



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



**WHAT'S
ON
IN CAVERSHAM?**

A time to pray together . . .

* * *

Sunday 21st January

4.00pm at St. Anne's, Southview Avenue
Evening Prayer in the Catholic tradition

A time to learn together . . .

* * *

Tuesday 23rd January

7.45pm at Caversham Heights Methodist Church,
Highmoor Road

"Why am I a Methodist?" Led by David Moody and
John Boakes

* * *

Thursday 25th January

7.45pm at Caversham Baptist Free Church,
Prospect Street

"Why am I a Baptist?" Led by Peter Edwards

Do you know what Baptists and Methodists in Caversham believe and practice? No? Then why not come and learn more about the practice and principles of belief of those who are Baptists and Methodists. After the talk there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the ministers and lay people.

Further details from Phil Abrey (475152).

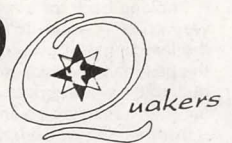
HIGH SYNOD ROLE FOR CAVERSHAM MAN

Congratulations to Caversham resident Dr Philip Giddings who has been elected to the important role of Lay Vice-Chairman of the General Synod. This is one of six positions of considerable influence on the General Synod. After the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, there are two Prolocutors; these are the senior positions in the House of Clergy, one each for the provinces of Canterbury and York. There are then a Lay Chairman and Lay Vice-Chairman.

Philip Giddings is a Reader at Greyfriars Church and has been a member of General Synod for ten years. He is well known in the Oxford Diocese and has been Lay Vice-President on the Diocesan Synod since 1988. He is also a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Reading and is Chairman of the Governing Body of Kendrick School.

In the past Dr Giddings was Lay Chairman of the Reading Deanery Synod and is the second Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod to take an important role in the General Synod; Mr Philip Mawer, the Secretary-General, was also formerly a local Lay Chairman.

THE QUAKER POSITION ON STATE-SPONSORED GAMBLING



The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has throughout its 350-year history taken a strong stand against games of chance. The Advices and Queries, which offer guidance to Friends and which all Friends are invited to consider as the insights of the Society, urge Quakers "to resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance."

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Society issued recently a statement on "the National Lottery and Public Life" reiterating this testimony. Friends are opposed to the promotion of large-scale gambling by the Government which fosters the idea that it is right to hope for something for nothing, is a misuse of resources, promotes addiction to gambling and encourages the belief that fulfilment and happiness depend upon riches. The Religious Society of Friends will not itself seek any grants from the National Lottery and is divesting itself of shares held in member-companies of Camelot.

Quakers accept that to seek to end the National Lottery is not a realistic, short-term aim but this remains their ultimate objective. In the meantime, Friends will join with members of other churches and organisations to press for the following changes:

- A prize limit of £1 million
- No roll-over payouts, the cash involved being paid direct to the National Charities Board
- Withdrawal of "Instants" game scratchcards
- A ban on television advertising of the National Lottery to prevent children and young people being encouraged to gamble
- Outlets to be confined to controlled premises to prevent pressure for deregulation from other parts of the gambling industry
- The establishment forthwith of a Gambling Research Council to provide facts on the effects of the present scheme.

A Very Happy New Year To All Our Readers

TALKING POINT

by
The Revd Bill Carpenter
Vicar of St. Andrew's



CAN WE ABSORB THE RAGGED EDGES?

January is a dreary month, isn't it. Some of you may have your decorations still up because it is not yet Twelfth Night, but that will not last long. There is only one worse month of the year, and that is February. For me, January is my birthday month. I am an Aquarian, but someone has decided that years ago some bright spark got it wrong and has introduced another sign of the Zodiac. Now I don't know what I am. Why does there always have to be someone who messes about with the way things always have been? I was very happy the way things were.

I am sure this goes for our church life as well, whatever denomination we belong to. It seems that life has become much more demanding, unpredictable, even challenging, and we worry a bit. We wonder whether we are able to cope. The winter draught is blowing in the comfortable corridors of our weekly worship and commitment to the annual Fete.

Because it is my birthday month and because January ushers in the new year, I take perhaps a more "Janus-like" attitude than most. Janus (after which the month of January was named) had, you may have learned, two heads facing in opposite directions. One for looking into the past, and one for the future. We all enjoy looking into the past, sometimes with rose-tinted spectacles. Having or sharing some kind of vision for the future and helping in some way its coming about is very different and not at all an easy thing to do.

Looking back for a moment, to January 1948 to be precise, I was a very irritating youth to all the tradesmen, the milkman, the gardener, the lamplighter (I even managed to scrounge a gas mantle from him!), the postman, the local bobby . . . My parents were having an extension built to their house right at the height of all the building restrictions. The flat roof was going on and I was asking a load of silly questions. I found out something which has always fascinated me. The asphalt which was being spread liberally to the roof came from a lake somewhere in America. This lake was just like a lake of water but was made of this black tarry stuff. Every morning workmen with lorries, pickaxes and pneumatic drills would drive onto the surface of this lake, dig up this asphalt just as they would dig up a road, load this material onto the lorries and drive away. The next day they would return and there would be no sign of their previous visit. The hole they left the previous day had filled up as if the lake were made of water.

This might be a parable for our lives as Christians. Rock solid in our determination and based on an immovable foundation of our Lord's teaching, such that it needs a pickaxe even to make a dent. But if someone or something comes along which disturbs the perfect surface of our existence, are we reliant enough to absorb the ragged edges of the intrusion, and flexible and elastic enough to fill in the hole left by our damaged pride and comfort? It may be the Lord who had come with lorry and pneumatic drill to urge us to stop complaining and to start working - for Him.

In the next five years up to the millennium, Christians are in for a hard time. We are going to be asked to give more in time and money even to stand still. We are being asked to do more and to show more commitment, to be as elastic as asphalt. We are being asked to share a vision with our leaders and ministers to ensure that we all do our part to bring about that vision. All of this when it appears that we have less and less time to do it.

Can we make 1996 a year when we resolve to absorb our discomfort, knowing where our priorities really lie as we respond to our call as Christians? As we look to the past, we realise that we do not really wish to go back to horse-drawn milk floats and gas street lights. The Christian Community has also moved on since those days, providing new vision and new ways to serve our Lord. The holes left in our own personal asphalt lake will soon smooth over as long as we are not always using the Janus head which faces the past and are accepting the challenges which the future will undoubtedly bring, being malleable enough to accept new tasks and new ways of doing things.

