of the Vicar, the Revd Nigel Harcastle.

Events at St Barnabas Church differ little from those in many other churches but what is important through that week is that we have been with Jesus from his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, at the Last Supper, and at his arrest in the garden; we have watched his trial, and even with Peter we have denied that we know Jesus; we have witnessed his crucifixion, death and burial in the tomb, and finally we have been present with Mary when she found the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and with her we have mistaken the risen Jesus for the gardener. We have again gone through all the changes of mood finally ending up with Easter joy in the resurrection.

Perhaps what is different at St Barnabas is that we have two chances to follow through the events of that week. The first is through our normal services; the second is the re-enactment of these events by the children on the afternoon of Easter Day in our Easter Egg Service - an Easter parallel to the Christmas Crib Service. This year it was completed by three baptisms, Easter Day being the traditional day in the early church for the baptism of new Christians.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- 11 June CHURCH ANNIVERSARY -
11am Rev. Douglas Brewer of Midsomer Norton - Holy Communion
- 18 June FATHERS' DAY -
11am Parade Service of all youth groups and Brigades, who will be taking part. Preacher: Rev. David Moody
- 25 June 11am Reception Service for new members - Holy Communion. Preacher: Rev. David Moody

2ND CAVERSHAM BOYS' BRIGADE (CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST)

- 3 June Camp Craft Course at Ringwood
- 10 June Battalion Athletics at Palmer Park
- 18 June Fathers' Day Parade Service
- 24 June Junior Section Crystal Maze at Northampton

The 2nd Caversham Company of the Boys' Brigade meets on Mondays at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road, at 6.30pm for the Junior Section and 7.30pm for the Company Section. New recruits are always welcome - enquiries to the captain, Mr. N. Keating (01491) 652335.

'TEDDIES'

Are you a parent, grandparent or nanny caring for a toddler? 'Teddies' meet on Wednesday afternoons at Caversham Heights Methodist church, Highmoor Road, from 1 to 3pm to provide friendly company with play opportunities for your children. More data from Jayne Walker (484325).

'NETWORK' GROUP (Women's Fellowship)

On Thursday 20th April 1995 a Luncheon was held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church in aid of the 'Network' Eastern Area Project - VISHRANTHI NILAYAM (House of Peace) in Bangalore. The event commenced at noon with organ music played in the Church by a member of our network Group - Mrs Audrey Hawthorne. At 12.30 ninety people, including a few brave gentlemen, sat down in the church hall to an excellent lunch of Orange Juice, Pork Normandy, Cheesecakes, Coffee and After Eights.

The speaker, Margaret James from Wareham, who had worked in India for many years gave a very interesting talk with slides about Vishranthi Nilayam.

As a result of the lunch, plus a 'bring and buy stall' on the day, a total of £294.32 was raised which, together with an earlier 'bring and buy', enabled us to send a cheque for £320.

Our thanks go to all those who shopped, cooked the meal, put out and laid the tables, did the table decorations, manned the stall, washed up, washed table cloths and tea towels, put the tables away and, of course, our organist and all who joined us on the day and contributed to the splendid result.

Janet Offord

Secretary - CHMC - Network Group

LIGHTER FEET IN THE KITCHEN!



Monday Lunch at Stay Awhile

-Dennis Skelton

The ladies who prepare the Monday lunches for the Stay Awhile Club at Caversham Heights Methodist Church have now beneath their feet a beautiful, non-slip tiled floor which reflects the appreciation of two former members of the club. The cost of the floor, almost £1000, has been entirely defrayed by legacies from Miss Helen Ruddle and Mrs Gwen Havers.

Advice on the choice of tiles was given by Mr Tony Champion of Caversham Tiles, himself a member of the Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road, Caversham. The Stay Awhile Club provides each week a modestly priced, three course meal, cooked and served by volunteers from all parts of Caversham. From time to time the club has vacancies for elderly people, particularly those living alone, and more information about it may be obtained from Mrs Lily Allies, whose phone number is Reading 472007.

