

SILVER JUBILEE FOR NEW BRIDGE NURSERY SCHOOL

It has been a year of celebrations at New Bridge Nursery School. February saw the 100th anniversary of education on the site. St John's Primary School opened in 1895 and continued in the buildings until 1969, when it moved to and

became Thameside School. In September 1970 the buildings opened again for educational use when the Bridge Street Nursery School moved to Caversham and was subsequently named the New Bridge Nursery School in central

Reading. To mark its Silver Jubilee the Nursery School was opened to the public during the last week of September when special events marked the celebrations.

The Nursery School

Each day 120 chil-

dren attend this spacious, pleasantly decorated, light and airy, Local Education Authority Nursery School; one group of 60 children come in the morning and another 60 in the afternoon. In addition another 10 children attend the hearing impaired unit, one of only two in Berkshire, which is attached to the Nursery School. The children who attend for two to three terms are introduced to the beginning of the educational ladder by 10 teachers, nursery nurses and helpers under the friendly and cheerful guidance of Mrs Brenda Grant, the Headteacher.

The celebrations

Silver Jubilee Week will have been an unforgettable experience not only for the children but for all concerned. For the benefit of visitors there were displays of the school's work and activities. The children made special silver name badges in the early part of the week. At noon in mid-

week, Mrs Jean Pugh, who for 12 years until 1991 had been Chairman of Governors, planted a silver birch tree in the playground, watched by children and parents; 120 helium filled balloons were released at the same time. (Mrs Sue Stainthorp is currently the Chairman of Governors). Then on

the Friday each group of children, wearing the special silver jubilee party hats that they had made, sang 'happy birthday' to the school as nursery nurse Miss Miriam Ridgers, who has been at the Nursery school from the start, cut each of the two cakes after blowing out the candles. During the week

a galaxy of onetime pupils, parents, teachers and helpers had looked in at the school, together with the Caversham Bridge reporter who wished that such schools existed when he was four and who conveyed congratulations to the Nursery School on behalf of our readers.

Owen Jewiss



Mrs Jean Pugh (right) assisted by Headteacher, Mrs Brenda Grant, putting the finishing touches to the tree planting after the children and parents had dispersed.



Miss Miriam Ridgers cutting the Silver Jubilee cake in front of the afternoon group of children.

Pictures:
Owen Jewiss

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

On the morning of Friday the 29th September a hundred Caversham residents met for coffee as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of the Macmillan Appeal, to help people living with cancer. Caversham Bowling Club kindly provided their clubhouse as an attractive and convenient venue for the event and £456 was raised.

Now in its fifth year, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning has become one of Macmillan's most successful national fundraising events. Last year over 430,000 people raised £1 million in just four hours creating a new entry in the Guinness Book of Records. This year the Charity hopes to have broken that record.

The Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund helps



Some of the many supporters of the event.

- O. Clamp

200,000 people annually and the demand for the Charity's support continues to grow. Over the next three years the Macmillan Appeal aims to raise over £100 million in order to expand existing services which include cancer care nurses, doctors, cancer care centres and patient grants.

A big thank you is due to all who came along to the Bowling Club to what was a very pleasant social occasion, to all those who contributed and to local residents and shopkeepers who generously donated items for the stalls and prizes for the raffle. The money raised will go towards helping the Macmillan Fund to make a real difference to the lives of local people with cancer and to their families.

Owen Clamp

TALKING POINT

by
Canon Richard Kingsbury
Rector of St. Peter & St. Margaret



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT?

The guns were silent at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1918. Until the next time. Perhaps they welcomed home soldiers from the crusades - 'The war to end all wars!'

Mercifully we have peace here. The anguish of Bosnia and other nations comes to our sitting rooms. 'How can a loving God allow so much suffering?'

We call His gift 'free will'. Men (yes, it's usually men) through centuries of war have abused the gift, daring to claim 'God is on our side'. Doubtless they did when they crucified His Son.

The infamous arms trade, in which this country is implicated, fuels the many wars now raging - to the benefit of shareholders in the weapons industry. The threatened cutback in United Kingdom Overseas Aid implicates us, colluding with more deaths than by war.

A general election is on the horizon. For which grey suit will you vote? It is too comfortably quiet on the western front. The political guns of visionary principles are silent. Christians - awake! If the Church retreats to the estaminets and squabbles about who sits where in the ecclesiastical officers' mess, then God help us.

Flip the coin. There is much that is good, true and beautiful. Think of all who eschew worldly gain and work for peace and justice. We are implicated in the cause of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Prayer would be a good start.

The western front seems quiet. Behind the scenes evil lurks.

And the blood-red poppies fall . . .

KEITH S. J. SAUNDERS 1935-1995

With much sadness we learned of Keith's death on September 2nd, after an illness bravely and cheerfully borne. During his ministry at Caversham Heights Methodist Church Keith endeared himself to old and young alike. He was a family man with a great love and concern for his own family and for the wider family of God. He was a keen supporter of youth in all their activities, and was firmly behind Monica in forming the Girls Brigade at Caversham Heights. His tireless visitation of the sick and elderly often found him helping with their shopping.

He would willingly drive friends to the airport and collect those arriving and made regular trips, taking and collecting folk from hospital. Keith had a great sense of humour and a great love of sport. His love of books took

him to secondhand bookshops far and wide.

He was devoted to the work of John and Charles Wesley and travelled widely at home and in America in search of more knowledge of these two gentlemen. His collection of Wesley memorabilia was unique and, as a stamp collector, he supported the Methodist Philatelic Society. His great love of gardening often found him on his allotment before breakfast. From here he drew inspiration and relaxation for his daily living. Keith was a great ecumenical being and this outlook led to the formation of 'Churches Together in Caversham' and the annual Open-air Service at Caversham Court.

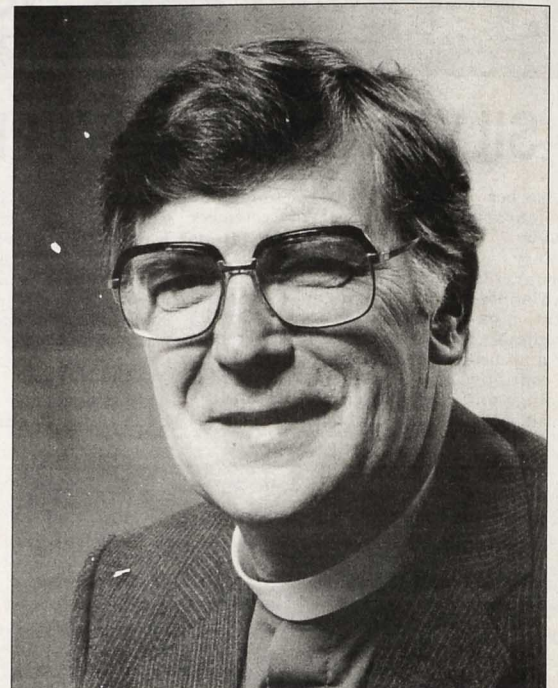
He became closely associated with the Polio Society and ministered to them. His love and concern extended to everyone and not just those of his own congregation. Keith and Monica will always be remembered for their open house and warm welcomes and also for the insight into the new Church extension - the Wesley lounge.