POSTBAG

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's

8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's

8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)
First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns)
6.30pm Evening Prayer
An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

St Barnabas'

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH

(Caversham Park Primary School)
11.00am Family Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
10.30am and 6.30pm

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

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

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road

11.00am every Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading

10.30am
Caversham Church House - Meeting for Worship 7.30pm. (last Sunday)
House study groups Sept-June Tel: 475783.

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Dear Editors,

Through the letter column of your paper I would like to thank the people of Caversham and the surrounding area for their extremely generous donations to the 1995 Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal. So far we have raised over £8,000 (we still have a few donations to come in). This represents a rise of £1,000 over 1994. With the arrival of the National Lottery we were understandably anxious about this year's Appeal but we are delighted with this fabulous total. Ninety-two pence of every pound donated goes towards the work of the Royal British Legion.

Thank you all for your very generous contributions, and thanks to all who collected house to house and stood in the streets with the collecting boxes.

Yours etc.

Trish Gregson

Hon. Organiser for the Poppy Appeal,
Caversham and Mapledurham

The Cottage,
26 Highmoor Road, Caversham

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
(The Rev. Andrew Tyler, Hon. Asst Priest)
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
The Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,
The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.
The Rev Sheila Nunn, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 475152.

METHODIST

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

BAPTIST

Rev Peter Edwards, 14 Tredgar Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 477697

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

Church office 474529

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Anthony Jones, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
The Rev John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

Rev. A. N. Lawrence, 6a Hemdean Road. Tel: 543608.

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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 February issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 3 January. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 2 January

The dates for March will be Monday 29 January and Wednesday January 31

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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The Editors thank other correspondents for their letters and regret that it has not been possible to print them all.

THEATRE

ARMS AND THE MAN

Caversham Theatre's winter production was 'Arms and the Man', one of Shaw's most charming and amusing plays in which he sets about pricking the bubble of Byronic heroics and exposing the mercenary face of war. His agent is Captain Bluntschli, a professional Swiss officer in the Serbian army who, when in retreat from Bulgarians, shins up a drainpipe to safety. He finds himself in the bedroom of Raina Petkoff, a romantic Bulgarian girl delightfully portrayed by Kathy Munns.

Raina worships her hero, Major Sergius Saranoff, who is a dashing, noble-minded cavalry officer, and is mortified when Bluntschli ridicules his rash and foolish conduct on the battle-

field. Nevertheless, with the connivance of her mother, elegantly played by Lis Martin, Raina manages both to effect Bluntschli's escape and to fall in love with him during their brief encounter.

By the second act the war is over. The head of the family, Major Paul Petkoff, given nicely judged blimpishness by Bob Green, returns home as does Sergius, though the latter is resolved to leave the army because he has become painfully aware that a successful military career demands brains rather than bravado.

Having shed his heroics, Sergius also sheds his nobility of mind and does a bit of flirting with Louka, the maid-servant of the Petkoffs, whose proud, insolent

character was well cameoed by Denise Bickerton. Raina's heroic vision comes to an end when she spots Sergius's behaviour, as do the hopes of the family's manservant, Nicola, played effectively by Martin Leckie, when Louka rejects him and claims Sergius.

Peter Ludlow had the build needed for Sergius to tower over Richard Stainthorp's Bluntschli. Unfortunately the amateur theatre has not the resources to find actors who exactly fit the parts, and Sergius could have done with some of Richard's clipped military speech and disdainful air, whilst Bluntschli could have done with some of Peter's amiable grins to make more credible Raina's "poor darling" as she contrives his escape.

The versatile set served well as bedroom, walled garden and 'library', though the garden scene could have been given depth and enhanced interest by a simple, summery distant view beyond the walls. Particular mention must be made of the excellent costumes, not hired, but cleverly made by Jill Green and Pat Blundell.

The company must have gained much satisfaction from putting on a classic of this calibre, and the producer, Jackie Case, from having given the audiences great enjoyment.

HELP! I'M A PARENT



Children enjoying the Creche.



Some of the participants on the course.

On behalf of Churches Together in Caversham, a Parenting Course entitled "Help! I'm a Parent" was organised in Lower Caversham. It ran for six Wednesday mornings in October and November and was held in the Methodist Church Hall, Ardler Road. Twentyfive people attended - twice as many as expected - and commitment was high.

The course was led by Sheila Booth and Stella Jackson from Greyfriars Church, Reading. It covered such themes as Acceptance, Communication, Discipline, and Values - introduced by using videos and handouts. Some lively discussions followed.

"Help! I'm a Parent" was well received by those who came along. There was a general feeling of its being useful, worthwhile and enjoyable. The parents appreciated that a creche was available and were grateful to all the volunteers from the four Lower Caversham churches who gave up their time to look after the children.

Anne Ballard &
Cathy Freddi



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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

ONE WAY ABANDONED

The big news, greeted with cheers throughout Caversham, was that the proposed one-way system in the central area has been dropped. Massive and, in the residential streets concerned, effectively unanimous opposition had been successful. Even those living outside the immediate area who could see some merits in the proposals, were not prepared to push their case when it would have meant condemning those in the midst to round the clock disturbance. Unlike the governments of France and Nigeria, the Borough Council was not prepared to forge ahead with its proposal in the teeth of such a widespread expression of public opinion.

The net result is not all roses and sunshine, as it still leaves untouched most of the area's traffic problems, along with the possibility that the money which was available for use within a certain period may also have disappeared.

LEVEL PAVEMENTS AT LAST

A very welcome sight in central Caversham is the new asphaltting of footways which have been in a poor state of repair, partly from the ravages of time, partly from the ravages of Telecentral, for far, far, too long. The paving slabs on the west wide of Bridge Street were in a particularly hazardous state and must have been the cause of more than one insurance claim on the Borough, so it is pleasing to see some money being spent on making life safer for pedestrians instead of most of it being lavished on motorists.

RIVERSIDE WALKS

Again not before time, the riverside area next to Caversham Bridge where Salters used to be, has been upgraded by general tidying up, and the provision of a pathway from the entry by Waterman place. This used to be a

particularly difficult bit for anyone pushing a baby buggy.