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CHRISTIAN WOMEN TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM

The last meeting took place at Caversham Baptist Church, where the Women's Own group were celebrating their anniversary. Led by Shelagh, a happy and stimulating service was enhanced by the beautiful singing of Sue Allum and the address by Rev. Elisabeth Brazell. Like all good church meetings this one ended with an excellent tea provided by Margaret Pilgrim and her ladies.

The next meeting will take place on June 15th at 2.00pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Albert Road, when Dr Anderson will be talking of his work abroad.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

HOLY WEEK AT ST ANNE'S

A Busy Time

The climax of the church's year was a busy time at St Anne's beginning with Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion. The Vigil Mass on the evening of Saturday 8th April was preceded by the Blessing of palms in the Presbytery garden following which they were carried in procession into the church for the first Mass of Holy Week. On the evening of Sunday 9th April, parishioners gathered together to celebrate a communal Passover Supper which is separately reported below.

On Tuesday 12th April a group of parishioners travelled to Oxford to take part in the Mass of Chrism at which the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, in a Mass concelebrated with about 25 priests from the Southern parishes of the Diocese, blessed the Holy Oils to be used in administering the Sacraments during the coming twelve months. A number of young servers from Caversham assisted on the altar making a significant contribution to the impressive solemnity of the occasion.

On Maundy Thursday the parish was honoured with a visit from the Auxiliary Bishop, the Rt Rev Philip Pargeter. In the course of the Mass and in imitation of Our Lord's own humility, the Bishop washed the feet of some members of the congregation. These individuals together with a number of others were subsequently commissioned by the bishop as Eucharistic Ministers.

Good Friday saw the altar and sanctuary bare and the tabernacle empty as the Liturgy of the Passion was celebrated with the reading of the St John Passion, the prayers of Intercession, and Veneration of the Cross, this

last to the accompaniment of the spine-tingling Reproaches, "My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!"

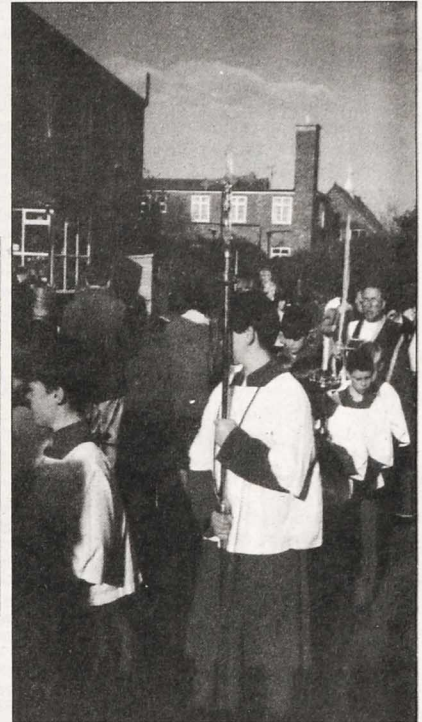
And so to Holy Saturday and the Vigil Mass when, in anticipation of the resurrection, the Easter celebration began with the Service of Light in which the Pascal candle was blessed, lit and carried in procession into the church to be mounted on the altar, there to stand for the next 50

CENTENARY CELEBRATION AT ST ANNE'S

The Centenary Committee of Our Lady and St Anne has decided on the central event of next year's celebrations to mark 100 years of the parish. At the suggestion of Father Tony Jones it was agreed to commission a silver crown to adorn the statue of Our Lady which stands in the shrine chapel of the church. A group of parishioners will take the crown to be blessed by the Pope in Rome and then return to Caversham for a crowning ceremony in the summer of 1996, at which the Papal Nuncio will officiate.

