

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Help Christian Aid to help the poor

Christian Aid  **URGENT REQUEST**  Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is still the UK's largest house-to-house charity collection. Last year 250,000 volunteers delivered over 17 million envelopes nationwide and collected over £9 million.

But who are these volunteers? Well, they are people just like you - people who care about the plight of the poor and feel they can help to alleviate suffering by giving a few hours of their time. It's not an easy job, and it may seem like a small contribution, but it does make a huge difference to those in need.

We urgently need collectors in the area and would ask you to consider whether this is something you could do. Please contact your local Christian Aid Week representative: K Stephen-Evans. Tel: 473619.

Christian Aid Week supports work in more than 60 countries world-wide, enabling poor people to help themselves.

In addition to giving emergency aid, it funds local projects that bring about long-term benefits to local communities.

FOCUS ON PERU

A new life

The materials for this year's Christian Aid Week focus on Peru.

When terrorists attacked their homes in the Andean highlands,



Sorting beans after harvest in Burkina Faso, West Africa.



Members of the Asto family.

many Quechua Indian families fled, taking with them only essentials for the journey.

Among them were the Asto family, who walked for days before reaching the Huancayo area. They had nowhere to live, no jobs and no money, but they were helped by IDET, a local

organisation funded by Christian Aid.

IDET provides loans to help families start their own business. A loan from IDET enabled the Asto family to buy a lathe, a chain saw and some wood to start a chair-making business.

The proceeds help to feed and educate the family, which means that they can live independently and retain their dignity, whilst providing their children with a chance of a better future.

SERVICE

Churches all over the country will be celebrating Christian Aid Week with a special church service on May 12. This year's powerful service is inspired by Christians in Peru, and conveys their passionate belief in a God of life, even in circumstances of poverty, hardship and violence.

We can join with them in prayer and song, to express our commitment to making a better and fairer world for all God's people at St. Peter's Caversham on Sunday 12th May at 6.30pm.

ORGAN RECITAL FOR CHRISTIAN AID BY RICHARD LINE

Richard Line, MA, FRCO, Organist at Reading Blue Coat School, will give a recital at All Saints Church, Rotherfield Peppard, on **Wednesday 15th May at 7.45pm.**

Richard Line was one of the Organ Advisors who supervised the selection and voicing of the new Copeman Hart

organ at All Saints' and who played at its inauguration in February 1994.

Proceeds from the recital will benefit CHRISTIAN AID. Tickets price £4 (concessions £2) to include refreshments after the recital, from Keith Atkinson (01734 722844), Barbara Butler (01734 723279) or Hugh Warwick (01734 723070)

COME AND WITNESS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAVERSHAM
(Organised by St Andrew's Church)

For all ages

OPEN AIR SERVICE

for all Christians
Bring the family

SUNDAY 26th MAY

at

Christchurch Meadow
(by the River - behind Waitrose)

A PENTECOST CELEBRATION

3.00PM

Come and Worship

TALKING POINT

by
June Hardcastle,
St. Barnabas, Emmer Green



HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIGHT?

It was raining and cold outside but my class of infants were oblivious to the inclement weather - we were making models to show how the moon goes round the earth and the earth goes round the sun.

"Has anyone any questions about the sun?" says the teacher, maintaining an enthusiastic tone despite some orange paint on her new jumper and a seemingly unmovable piece of shiny red paper stuck to her glasses.

"Please Mrs Hardcastle, how near would I have to get to the sun for it to dry my hair without a hairdrier?"

Another day, but still raining. A parent helper had been pressed into service to help enthusiastic teacher demonstrate the turning of the earth giving us light and dark - aforementioned teacher acting as the sun, incidentally but fortuitously dressed in a red jumper. (The one with orange paint still being treated with "Vanish"). A lively discussion ensued on "The night time", teacher steering the conversation along the lines of nocturnal animals but occasionally being knocked off track by reports of favourite nightwear and the excellence of Power Ranger pillow cases. A group were eventually dispatched to draw a picture of something they would see in the night and write a story about it. (DON'T forget the full stops and capital letters). After a while a child declares themselves "finished".

"Mrs Hardcastle you will really like this. It's something that comes out only at night and it's two words, T and F. Guess."

Teacher knows she has read somewhere that in middle age you lose brain cells at an alarming rate - racking her memory for T F appearing when the earth has turned away from the sun, she wonders if hers have gone in an even faster decline. "I give up".

Triumphant child holds up book to show an outside night-time, black and brown picture, with a golden angel-like figure swooping across the sky.

Of course - the Tooth Fairy!!

Mrs D was a parent who had helped me in the classroom for many months. Patient to help struggling readers, initiating some into the mysteries of tens and units and a tireless threader of needles. Everyone has their sticking points - hers came the week we were connecting circuits to make bulbs light up and buzzers buzz.

"Me husband does all that kind of thing, can I do something else?"

But some folk are easily bought and for the price of a cup of coffee, two choc biscuits and the promise of further supply if a breakdown seemed imminent, I gave her a quick lesson whilst the children were out at play. Nervously surveying the array of wire, crocodile clips, batteries etc she set to with a group of 5 year olds. After five minutes the quiet of the room was broken as Mrs D jumped to her feet and shouted out with a tone of pure joy. "Look Mrs Hardcastle, me bulb has lit up!"

Easter gives us powerful images - the three hour absence of the sun on Good Friday, the heavenly messengers of the Sunday and the disciples finally lit up with joy when they discovered that no darkness could overwhelm the light of God. The darkness of death, divorce, disease and depression can overtake anyone of us and the pain of those times can be beyond words but in telling our stories to one another we find the One who is the Light of the World is surely with us. Your story - the life that has unfolded with the years - is a precious story. Many darkenses and many lights - this is our human pattern. In sharing them with one another we are delivered from the lack of sun into the brightness of the Son. He who numbers the hairs on our head is the same One who has promised that where two or three are gathered together in His name, he will be in the midst.

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)
9.30am Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road

11.00am every Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading

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

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD

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

POST BAG

Dear Editors,

May I, through your columns, thank all those who contributed towards my leaving present when I stepped down from the office of Secretary of Caversham and District Residents' Association. The beautiful necklace will always serve as a reminder of work that I have found enjoyable and interesting. The Leonidas chocolates are providing less long lived pleasure. It was all a lovely surprise which I very much appreciate.

I hesitate to use the word 'retirement' as I shall still be living in Caversham as a member of the Association and shall also be attending many of its committee meetings. Without the support of its committee and members, few of the achievements of the Association would have been possible. Long may it continue to thrive.

Yours etc.

Molly Casey

14 Albert Road, Caversham

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

I was born in Caversham 74 years ago, married in St. John's Church in 1946 and love reading about Caversham and its people, so it was very sad for me to see that Elliotts have finished in Caversham. My mother, Hilda Honey, worked at Elliotts during the first world war, all my uncles, Dick, Will & Fred, worked there for over 50 years and my son Michael was there for many years until he was made redundant last year when some of the men were put off. Fred Honey is the only one left but his son Francis and grandson Peter have gone with the firm to the smaller Craddock Road site so the name of Honey will still be known in the firm.