It is, however, a different story when it comes to walking along the towpath between the two bridges, and this is a popular and attractive way of going to the town centre or the railway station. It can also be part of a pleasant circular tour along one bank and back along the other. The snag is that it is essential to walk along this stretch of path with eyes downcast, for it has become a free for all for dogs whose owners seem to think it is perfectly acceptable for their pets to relieve themselves there when they would prevent it on normal footpaths.

Anyone who dares risk raising their eyes cannot help seeing the very large development going on between Vastern Road and the river. It is too big of course, but although commercial interests always prevail when it comes to size, it will be an improvement on what was formerly there, and care has gone into its design so that it will bring some benefits to its riverside site. Wide open spaces would be lovely, but it is very difficult to get away from the pattern set by the Victorians who had little regard for the banks of their town's waterways.

EATING AND DRINKING

There is a plan in for a change of use for a restaurant in place of the former nightclub next to Caversham Bridge. It could be an attractive place for a meal, with a balcony overlooking the river, though car parking could be a problem and the effect on the newly restored Bucks Eyot would have to be considered.

The real question, and this is not a planning matter, is how many more eating places and watering holes this area can take. There is already a surprising number within a couple of hundred yards either side of the bridge. If the distance

is stretched to take in Caversham Road as far as the Vastern Road roundabout and Church Street and Prospect Street, the number is even more surprising. Try counting them. Caversham and Caversham Road is rapidly becoming the town's 'nite spot'. The question is, can they all survive?

BUS NEWS

The bus border in Briant's Avenue is causing problems for motorists, as they don't expect it, and drive into it. It's there to make life better for those getting on and off buses.

Most motorists accept that there are too many cars on the road, but, of course, it is always the other person's and not theirs. The only way of reducing them is to make other methods of transport more attractive and it takes a lot of getting used to after years of making bigger and better roads for cars, that these improvements for buses can impinge on motorists' expectations. These bus borders should be given a fair trial (they work in other towns) and only abandoned if it is shown that they cause more problems than they solve.

EVENING BUSES

Cllr. Pugh informs me that changes are about to take place (and may already have, by the time this is read) to the evening 61 and 12 buses. The No. 12 ceases to run in the early evening, the last one leaving the railway station at 6.32pm; which leaves a large residential area without an evening bus. The idea is to amalgamate this service with the 61 from seven o'clock onwards, at which point the 61 is reduced to a less than generous one an hour, and this service will then run round the outer parts served by the No. 12 before rejoining its route. This is something that will be very welcome by non-car owners and those getting off a train after 6.30pm.

It is still a sad fact

that if buses are not well used (and the area concerned is one of high car ownership) the frequencies will be reduced, and when the frequency is reduced then the bus is even less used.

It is not a very attractive proposition to come out of the Hexagon or somewhere in the town centre, and be faced with a forty-five minute wait for a bus, so out comes the car - and down goes the number of late evening bus users. But they still need catering for.

BUS LOOP

This column does not often wander out of Caversham or its immediate environs, but whilst on the subject of buses, this is a matter that will be of interest to the large numbers of Caversham people who use the town centre. A new traffic package for Reading has been unveiled, and part of this involves a bus loop round the inner core, which will free other streets for pedestrianisation and make buses a more attractive option. The scheme has many merits, but also one serious drawback. The loop route is set to

pass through Town Hall Square on its way from Friar Street to the Market Place. This must at all costs be resisted. Town Hall Square is one of the great successes of pedestrianisation. In good weather it is enjoyed by the many who just sit there, partake of refreshments, or watch any entertainment in progress, and at all times it provides space in Reading's historic centre. It has been paved for light use only, at considerable expense. A stream of buses passing through in order to take a minute or so off a journey is totally unacceptable.

Those buses can run along Valpy Street and to the Market Place beside St. Laurence's church. The added minute is not going to deter people from using them. It would provide a bus stop near the Forbury Gardens, which many town centre users rarely see. It would also save the Borough Council from loss of credibility if they dismantle such a recently installed success as Town Hall Square.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

WORK AND WORSHIP



—O. Jewiss

Those involved in the Work and Worship Service in the Minster Church of St Mary are (from left to right) the Revd Brian Shenton (Anglican Rural Dean and Vicar of St Mary's), Sue Penson (ITEM Industrial officer), the Revd Elizabeth Brazell (Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading) and the Revd Fintan Phelan (Industrial Chaplain in the South London Industrial

'Work and Worship' was the theme of an Ecumenical Service held in the Minster Church of St Mary early in November. Organised by Reading's Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM) and masterminded by the Industrial Officer Sue Penson, a resident of Emmer Green, the Service affirmed work activity as an essential part of our life and in many respects could be likened to an Industrial Harvest Festival. Although the church was not decorated with industrial products it staged an industrial exhibition with displays from a number of local organisations, representatives of which took part in the service, which was conducted by the Revd Elizabeth Brazell, Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading.

The special preacher, the Revd Fintan Phelan of the South London Industrial Mission, traced out involvement in work from Genesis, pointed out that we are co-partners with God in looking after the earth and striving to make the world a better place. In the pursuit of social justice he

went back to Moses. Father Fintan questioned issues concerned with wealth creation, the free market and modern business practices. He also raised the problem of unemployment, job training for the young who then have no jobs, and of older people who become victims of change and are unable to work. He spoke about the need for sacrifice and compromise in dealing with these issues. The Church, he emphasised, could not afford to ignore the realities in the lives of working people. People were still a priority and all things were under God. Our purpose is to know and love God in this life so that we may be with him in the next. Christ is at the centre of life; love should penetrate all we do.

Among the displays were the work of the National Rivers Authority, John Crane (U.K.) Ltd, Rathbone Community Industry, Reading Industrial Therapy Organisation Ltd, Community Partnerships which came under the aegis of the Borough Council, Ethical and Financial, Christian Community Action, Luton

St Andrew's Fellowship

St Andrew's Fellowship met on 9th November to revive an old favourite, popular with members some years ago, namely play reading. Mrs Sheila Hodson, barely recovered from a bout of flu, nobly led the cast reading a play she had selected. Members volunteered to read the parts of an amusing comedy which caused much laughter and everybody agreed they would like to do another reading on some future occasion.