Our Lady of Caversham is one of Britain's most important but perhaps lesser known Catholic shrines. It dates back to Saxon times and by the Middle Ages was bringing many thousands of pilgrims to Caversham. The crowning of the statue first took place over 550 years ago when the Countess of Warwick gave a jewelled crown of gold to the shrine, although this was lost in the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s. The crowning in 1996 will thus mark both a reminder of the long history of the shrine as well as a most fitting focus for the wide programme of centenary events which will also include concerts, a summer fete, an exhibition and a flower festival.

days. The Vigil Mass was also the occasion for the Baptism of Stephen Peters and his reception, together with Angela Carrington-Williams and Ewan Smith into the Catholic Church - a moving ceremony in a wonderful context.



Procession of palms



Washing of the feet by Bishop Pargeter



Lighting of the Pascal candle during the Service of Light

Passover at St. Anne's

Sunday 9 April 1995 saw St. Anne's parish celebrate the feast of the Passover. This event was the first of its kind within the parish and the school

hall was full to capacity, everyone eager to see what the event was all about. The evening started with Father Tony Jones explaining the

meaning of the Passover, and he introduced Maureen and Peter Lennon as the "mother and father" of the parish for the evening. This

was intended to reflect the Jewish tradition of celebrating this important event.

The evening included readings from the Bible interspersed with hymns and the ritual of eating bitter herbs and unleavened bread during the Passover Supper. The children also had their part to play by asking questions about the meaning of the Passover. These were then answered by the "father", the role being aptly played by Peter. The evening concluded with a selection of popular hymns and was deemed a resounding success, and will surely become an annual event in the life of the Parish.

Paul Freeman



Parishioners enjoying their Passover Supper

- P. Freeman

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OBITUARIES

DON JACKSON

The Editors have been informed of the death of Don Jackson. He was the very supportive husband of Barbara Jackson, the splendid Brown Owl of St. Peter's Brownies, who died of cancer some years ago. Don himself had developed multiple sclerosis before she died, and thereafter he went to live with his daughter, Alison Ashton, at Ashbourne near Derby. Don and Barbara worked very hard for the young when they lived in Caversham and it is sad that they should both die at a relatively young age.

CYRIL ERNEST HOUSE

With the death of Cyril House on the 23rd March, the town of Reading has lost a man who, effectively, for the whole of his life devoted himself to the welfare of the community. He was a man of immense compassion and a capacity for applying himself willingly and tirelessly to those tasks, the fulfilling of which are vital to the welfare of a community and its activities, but which carry little or no kudos or recognition. It followed that, by the very nature of his character and his real sense of responsibility, in addition to his professional life, he held office, and often was the driving force, in numerous voluntary organisations without which the community of Reading would have been the poorer.

Cyril House was born on the 11th May, 1912, and lived in Reading from the age of six months. In 1928, on leaving school, he joined the staff of the Reading Public Assistance Office and in 1948 was appointed a Mental Welfare Officer

following the advent of the National Health Act. During the war years his work extended to the organisation in Reading of the tuberculosis testing programme and the visiting of affected patients and he became an energetic volunteer worker for the National Savings Movement, continuing for the next forty-three years. Following his retirement in 1975 he was Clerk to the Trustees of the Reading Dispensary Trust for six years. A committed Christian, Cyril House was a member of the congregation of St Bartholomew's Church for over sixty years, holding office as Secretary of the Parochial Church Council and Altar Server for many years, and was at one time Church Warden. For the last thirteen years of his life he attended St Andrew's Church in Caversham, continuing as an Altar Server there despite the severe physical incapacities he suffered following a stroke in 1988. Last year, failing health forced him to retire from the rota, by which time he had been a member of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary for sixty-five years.

Cyril House was a true Christian with a great love of his fellow men; a zest for life encompassing not only good works but many interests as well including music, drama and, as an enthusiastic follower of his home town Football Club, sport. He must have left his mark on many people and organisations in Reading during his lifetime, and will be sadly missed. His funeral at St Andrew's on 30th March was attended by his widow and family, and very many friends and colleagues.

Hedley Phillips

BETTY SHAYLOR

"For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all to thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise"

Betty has slipped away. She died last night (8th April) at 11.50. She was here at home in her own bed, and we, Dave, Millie, Maggie and Charlie were all at her side. Praise the good Lord no one could have asked for a more peaceful and fitting end.