Yours sincerely,

Win Harris

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Please note - Offers of help always welcome

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

EDITORS: Mrs Margaret Baily, Mr Eric Chappell, Mrs Marjorie Tillman, Mr Kevin Corrigan, Mr Bernard Miller, c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham. Tel: 471703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PE. Tel: 471816.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr. M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 472389.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham, RG4 7BG. Tel: 474017.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER: Miss E. Stark, 14 The Cloisters, Priest Hill, Caversham RG4 7RQ. Tel: 473045.

All contributions for June issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 1 May.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 29 April.

The dates for July will be Monday 3rd June and Wednesday 5 June.

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 regret that owing to the amount of copy received, some articles have had to be compressed and some held over to a later date.

LIVING ON THE HALF-WAY STAIR

Feeling your age? Wondering how much longer you can cope on your own? Just think of that Christopher Robin poem:

Half-way down the stairs
Is a stair where I sit;
There isn't any other stair quite like it:
I'm not at the bottom,
I'm not at the top;
So this is the stair where I always stop.

Well, I've got news for you...there really IS a half-way stair right here in Caversham, and it's called Abbeyfield!

So many older folk want to keep their own home, want to keep their independence, yet just want a little support and care without having to take the drastic and expensive step of moving into an old people's home. And that is precisely what Abbeyfield is all about.

The Reading Abbeyfield Society have two Supportive Houses - one in St Peter's Avenue, Caversham; the other in Maitland Rd, in the Conservation Area of Downshire Square. In each house, six elderly but active people live in their rooms themselves, having their own door keys, and lead completely independent lives; occasionally, a resident may even run a car. There is also a resident cook-housekeeper who does all the shopping, cleans the communal parts of the house and provides the two main meals of the day. Residents get their own 'breakfast when they wish but lunch and high tea are eaten together as a family.

In case of illness, the Housekeeper is on hand and residents continue to use the services of their own doctor and nurse. If additional help is needed, carers can be arranged. Best of all, if the time eventually comes when 24-hour care is needed, it is a simple matter to transfer to the new 24-bed registered care home in Maitland Rd.

Just think...a modest all-in weekly charge covers food, light, heat, TV licence, plus care when you are off-colour and a family of friends around you when you need them. Volunteers maintain the gardens and arrange outings etc for those who wish.

Abbeyfielders rarely leave, but because of changing needs, there are, most unusually, places available at the Caversham house. Contact Mrs Judith Moore (Tel 472694) for details and a visit to a real Half-way Stair!

ALNUTTS HOSPITAL

How many of our readers have driven along the road past Mapledurham towards Goring Heath and noticed the delightful complex of buildings on the north side of the road near the junction with the road to Path Hill and Whitchurch? These buildings comprise the Almshouse constructed in 1726 by a charity founded by Henry Alnutt. The trust was to provide accommodation for twelve men, a Matron and a Chaplain. The dwellings were grouped around a courtyard with a chapel in the centre. A school was added in 1877 along with a residence for the

headmaster. The Almshouse re-mained largely unaltered until refurbishment in 1953. Further changes occurred in the 1970's to enlarge each unit. The school closed in 1985 and was converted to four dwellings.

Henry Alnutt was born at Ibstone in the middle of the seventeenth century. He became a member of the Middle Temple and as he had no family on which to spend his wealth he started plans to build an Almshouse for "decayed tradesmen." The property including the land on which he intended

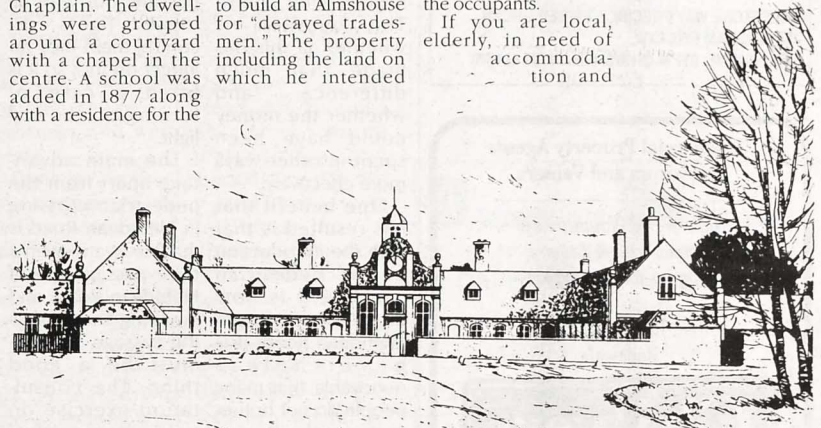
erecting his almshouse was bought by him in 1679 for £2600. The charity was founded in 1724 and the almshouse completed two years later.

The Goring Heath Charities are now responsible for the Almshouse. They currently have vacancies in their centrally heated, modernised houses. They are suitable for single or double occupation. A Chaplain and a Warden are resident to care for the needs of the occupants.

If you are local, elderly, in need of accommodation and

would like to live in these peaceful and beautiful surroundings application should be made to: The Clerk, Goring Heath Almshouses, Goring Heath, Oxon, RG8 7RS, or telephone 01491 681699/680350.

There is an opportunity to visit the Almshouses as the residents are holding a May Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 11th May 1996 at 10am.



RECALLING UNUSUAL BIRDS IN CAVERSHAM

My first 'real' bird (c1937) was a huge, brown raptor perched on a lamp-stand atop Caversham Bridge. My father identified it as a Buzzard - a very unusual sighting then, and unlikely to occur now.

The rarest bird was in the 1980s, standing on the riverbank at Caversham Bridge car park; I still believe it to have been a Pygmy Cormorant. As I approached, it looked directly at me, displaying a small and delicate 'Cormorant-type' bill. Standing alongside the Black-headed Gulls, size comparison was readily confirmed. Changing my position, other plumage details were noted. Rarities can be very tame.

Nine years earlier, a Pygmy Cormorant was claimed in the Reading Bird Report as seen standing on a moored boat at Piper's Island. Acceptance of either by the Rare Birds Committee would have added a new species to Britain's List.

Escape possibilities should seldom be excluded, but this bird is an unlikely candidate for captivity.

The Red-backed Shrikes which returned to breed in a brambly hollow along Kidmore Road, not far from Shepherds Lane, caused much excitement each year among birders.

I am still indebted to friends in Caversham Heights who identified and drew my attention to Siskins in their garden. With Greenfinches quite common, that was smart work, and it

enabled me to tape my best recordings of this species as they called from a tree just above.

Whilst kite-flying from Balmore's southern flank one day, a rare Night Heron flew over, perhaps heading for Wraybury gravel pits - where all good birds seem to go - despite Heathrow's air-traffic!

Kite-fliers beware! Balmore is hazardous due to 'Low-flying, kite-eating trees' - I have several times seen beautiful kites 'executed' in them. Better is the Promenade near Caversham Bridge car park, or Kings Meadow. Always fly with the wind behind you and plenty of all round clearance. Single-line kites, watch out for soaring raptors which may 'inspect proceedings' - they could be interesting!