CHRISTIAN LISTENERS

A one day workshop to introduce the work of listening as a part of the church's healing ministry will take place on Saturday 24th February 1996 at Caversham Baptist Free Church from 10am to 4.15pm. The tutors will be John & Pam Edmonds-Seal from Oxford and the course fee is £8 (concessions on request). Further information and application forms from Pat Antell 474787 or Sheila Goldsmith 475303 after 7.00pm.

LINK GROUP 21st PARTY

... and a wonderful time was had by all! Link Group founder member, Doreen Bennett, generously hosted the party and some of the guests were also founder members - Cathy Pynn, Paula Andrews and the Revd. Stephen Bartlett (now living in London), among others. A more recent member, Vera Scott, had returned from her new home in Kent.

Doreen had devised a quiz based on the history of the Link Group and

Joyce Beacroft, Terri Collier and Mary Denness shared memories of the early days when the group was called Family Festival Charities.

Pat Jenkins, the current Chairman, cut the birthday cake which was decorated with the Link Group emblem of joined hands, and a toast was raised to the Group's past and future success.

... And the Link Group will be carol singing on the 18th December at Summerfields, Goldendale and Arthur Clark residential homes; if you want to join us, ring Barbara Graham on 482043,



—Barbara Graham

Cutting the cake. Left to right: Pat Jenkins, the Revd. S. Bartlett and Doreen Bennett.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

FOCUS ON THE WOMEN'S CENTRE



- O. Jewiss

Partners photographed at the Women's Centre Presentation Evening are (from left to right) June Green (Chairperson), the Revd Elizabeth Brazell (Chaplain and also Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading), Garvey Richards, Mrs Rosemary King (Mayoress), Jean, The Revd Tom Stuckey (Vice President), Deaconess Margaret Robinson, Sheila Goldsmith (Coordinator) and Margaret Stedeford.

Three years ago the Churches in Reading opened a Women's Centre in the Wesley Methodist Church Hall in Queen's Road, Reading. That was the realisation of a vision by the founder, Constance Gooding, for a Centre as a safe place for women to go during the day. How that vision has been carried forward by the present team of dedicated workers, under the coordinating eye of Mrs Sheila Goldsmith of Caversham Baptist Free Church was demonstrated recently at a Presentation Evening and an Open Day.

Approach and Activities

How the Centre works was described to a large

audience during the Presentation Evening by Deaconess Margaret Robinson. Key approaches and activities were described by keywords. Thus after Constance Gooding's retirement a *Group* drawn from many churches came together as a team to pursue her vision. Their *Recipe* is a friendly, positive, non-discriminating, non-pressurised approach through which women are valued, totally accepted and empowered to develop, particularly when given space, new friends and when their confidence and skills are allowed to develop. *Achievements* have come through dressmaking, crafts, typewriting and word processing skills,

plus courses on parenting, first aid and assertiveness. *Physical* needs are being looked after through the provision of a well balanced lunch, the menus for which can be taken home as examples. Not all those coming to the Centre would buy fruit and vegetables so food parcels are sent home. Cooking lessons and advice on budgeting are given; there are keep fit classes, and the Well Women Clinic and Neutral Zone come to deal with such topics as contraception, AIDS and drugs. *Emotional* needs of those attending are met by letting them work through their feelings and sharing them with others. This process involves the valuable work of listening,

for which a lot of people are needed. The *Spiritual* dimension of the Centre is not overt; although the Gospel message is not verbally communicated, it is by action, by love and acceptance and through support in prayer.

When visually displayed the initial letters of the six headings spelt out the word *GRAPES*, the fruit of the vine. We were reminded that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. An expression of that fruit was given by Jean, one of the partners of two years standing, in dialogue with Deaconess Robinson which served as a testimony to the effectiveness of the Centre. (As part of a non-discrimination policy all those coming to the Centre, whether to help or to be helped, are known as partners.)

Future Plans and Needs

Sheila Goldsmith revealed new developments and future plans. Among these is the possibility of opening on a Saturday morning in addition to the regular Tuesday and Wednesday all day opening. Although some partners have moved on and are now undergoing training courses elsewhere, they still regard the Centre as "their family". These former partners have a need to drop in for a chat. In addition to the Hall two rooms in the Manse are now in regular use, one for dressmaking and video training and the other as a quiet room/chapel and for counselling and listening.

We in the Churches should be aware of the needs of the Centre. Foremost is the support through prayer which Margaret Stedeford spoke about; this included a scheme of prayer partners which is facilitated by bimonthly Prayer Bulletins covering every aspect of the Centre's work. Sheila Goldsmith also highlighted the other needs which include funding, physical help and material gifts. The Centre is totally dependent on gifts and grants, which mostly come from individuals groups and Churches; the Reading Borough Council have given a starter grant. Outgoings include rent and insurance and travelling expenses, as well as the cost of food, although the partners are charged a very modest amount for lunch. There is a desperate need for help with the cooking, especially on Wednesdays; craft and music skills are needed; help is also needed for fund raising, people with listening and counselling skills are also needed. The work of the Centre was affirmed by those present and brought before God at the end of the Presentation Evening in a Service conducted by the Chaplain and Councillor, the Revd Elizabeth Brazell, who quoting *Luke 9.11*, reminded us that at the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus welcomed them; spoke to them about the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed it. As his ambassadors today our task is to continue that ministry by leading others to Jesus.

NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S

Or should it be 'News from Birmingham'? There have been reports in the press for some time now concerning the possible formation of a new 'Thames Valley' diocese comprehending the county of Oxfordshire and the greater part of Berkshire. The Archbishop of Birmingham, whose diocese would relinquish Oxfordshire and that part of Berkshire lying north of the Thames, including Caversham, to form part of the new diocese, has now issued a consultation document to provide a basis for discussion in the parishes affected.

The document explains that, at present, Berkshire and Oxfordshire are the Northern and Southern extremities respectively of the existing diocese of Portsmouth and Birmingham making them somewhat remote from their diocesan centres and that, together, the two counties have a 'natural' unity. For example, their principal road communications, the M4, M40 and the A34, link the main towns of the region. The 'outlook' of the people of most of the area is neither North nor South; for many it is East to London whither a lot of them commute, though the region also has its own large industrial and commercial establishments and some shared services such as, for example, the Thames Valley Police. Already, the Church in the area shares some facilities between the existing diocese with parishes near the present boundary serving populations from both and some schools, such as Reading's Hugh Faringdon, having catchment areas in both dioceses.