At the end of 1994 he was suddenly struck down with the cruel illness that robbed him of his life's ministry in the Church. His ministry, however, continued and all who visited him, nurses and doctors, were encouraged by his strength of character and his unwillingness to give in. To quote Keith's words each day on waking - 'Another lovely day'.

On leaving Caversham in 1991 he was appointed to the Superintendent Ministry at Queens Hall Methodist Mission in Derby where, on September 9th, a Thanksgiving Service took place. The address was given by Rev. John Bland, a former Superintendent Minister of Queens Hall. To a packed congregation representing six areas in which Keith had ministered, he said: 'There was a man sent from God - And his name was Keith'.

ET.

A local memorial service was held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on 10th October, with the Polio Fellowship and Keith's widow, Monica, present.



Rev. Keith Saunders.

- Walton Adams

FRANK BAKER

As we go to press, we are sad to announce the death of Frank Baker on October 4th. A full appreciation will follow next month.

POSTBAG

Dear Sirs,

Evensong is sung every Sunday at St Peter's Caversham, and those who come feel this service is an opportunity to worship God within a more reflective atmosphere. The choir goes from strength to strength under its new choirmaster, Ian Westley, and we choir members would love to see more people in the congregation, to join with us in singing the psalms, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Approximately once a month the choir sings a Choral Evensong with a more diverse setting, together with an anthem.

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All contributions for December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 1 November. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 30 October.

The dates for January will be Monday 27 November and Wednesday 29 November

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

No to Superstore

The languor induced by the hot summer weather and the general running down of activity during August came to an abrupt halt as rain brought temperatures down and organisations sprang into life again after their annual break. Suddenly the closing date for making it known that another superstore would not be welcome became ominously near.

Moving fast, Caversham and District Residents' Association had petitions circulating, sent out a newsletter with a comments slip attached, and got a public meeting off the ground. The result of all this activity was unmistakable; virtually without exception everyone was opposed to another superstore being allowed on the former Elliot's site. Common to just about every objection was the detrimental effect such a development would have on the existing small shops in the area, something which is indeed backed up by the Department of the Environment guideline that states that no retail development will be

allowed if they will affect the vitality and viability of existing ones.

Speaking at the public meeting called by the CDRA, Mike Devereux, Planning Officer for North Reading, explained that a superstore was only one option for the site, and that its inclusion on a revised Reading Plan would not necessarily mean that it would be taken up. His listeners were somewhat dubious about this. He went on to say that the new Waitrose store about to open along Oxford Road brought Reading up to the maximum number recommended for Reading.

He also explained that the deplorable objection form is a requirement of the D. of E. and not of the local council and admitted that he would not like to fill it in himself. This form makes the assumption that objectors to any part of the plan have read the whole thing and that if they have not, their objection is not valid - a case of bureaucracy being locked away from the real world. Cllr. Pauline Palmer performed a useful service by quoting the full reference

number of the relevant section without which hundreds of bona fide objections would have been discounted.

The petitions and comments slips were all attached to one of the forms and if such an expression of public opinion counts for anything, this superstore, like the proposed one on Queen Anne's playing fields, should disappear from the Borough Plan.

One-way Re-appears

Coming alongside this matter was the new consultation draft on roads in central Caversham. This contained many attractive features but the one-way system around Prospect Street, Westfield Road, and Gosbrook Road remained. As the consultation document was only distributed within 400 yards of the area, it is to be assumed that most people will once more turn down the idea unless some way can be found of removing HGV's from Westfield Road. They are what will make life intolerable in a road where the houses are so close to the street. At present, most of these

use Prospect Street, mainly a commercial street, though it cannot be imagined that the people who live there enjoy the experience of heavy lorries thundering past.

Repaired Pavements

At last the hazardous footpath surface of broken and uneven paving slabs in Church Street, left after Telecentral had carried out their works, has been replaced by a smooth tarmac surface. It is to be hoped this will be extended to Bridge Street, which was also left in an unsatisfactory condition.

Green Grass Again

The grass in gardens and public open spaces soon became green again once the rains started. In Caversham Court however the top lawn was suffering from more than drought and looks as if it never will recover. The lower lawn however, is green nearly all over except for the goal and wicket area which should never be there. It is about time the Home Office produced from within itself the bye-laws that will help prevent this

misuse of Reading's public gardens.

Battle of the Buses

If the success of a newspaper can be gauged by the amount of correspondence it receives in reaction to its content, then the Caversham Bridge is not doing too badly, at least over its last few issues.

I still maintain that my piece on Mainline buses did not contain any serious errors that invalidated my argument. There was not the space to go into detail about exactly how Reading Buses are managed, but broadly what I said was correct, apart from the fact that it is Reading Borough and not Reading Buses that pays for concessionary fares, which I actually knew, so it was careless of me not to have made it clear. I specifically said this was legal, even if it came as a surprise to many, and the implication would be if it were legal for one firm it would be for others.

Other correspondents welcomed Mainline as helping reduce dependence on cars, though a permanently viable Reading Buses service is even more important there. Another point made was that Reading Buses reaction was petty, but no more petty than Mainline, running just ahead of them. As for the rise in fares and reduction in frequency, this is not confined to Reading alone but is to be found countrywide. Compared to many places where high fares are often combined with poor frequencies and shoddy buses, Reading

scores highly. It is of course the areas of high car ownership which are less well served, and parts of Caversham are amongst the highest in the country. I also have waited ages for a bus that never seems to come. I have also frequently complained, if not in these columns, about buses standing in Broad Street and at the Railway Station with their engines running. Apparently they are not meant to do this if they going to be stationary for more than three minutes. Again, after some extensive travelling around during the summer, I found that buses and coaches all over the country are doing it. Why? I have never driven a bus, and have the greatest admiration for bus drivers, but if it is so

difficult to switch the engine on and off (my car does it at the touch of a finger) then it is about time some research went into improving the situation.