Yesterday was a beautiful spring day. The sun shone in the garden that Mum loved and cared for with such a passion and skill. The blue scillas gleamed bright in their bed by the rose trees that she and Dad had chosen, and the daffodils, so many varieties and shades of yellow, nodded in the gentle spring breeze.

We had a Lenten Service yesterday (Saturday) in the church and this was followed by

a Lent lunch served by the Youth fellowship in our games room. In the morning Maggie and I with Becca's help busied ourselves getting the place set up. Mum popped in and out, lending a hand and giving her seal of approval to the table decorations of flowers. The service was part of a series of Lent services on Saturdays. Mum had been to them all and we sat together in church. John Webb, our priest, led a meditation on The Prodigal Son. One reflects on that with a smile now, how prodigal we are with the love of those who love us. After the service we all came back to Asante for our soup and rolls served by the Youth Fellowship. Mum had a good lunch and we talked and laughed cheerfully.

After lunch she had a rest. She was feeling a little out of sorts, she must have been because she missed The Grand National. She got up later in the afternoon and went down to Alton with Maggie to visit an old friend of hers called Dorothy Devas in hospital. Dorothy is a hundred. Mum cooked her own supper and went to lie down. She started to suffer some chest pains that she took to be angina. We popped in and out and she gradually got undressed and into bed. She knew something was wrong and we talked and joked about her having a tot of brandy in Lent. She said: "If anything happens don't resuscitate me". She was to repeat this several times over the last hours, and at first didn't want to see a doctor. At ten thirty she was in some pain and agreed that the doctor could be called. Doctor Bethel, a favourite of Mum's, came. Mum had a cardiac arrest. She was able to talk to Doctor Bethel and insisted in the firm way she used when she wanted her will to prevail, that she was not to be "brought round".

The family was called and we gathered by the bed. Doctor Bethel gave her a pain killer and she dozed off to sleep and gradually slipped away. It was a wonderfully peaceful end to a lovely day. We are warned to be ready for we know not the "time or hour". Mum was so ready and happy to leave, to go to "the everlasting arms" and to join Bindy. She was so brave to the end, so sure in her love and in her faith and so organised in her life. Her room as ever was immaculate. By her side her devotional books and Bindy's funeral service sheet, everything in order. At eighty three she could look back on a remarkable life. A life of growing daily nearer to God, ever more deep in her awareness of what the love of God means. Praise God for her love.

She is at peace.

Our love and Mum's too.

(Editors' Note. Two

rows of pews in the church were filled with Caversham folk for the memorial service.)

ANNIE "NANCY" CASEY 15.02.17-23.04.95

The funeral took place on Friday 5th May of Annie Casey. That was her proper name but to all who knew her, in particular the generations of school children who passed through her hands, she was Nancy Casey. Born in Aberavon of Irish descent, of which she would leave you in no doubt, she grew up in Wales, attending Teacher Training College in Barry where she qualified in July 1937.

Nancy's first teaching appointment was at Churchfield School in Woodford, Essex. She met her husband, Pat, while on holiday back home in Aberavon where he was working in a local munitions factory. They were married on Easter Monday of 1943, moving to Reading shortly afterwards when Pat was transferred to the Royal Ordnance Factory at Burghfield. They settled in Northumberland Avenue, moving to Caversham in 1952, by which time they had acquired five children, Michael, Patrick, Mary, Noreen and Brendan, all of whom attended St Anne's School.

Following what would nowadays be called her maternity break, Nancy returned to part time supply teaching in which

capacity she helped out at St James's, Katesgrove, Micklands and Caversham Primary schools amongst others. In 1966, Nancy resumed full time teaching at St James's where she took a particular interest in the Corpus Christi processions held in the Abbey ruins. In 1968, she transferred to Christ the King and, in 1969, to St Anne's whence she finally retired in 1979, though 'retired' is rather a misleading way of describing a further 10 years of occasional supply work.