The document puts forward a number of points for discussion such as: would the formation of a new diocese help its priests and people to have a greater sense of belonging to a diocese which is their 'local church'; was the size and make-up of the new diocese the optimum; would the formation of the new diocese enable its Bishop more effectively to carry out his pastoral duties; to what extent would the proposal help improve existing pastoral care and would the proposed diocese be able to foster sufficient vocations to the priesthood and religious life?

Within Caversham, an open meeting was held at St Anne's on Friday December 8th at which these and other relevant points were discussed following which parishioners would be invited to indicate their preferences in a ballot. The Archbishop had asked that everyone should express their opinion and emphasised that no decision had yet been taken and that the Bishops' Conference would be advising Rome on the basis of all necessary information including the recommendations of parishioners - final decision would rest with the Holy Father. Meanwhile, 'Thames Valley' was simply a working name and no title or cathedral had been decided.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH DIARY

7th January	11am Covenant Service - Rev. David Moody 6.30pm Rev. Tom Stuckey
14th January	11am Mrs. Audrey Cooper of Tilchurst 6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev. David Moody
21st January	11am 'Revelation' (Drama Group)
28th January	11am Professor John Marsh of Wesley 6.30pm Youth Service - Rev. David Moody

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

MORE ECUMENICAL CO-OPERATION



- O. Jewiss

Our picture shows contributors and organisers at the LEP Consultation in Woosehill. They are (from left to right) Sister Janet Wilcox (former County Ecumenical Officer), the Revd David Clark (Acting County Ecumenical Officer and Minister at St Paul's URC), the Revd Canon Martin Reardon (General Secretary of Churches Together in England) and Dr Owen Jewiss (Chairman of Churches Together in Berkshire).

Caversham Park Ecumenical Church was well represented in the recent consultation held between participants in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) throughout Berkshire at Woosehill Community Church in Wokingham. Those present represented four types of partnerships: Church Partnerships, like Caversham Park Church, Covenant Partnerships where a particular interest group agrees to work together as in industrial mission, Community Partnership where a local Churches Together agree not only to work together but seal that relationship through the signing of a covenant, and Chaplaincy Partnerships as at the Reading Remand Centre or at the University of Reading. Ten official partnerships were represented as well as representatives from another six potential partnerships.

The main input for the day came from Canon Martin Reardon, General Secretary of Churches Together in England and Sister Janet Wilcox, SFP. Canon Martin Reardon traced the development of LEPs and spoke about the important contribution they now made to ecumenical development,

particularly since moves towards unity failed at top level. There was now a more significant growing together at the bottom from which we were learning a great deal. He subsequently talked about progress in the "Called to be One" process which was examining the next stage of ecumenical development. Each denomination had been asked what it meant by Church, Unity and Visible Unity. A book and a summary paper about the process are being published soon. These would facilitate discussion at all levels in the churches and at local Churches Together during 1996 and 1997. Sister Janet Wilcox spoke about changes in the Roman Catholic Religious Education syllabus in schools which in her school was now having a module on ecumenism up to GCSE standard. She spoke about the need for ecumenical education and the importance of knowing the answer to the question "Why are we involved ecumenically?" She commended this new development for wider use. The day concluded with a useful Open Forum in which questions and views were discussed.

Representatives from Caversham have also been involved in a number of other ecumenical events in late November. The Revd Alison Meere, a new Assistant Anglican Chaplain at the Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospital NHS Trust, was welcomed at an Ecumenical Service in the Chapel at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in late November by the Chairman of the Hospital NHS Trust, all the other Chaplains and representatives of the churches throughout the County. The Chaplaincy at the University of Reading has become a Local Ecumenical Partnership. During the Summer the Chaplains and representatives from seven denominations signed a Covenant which was recognised and affirmed by all the Berkshire Church Leaders in the presence of the University Vice-Chancellor at a service in the University on 29 November. St Andrew's Day was the 25th Anniversary of the Shared Anglican/Roman Catholic Church at Cippenham, an event celebrated in the presence of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton and the Anglican Bishop of Buckingham.

Owen Jewiss

OBITUARY

DAISY MAUD ESSEX

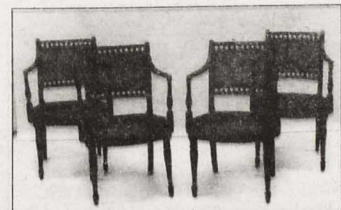
Born at St. Albans in 1901, Daisy, who died on 1st December, was a sad loss to Caversham friends. The eldest daughter of a family of eight, she moved to Reading in her early teens, married at 21 and quickly became part of the life. There can be few of her old friends who don't remember her well and appreciated knowing her; unfortunately like similar residents of Cromwell Road where she lived, have changed enormously in recent years and one of the saddest things about her life latterly was that there were so few friends left who could just pop in from time to time. She was not able to get around outside in recent years, so there were times when she must have been very lonely, in spite of all the attention given her by the 'carers',

she enjoyed a gossip over the garden fence and how, in a strange way, she seemed to link people up with each other. She was always generous to people in need and it was one of her few grumbles latterly that she could no longer help others. Particularly she liked young people and enjoyed visits from her grandchildren. She was always pleased to have visits from old friends whenever they could manage it but, in spite of her inability to move around much, she never once complained that days would go by without visits from old friends and neighbours for she understood only too well the demands made on them. She never demanded anything for herself. Towards the end she was unbelievably brave about her illness and was in fact a joy to visit. We shall miss her.

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MEMORIES (Part 1)

Bird-watching can often provide fine memories and I would like to share a few with our readers.

Long ago, even before 'Norfolk initiation days', my 'mentor-to-be' and I attended a Field Study course in Scotland, led by a cousin of H.M. The Queen. This gentleman whom I will refer to as 'T', and his wife, were experienced Alpine climbers and Arctic explorers, specialising in Ornithology and Botany.