Meanwhile it is only by using the buses that it will be possible to keep them, and the main provider is Reading Buses, even if they do not penetrate all parts, such as Sheridan Avenue. Even on that route though, for most of its journey, Mainline duplicates the Reading service for much of the way. Where it does not, people are naturally going to use it. In the meantime, it would be interesting to know whether Mainline contributes to the cost of bus shelters and bus stops wherever the routes coincide.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

I suddenly find we are in the middle of development which will, if it happens, inevitably mean a lot of changes in Caversham people and traders. But first, one thing which has occurred to me in the middle of all this is that we must find some way of settling, once and for all, the question of Residents' Associations.

There are several in different districts, some of them very active, but there is a serious lack of co-operation between them. In the middle of dealing with a welter of petitions opposing proposed changes, I'm suddenly confronted with yet another petition, quite unrelated to most of them that have gone before, organised, if one may use the word, by an ad hoc body who doesn't even know what is going on elsewhere in Caversham. So won't somebody think of a way of linking the various Residents' Associations to use the full potential of the very strong feelings that are being aroused at the moment. In the meantime quite a lot of

people, particularly traders, are already planning to move out of the area - and that would be a pity.

PROSPECT STREET POST OFFICE

It came as a nasty shock to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Fussell, who have given us such splendid service for

more information for our next issue. In the meantime we are pleased that Jill is still with us - she is a real link with the post office of old when Mr. and Mrs. Humphries ran it so efficiently, and we hope she will stay.

GOING FOR A SONG Pat Howard has been

PRICE INCREASE NEXT YEAR

Having managed to peg the price of this paper for 10 years, the Board of Directors has reluctantly agreed that, because of the substantially increased cost of newsprint, the price of this paper will be raised to 20p a copy from January 1996.

several years, have given up the Post Office, though we hope they will remain in Caversham. They have given us too much to see it all thrown away. In the time they have been with us we have seen queues become a thing of the past, and we have a Post Office which not only gives us information but is prepared to join in fighting for a good service. Time does not permit of a fuller appreciation of their work but we hope somebody will provide

with us many years, running a very inviting antique shop and recently took on the job of Chairman of the newly formed Traders' Association. We hope she won't be leaving us just yet, but her departure cannot be long delayed. Again, hopefully in time we shall find somebody to give a fuller report of her life with us, not just selling antiques but in playing a full part in taking over as a leading member of our community. Fortunately

John Mullaney is taking over her job as Chairman of the Traders' Association.

OUR MONICA

Another person we are going to miss very much - alas she has already sold her home in Prospect Street and is in the throes of moving to Poole to live near her daughter. - is our Monica - Monica Suggett to give her her full title. We shall miss her very much and it must be quite a loss to the Baptist Church where she has played her part admirably, not least by helping to run the Church's Friday lunches. There can't be many in this part of Caversham who are not familiar with Monica, with her cheerful smile

and very friendly approach. I hope somebody will find time, before the next issue, to write a fuller account of all Monica has meant to our community.

These are just some of the changes which seem to have crept up on us - and it's no exaggeration to say, whatever the outcome of the present development plans, Caversham will never be quite the same again. One could go on ad infinitum. But please, oh please, will somebody undertake to keep us informed of changes in our community. It would be very sad if people were just allowed to slip away with no acknowledgement of all they have meant to us over the years.

BIRDS IN DECLINE

This year's relentlessly hot summer coincided with an indifferent bird migration.

Compared with most years, regular migrants were conspicuous by their sparseness. Garden Warblers, Nightingales, Tree Pits and Turtle Doves were noticeably absent from local venues, whilst even Blackcaps, Chiffchaff and Willow Warblers had to be sought. Similarly, Swallows, Swifts and House Martins were well down.

Paradoxically, rarities were excitingly mixed and abundant. Sightings of two separate species of Penguin from as far apart as the Solway Firth and Kent, although possible escapes, otherwise defied explanation.

Berkshire's sole 'real' rarity was a Cattle Egret which briefly visited a gravel-pit at Twyford.

Peregrines on the Didcot cooling-towers caused a diversion for spectators by playing havoc with the unfortunate pigeons and Pied Wagtails.

A friend who braved the fearful heat, daily cycled fifteen miles from Caversham to conduct a one-week scientific survey of raptors in the Red Kite area, leaving early morning and returning late evening. (There must be a medal for such a feat!)

Truly our birds do have problems - but spare a thought for the Spix's Macaw. only one bird is known to exist in the wild. This beautiful azure-coloured creature, a metre in length, was rediscovered in a narrow strip of forest at Bohia in northeastern Brazil in 1990. The first one was found by a Baron von Spix in 1819. In recent years it attempted to mate with a Blue-winged Macaw and had the union proved 'successful', a chain of thirty different macaw diseases may have resulted.

Genetic scientists at Oxford University spent fourteen months establishing the (male) sex of the bird using DNA 'fingerprinting' technique upon its moulted feathers collected by Brazilian environmentalists. A captive female was then released and when the pair were seen together, Brazilian biologists maintained a twenty-four hour guard to protect them from poachers. Breeding seems likely this October.

Poaching has almost destroyed the Spix's Macaw which possesses an important culture of its own. It can avoid predatory eagles and employs hundreds of survival tricks.

There are about 10,100 known species of birds in the world of which 11 per cent are endangered. The current Spix's Macaw programme may well save other species on the brink of extinction.

It should be remembered that after drugs and arms, wildlife is the third largest illegal commodity market, having an estimated turnover of five billion pounds per annum.

(Spix's Macaw details by kind permission of Mr. Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent, Times Newspapers Ltd.)

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UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS AT CAVERSHAM'S OLD RECTORY

It was just at the turn of the century that a young woman from Warwickshire, Miss Elizabeth Prue, came to Caversham. She had come this long way to be near her sister and she found work as a kitchen maid with Major Simond's family at the Old Rectory (later known as Caversham Court). Here she took up her duties in 1900 at the age of eighteen. It is from Elizabeth Prue's reminiscences that a glimpse of life in this large old house, demolished in 1933, can be seen.

In those days the indoor staff consisted of a butler, footman, lady's maid, housemaid and cook, not forgetting Elizabeth herself. Outside there were a coachman, groom and four gardeners.