Sadly, Nancy's husband Pat died in 1989 but she continued to maintain her interests in art, music, history and investigating the family tree. Her travels included pilgrimages to Lourdes, Fatima and the Holy Land and she was an active supporter of such charities as LIFE, SPUC, APF and CAFOD along with many other activities, including flower arranging at St Anne's church.

Many will recognise the description coined by a fellow parishioner of 'Nancy with the laughing eyes'. Those eyes closed for the last time on St George's day 23rd April 1995 though St Patrick will surely forgive her for that.

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OBITUARY — BEN ARCHER

Caversham has been saddened by the loss of many friends over the years but few have been missed as much as Ben or, to give him his proper title, Edward Sherwood Archer, who died on 2nd April this year. Since settling in Caversham he had become involved in so many aspects of our local life but, more than that, it was the sort of person he was which makes him unforgettable, for he was one of the kindest people it has been our lot to know.

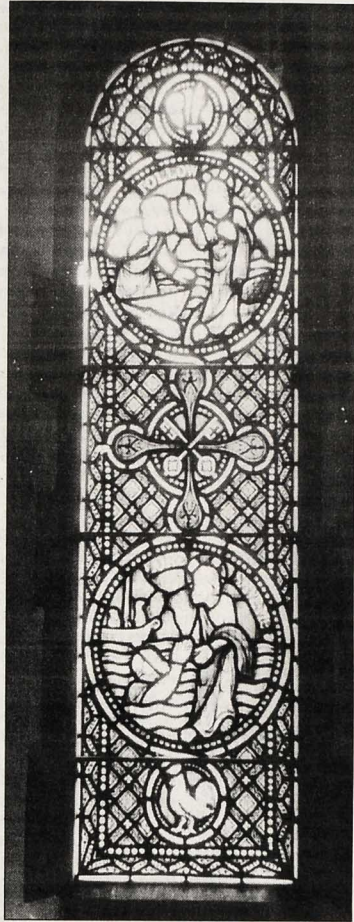
Ben, who died at his home in Surley Row, after a short but painful illness, was born in Bradford but lived in Caversham as a boy before moving to London where he trained as a Chemist and Druggist, or Pharmacist as it is now known. During the war he served with the RA and the RASC. He married Joan, also from Reading, and returned here to live. He joined St. Peter's Church in the early eighties and became sidesman. As a photographer he was roped into taking photos for the 'Bridge', which he did with enthusiasm, sometimes taking Joan with him to caption and write about his

Ben Archer took these photographs of some of the windows in St. Peter's Church, depicting events in the life of the saint. We are happy to reproduce these as a gesture of thanks for his devoted and willing service to the paper, and as a timely reminder that St. Peter's Day falls on 29th June.

photographs. He became Chairman and a driver for the Good Neighbours. His interests were many, including the Swan Lifeline, and he was a competition judge and lecturer for various Camera clubs. Among other sidelines he became 'famous' for cleaning the lectern in St. Peter's, an odd choice for a man, but Ben was always prepared to tackle anything he was asked to do. In more recent years he and Joan enjoyed travel, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Far East, Egypt, China, Turkey, America and Europe and last year he and Joan visited the Holy Land. All these travels were recorded in photographs and albums, books freely lent to anyone interested.

Most of all one thinks of Ben as a man with his hand held out to help anyone who needed it; many people were conveyed to Church or anywhere they needed. He and Joan had a lovely marriage, based firmly and deliberately on friendship which they both considered important. He had a great sense of humour which lasted till the day he died. We shall miss him very much but in one sense we have not lost him.

In a packed church at St. Peter's we said our farewells. Richard a nephew, read 'All is Well' by Cannon.



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Caversham W.I.

The April meeting was used to consider the resolutions for the I.G.M. in Blackpool. The President led the business section of the meeting.

The VCO, Mrs Marden, led the discussion on the resolutions and the delegate was instructed on the members' voting preferences.