Every day he would convey us to forest, glen or mountain-top where birds and flora of each habitat could be found. 'T' was one of the finest drivers I have ever had the privilege to accompany. Showing a penchant for carpet-slippers, he claimed they gave him a more sensitive 'feel' of the controls - so essential over the terrain we encountered!

One memorable day he introduced us to our first pair of Peregrine as they soared high above the Troup Head cliffs along the Moray Firth, the 'pitch' of their 'Kek, Kek, Kek' call being unique.

Back at base we would enjoy freshly-caught salmon-trout, continentally cooked by our host, and listen enthralled to his exciting tales of adventure midst snow and ice. Many an 'off-piste' evening we 'burned the midnight-oil' taking turns to play him at chess. Unforgettable times - with

truly, unforgettable hosts.

Years later, one bitterly cold winter morning, I lay prone on the tip of a promontory at Henley Road gravel-pit, watching an approaching Slavonian Grebe through my old, three-draw telescope. Completely unaware of my presence, it swam past within a few feet, its glowing red eyes being clearly visible.

During the Gulf War, on BBC TV News, migrating House Martins heading northwards, hopefully to peace and sanity, swarmed past soldiers, guns and tanks scattered about Kuwait's desert.

My first Manx Shearwater was pointed out to me by the 'hard-birder' team as we sat sea-watching on the shingle-ridge at the end of East Bank at Cley, Norfolk. Although a long way off, the stiff wings and alternate black/white profile as it followed each wave and trough confirmed identification.

In 1994 we were at IBM's pool at Cosham, 'twitching a Little Auk'. As we came to a clearing in the reed-bed, the auk was sitting on the water barely ten feet away, much to my King Charles' curiosity. Suddenly it dived with a little 'plop', Scooby registered obvious concern until it bobbed up again - and all was well!

Scops Owl

TREES

From the 22nd November to the 3rd December was the Esso National Tree Week. This set me thinking as I have always had a great affinity for these lofty members of the flora families - could this be because I was nicknamed "Lofty" at school? But I digress!

Back in the 1930s my family became caretakers during the first two weeks of every August of a very large house and its surrounding grounds in the heart of Kensington in West London. This was so that the permanent members of the domestic staff of ten could take their annual two weeks' holiday.

RED HOUSE

Sadly, today, this house is no more. It was known as "The Red House" and prior to World War One had been used by Herbert Hoover, later to become President Hoover of the USA, as his European "pied-a-terre". In the '30s it was owned by Mrs Norman, the mother of Sir Montague Norman, the Governor of the Bank of England, but it was severely

damaged in the Blitz in 1940, and was, some years later, demolished so that the present Municipal offices of the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea could be built on the site.

GARDEN

The garden of the Red House contained a large variety of bushes and trees including six very tall poplars across the bottom of the huge garden, several flowering cherry trees and a twenty foot tall mulberry tree. It was the fruit from the latter which, each year, my father and I would pick and mother would then make it into delicious mulberry pies. To me, in the '30s this was a rare delicacy indeed!

BAYSWATER

It was only after I first visited Caversham Court in the late '70s that I realised that it too possessed a mulberry, situated on the left of the drive upon entering the Court.

Moving on from mulberries to apples I should tell you that in the '50s we were living in Bayswater where we

were given an apple seedling in a small pot, and although we moved house several times later, each time we moved I replanted this tree in each successive garden until today this seedling has become a sturdy ten feet high! I had never discovered what variety of apple this tree was and so I sent some fruit samples to the Brogdale Horticultural Trust which owns some two thousand different varieties of apple trees. They could not specifically identify the variety and advised me that as it has been grown from a seedling I was entitled to name the variety myself. This I duly did, naming it "Artesion 55", after the name of the road, and the house number where we then resided in Bayswater when we were first given the seedling!

Trees, in my opinion, add so much beauty and colour to our world, and without them the world would, indeed, be a much harsher and barren place.

Pete Littlewood

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News of Young People

TEACHING IN ZIMBABWE

Mary Ann Coates, whose father Mr. Dudley Coates is a Methodist Conference Chairman and local preacher worshipping at Caversham Heights Methodist Church and whose mother Mrs. Jean Coates is a Lay Reader at Woodcote Parish Church, will spend the first eight months of next year as a volunteer at Banda in Eastern Zimbabwe. The project was arranged by the Right Hand Trust which sends young people to teach in rural communities in the Third World. Mary Ann, who has completed her

"A" Levels, will share the lives of the Shona people, teach at a primary school, help at an orphanage and take part in the life of the local Anglican church. Young people who take part in the trust's scheme are usually taking a "year out", either between "A" Levels and university or between university and career. Mary Ann, who will travel to Zimbabwe on December 29, is now involved in training events organised by the trust and is seeking to learn

some of the Shona language. She is also gaining teaching experience. The Trust is now working in four Anglican dioceses (Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda and the Gambia) and from this winter will work at St. Vincent in the West Indies.

CONCERT TO COME

A real treat lies ahead when the ERLEIGH CANTORS will be singing in a concert in St. Peter's Church in aid of charity. Sharing the evening with them will be the STRAND STRING QUARTET, playing music by Mozart, Barber and Puccini. Keep the date free - Saturday, 24th February at 7.30pm and fuller details will appear next month.

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HIGHDOWN STARS GET COUNTY CALL

Rugby duo, Jodie Smith (sixteen) and Barry Aldridge (seventeen) have recently been selected for the Berkshire Rugby Team after a series of hard fought trials. Both players have enjoyed several years playing for both Highdown School and Reading RFC. The boys are

currently studying for their GCSE and 'A' Level examinations respectively.

Jodie will be playing for the U16 team in the full back position. He has played well in both of his other opening games, although the team has unfortunately lost them. Jodie said that "in spite of

these results, we are beginning to gel as a team and hope to see a turn around in the next few games".

Barry plans to play in the second row for the U18 team. Unfortunately the teams that Barry currently plays for have had to cope without him while he recovers from a broken wrist!

OBITUARY

GWYNNETH DAVIES

Gwynneth and George Davies moved to Emmer Green over 24 years ago and ever since have been among the most regular members of St Barnabas congregation. Originating from Cardiff they came to Reading by way of Cambridge and formed part of the Welsh expatriate group at the church. A short, quietly spoken and unassuming person with a soft Welsh accent and a smile Gwynneth was one of those grandmotherly figures, as indeed she was, with whom everyone felt comfortable. When she died on 24 October, after a comparatively short illness, all who had come into contact with her felt an intense sense of loss.