No doubt due to prolonged low temperatures well into late March Redwings are still with us

and seemingly, reluctant to 'Return to Base'. They have been far and away the most vocal of all our birds for many months now, their calls filling the air night and day. What a pleasure and privilege to have had them overstay in such large numbers this year. Hopefully, our garden bird-watchers will particularly have appreciated these handsome thrushes all around us.

SCOPS OWL

ST PETER'S CAVERSHAM		ST MARGARET'S MAPLEDURHAM
GRAND FETE		
Saturday 6th July 1996		
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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 Tredegar Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 477697.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
Church Office Tel: 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. 470816.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

WHAT ARE THEY
FOR?

Nine sets of traffic lights, several yards of red road surfacing, a traffic island and some kerb-side railings do not come cheaply these days but if they all improved road safety it would still be money well spent. The question is whether all this has made that much difference and whether the money could have been spent in other ways more effectively.

One benefit that has resulted is that with the introduction of a pedestrian crossing it is now much safer to cross Hemdean Road. It is nevertheless noticeable that many people do not bother to press the button and wait for the green man but continue in their former ways of scuttling across when a break in the traffic occurs. Perhaps this is because the road is narrower than is usual for a lights controlled crossing and the traffic not as fast as it will only just have turned a corner, and in one direction it is only buses anyhow. Old habits die hard.

The other benefit is that there is more time to get across the Church Street pedestrian crossing where formerly only the young, fit and unencumbered could get across on the green light. Whether this is by chance or design is not clear.

As far as the effect of the rest of the lights is concerned, the difference it makes one way or the other is not very noticeable. Pedestrians can cut across Church Street from the baker's to St Martins Precinct more easily without having to bother to go along to the crossing but it is pretty sure that is not what was intended. With all these lights it

was not unreasonable to assume there would be a filter light to assist motorists wishing to turn right into Hemdean Road. This is not the case. Formerly if the road were not clear oncoming motorists would frequently give way to allow them passage but with all those lights to control them they no longer do this, so it is often a case of turning on the red light.

The main advantage apart from the pedestrian crossing in Hemdean Road is that buses are given a clear passage out of Hemdean Road, and anything that assists the passage of buses must be a good thing. The consultation exercise on traffic management in the centre of Caversham produced several suggestions that this would be beneficial. All the same, nine sets of traffic lights for not much more than that number of buses per hour does seem somewhat excessive. Apart from cycles and taxis, nothing else comes or should come down Hemdean Road and the bus drivers are supplied with a smartcard to change the lights, so given they do not help motorists turning right from Church Street, what are they all doing? They must have cost a pretty penny, and the main beneficiaries must have been the suppliers of traffic lights who must have talked the traffic authorities into going for the maximum number, just as road builders talk them into building the biggest roads and roundabouts.

However, for good or ill, it is all there now even though there was no particular demand for it. What a lot more the money could have done if it had been spent where there is a

demand, that is on the Church St, Bridge Street, Church Road junction, a demand that goes back for many years, ever since the traffic lights were installed. Here lives really are put in danger, every time a motorist tries to execute a righthand turn from Church Street into Church Road and every time a pedestrian tries to scoot across Bridge Street between the two banks. Yet for years that request has been ignored, either totally or brushed away with some excuse that it would delay traffic coming from Church Road. Yet a proportion of this traffic is the same that has to be delayed and endangered on its return journey. As for the cost to the hapless pedestrian, well, he or she is still considered a lower form of life in spite of recent claims to the contrary, yet to do this no expensive reconstruction is required, simply a rephrasing of the lights.

A LORRY FREE A4074

It has been a little surprising to see the notices stating that Berkshire County Council is seeking a regulation banning lorries on the A4074 from where it crosses the Borough boundary at Shepherds Lane. It was what residents of large areas of Caversham have been calling for for years, and here we have Berkshire applying for it off their own bat.

So why has Berkshire decided at this time to have a go at unilateral action? The British Road Federation is another likely objector, so a Public Inquiry is almost a certainty. Then the whole thing will come out into the open. Without a third bridge, Berkshire is being forced into this position, but

Oxfordshire refuses to allow them to build a bridge. What will an inspector say to that?

There may be arguments for not having a third bridge but it smacks of hypocrisy when Oxfordshire says Reading must solve its own traffic problems by expanding its public transport. Who is contributing to Reading's problems this side of the river and which county can hardly be said to be running such an efficient public transport system that its residents will be prepared to abandon their cars in droves? Surely not the area which has one of the highest, if not the highest, car owning population in the country, and whose residents are not averse to seeking employment or coming to shop in that sink of iniquity, Reading.

Here is an issue that is far from dead yet and that has been further highlighted by the closing of the Sonning bridge. Oxfordshire cannot continue to dump its traffic problems on its neighbours and then wash its hands of it.

DRIVE MORE
CAREFULLY
Line painting and red surfaces on the

carriageway and notices on lampposts have appeared on all the roads between Woodcote Road and Kidmore Road, designed to reduce the speed of traffic in those areas. Certainly the three long roads are regarded by speed crazed motorists as legitimate zones for showing of their machismo. A 30mph sign is unlikely to deter these and if they were mad enough to hurtle down Clifton Park Road a notice at the top reminding them that speed kills is likely to go unheeded. Perhaps the hope is that eventually the combined effect of these notices will sink into the motorist's subconscious and will eventually slow him or her down - more likely a 'him' than a 'her', though in the much rarer case of a 'her' she seems even more ruthless than her male counterpart.

ANNUAL MEETING
At the Annual General Meeting of Caversham and District Residents' Association in March in March, the outgoing secretary, Molly Casey, formally resigned and a new secretary

Continued on Page 5

READING & DISTRICT CANCER CARE

35 Prospect St, Caversham, Reading RG4 8JB
Tel: (01734) 462930

We have moved from Hemdean Road to Prospect Street. Your donated items of clothes, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, china, glass will be gratefully received.

The money raised from the sale of these goods supports patients and families of cancer sufferers in the Reading and District community.

We also need more volunteers - half a day or just a few hours a week would be appreciated. Please pop in or ring the above number.

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McTIMONEY CHIROPRACTIC

The spine is the mainspring of life, and treatment of this area of the body for illness and injury goes right through history to the days of Hippocrates. Back troubles of one sort or another account for more lost working days than any other single cause, and anyone who has experienced back trouble will know just how painful and incapacitating it can be.

Throughout our lives accidents can occur, but even more frequently the various everyday misuses of the skeleton, due to bad posture for example, cause misalignment. For example, in the nursing profession, beds have to be made, patients lifted, wheelchairs pushed and lifted into awkward places. All these

are physical actions which may cause damage to one's skeletal structure. The human body has a marvellous capacity for self-healing, and for adaptation or compensation when ever necessary. Should we sprain an ankle, we automatically redistribute our weight to relieve the joint until it can heal. This happens subconsciously, but if we forget and try to use the joint, we are soon reminded by pain. As the joint heals so the pain diminishes, but meanwhile some of the compensations may remain and cause longterm damage by interacting with other joints.