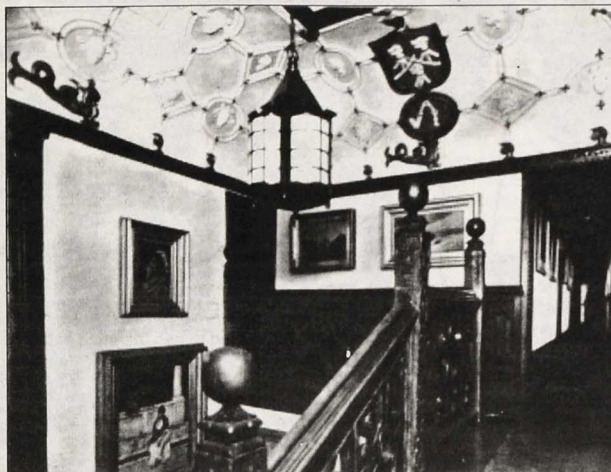
Elizabeth often remembered the massive front door of the big house. It resembled those found in old churches and castles. So did the huge iron studded entrance gate in the fine flint wall. The wall still remains but the gate, like the house, has gone. Inside the mansion the furniture was dark and heavy too; dark oak to match the panelled walls. During the whole of her employment with Major

Simonds Elizabeth never once saw the drawing room in use. Here the furniture was kept covered with dust sheets. Another part of the house was never lived in. This was the wing over the courtyard. Because it was thought to be haunted no one slept in those upstairs rooms. Instead they were used for storing household linen.

The Butler shot the rats

As kitchen maid Elizabeth's first daily duty was to get down just before six to brew a pot of tea and take up the early morning cup to all the other servants. She had to be a brave lass for it was a regular occurrence to see rats running about everywhere when she first got down each day. Indeed they were such a menace that the butler used to shoot them with a revolver.

Once the early morning tea had been dealt with there was the kitchen range to clean out and light ready to cook the breakfast. Then there was the kitchen to sweep and tidy and the preparation of breakfast in the servants' hall. After the table had been laid for the first meal of the day Elizabeth had to go



The grand staircase from which Elizabeth watched the dancing below. It is said that there were bullet holes from the Civil War visible in the woodwork. The fight for Caversham Bridge took place on April 25th 1643.

across the courtyard to the dairy and skim the milk. A quart of milk was put aside for the head gardener each day and the same amount for the coachman. Young Elizabeth spent much time in the dairy, for it was she who used to churn the butter for the household and pat it into rolls for the table.

Every summer while the Ascot races were on there were always a lot of visitors and parties at the Old Rectory and the servants were kept busy packing up lunch hampers which contained cold duck and champagne among the delights. All the picnic contents were tied up with blue ribbons and the party

would travel to Ascot by horse and carriage. On returning the house party would continue with a dance each evening and when there was a little free time from all the hustle and bustle the servants would watch the scene below from the upstairs landing.

It was on one of these evenings when Elizabeth and the cook were leaning over the staircase banisters watching the gaiety below that the following incident happened. Glancing through a window one of them noticed a woman in a pale yellow dress walking in the garden beside a long hedge. Could it have been the old yew

walk? As Mrs Simonds was wearing a similar coloured gown they thought it must be she. However the lady of the house was clearly visible in the throng below. The gardener who had just come up to see to the hot houses, also saw the woman and for some reason turned and fled. The incident so upset him that he gave up his work at the Rectory there and then.

Eventually Elizabeth married police constable Bill Hoard, the local policeman. Luckily she told the younger members of her family about her experiences at the Old Rectory. For this we owe her a debt of gratitude.

50 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN AID

On the afternoon of Tuesday 19th September and as part of the celebration of 50 years of invaluable work by Christian Aid a meeting was held in St. Mary's Church House at which we were treated to an illustrated talk about the problems in El Salvador and how the people there are trying to cope with them. The talk was given by a charming young woman, Ana Maria Perez, who had travelled all the way here to tell us about that work and how they depend so much on the aid received from other countries. Ana Maria herself does not speak

English and so needed the assistance of an interpreter but in many ways the slides spoke for themselves. El Salvador, tucked away in the Southern end of Central America, suffers from lack of funds, poor communications and the loss of most of their forests on which basic survival depends. To get to the airport Ana had first of all to carry her baggage for eight hours, on foot and over rough terrain, in order to get to the nearest road where she could catch a bus for a long and tedious journey to the capital. With as little as

three or four years formal schooling behind her she had worked hard to get some basic qualifications in nursing and also in community caring. These she uses to great effect in helping her compatriots to cope with their day-to-day problems which are indeed great. When you hear that she also has a family of six children, the eldest being ten, you cannot but marvel at her tenacity and compassion, yet she looks youthful, unworn and extremely happy. It was indeed a privilege to meet and speak with her.

Vincent Kelly



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

BISHOP CRISPIAN COMES TO CAVERSHAM



- Mary Vidgen

After he had planted the shrub Bishop Crispian is pictured with the Revd Phil Abrey (Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham) and John Madeley (right) who arranged the ceremony in Caversham Court after the Service.

The Right Revd Crispian Hollis, Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, was the special speaker at an ecumenical service in September to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the introduction of the new Ecumenical Instruments which emphasise churches together. The Service was interspersed with sketches by the Mannafeast Drama Group from Christ Church, Woodley.

Meaning of Churches Together

In his address Bishop Crispian pointed out how we had moved on from the days when we worked as Councils (and were not bonded) to Churches Together, which makes a statement of where we are,

what we hope to do and where we are going. This demonstrated a commitment undertaken and one still to come. We had moved forward in understanding, in acceptance and rejoicing; there is now more that unites us than separates us. He said that we need to concentrate on our strengths and to recognise the love of God as individuals and as Churches. There is an urgent desire that through the love of God we are bonded together but this is a slow process which is painful and demanding; it requires the virtues of generosity and trust. There is no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart.

We cannot be face to face with God until we are face to face with each other. The two great commandments provide a simplistic way of understanding our journey together in a common pilgrimage, where the weaker are sustained. The Christian Churches need one another.

Signs of Love

Bishop Crispian spoke about collaborative ministry. The sign of love is our ability to work together, in partnership, with a recognition of gifts and being at ease with the gifts of others. Collaborative ministry he said is about community and sharing hope. While the tradition from which

ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING CELEBRATED IN CAVERSHAM



- O. Jewiss

Our photograph shows Sarah Reardon, third from left, with Canon Martin Reardon and the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillor David Geary and Mrs Rosemary King, at the San Francisco Libre Twinning Anniversary Service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

The first anniversary of Reading's official links with its third world twin town San Francisco Libre in Nicaragua was celebrated in September with an ecumenical service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church conducted by the Revd David Moody and which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress. The Mayor,

we come is important, our proclamation is in our ability to celebrate together, to love one another and the community. This is a statement of intention and achievement which gives us the cutting edge and teeth; it is on-going and never ends. Increasingly we need to seek to live in communion and strive for justice, love and peace for all people.