Gwynneth was remarkable for all the unobtrusive acts she did and which characteristically she would not have wanted to be highlighted in her lifetime. For years, after the Sunday morning Service, you would find Gwynneth and George in the Hall kitchen making tea and coffee, although latterly we insisted on forming a rota to make their life a little easier.

During the six years that George was manager of St Barnabas Hall it was Gwynneth behind the scenes who did much of the cleaning. In recent years they have organised and participated in the church cleaning and latterly Gwynneth has been one of the flower arrangers.

Service was Gwynneth's hallmark. As a member of the local Townswomen's Guild she would be found on tea duty. Sixteen years ago when canteen facilities were opened at Reading Prison (now the Remand Centre) Gwynneth joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service to make tea and coffee for the families who were visiting the prisoners, a task she did every Saturday afternoon until only last April and one in which she persuaded George to join her for the last 12 years. When there was a shortage in the rota on Sundays it was Gwynneth and George who were there regularly once a month.

We shall miss Gwynneth particularly for the example of her uncomplaining Christian service which puts many of us to shame. We shall miss her faithfulness, her friendship and her presence. Only in April Gwynneth and George invited the St Barnabas congregation to share with their own family in their Golden Wedding celebrations. Our loss is small compared with that of George, but we share it with his son and daughters and the rest of the family.

Owen Jewiss

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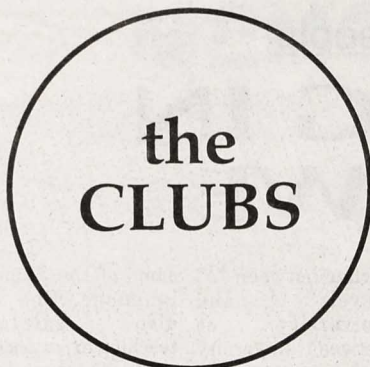


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WIVES
GROUP**

The November meeting began with Canon Richard Kingsbury chairing the AGM. Following a prayer and welcome, Dorothy Churcher read the 1994 meeting minutes which were accepted, and her own report as Secretary. She detailed the events which had contributed towards another happy and successful year, highlighting the continued fund raising activities in support of the Sue Ryder Home and the presentation to St Peter's church of a lectern fall, specially embroidered by Sheila Smith, to commemorate the Group's thirtieth anniversary in 1994. Canon Kingsbury thanked the group for the fall and their continuing involvement in the life of St Peter's with particular reference to their participation in the annual "Wives

Group" Eucharist. Jean Wigmore then presented the Treasurer's report and announced that the annual £5 subscription would remain unaltered for the coming year. She recorded her thanks to auditor Owen Clamp. The retiring Chairman, June Brown, thanked the committee for all their help. Canon Kingsbury endorsed this and particularly thanked June for her leadership and hard work. The new committee was elected with Jean Pugh appointed to the Chair. One of the members, Cordon Bleu cook Regula Adams, then presented a very impressive cookery demonstration. So, the room had no cooker, no 'fridge. No problem, Regula brought along a microwave and cool box, plus ingredients. Six extremely attractive and colourful dishes were (apparently) effortlessly created, complete with commentary, under the watchful gaze of fifty ladies. And then the tasting... delicious!

**CHAZEY
W.I.**

Rosina Marsh gave an "Evening with Joyce Grenfell" at the meeting on November 7th. She read from a biography of Joyce and then delighted members with some of the famous monologues, and yes, The Nursery School was one. Who can forget "don't do that George"? Then there was Free Activity - all pretending to be flowers! A wonderful tribute to Joyce Grenfell.

The Barn Dance on 28th October was considered a great success. Members and guests entered

fully into the Western spirit. They danced to the music of the Reel McCoy and were served a stupendous meal from the Chuck Wagon! There were sausages by the yard, lakes of baked beans and mountains of mashed potatoes, followed by fruit pies and cream. Second and even third helpings were eaten - very gratifying for the cooks. A lot of energy is used up in Barn Dancing and a substantial supply of food is needed to restore it.

The December meeting was a Christmas Celebration with help from the Twyford Singers. The next meeting is on January 2nd at 8pm in Mapledurham Pavilion.

**ROSEHILL
W.I.**

The Mansion House in Prospect Park is an important part of Reading's architectural heritage, so often neglected and subject to destruction in recent times. At our November meeting, Mrs Muriel Parsons described the history and features of the house, built in the eighteenth century. As a member of the Civic Society, she was able to give a graphic account of how the Society campaigned against the threat of demolition in 1979, and of the eventual purchase and refurbishment of the house by Whitbreads.

On view, at the meeting, was a kneeler worked in tapestry by Rosehill members. This was presented to the Rev. Nigel Harcastle for use in St. Barnabas Church.

At the meeting on 3rd January Mr Ken Surman's subject will be 'Our homeland churches'. Members are invited to bring with them a photograph or postcard of a favourite church.

**CAVERSHAM
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

The month began with a popular bingo session, prizes of money and goods went to the lucky winners.

The following Monday Mrs

Rosemary Maslen gave a talk on the work of Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, emphasising the safety aspects.

A trip to a London T.V. studio enabled members to become the audience for a new Channel 4 quiz programme, a most interesting experience.

The Autumn Fair was most successful and raised much needed funds. Articles left over were sold on the following Monday along with items brought for the bring and buy.

Skeletons and Ghouls greeted members on the last Monday in the month, decorations for the traditional Hallowe'en party. Entertainment was provided by George and Gladys. Some energetic dances gave a hearty appetite for the hot sausages in bread rolls, kindly cooked by Ann Bince.

**CAVERSHAM
W.I.**

A colourful evening was in store for members as they watched Mr Taylor introduce his talk and slides 'Enjoying Colour Photography'. Glimpses of the world of nature, flowers, birds, trees and local scenery, many with close-ups, showed what could be done with a camera in the hands of an expert. Helpful technical tips will inspire members with their photography.

The President, Margaret Cameron, reported on the

success of the Autumn Fair and Sylvia Myszore gave a report on the recent Autumn Council Meeting at Slough.