The meeting ended with special presentations to Mrs Sallie Brooker, who is moving from the area, and the President, Miss Margaret Cameron, on her recent retirement.

University of the Third Age

The last article related to the Study Day. This time it is about the open meeting for April entitled "Memories and Melodies of World War II" given by George Frances and Ken Fitt of Henley U3A.

This consisted of a dialogue of one's memories, sad and happy during his time with the Army in such places as Western France, North Africa and Italy. The other interjected with songs

and melodies composed in wartime, sung and played on clarinet, saxophone and keyboard. It was interesting and funny, no doubt bringing back to the listeners their own memories.

Anyone interested in joining please contact A. Jones (01734) 580085.

Caversham Community Association

The first Monday in March saw members enjoying a game of Bingo with popular prizes, Pat Snow was the welcome visitor the following Monday with some good advice on spring planting and plants for sale.

Gentle exercise was on offer the following week with a return visit from Elaine Colton. The more energetic could join in the floor Yoga exercises and then, in pairs, enjoy a relaxing face and neck massage. Everyone went home feeling healthier. Doreen Crawley led the Whist Drive the following week.

April began with a games evening, members enjoying an evening of scrabble, cards and shove ha'penny. The following week members celebrated the Association's forty-fourth birthday party with a salad and gateau meal prepared by the committee. Entertainment was provided by the talented ladies from Peppard W.I. and the evening ended with sherry and Maida Feast's delicious iced cake.

April ended with the AGM when the chair was taken by the Vice President, Mrs Olive Howard. Maida Feast presented the chairman's report, detailing a successful and busy year for the Association. The retiring treasurer presented the balance sheet, showing a healthy position, but members were reminded the rent was going up by nearly fifty percent. Suggestions were made for other fund raising activities.

The election of officers resulted in the following: Chairman - Maida Feast, Vice-Chairman - Dolly Usher, Secretary - Beryl Latcham, Treasurer - Margaret Cameron, Committee - Bob Reeves, Sheila Haines, Brenda Strong, George Feast, Monica Suggett, Muriel Waite, Betty Petherbridge, Ann Bunce.

The charity tin collection for the year was shared between Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and the RSPCA. This year's Charity will be Sue Ryder Home.

Members made suggestions for future meetings and look forward to welcoming new members on a Monday at 7.30pm.

Caversham Heights T.G.

The minutes of the previous month's annual general meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild were read by the new secretary, Mrs Jancis Brown. She reported that more members were needed by Federation.

The Passion Plays at Oberammergau were the subject of Mrs M Sutherland's talk at social studies group. The chairman introduced the speaker, Dr P Couch, whose hobby, the study of china, started 15 years ago. His very interesting slides showed the story of Josiah Wedgwood who was part of a very talented family. Born in 1730, he eventually set up his potter's craft alone in 1759 at Burslem. He had the misfortune to develop smallpox and later to lose a leg. He introduced Queen's Ware, the first cream-coloured earthenware. A friend, Thomas Bentley, suggested copying pottery from Pompeii and Herculaneum. Bentley died in 1780 leaving his friend heartbroken. Wedgwood's Jasperware is hard, resembling porcelain, and is made in blue and white, carmine, and green. There is also yellow, the rarest to find. Through his many initiatives, including building a canal to transport goods to Liverpool, the potter's craft became a flourishing industry. Members brought special pieces of china along for Dr Couch to examine.

Mr Chandler made a welcome return visit to entertain members with another interesting talk on the wildlife in the locality of Bugs Bottom. They first heard recordings of the calls of the various species inhabiting the area, e.g. foxes, deer, badgers etc. and this was followed by excellent slides of these creatures, and the many types of owls inhabiting the area. Mr Chandler has cared for many sick

members. It was the Easter Party and the tables were looking very gay and tempting with all the goodies arranged, and in the centre of the top table, an Easter Cake which was decorated with marzipan and eggs in the traditional way for Easter by Mrs Queenie Strong.