50 years of Christian Aid marked

The Service had to be moved into St Peter's Church from the hoped for open air arrangements in Caversham Court for the third time in six years because of the weather. However, conditions had improved sufficiently for Bishop Crispian and the congregation to move out into Caversham Court after the service for a shrub planting ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of Christian Aid. On a grey day the evocative varietal name of 'Pink Cloud' brought expectations of the Beauty Bush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) now planted close to the wall on the left of the entrance into the churchyard. At the same time members of the congregation were invited to donate money for tree planting in El Salvador, as a result of which a mini-forest of 280 trees has been sponsored by Caversham.

Owen Jewiss

Councillor David Geary, has a special interest in the link and earlier in the year appealed for money for the youth exchange scheme with San Francisco Libre. He and others from the Churches Support Group led the prayers. Special speaker at the service was Sarah Reardon, who only three weeks previously had returned from San Francisco Libre where she had been sponsored by Reading to work as a volunteer English teacher. In between the worship, some of which was in Spanish, Sarah gave a graphic, first hand account of life in San Francisco Libre, a desperately poor area of about 10,000 people on the north side of the lake opposite Managua, the capital.

Problems

Sarah Reardon congratulated Reading in making this link with San Francisco Libre since it provided an opportunity to make a difference in both places, with the people of Reading helping to work for a just world. She spoke of the cycle of degradation that had occurred as a result of a government change in Nicaragua in 1990 which had resulted in the campesinas, the peasant farmers, being unable to get credit. As a consequence many trees had been removed for sale as firewood to provide some income. This coupled with the fragility of the dry tropical climate had led to a succession of dry winters (normally the wet season) and the vicious circle of poor crops, more trees cut for sale, a lowering of the water table and therefore the increasing need for more wells.

- and solutions

An ecumenical centre had been set up which was providing more wells. The Thames Water Recycling Group was funding an educational project, known as 'Child to Child', which was concerned with health promotion. One district had a link with St Paul's Church in Reading. This area was generating income through a sewing cooperative which made clothes for sale locally. The district was building a church and recreational facilities for the young. Money had gone from Reading to provide the floor to the church and new English books in the school. These were the only books available to the children; all other learning comes from copying texts from the blackboard, a system which destroys creative skills. Others in the area were being encouraged in a programme of reafforestation where they planted the trees and established them by

undertaking the daily watering on an acre of land.

Our rôle

During her year in San Francisco Libre Sarah had been visited by her father, the Revd Canon Martin Reardon, who is also General Secretary of Churches Together in England. He preached at the service from his first hand experience of the area reminding us that we are entrusted to be God's ambassadors, to preach and live the good news. The way of the Kingdom is not to discriminate; we are all members of one another and have a ministry of reconciliation. He spoke of the great world fellowship of the ecumenical movement working for justice, peace and reconciliation. The involvement of the churches in the link with San Francisco Libre was doing just that and he commended us for it.

Owen Jewiss

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

MU OUTING TO KINTBURY



MU members with Edna and Alf in their garden—Edna is sixth from the left

Gill Hopkinson

Last year the congregations of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's were sad to say goodbye to Alfred and Edna Martyn-Johns who had made such a valuable contribution to the life and work of the church and the community in Caversham and Mapledurham. They retired from Greendene Farm on the Woodcote Road and moved to live in Kintbury, a village six miles beyond Newbury. Recently in September on a glorious Saturday afternoon twelve members of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's Mothers' Union went over at the Martyn-Johns' invitation to visit them in their new home. It was good to see them so well settled and already taking an active part in the life of the church and the village.

Before partaking of the excellent tea which Edna provided members crossed the road from the house to visit St. Mary's Church directly opposite. Here they admired the painted ceilings which have recently been restored and heard about the concert which was held a few weeks ago to celebrate the new peal of eight bells. There used to be only six but one of the

extra two was given in memory of the famous jockey, Sir Gordon Richards, who worshipped at the church for sixteen years. The money for the other was raised as a result of an appeal to the racing fraternity who responded handsomely. The Queen herself also contributed and recently visited the church to see the bells.

Then came a stroll down to the canal, passing on the way the house of Robert Harris, the bestselling author whose novel *Enigma* about codebreaking at Bletchley Park has recently come out in a blaze of publicity.

After tea and a tour with Alf round the wellstocked and flourishing garden, the company assembled once more in the church for Evensong, led by the Vicar the Revd Debby Plummer. This short time of praise to God and fellowship with each other provided a fitting ending to a delightful afternoon's outing. We drove home between fields bathed in soft evening sunshine. My aunt who had accompanied us as a guest said "I shall remember this afternoon for a long time to come". She spoke for us all. MT

THE REVEREND NEVILLE SMITH FORTY YEARS ON!

The Parish Church of St Mary Felpham, Bognor Regis, was filled with all those who joined with The Revd Neville Smith to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his ordination on the last Saturday in September.

His career included appointments to St Mary's Oldham, St Olave Mitcham, Succentor to Leicester Cathedral, Chaplain to St James and St Benedict Hospitals London, Vicar of Ivinghoe and Pitstone Buckinghamshire, and Chaplain of Queen

Anne's School Caversham. In retirement he is Honorary Assistant Priest of St Mary's Felpham.

Fr Smith presided over the traditional Eucharist, concelebrated with those clergy present. His son-in-law, Charles Hubbard, read the Old Testament lesson, Timothy Smith, his son, read the New Testament lesson and the Revd Michael Smith, his son, preached. The Smith grandchildren took the collection and made up the offertory procession. Members of

two choirs provided a wonderful augmentation to the Service.

Those present went to the Parish Community Centre after the Service to enjoy a buffet lunch and the presentation of various presents to Fr Smith and Joan, his wife. Everybody joined in singing 'Happy Birthday' to Hannah, the youngest granddaughter whose celebratory party had been postponed for this occasion.

A most joyous event to celebrate a life of service dedicated to God and mankind.

RIVERMARK CENTRE IN CAVERSHAM

Owing to lack of space the following photograph was omitted from the article in last month's paper.



Owen Jewiss

Photographed at the launch of the Gallery and Gift Shop are from left to right: Mrs Rosemary King, Mayoress, Councillor David Geary, Mayor of Reading, and Stuart and Anne McCubbin, the Proprietors of the Rivermark Centre.