The competition 'a photo that went wrong' produced some hilarious entries and was won by Margaret Hatcher.

**CAVERSHAM
AFTERNOON
T.G.**

At the November meeting members were delighted to learn of the successful outcome of their supportive skills in providing home-made refreshments for the Apple Fayre held at Caversham Court in October. Their team effort, along with many willing helpers on the day itself, was warmly commended by the Chairman. A glorious Autumn day of sunshine added to the enjoyment of the Apple Fayre in such lovely surroundings.

The Speaker at this meeting was Mrs Blackburn, giving an informative talk and showing slides on the subject of beekeeping, of which she has a lifelong knowledge. Mrs Blackburn's answers to a wide range of interested questions which arose from members proved beekeeping to be a diverse and time consuming occupation.

The competition, for honey cakes, was won by Mrs M. Clark with her recipe for "Honey Hermits".

Meetings are held

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the CLUBS

from page 10

on the third Thursday each month at 2pm in Church House. New members and visitors always welcome.

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

November began with a whist drive. The proceedings were led by Mrs Doreen Crawley, and resulted in Mrs Elsie Prett being the first prize winner. Mrs Joyce Roddy was second prize winner and Mrs Maida Feast collected the booby prize - a lucky night for Elizabeth House residents.

The following Monday Mr Peter Staines was welcomed back to show the slides of his New Zealand trip, begun at his earlier visit. A colourful trip round the beautiful scenery of the North Island was followed by a quick visit to Singapore on the way home.

Bargains were on offer the following week when members held a popular suitcase sale - a good excuse to clear out the cupboards or sell your cookery creations.

More talents were on show at the end of the month on the members' Christmas evening. Mrs Maida Feast showed how to make a selection of tempting sweets with a sample to try. Miss Margaret Cameron and Mrs Olive Howard

gave a selection of Christmas readings and Mrs Beryl Latcham demonstrated a decoration using a basket of greenery with either artificial decorations or fresh flowers to make a colourful Christmas centrepiece.

CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong who welcomed the members and said it was good to see so many present. Before the Club was started, the Chairman asked for two minutes' silence in memory of Mrs May Harwood who died recently. Mrs Harwood had been a Chairman for many years, then ill health caused her to resign. She will be sadly missed by all.

The speaker for the afternoon was Mr Noyes who made a welcome return and brought along a further selection of old and new slides of Reading, this time starting with Coley and District. It was certainly interesting to see the older roads, shops etc. of former days, but sad also to see so many vanished and replaced by modern buildings. The roads with present day traffic certainly needed the change, but what next, with the daily increase of cars, lorries, etc? Progress? It was a very enjoyable show and members showed their appreciation in the usual way. A further visit by Mr Noyes with more views, is planned for the near future.

As requested by various members, the date for the Christmas lunch was finally settled and members

were reminded that the next meeting would be their 'Christmas Party'. Where has this year gone?

After that very welcome 'cuppa', there being no further business, the meeting closed with members still reminding each other of what was shown on video that afternoon.

EMMER GREEN T.G.

ARTS AND CRAFTS enjoyed their last meeting making Past Angels for a Christmas tree. Next meeting members are going to visit the Royal Horticultural Show in London.

WORDS & MUSIC: at the end of November there was a Poetry afternoon. There was also to be a visit to see Cinderella performed by the London City Ballet Company at the Hexagon. The Social evening will now be held on 22 January.

RAMBLERS: one walk was cancelled because members of the Ramblers went to Fleming Park Eastleigh to watch a sports competition. The other walk was 4 miles around South Stoke, Little Stoke and North Stoke with a look at the charming North Stoke Church.

Eight members enjoyed a visit to "Kilroy Live" at Shepperton Studios to join the chat show discussing Adult Channels on TV.

The Emmer Green Guild has decided to try and reach out to obtain more members to join the Guild and are hoping to attract younger members which the Guild needs.

Chairman Joan

Palmer was the Winner of the Christmas Table Decoration competition.

The talk for the evening was on "BBC Monitoring" the speaker being Mr El'Dufani. Quite a few of the members are ex employees of Caversham Park BBC. Members kept Mr El'Dufani very busy with lots of questions.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS T.G.

The chairman welcomed guests and members then distributed the birthday cards before the usual reports were made. Rehearsals continue for the drama group's play at the Christmas party, when there will be carols and a light refreshment. The Federation's carol concert with an optional lunch beforehand took place on 11th December in the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Reading.

A preliminary mention of a celebratory luncheon next April was also made. A member had represented the guild at Federation when a decision was made to undertake embroidery. The social studies group heard a talk by Mr Brian Eighteen about the river Loddon.

As the speaker of the evening, Doug Noyes presented his fifth a u d i o - v i s u a l "Changing Face of Reading". This explored Friar Street, Merchants Place, Garrard Street and Kings Street, with a look down Duke Street and back again. It concluded with a sight of the Mayor of Reading on 17th May 1994, opening the pedestrian precinct in Broad Street.

Mr Noyes' pictures showed the Boar's Head in a boarded up state, but of course it is now refurbished, the Old Town Hall, also. The Main Post Office was shown undergoing change. In 1813 there were elephant stables adjacent to the Old Elephant public house!

An interesting picture revealed Walsingham House, only a door remains now, but one can imagine our Tudor Queen Elizabeth

passing through it long ago, as she undoubtedly did. Other pictures were based on colour engravings going back to 1802. Some in the audience could recall a childhood with friends and relations living in nearby streets in Reading. Broad Street chapel now houses an elegant bookshop it was learnt, so resolutions were made to visit it.

U3A

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is an association for the retired and those no longer in gainful employment. It is a University in the true sense of the word - a collective of people devoted to learning through self-help.

The programme of group activities is: An Art Workshop; Astronomy; Books; Crafts; Chess; Discussion; Dreams; French Story Reading; Listening; Luncheon Club; Play reading; Swimming; Scrabble; Theatre Visits; Travel Discussion; Walkers; Writers; Bridge; Computing; Gardening; New Cosmology; New Design Age; Photography and Town Study.

The last eight are new ones. There are also other activities of a more general nature.

For further information, please contact: A. Jones (01734 580085) or M. Lawrence (01734 484344).

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