By checking the whole skeleton and gently manipulating any misalignments many

discomforts are resolved. The adjustments are made using precision and speed to release one bone at a time. Patients are frequently surprised at how relaxed they feel during the treatment which does not hurt at all. Most patients wisely come for check-ups at least twice a year as a preventative measure. A healthy alignment of spine and nerves enhances well-being.

McTimoney Chiropractic is characterised by the gentleness of the technique and the whole body treatment that distinguishes it from other manipulative methods. The aim of a McTimoney chiropractic treatment is to remove any

interference with the body's nerve supply. If a nerve is compressed or stretched, however subtly, the information passing along the nerve fibre will be distorted giving false information to the organ or muscle it serves. Once these distortions are removed the body can function correctly. There will be a sense of lightness and well-being.

Patients report a wide range of improvements, ranging from: relief from migraines, neck and shoulder problems, tennis elbow and carpal tunnel syndrome - all affected by nerves coming from the top of the spine, to low back pain, sciatica and menstrual prob-

lems - relieved by adjustments to the lower spine. These improvements occur because the body is no longer responding to incorrect nerve impulses.

A recent Medical Research Council report showed that chiropractic treatment gave quicker results and was more beneficial than conventional treatment. So much so that many Oxfordshire and Berkshire GP's are now referring their patients to a chiropractor for treatment. Chiropractic is the largest healing profession after medicine and dentistry in the western world. In excess of 75,000 people are treated by chiropractors each week.

Katherine Clements-Croome

TRIAL BY JURY

St Margaret's Mapledurham are putting on a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Trial by Jury'. The performances are on Saturday 18th May at 7.30pm and Sunday 19th May at 3.30pm at Trench Green Hall. On both occasions refreshments will be provided. Ticket prices are £5, £4 (concessions) and £3 (children). All proceeds will go to St Margaret's Loo Fund. For tickets and further information please phone (01734) 481136.

WATCHDOG continued from page 4

will be appointed at the Association's next committee meeting, when officers are elected in accordance with the constitution. The committee itself is elected at the AGM and this year two new members, Bob Winter and Don Chadwick were elected. Along with Molly, Rosemary Chapman who has been Assistant Secretary for ten years resigned. She came to the Association from Mapledurham Area Residents' Association and was particularly con-

cerned with the 'District' part of the Residents' Association as she lives at Tokers Green so was able to deal with matters chiefly affecting the areas in South Oxon. She also took the minutes and typed them, producing a concise and clear record from often complex discussion. Drusilla Murdoch, another pillar of strength, also stood down. She was not a committee member, but Molly is only too prepared to admit that without her she could not have

achieved very much as her handwriting is practically illegible and her typing a joke, but Drusilla turned it all into clearly typed letters and reports usually at very short notice. The Annual General Meeting somehow turned into more of a party once the formal business had been dealt with. There was a lovely cake made by Jan Brown, bearing the logo of the Association and Molly, Rosemary and Drusilla were the appreciative recipients of generous gifts.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

THE WAY TO EXUBERANT HAPPINESS

"If you were asked to write a reference for the congregation in which you worship, is 'Exuberant happiness' the first phrase you would put on your list of descriptive words? I wonder!" This is how the Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd John Bone, challenged more than 300 Anglicans from all over Berkshire gathered together in the Hall of Ranelagh School in Bracknell towards the end of February at the launch of "Thanksgiving", an Oxford Diocesan initiative on Christian giving which arose from last year's Diocesan Vision and Priorities Statement. "Is HAPPINESS the message you will take back to the parish from which you come?" the Bishop asked those present.

The launch took the form of a "Thanksgiving" service in which the Bishop preached the sermon and was followed by a more informal session with case histories from three parishes and a summing up by the Venerable Mike Hill, Archdeacon of Berkshire, who as chairman of the Working Group has played a major role in the initiative.

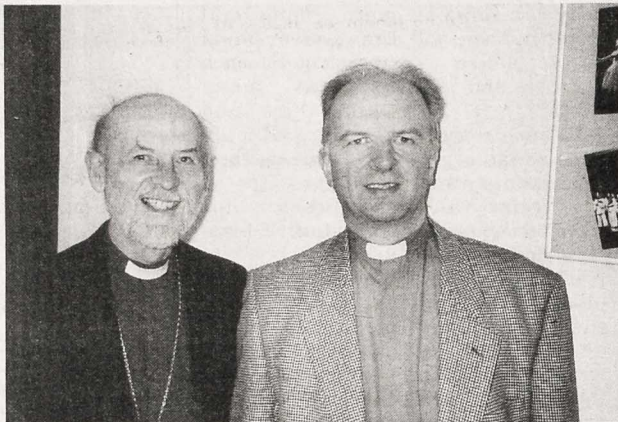
The source of happiness

In his sermon Bishop John drew attention to those Macedonian Christians who were "so exuberantly happy that from the depths of their poverty they have shown themselves lavishly open handed", 2 Cor. 8. vvi1-3. He spoke about the

explosive power at the core of the Gospel where the truth is that God is the Gift. The Big Bang that brought about the start of the universe, the world and its resources, humanity with its creativity and capacity for love are all Gifts of God. Jesus, the crown of creation, is

a life based on generosity, but he said it is not possible to be a Christian without entering in some way into the power of the Kingdom with Jesus in the strange power of sacrifice. Bishop John challenged us to face this and do something about it and advised us

love and His giving, we can make a pledge of the first of our money, not what is left over, so that all our money may be blessed. "Giving for a Christian", the Bishop said, "is an act of worship, prayerfully decided on in the light of God's overwhelming generosity to us".



The Bishop of Reading and Archdeacon Mike Hill at Ranelagh School at the launch of the Thanksgiving Initiative.

God's Gift and ultimately God giving of Himself on the cross. The Gospel is about the gift of life from death and about lavishing the Gifts of the Spirit on those who responded to that Gift by giving themselves. "For the Christian disciple" the Bishop said "all this is Gift - undeserved, freely offered, demanding only the response of love."

...and our response

The Bishop admitted that it is hard to give more than lip service to

that the only place we can do this is at the foot of the cross. "What is our response to God's Gift to us in Jesus?" asked Bishop John. When we bring bread and wine at the Communion Service in acknowledgement of His generosity and in thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, some bread is offered so that all bread may be blessed and all life transformed, he explained. So, Bishop John suggested, that as a loving response to His

Bishop John wondered what kind of reference will be written about our generation of disciples? "Who knows?" he said, "Christ still has the power to convert."

Stimulus for action

Case studies from Reading's St Agnes and St Paul, Wash Common and Warfield followed the Service; they gave examples of how others had dealt with Christian giving and had been richly blessed. A package of further material had been sent to each parish. This included material in written and video form for a three week house group course. The intention, as foreshadowed in the March issue of the *Door*, is that between Easter and Pentecost, or within the next year, each parish should follow the course, thus stimulating or renewing its teaching on Christian Giving. Those at the launch were sent away with the message from Archdeacon Mike Hill of the need for clear teaching so that we moved away from maintenance to mission. Citing *Acts 2* he saw the possibility of God pouring out His Spirit on everyone, so that our sons and daughters will prophesy, young men will see visions and old men dream dreams. We prayed that God would work in a new way in the community.