HARVEST SUPPER WITH A DIFFERENCE AT ST MARGARET'S

It certainly was a brilliant idea of someone at St Margaret's to suggest the theme of a 1945 V.E. Day celebration for their Harvest Supper as there had been no organised event in Mapledurham on the actual day in May.

Red and blue balloons and union jacks and bunting replaced the usual decoration of sweet corn; tiny flags were stuck in the attractive

table decorations and popular music from fifty or more years ago filled the hall.

Several people wore something from that period. Ladies with head scarves tied in the fashion of the time reminded one of Gert and Daisy and Mrs Mop and a landgirl aptly appeared in her wellington boots.

It was a very successful and happy occasion and everyone enjoyed the usual delicious refreshments; they certainly were not made with dried egg and spam and whale steaks were not on the menu on Saturday September 30th at Trench Green hall.

After a repast that would have been unthinkable fifty years ago members of St Margaret's entertained with songs and poems ending with all joining in a sing-song from those times.

To everyone who helped to make it the usual happy evening, many, many thanks.

CAVERSHAM AGAIN

Yet another Caversham person has taken over the Chairmanship of the Churchpeople's luncheon club. Mr Bill Butler from St. Peter's welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress to the 30th anniversary of the Club's foundation on October 5th. The Club meets on the 1st Thursday of the month in St Lawrence's Church hall for a simple lunch and an interesting talk, as well as the opportunity of fellowship with likeminded friends. For further details please get in touch with Philip A. Wickens at 467 Basingstoke Road, Reading RG2 0JG. Tel: 01734 872878.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 1995

November 5	9am Holy Communion - Revd John Boakes 11am Mr Stuart Rooks of Henley 6.30pm Revd. Audrey Simpson (of Woodley)
November 11	2.30pm Church Bazaar
November 12	REMEMBRANCE DAY 11am Holy Communion; Boys Brigade Parade and Enrolment Service - Revd David Moody 6.30pm Mrs Elaine Creswell (of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church)
November 19	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Sunday - 11am Mr Frank Button (of Wesley, Queen's Rd) 6.30pm Holy Communion - Revd David Moody
November 26	Methodist Homes Sunday 11am Revd David Moody 6.30pm Mr Robin Gowers (of Caversham Heights)

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

OBITUARY

GEORGE SCHATUNOWSKI

George Schatunowski was a supremely intelligent man, born on 24 May 1915 in Kiev. His father was a Conductor of the Mariinski Opera in St Petersburg from whom George gained his love of Classical Music. His mother was an Accountant from whom he undoubtedly got his passion for study and writing.

His compulsory military training at University gained him the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force in 1937. He and Nina were married in July 1939 and he was called up in July 1941 as part of a light bomber squadron stationed in Azerbaijan.

George's unit suffered heavy losses as the Germans advanced. He flew almost 200 sorties and was shot down three times, the last at the approaches to Stalingrad at the end of 1942. Knowing the fate he could expect from the Germans as an Air Force officer, he changed uniforms and papers with a dead conscript. Although captured, he escaped from the first detention camp, only to be recaptured a week later.

Liberated by the British, his knowledge of languages and science were useful to the Military Government and in due course he was able to achieve his great desire to come and live in England.

In May 1947, George and Nina came to Yorkshire as European Volunteer Workers. After 14 months as a miner, George moved to Caversham in April 1949 to work for the BBC.

In addition to his work for the BBC, George taught Russian at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the Cambridge University Dept of Slavonic Studies and at Queen Anne's School in Caversham. He also did other translation work being fluent in other Eastern European languages, as well as German.

In 1975 when the first link up of the Soyuz Space Craft with the Apollo Mission was made, James Burke of "Tomorrows World" fame described George Schatunowski as his secret weapon. It was George's job to "monitor the Soyuz transmission and compare the actual messages with what the Russians say they are saying". Over the years he listened to many famous East European leaders, including Kruschev, to ascertain from innuendo, nuances and emphasis what was the hidden meaning of the actual words spoken.

George's retirement in 1976 as Chief Russian Monitor in the BBC gave him more time to indulge his passion for Music, Bridge, (both he and Nina were Master players), cookery (he

wrote two books on cookery and recipes) and the study of Science, Medicine, Astronomy and the complexities of Bridge. His personal library of reference books would deter most ordinary readers.

In April 1981, at the age of 65 George became a Freemason throwing himself wholeheartedly into Masonic activities.

Within the past two years there has been a revival of Freemasonry in Russia, and George was currently translating the Russian ritual into English and hoped to form a team to enact the ceremonies.

In true Russian tradition, George loved his family tremendously and was always talking about his children and grandchildren.

To Nina, Elena, Alex, Michael, Irene and the grandchildren we all offer our heartfelt sympathies with their sadness at this time. Many lives have been enriched by George's presence. His final instructions were that we should not have long faces, but drink his health and be cheerful.

Perhaps some words from one of George's favourite poems sums it up:- "Don't stand over my grave and cry - I am not here, I did not die."

Extracts from a reading at the crematorium on Thursday 7.9.95

TAKE-OVER OF PAULTONS PARK BY CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH!

A young member of the Baptist congregation reports:- On the 3rd September 53 friends set out for a fulfilled day at Paultons Park. The day started at 9.30am in the layby outside the Elizabeth House flats. Just as we got outside Reading it started to pour with rain, and all thought that we were in for a wet day, but as soon as we got to the Park it stopped and the sun came out and then stayed out all day.

From one year olds to 80 year olds everybody was catered for, from Kid's Kingdom and Bumper Boats to the Formula K Grand Prix Go-Karts and the beautiful gardens. At 1.00pm some of the group met at the cafe to have a packed lunch outside on the picnic tables. Afterwards, we met back at the Formula K Go-Karts for the "Gospel Grand Prix."

We had four races altogether. In the first and second four people were racing, in the third race there were eight competitors and for the fourth race we asked the staff if they could get three more Karts out so there were eleven on the track, including our Pastor, Rev. Peter Edwards, and a fun time was had by all.

Then we all got back on the coach arriving back in Reading at about 6pm having had a wonderful day.

Esther Ham

ST BARNABAS CHURCH ROOF APPEAL



- Owen Jewiss

Among the visitors at St Barnabas Open Day was Mr Ken Willett, son of the architect of the Church. He is seen on the left here talking to Mr Gordon Page former District Warden at St Barnabas and former Churchwarden of Caversham.