The opening song was sung and business quickly dispensed with, and a reminder given of the outing to Bourton-on-the-Water for those absent at the last meeting. Grace was then said and committee members did their usual "waiting" on the members, which has always been the usual procedure at Club parties.

It was a very happy atmosphere, but time caught up too quickly and by them after each member was given an egg, all were leaving with lots of laughter and good feelings of again enjoying a happy afternoon.

Caversham Afternoon T.G.

Mr Chandler made a welcome return visit to entertain members with another interesting talk on the wildlife in the locality of Bugs Bottom. They first heard recordings of the calls of the various species inhabiting the area, e.g. foxes, deer, badgers etc. and this was followed by excellent slides of these creatures, and the many types of owls inhabiting the area. Mr Chandler has cared for many sick

and injured birds and animals in his hospital which he has run for the past thirty years, returning them to their natural habitat when able to fend for themselves. He has also set up a hide for fox watching.

Members have welcomed two new members, Mrs Coates and Mrs Hrabkiewicz and congratulated Mrs Eleanor Smith on attaining her ninetieth birthday. Mrs Smith has been a T.G. member for very many years and the Guild is pleased to see her at meetings.

Mrs Margaret Siddle held a farewell coffee morning. She and her husband soon leave Reading for life in the Cotswolds. They are both wished every happiness in their new home in that beautiful part of the country. Mrs Siddle has been a hard working and supportive Committee member.

A morning ramble was arranged for those wishing to take part and plans are under way for a day's outing to Ashdown Forest in May. Preparations are also being made for entry to the "T.G. on Holiday" competition.

Mrs E. Hodgkinson was judged the winner of the month's competition - "A favourite wildlife picture or photograph".

Visitors "new members are always welcome to meetings held at 2pm in Church House on the third Thursday of each month.

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caversham park village association

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RAILWAYS

As a family we rather enjoy the odd journey on a restored railway and welcome the enthusiasm which has given us back many trips of this nature. By accident we discovered the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Association during the Easter holidays and were able to travel a short way out of Chinnor. We were fortunate in running into an old friend, Don Williams, of 52 Hemdean Road. Don, who worked for some time with local Co-op stores, is an enthusiastic member of the Association, performs many jobs, including that of station master, and was able to tell us a lot about the organisation. The outing was marvellously carried out, drinks and hot cross buns, and Easter eggs for the children, being served on the train as it passed through beautiful scenery. The staff, all volunteers, entered into the spirit of the occasion, all suitably dressed, sporting buttonholes and

making it a very festive occasion. I gather they have these special events throughout the year; unfortunately they have to cut down on advertising, but they do use the Henley papers for this purpose, and I'm sure Don will give you any information you would like - it would be well worth it.

CAVERSHAM'S NEW GIFT SHOP

Many readers will know of Anna and Stuart McCubbin, stalwarts of the Green Party (don't worry, this isn't an election address). They are not planning to stand for election being otherwise engaged with their new venture, a gift shop known as the Rivermark Centre, which has just opened in North Street. I called in the other day and found a lovely display of gifts, locally produced pottery and woodcraft, semi-precious stones, a r o m o t h e r a y products, recycled paper products and much else.

By the time you read this Stuart will have set up the other part of the business, all to do with computers. He aims not only to hire out computers by the hour but to instruct anyone who needs help with computer skills. This could be a boon to anyone who has invested in a computer but not yet learned to make full use of it. Do call in if you think they can help you. They are open from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm with early closing on Wednesday.

LO-COST

Really, as many people know, this shop is now owned by the Co-op and a lot of changes are planned. But why must supermarkets suddenly change their store lay-out whatever the reason. Grumbling customers have been pushing trolleys fruitlessly round Lo-Cost and shopping has taken three times as long. The reorganisation has still left tinned goods on high, deep shelves so that women, in particular, risk life and limb trying to

reach the produce. Some have found reduced prices and increased stock range a compensation, but the new shop signs and front fascia have caused annoyance.