Owen Jewiss

CHURCHES TOOL CHALLENGE

Sixty-two men from sixteen Churches across the Region brought over a ton of tools to Caversham Baptist Free Church for this year's Regional "Churches Tool Challenge" on Wednesday, 6th March. After a splendid supper provided by Mrs Peggy Ide and her helpers, the men listened with interest to Eric Tallent from "Tools With a Mission". He explained that the organisation - part of the Baptist Men's Movement - Registered Charity 250334 - was formed about nine years ago for the purpose "to supply new and refurbished tools to missionaries and the mission field overseas, for the support of peoples who do not have tools to feed themselves and their families adequately."

Eric went on to state that T.W.A.M. works with Groups and Agencies such as Christian Aid and CAFOD (Catholic Aid), and not through individuals. This guarantees as far as ever is humanly possible that the "aid does get through!" TWAM at present has one hundred and eleven collectors throughout the Nation, and has its new Headquarters at Perry Barn, Sproughton, Suffolk.

During the evening, which was jointly Chaired by Men's Regional President, David Garrod, and Regional Commissioner, Fred Wills, the Annual Presentation Shield was awarded to Wokingham Baptist Free Church for the best collection of tools. The event was concluded by Caversham's Minister, Revd Peter Edwards, with a challenge for us to Witness at work.

The bulk of the tools were then loaded and transported to Ipswich for the first stage of their journey to those in need. Three packed cars took the overflow of the tools to Grays Farm, Heathlands Road, Wokingham which is the local collection point for forwarding on throughout the year. If your readers have tools they would wish to donate, they can either deliver them at the Farm when they go to "pick your own" fruit and veg, or phone Norman New on 01734 872563, who will arrange for their collection.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday May 5

9am Rev John Phillippe of Worcester, New York State, USA.

11am Miss Jackie Case of Wesley

6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev John Phillippe

7.45pm Mrs Ann Snell, County Organiser, Age Concern

Wednesday May 8

(NOT Tuesday 7)

Sunday May 12

11am Mrs Marion Cruddas of Trinity, Lower Earley

6.30pm United Service at St. Peter's

7.45pm Mrs Philippa Marshall of Relate

11am Holy Communion - Rev. John Phillippe of USA

6.30pm Mr Peter Frank of Wesley

11am Mr Patrick Stonehewer of Tilehurst

6.30pm Alternative Worship - Mr Robin Gowers.

Sunday May 26

The Chairman of the Southampton Methodist District, Rev. Nigel Collinson, who is President - Designate of the Methodist Conference, will be visiting the Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit on Thursday, May 16 and will be the preacher at the Re-opening Service of Tadley Main Road Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

Linda Macrae of Chazey Road (who attended Reading Blue Coat School before going on to Clare College, Cambridge) was one of the successful Cambridge crew in the Women's Boat Race at Henley on March 31st.

MATTERS OF CONCERN

Owing to a clash of dates, the talk on AGE CONCERN by Mrs Ann Snell (County Director) will now take place at Caversham Heights Methodist Church (Wesley Lounge) at 7.45pm on WEDNESDAY 8th May 1996.

St Andrew's Fellowship

After having had to cancel the previous month's meeting because of inclement weather, the Fellowship welcomed a large number of people to St Andrew's Church for a concert by

the New Elizabethan Singers. The Singers are old friends of St Andrew's Fellowship and have sung under their former conductor, Mr Frank Terry who, to the delight of the audience, was present with his wife to hear the concert.

The new conductor, Mr Ian May, was a former organist at St Andrew's, so is no stranger to Fellowship members. The concert consisted of familiar tunes and some sacred songs, which gave great pleasure to the audience and helped them forget the cold and miserable weather outside.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

ST ANNE'S NEWS

ST PAUL'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



- O. Jewiss

'Father' Paul Freeman addresses the company.



- O. Jewiss

The evenings musicians and some young supporters.

As a prelude to Holy Week, the Parish held its Passover Supper on the evening of Palm Sunday, 3rd April. The whole of Holy Week is, of course, the celebration of Christ's paschal mystery, the word 'paschal' deriving from 'pesach' the Hebrew for 'passover'; the Last Supper was itself a Passover meal.

In the Jewish tradition, Passover is celebrated in the family. For this occasion, 'family' extended to the whole Parish and about 100 people sat down to eat and to celebrate together, presided over by Carmel and Paul Freeman who were the Parish's mother and father for the evening. The meal itself was preceded by and interspersed with Bible readings and hymns, the latter accompanied by the guitars of Cathy Freddi and Christine Jeffs.

In the course of the meal there was the ritual lighting of the candles and the eating of bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The children of the Parish asked a series of questions to aid everyone's understanding of Passover so that what was a very enjoyable social occasion was also a thought provoking one

Meanwhile, preparations continue for the celebration of the

Centenary of the Parish's foundation. The Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, celebrated Mass at St Anne's on Low Sunday, 14th April, and a party of parishioners will be accompanying Father Tony Jones to Rome during the first week in May when the crown that has been commissioned for the statue of Our Lady of Caversham will be blessed by the Pope. Also scheduled for May is the Annual Parish Concert to be held on the 16th. Reports on all these events will appear in future editions of the 'Bridge.'

St Paul's United Reformed Church in York Road, originally built and known as Caversham Road Presbyterian Church at the turn of the last century, has been trying to redevelop its premises for the past ten years.

Firstly, plans to completely redevelop the site to include a new church and halls, plus sheltered housing, could not proceed because of a lack of funding from the housing corporation. Then plans to keep the main part of the church and redevelop it on three levels, and add housing in place of the present halls, were not allowed to proceed by the church authorities on the basis that the scheme was not self-financing.

At the end of last year it was agreed that the halls should no longer be used for safety reasons - the roof was leaking in a number of places, the heating was almost obsolete, and some other features left a lot to be desired - and some alterations had to be made to the church to accommodate midweek activities.

The church, which was built to seat almost five hundred, has been divided with partition walls to create two new rooms at the back, including kitchen facilities. This has necessitated the removal of many pews, alterations to central heating pipes, new electrical wiring and plumbing, as well as the building of plasterboard stud walls. Although

the majority of the small congregation are well past their youth, the work has been carried out mainly by them over a period of two months during the coldest part of the year.

Now these temporary alterations are complete, and the church hopes to be able to continue its midweek programme as well as Sunday worship.

We are still hoping for a proper redevelopment, so that the church's mission within the community can more realistically be carried out, but after such a long wait and so many disappointments, it is good to see some progress.

St Paul's is the only United Reformed Church in the northern half of Reading, and is always pleased to welcome new members and visitors.



AN EASTER MISSION LAUNCHED

Canticle, the Christian music group based at Holmer Green in Buckinghamshire, launched on the eve of Palm Sunday the Easter Mission at Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Canticle performs music in the popular modern idiom, employing two guitars, a flute, a keyboard and three vocalists. It aims both to entertain and to bring the Christian message to its audiences. The message came mostly from the continuity lines spoken by members of the group, since sung words always present listeners with testing comprehension exercises, whether the singers are pop groups or choral societies.