Thanks to the generosity of members of St Barnabas Church, the local community and friends of St Barnabas from further afield almost £6,000, close to a third of the cost of the roof repairs, had been donated to the roof fund at the time of going to press. On the Open Day and Thanksgiving Sunday on 30 September and 1 October there had been a steady stream of people to see the exhibition of the life and work of the Church. The newcomers to the area now involved in the Church learnt much about its previous history from the range of visitors with past connections who came. The appeal will remain open for a year and further donations will be gratefully received by the Vicar, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle, at 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, or Mr John Sansom at 3 Yarnton Close, Emmer Green. Cheques should be made payable to "St Barnabas Church Roof and Fabric Fund".

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WHITE WALTHAM AIRSHOW

AUGUST 5TH & 6TH WEEKEND

Just west of Maidenhead and slightly south of the A4 lies the White Waltham Airfield, base of the West London Aero Club. The airfield came into being in 1935 when the De Haviland Aircraft Co. Ltd acquired the land to form the De Haviland Flying School. In 1940 the airfield was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence and during World War 2 it became the headquarters of the Air Transport Auxiliary who celebrated their fiftieth anniversary at White Waltham in 1990.

Until 1968 the airfield was used as the headquarters of the RAF Home Command, 25 Group RAF, and the London University Squadron. Many notable people have learned to fly at White Waltham including His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Michael of Kent.

From 1945 until recently White Waltham has been the home of Fairey Aviation, the manufacturers of such aircraft as the Battle, Firefly, Fulmar, Gannet and Rotodyne, one of the latter being currently on display at the Berkshire Museum of Aviation at Woodley.

Since its inception in 1935, in

addition to its other roles, White Waltham has been a civil airfield and has been the home of the West London Aero Club since the early post war years.

For the two day airshow the gates were opened at 10am with the flying displays taking place between 2 and 5pm. Admission charges were £6 each for adults, £4 for children under fifteen and senior citizens, or £15 for a family ticket. There was a most informative and well produced official programme

ONCE THE HQ OF RAF HOME COMMAND

at £1, and it is from this that the above short history of White Waltham has been gleaned. There was ample car parking space, and there were no holdups in either entering or leaving the airfield - in short the organisation was first class.

The display aircraft static stand stretched the length of the spectators' enclosure, in front of which the aircraft were parked. This gave the amateur photographers excellent opportunities to take really close-up photos without the intrusion of spectators' heads! The spectators' area contained a number of trade and refreshment stands, and toilets. Spectators could also take a trip in one of three helicopters for a very reasonable price and the "choppers" were never short of passengers! The public address system was not overloud and the

from fields outside his caravan HQ; the third being the Monarch, a three seater version of the two seater Whitney-Straight, built in 1938.

There were numerous WW2 types including a superb flying display by two Supermarine Spitfires, a Chance Vought Corsair and a North American Mustang, plus the Westland Lysander built by Sabena's Oldtimers, a North American Texan in US Navy colours and, for me la piece de resistance, the Douglas Dakota and Piper L4 Cub, both sporting the black and white

NUMEROUS WW2 TYPES ON SHOW

stripes of their D Day markings. Another WW2 crate was a Russian Antonov AN2, a very large biplane which has a very low stalling speed - 35 mph would you believe!

I could go on but I think this short report will give you some idea of what a truly fascinating selection of aircraft was on display. It is possible that the Airshow Organisers may put on a similar show in 1996 and, if they do, my advice to you is not to miss it.

Finally, had it not been for the fact that TV programme Meridian Tonight publicised the airshow earlier in the previous week I should have missed this first rate spectacle on my own doorstep - thanks Meridian!

Peter Littlewood

FIRST CLASS ORGANISATION

commentaries from the numerous different commentators were very interesting and clearly audible above the noise of the aircraft engines.

The writer is a fan of piston engined aircraft and was delighted to see that only two jet aircraft were present, a Mig 15 and F-86 Sabre, both types used in the jet fighter combats of the Korean War. All the other aircraft which took part in the flying programme had piston engines, apart that is from the Mazda airship and Sam Mummery's aerobatics in the Pilatus glider.

From the World War I era were four SE 5a biplane scale built models, slightly smaller than the original SE 5as, and an all black Fokker-Triplane, the former having been built by the apprentices at Farnborough. There was also a full size replica of the Avro 504K, over ten thousand of these having been built between 1913 and 1933.

I was gratified to see that three types of Miles aircraft took to the skies - the Gemini, a four seater tourer; the Messenger, a light transport for VIP personnel such as Field Marshal Montgomery, the Messenger operating,

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**TROPHY AWARDED TO
BOYS FOR SERVICE TO
SCHOOL**

When Mr Hugh Llewelyn left Highdown School in 1981 after six years as Head of Lower School he gave the Llewelyn Trophy to be awarded annually to a pupil in the lower school who had made the best all round contribution to the school during the past year. In 1995 the honour is shared between two 13 year old pupils, Nicholas Grimshaw from Caversham Park and David Morrow from Coley Park, now in year 9. Mrs Jan Harris, the present Head of Lower School, said "The boys deserved the award because they were always there to lend a hand - without having to be asked!" Since David Morrow also won the award in 1994 Nicholas Grimshaw will be its custodian for the next year.

Among other recent happenings at Highdown School has been a very successful Open Evening in late September of which new Headteacher, Mr Alan Furley said: "We were delighted to be host to so many prospective parents. One of the questions foremost in their minds in view of the national financial difficulty most schools are facing, is class size. We were able to reassure parents that by careful financial management here, we have kept average class sizes as low as possible - for example Year 7 - 28, Year 8 - 23, Year 9 - 24 and Year 10/11 (GCSE groups) - 21."



- O. Jewiss

The 1995 recipients of the Llewelyn Trophy, David Morrow and Nicholas Grimshaw (on the right) proudly display their award outside Highdown School.

**the
CLUBS**

Caversham W.I.

The President, Miss Cameron, welcomed members back after the summer break. The two summer

garden parties raised nearly £100 for charity.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs Sylvia Myszor for arranging the recent darts evening.

The speaker, Mr Noyes, proved very popular with programme No. 1 of his series on the changing face of Reading. The cry of "I remember that" greeted many of the scenes and a return visit from Mr Noyes is a must.

Members were reminded about preparations for the Autumn Fair on October 28th at Caversham Hall.

Rosehill W.I.

"In the steps of Darwin: a visit to the Galapagos Islands" was the title of the talk given by Mrs Edwina Child at the September meeting. Members enjoyed an account of a tour that

included visits to the mountains of the Andes and Amazon Rain Forests as well as the Galapagos islands. An excellent set of slides illustrated wildlife of the areas including turtles like those studied by Darwin when he visited the islands in 1835.