The Co-op has owned the store for six months, yet there is no sign of this. Frequent comments are variations of "What's the good of a Co-op if you can't get 99 tea" and "What's the Co-op ashamed of that they don't put their name on the front". Think about it.

OUR VETS

Since the "new" vets took over in Prospect Street, many of us have had good reason to be grateful for the care and attention they give our pets. Unfortunately since moving in they have discovered the snags of the current premises, in particular shortage of room for all the excellent equipment they have brought with them, and shortage of parking space for customers. Now at last they have found a suitable site at 65 Oakley Road, on the corner of Oakley Road

and Hemdean Road and the property will have easy access, plenty of space for parking and excellent facilities in terms of consulting rooms and modern operating theatre. It only remains now to get the planning permission they need and this is vitally important as their present lease runs out in 12 months, leaving Caversham totally bereft of veterinary services. So if you feel you can support them please write to the Director of Planning, Civic Offices, Reading, or call in at the 'shop' and add your name to the petition you will find there.

DEAR BETTY

Two weeks ago several people in Caversham will have received a letter from Betty Shaylor's family telling us of her death at Lasham. We make no apologies for printing elsewhere, with permission, much of that letter for it was so beautiful, yet so informative that it helped us to come to terms with our loss.

the CLUBS

from to page 10

Emmer Green Townswomens Guild

The new Chairman Joan Palmer opened the meeting.

ARTS & CRAFTS - members visited "The Rural Life Museum" on April 6 where there was also a "Highlighting Textiles" exhibition.

There is to be an organised Garden visit for the future meeting.

RAMBLERS - two walks since last meeting; one locally which was very wet and the other around Remenham and the new Hambleton lock. There was also an evening visit to support the Wokingham T.G. who put on a new show called The Four Seasons.

The T.G. Summer outing this year will be to Sudeley Castle Gloucestershire on Tuesday 20 June.

Guild members will be asked to vote on motions at next month's meeting for the 1995 National Council meeting. The motions

are M.E., Noisy Neighbourhoods, Occupational Pensions and Long Term Care.

The talk for the evening was given by Brian Clark, Station Officer Commander from the Fire Rescue Service, Wokingham Road Station. Mr Clark gave a very interesting talk on the Fire Brigade and Safety in the Home. He was also enlightening on the computerised system that now organises all calls for help to the different Fire stations. Brian stressed how important smoke alarms are and gave a few helpful tips on how to deal safely with Chip pan fires etc., Marion Cooper gave a vote of thanks to Brian Clark & said from past experience she herself knew how considerate and caring these Fire Rescue Officers are as well as putting their lives on the line when they attend dangerous fires.

Chazey W.I.

May 2nd was the annual Resolutions meeting, which enables all W.I. members to put their own point of view on the subjects under discussion. This results in a lively debate (the President in firm control!) as some strong feelings are generated and every aspect is

examined before a vote is taken.

The vote from each institute is passed through the County Federation and, if there is general agreement, the Resolutions are put forward at the Intermediate General Meeting in Blackpool. Even the smallest local institute has a voice - and uses it. The apparently simple concept of food labelling, "to avoid the hazards of a fatal allergic reaction from hidden ingredients", activated a debate which centred on an individual's own responsibility for health care, and then the wider implications became clearer. Could every food retailer label every food sold to the public? How would it be possible for a caterer to label every slice of cake or every portion of pie? Clearly that would not be practical.

The other debate was on "Identity Cards for all United Kingdom residents over eighteen years of age". This might cut down the number of frauds against public money, but as even passports can be forged there is no doubt that identity cards would be equally vulnerable. It would seem that the only positive gain would be for non-drivers of

cars, who are often asked for a driving licence as proof of identity!

The June meeting is an outing cruise on the Kennet & Avon Canal. On July 4th Chazey W.I. meets at Mapledurham Pavilion at 8.00pm. The talk will be by Mrs Parsons on Porcelain Dolls. New members are always welcome - just turn up and introduce yourself.

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