One of the problems faced by Canticle, as witness the sparsely filled pews, is that many people are unhappy if church music strays outside the bounds of J. S. Bach, C. Wesley and J. Rutter. Those who were prepared to accept Canticle's different sound enjoyed the concert very much, including one 94 year old who declared it the best concert she had ever heard in the church!

Popular music is often synonymous with astronomical decibel level, but, despite some members of the audience who were soft of hearing affecting signs of distress, Canticle had got the volume of their amplification just right. Canticle

had got things right because, though amateur, they are highly professional in their musicianship and their presentation. It is not surprising that they have had invitations to perform in every southern county - bar Essex and Sussex - and have appeared many times on local radio, including Radio Berkshire.

During Holy Week the Mission has been undertaken by six students from Wesley College Bristol who are in the first year of their ministerial training and have fascinating backgrounds. Angela Shier-Jones was a University lecturer in mathematics and computing, Gill Duke was a bank manager and Jim Lewis a secondary school teacher. David Briggs was the managing director of a cheese marketing company, Phil Brooks was a sawyer from Wells Cathedral Stonemasons and Mark Morgans a youth worker and gardener at the National Trust's Penrhyn Castle.

Working as a team they have taken their varied talents to school assemblies at Caversham and Caversham Park Primary Schools, to St Luke's Residential Home and to youth and study groups. The success of the mission owes much to their warm, bright, imaginative personalities which six lucky churches will benefit from in a year's time.

FAITHFUL SERVANTS

In order to make up a shortfall of money needed by the parish, the congregations of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's decided to follow the parable of the talents in the Gospel of St. Luke. What was offered varied from apples to advent calendars, from candles to cakes, from a curry lunch to a Cordon Bleu supper. Among the many schemes devised was an offer of a flat to rent, china mending, a chance to participate in a quiz and a soup lunch with bring and buy. In the end a grand total of £1,850 was raised - a worthy result for all the effort put in and a wonderful way of bringing people together.



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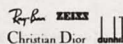
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WILLIAM MARTIN WAS A NUISANCE

Ten years ago I spent a day at the County Records Office in Oxford reading more than six hundred pages of a large volume of the old Quarter Session Rolls, 1783-1830. I hoped I might find something worth writing about for the Caversham Bridge and my hopes were rewarded.

Almost the first entry for the county dealt with a Caversham case in which John Stevens, a yeoman, and Thomas Stevens, farmer, both of Caversham were each fined twenty pounds for assaulting William Martin, also of the same place. In those days twenty pounds would have been a considerable amount of money, so John and Thomas must have been pretty well off if they managed to pay the fine - which I imagine they did, and William Martin must have upset them a great deal if they were ready to risk prosecution and payment of such a substantial fine. I was rather surprised about the case as I thought the Stevens were a respectable family. But then so was Thomas Benwell, a church warden at St Peter's, farming Dean's farm (then known as Lower Caversham Farm) and a true Caversham worthy; yet he, too, was fined twenty pounds for assaulting Joseph Duffin of Shiplake in 1788. Perhaps an entry three years earlier provided the answer. Thomas Stevens, Wheelwright and

farmer had two suckling pigs stolen by Moses Hutton of Reading. Could it be that local farmers took the law into their own hands when they discovered people up to no good on their property?

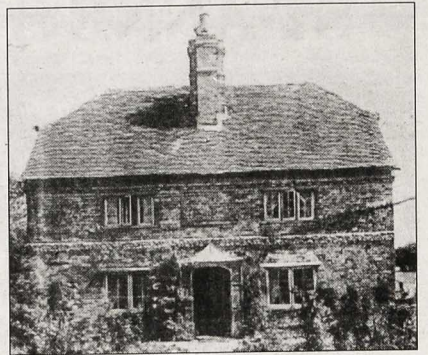
In 1788 William Martin was mentioned again, only this time it was he who was fined for assaulting one Samuel Edney. It seemed that assault was almost entirely the only crime brought before the Quarter Sessions, for in 1788 James Bye was fined for a violent attack and again there was another case of it in 1793, while in 1791 John Lloyd of Caversham was set upon by a group of Reading men. Then once again, in 1793, William Martin appeared on the scene. This time I learned a little more about him. He was a Caversham Baker and had been seen by Sarah Benwell assaulting two farm labourers - perhaps on the family farm? William appeared to be a rather bellicose character.

PIGS IN THE BARLEY AND SHEEP IN THE CLOVER

Two years later he was in trouble of a different kind. It appeared that Rachel Betheridge, the hayward's wife, had impounded eight pigs and a sow belonging to the baker because they had got into the Common Field and damaged barley belonging to James

Fuller. Now this was very antisocial and any animals straying and causing havoc were automatically locked up in the village pound - usually a small stable-like building, kept especially for this purpose. William, it appears, had "rescued" his property to save paying fines to have them returned, and in so doing brought down the wrath of the village upon his head. The following year his animals were once again causing damage. Thirty seven sheep were found eating John Stevens's clover. Naturally they were rounded up by Richard Betheridge and others and locked up. Only on payment of a fine would they be returned to their owner. When William Martin found out what had happened he was having none of it. Off to the village pound he went and broke it open to take away his animals, probably under cover of darkness. Never mind if he hadn't mended his fences and stock had got out. Never mind if someone else had lost money through spoilt clover or corn. He was a law unto himself - a difficult man indeed. One felt sympathy for John Stevens. Perhaps he had justifiably attacked the baker back in 1783.

I turned over many more pages in the massive rolls book and found no further mention of William. What had happened to him? Was he a



A cottage on Dean's Farm taken in 1943. The house is still there today.

reformed character at last? Then by coincidence, my friend who was researching into woodlands at the same time, came to me with a reference card in her hand. "This might interest you", she said, for I had told her the baker's story. On the card it said - "1797 William Martin, late of Caversham, baker, bankrupt, assignment of property". So there we had the end of altogether rather a sad little local story. MK.

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CAVERSHAM CHURCH HELPS EDUCATE BANGLADESHI CHILDREN

A donation of £300 from the Heights Methodist Church bazaar last Christmas will give 175 people in Bangladesh a chance to learn to read and count. The money has gone

to a non-profit company called 'Let's Teach Ourselves' ('Nijera Shikhi') set up by Methodist minister John Hastings 3 years ago.

The company's aims are ambitious. In Bangladesh 65 million adults are illiterate and 11 million primary school-age children do not receive any education. Because the Bangladeshi government is unable, even with World Bank help, to fund the estimated cost of £54 billion for universal education, non-government sources have to help fill the gap.

'Nijera Shikhi' provides literary courses for half a million applicants with some 20,000 volunteers

acting as teachers (a shortfall of 150,000). It aims to create a people's movement to eliminate illiteracy by setting up community facilities for further education and to enable every child to receive at least five years education by pressing for reform of the primary education system.

(John Hastings will be at the UK base of 'Nijera Shikhi' in the summer and autumn and hopes to address groups interested in supporting the work financially. Individuals can help by acquiring shares in the company. For further information write to the company at 57 Sheringham Road, Ipswich IP1 4HT).