The president reported on two successful fundraising events, a coffee morning at the home of Mrs Coomes, and a garden party in Mrs Strong's garden. An outing to Lakeside Shopping Centre at Thurrock is being planned for 7 November.

At the meeting on 1 November (St Barnabas Hall 2.0pm) Mrs Muriel Parsons will speak on "the history of the Mansion House Reading".

**Caversham
Community
Association**

September began with the popular arts and crafts competition evening. There were eighty-two entries in the various classes so the judges were kept busy.

The prizewinners were:
Photography:

- Animal - Joan Annetts
- View - Betty
- Petherbridge
- Portrait - Pat Fry
- Flowers - Freda Haines
- Cooking:**
- Rockcakes - Margaret Cameron
- Shortbread - Betty Colton
- Tea Loaf - Wendy Colton
- Mince Pies - Wendy Colton
- Knitting:**
- Adult Garment - Betty Colton
- Child's Garment -

- Maida Feast
- Needlework - Brenda Strong
- Flowers:**
- General arrangement - Margaret Cameron
- Flowers and Fruit - Margaret Cameron
- Jam Jar - Pat Haines
- Miniature - Beryl Latcham
- The Cup for the best flower entry went to Pat Haines.

The following week members enjoyed various board games,

turn to page 11

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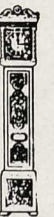
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the CLUBS

from page 10

cards and shove ha'penny games. The guest for the harvest supper was the Revd Peter Edwards from the Baptist Church. Members sat down to a supper of sandwiches, scones, apple pie and cream prepared by the committee. A large display of produce brought by members was then raffled, the money going to club funds. A basket of delicious food was sent to Joan Henwood with wishes for a speedy recovery.

The month ended with a social event - a gypsy party which was a good excuse for games and social dancing. The winner of the fancy dress competition was Claire Briggs, the youngest member.

Caversham Ladies Club

It was the Club's Harvest Festival meeting and the long table was a delight to see with all the gifts members had brought along.

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the members and thanked them for their kind contributions. Club business was discussed and completed satisfactorily. The Garden Party held at the Chairman's bungalow was very enjoyable and successful, and it looked so summery, members sitting on garden chairs amidst flowers, with sunshades and umbrellas shading

them from the bright sunshine. A real summer treat!

It was now time for the selling of harvest goodies, but firstly, as in past years, the Harvest Queen was chosen. This year the lucky lady was Mrs Penney, and members clapped to show their appreciation. Soon, in the capable hands of Mrs Weston, the Club's own 'auctioneer', the selling began with plenty of laughs and quips over the produce. It was soon looking a lot emptier and at the end of the sale a very welcome 'cuppa' was most enjoyable.

Before closing the meeting Mrs Strong reminded members who left well laden and happy after a very enjoyable afternoon that the next gathering was their autumn sale.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild met on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm.

Arts & Crafts. This section of the Guild on July 18th had an old-fashioned English afternoon tea party in Mrs Perrin's beautiful garden.

Words & Music. The theme until Christmas will be "Brush up your Shakespeare". The October meeting will be Monday 30th, 2.15pm, 41 Rosehill Park.

Ramblers. Members have enjoyed their walks through August and September, average 6 to 7 miles, Coxley Green to Russells Water, Nettlebed to Bix.

There was no Guild meeting in August but a very enjoyable Garden Party was held on 10th August in glorious weather.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

It was a hot mid-August day for the annual garden party. Committee member Mrs Adair offered the use of her garden again this year and also provided a variety of brightly coloured sun brollies to give welcome shade. With the usual raffle, and competitions followed by tea, an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

The speaker for the September meeting was Mrs Rita Noyes (a Guild member). Her talk "From Pillar to Palace", accompanied by slides, gave a comprehensive and detailed insight into the building of what, because of its position, was to become a landmark - the Crystal Palace. Work commenced in 1852 and in 1854 the Crystal Palace was officially opened by Queen Victoria. Sadly this historic landmark was destroyed by fire in November 1936.

Twenty-two members took part in the visit to Burnham Beeches in October and, again in October, a ramble was arranged for those wishing to take part. Arrangements are also being made for a trip to the pantomime at the Hexagon in January.

Several visitors were welcomed to this meeting and the Guild will be pleased to see new members/visitors at their meetings at Church House, Caversham on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The meeting this month followed a different format, when the chairman opened the meeting she was sitting amongst all the members of the committee. After the usual business had been dealt with, Margaret Mellin introduced each committee member in turn and they spoke on the part they

played in helping to run the Guild. Questions asked led to discussion which was a good opportunity for new members to learn about everything. Every month the table is adorned with a flower arrangement and after the Birthday Members have received their cards, they draw lots for it. This month it was won by Mildred Hutchison. The Drama Group have started rehearsals for a new play and arrangements were made for outings to the Hexagon and Sonning Theatres.

The Guild's scrap books were on display, they start from 1961 and are very interesting and nostalgic. Angela Lovewell has been doing an admirable job as the custodian and the producer of these books.

As Guild funds were extremely low a Bring and Buy sale was held and very ably supported by members. It was very successful and boosted the funds exceptionally well.

Members of the Social Studies group were very enthusiastic about the speaker of the puzzle "What links Reading to St. James, Venus and a famous oil company?" Mrs Crozier had brought two large suitcases full of shells and enthralled everyone with their life cycle and how and where she had collected them. The following meeting would be Harold Hill from the Reading Evening Post to speak about Old Reading.

Coffee was served much earlier than usual, giving members the opportunity to have a good chat to their friends instead of a quick greeting at the end of the meeting.

countryside around Binfield Heath, ending with a convivial halt for refreshments.

In September Doug Noyes brought along one of his six "Changing Faces in Reading" audio-visual presentations. These depict Reading from the mid-1960s showing how it has changed. It was then that the demolition ahead of the construction of the Inner Distribution Road, IDR, began. Each presentation concentrates on one area, and the one shown centred on the roads surrounding the site now occupied by the Broad Street Mall, Ramada and Hexagon. His two projectors enabled pictures of old and new Reading to merge into each other and an interesting commentary, rich in anecdotes, was provided. Complete and part roads have disappeared from the area as well as about one hundred shops and many homes. Those in the audience who had known Reading since before the mid-1960s were delighted to recognise shops, public houses and other landmarks which had once been so familiar to them, but had disappeared in the march of progress.

A stall in aid of the Sue Ryder Home will be selling a variety of goods in St Martin's precinct on 4 November.

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