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LONDON IN THE "BLITZ"

My grandson asked me "What was life like in London during the Blitz, Grand-dad?" So I told him, and then thought that some of these experiences could be of interest to readers of "The Bridge."

Before September 1939

When war broke out in September 1939 London's air raid precautions, or ARP, were well advanced. I had started work as a junior clerk in the Treasurer's Department at Hammersmith's new Town Hall, the construction of which had only been completed in July of that year. Incidentally in those days Fulham and Hammersmith were separate boroughs - amalgamation was to come much later, in 1965. Hammersmith's Town Clerk was the borough's ARP Controller, and in charge of all the borough's air raid precautions, his first job being to arrange for the distribution of gas masks to everyone, man, woman, or child, within the borough's boundaries.

Then came the setting

up, and employment of staff to man the various depots in the borough for both the Heavy and the Light Rescue Services, several First Aid Posts, about thirty ARP Wardens Posts, a separate mortuary for the Civilian War Dead, and an overall Control Centre, all these units being manned round the clock, 24 hours a day, by three 8 hourly shifts.

The Control Centre was housed in the reinforced basement under the Town Hall main entrance steps, and was manned by a team of girl telephonists supervised by the Duty Control Officer, usually a member of the regular Town Hall staff. Direct telephone lines had previously been laid to all the outlying posts as well as to the LCC (London County Council) local Ambulance Station, and to the local Fire Station which was a part of the LCC London Fire Service and Auxiliary Fire Service, and to the two local Police Stations.

Heavy and Light Rescue

The main Heavy Rescue and Light Rescue units had been integrated

with the Council's Transport Depot in Milson Road with further Rescue Units being based in Marlesford Lodge in King Street. The latter was formerly an LCC Remand Home for Children, its original inmates having been evacuated to the country on the outbreak of war. One of several First Aid Posts had been set up on the ground floor of the Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital in Goldhawk Road.

Hospitals

Hammersmith had a further three hospitals - the Hammersmith Hospital in Du Cane Road, Shepherds Bush, the West London, just off Hammersmith Broadway, and the Royal Masonic near Stamford Brook.

Wardens

The thirty or so ARP Wardens Posts in the borough had an overall staff of 300 Wardens, each of them being paid weekly by cheque, each cheque having to be manually written, and then individually signed by the Borough Treasurer. All of the other ARP services staff were paid weekly in cash which sometimes meant the wages clerk getting to work by 6am in order to pay the ARP staff who would be coming off shift at 7am.

Wartime use for Swimming Pool

The borough's Open Air Swimming Pool in Bloemfontein Road, Shepherds Bush, had

closed down at the end of the summer season in late August, and so the Pool became the main mortuary for the bodies of people killed in the air raids. This site is just a stone's throw away from the QPR football ground in Loftus Road, and also the old White City Stadium on the site of which today has been built the BBC Television Centre in Wood Lane.

Shelters

Trenches had been dug and sandbagged over to form community air raid shelters in the local parks and open spaces such as Ravenscourt Park, Shepherds Bush Green and Brook Green. These were supplemented after the bombing started with brick and concrete shelters being erected in a number of minor side streets. Each householder was offered, free of cost, the provision and installation in the back garden of a corrugated iron Anderson shelter. Later when the bombing intensified quite a number of people decided to take refuge on the platform or the steps leading down to the Shepherds Bush Tube station.

So far I have only touched on the organisation which went into the precautions taken to assist the local population of Hammersmith against air raids. How the people coped when the constant air raids came by day and night is another story, but cope they did.

Pete Littlewood



NEWS FROM ROTARY

Members of the Event Committee of the Rotary Club of Caversham assembled at Basildon House to discuss routes to be taken during the club's 50/50 Charity Walk on 15/16 June.

Discussing the 5, 10 and 20 mile routes are Basildon Park's Administrator, Chris Leigh (left) with John Arkill, Chris Smallbone and Ray Long.

Open to everyone in the Reading area the Basildon hike is expected to be one of the year's major fundraising opportunities in the Thames Valley.



Chris Leigh, John Arkill, Chris Smallbone and Ray Long.

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THE SCOTTISH PLAY

The Scottish play should never be mentioned by name and woe to any company that stages it. The Ferndale Avenue Housing Estate Guild Dramatic Society chose to ignore all this and boldly put on the play, and woe it was. From the very start the opening words were drowned by a workman's hammer, the moon literally came down and no one seemed to notice

that Lady Macbeth had fainted. The Chairman (Chair-lady?) of the Guild alternately tried to explain things away with a disarming smile or else became exasperated if she thought the audience wouldn't hear, but the whole thing was still a walking disaster - or alternatively it was a great success as this was Hemdean House

School's annual Drama Club production - carefully produced and rehearsed to show what happens to a play that is not carefully produced and rehearsed. Nancy Quinnell directed, with a supportive team of pupils, staff and parents. At the opening performance an audience of people with

learning difficulties watched with obvious enjoyment, part of Hemdean House's community outreach.

ACHIEVEMENT

At around the same time this small school, which has been in Caversham since 1859, had further triumphs. Pupils from Year 10 came top in the Business in Reading competition

set up by Reading Education and Business Partnership, sponsored by Yellow Pages, in which they presented a detailed study of Caversham Bookshop and the changes in methods of ordering books.

Pupils from Year 10 also won the local finals of the public speaking competition set up by the Rotary Club of Reading which means they will now go forward to the area finals at Wycombe Abbey. Altogether the school can look back at last term as a success story. Perhaps this can be attributed to the expectation that in a small school every girl will pull her weight. M.C.

NEWS FROM HIGHDOWN

ACTION AGAINST BULLYING!

'Learning Through Action' drama group were invited to Highdown School recently to hold a three day course on the issues arising from bullying and the ways in which the pupils themselves can deal with them.

Over half of year 10 were chosen to attend a day long activity session where they witnessed a role play and proceeded to discuss the issues in a 'Kilroy' style forum. The skills they developed on the day were used in

following sessions where the year 10 pupils observed and helped the entire year 8 group with a similar project. Several of the year 10 pupils have been asked to volunteer to go on and take part in a four week counselling course against bullying.

JEANS FOR GENES APPEAL

Highdown took part in the National Fund Raising Day to help four of the country's major charities. These include Great Ormond

Street Children's Hospital Fund, Society for Multipolysaccharide Diseases (MPS), Chronic Granulomatous disorder Research Trust (CGD) and the Primary Immunodeficiency Association (PIA). School children and teachers are encouraged to "throw off their skirts and trousers, put on their favourite jeans (or casual clothes) and contribute just £1.00 to the cause." Teachers were fined £5 for not joining in with the non-uniform day. The total amount raised was in the region of £1,000.

SPONSORED SWIM
Pupil Katie Maddams (year 10) swam recently in order to raise money for a Dynavox Machine to help one of her friends.

Katie met Andrew Smith (sixteen) when she helped out at the Avenue School in Reading. Andy has a progressive neurological disease which means he can only walk short distances and is slowly losing his ability to speak. A Dynavox Machine will help him to communicate with others and so improve his quality of life.

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OBITUARY ALAN BLISS

Allan Bliss moved with his wife Anne to their house in Blenheim Road, Caversham, in August 1939, following their marriage.

A month later war was declared. Allan volunteered and was sent on an officer-training course at

Sandhurst. He was then posted to Nigeria and thence to Burma. There Allan was wounded in action, his life undoubtedly being saved by one of his African troops who carried him on his shoulders through the jungle to safety. Allan was invalided out of the army and spent the next four years on crutches. After painful bone-grafts his shattered leg was rebuilt by surgeons at Stoke Mandeville hospital.

Meanwhile Allan studied for his Civil Service exams and qualified as an auditor, a job which he loved and continued to do until his retirement.

Allan Bliss was a man of many parts and everything he did he undertook with energy and commitment. When his daughter took up dancing he designed and made her dresses and so began a lifelong interest in theatrical costume. Another hobby, generated by his son's interest in music, was making amplifiers - not difficult for a man who built the family's first television set! Once retired Allan had the leisure to develop his hobbies to the full and the one which occupied

him most was drama. He enrolled on an ADB Theatre course in stage-management and direction and threw himself into amateur dramatics.

Allan and Anne were among the first members of Caversham Players and continued to support the group loyally until its recent demise. In its heyday Caversham Players was enthusiastically patronised by local audiences and many will remember Allan's impressive performances. But Allan also wrote and directed plays, winning awards at local festivals; he performed in and was in charge of props for the Medieval Mystery Plays put on in Caversham Court in 1982 and performed in and made the banners and Archbishop's crook for Murder in the Cathedral which was put on in St Andrew's church and at Christ Church, Reading.

For the last three years of his life Allan's powers of communication and forceful personality were diminished by illness but he will not be forgotten by the many people in Caversham who were associated with him and who shared in and enjoyed the fruits of his many and varied talents.

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Caversham Community Association

March began with a popular games evening when members enjoyed some competitions with cards, Scrabble and shove ha'penny.

Some exclusive and beautiful gold jewellery was on display the following week and everyone had a chance to try on and admire. Two lucky members went home with pieces won in a raffle.

Doreen Crawley ably led members in a whist drive which resulted in Joan Aldridge, Muriel Waite and Glad Chandler being declared the winners. The booby prize went to Peggy Jefferson at the end of the evening.

Mr Copeland was welcomed back at the end of the month with some more slides of "Oddities and Curiosities". It pays to be observant when travelling according to Mr Copeland's selection of sign-posts, war memorials, houses with stories attached and unusual grave stones - a fascinating collection, well worth seeing.

The Social Studies group met to discuss topical items and the Scrabble group also met.

A small group took part in the Law and Order Day at St Mary's Church House.

Caversham W.I.

March's meeting was the annual meeting and members were honoured to have Mrs Jenny Moss, the county chairman, as their

provided by a bubbly lady who had led a most unusual life.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their A.G.M. on Tuesday evening in St Barnabas Hall.

The Chairman for 1996 will be Marion Cooper

ARTS & CRAFTS enjoyed their last meeting of colour co-ordination and scarf tying. There was also a demonstration of face make-up and some exercises for the face. A future trip to Home Grange Village Workingham was discussed.

WORDS & MUSIC members watched a video on the Merry Wives of Windsor. A discussion on Childrens Books will be next month's theme.

RAMBLERS last walk was around Caversham Park to Dunsden Way, 5 miles. There was no walk on 29th because most of the Ramblers were enjoying a short walking holiday on the Isle of Wight. On the 30 April there is to be a Horse & Cart ride around Middle Assendon which will also include a lunch at the Rainbow.

Members decided to have two charities for 1996; these will be Care for the Carers and Feed the Children for Bosnia.

There was an Easter Goodies Sales Table and the evening ended with a Quiz organised by the Programme Planner Irish Birch. The Winner of the quiz was Avis Dalzell.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

Although it was cold and still no sign of Spring, the March meeting was well attended with everyone in a happy mood. Three new members were welcomed.

It was the A.G.M. and the Returning Officer, Jacqui Leah, explained why half the committee should retire every year to make for continuity and change of ideas.

Voting was not required as all the posts had been filled for the coming year. Mrs Mellin gave flowers to the retiring members, thanking them for their support and welcomed the new committee members.

The Secretary then gave a very entertaining but truthful account of the year's events which demonstrated how varied it had been. Two Golden Weddings, a 90th and an 80th Birthday had been celebrated and many new members received.

The Treasurer reported that the Guild was not rich but healthy and when funds had been

low, a Jumble Sale, A Cheese and Wine and two large Bring and Buys had helped to keep everything afloat. A sum of \$208 had been donated to The Stroke Association, this year's charity. The meeting ended with a Bring and Buy which also boosted funds.

The February meeting of the Social Studies Group heard about China. Not only was it very interesting with superb slides, but Joan Archer very bravely gave the talk her husband had been unable to do last year because of his death. Not only were the slides of beautiful scenery and historic places one hears so much about, but also of little intimate details of everyday life.

In March, Alan Lott took everyone on a journey to Australia stopping first in Singapore to explore that island. One of the places visited in Australia was the old Gold Mines with demonstrations of how they lived and worked in those days - very rough.

Why not come along to sample one of the meetings, there would be a friendly welcome in St. Andrews Hall, Caversham, on the third Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m.

Chazey WI

On 2nd April Chazey WI celebrated its 14th birthday, quite young by WI standards. The members reflect this.

Many work full-time; others have just retired; but all have active lives and enquiring minds. Meetings in the evening allow the body to unwind after a day's work but keep the mind in good fettle. The new committee is:

Marjorie Harrison - President
Barbara Rhodes - Secretary
Valerie Wing - Treasurer

Marjorie McCombe, a founder member, is Vice President.

Cakes were enjoyed by members and visitors from Woodford Park, Maiden Erleigh and Rosehill WIs after a talk on Canal Boat painting. Unfortunately, the speaker, David Cotton, damaged his back whilst loading his car for the demonstration, so was not able to attend but Kate Crabbe stepped in to fill the gap. She has been taught by David and brought along books and pictures. Best of all, members were invited to try for themselves on sheets of plywood. There is a very special style on canal boats, instantly recognisable but hard to describe. Perhaps there will be some painted pots and pails on the craft stall at Kidmore Village Fair on 15th June. The stall will be Chazey WI's Fund Raiser - crafts of all kinds, and cakes, and possibly - JAM! in

true WI tradition. Meanwhile, although the long lost photo album has been found at Rosehill, The Chazey banner was put "in a safe place" a few years ago and the inevitable has happened! Has anyone got the Chazey WI Flag?

Rosehill W.I.

The Women's Institute Movement was founded in 1897 by Adelaide Hoodless in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada. At our March meeting Mrs Margaret Jones told us how this remarkable woman conceived the idea of an Institute for women after attending a Ladies' Night at the local Farmers' Institute. In addition to developing the Women's Institutes in Canada, she applied her organisational ability and persistence to campaigning for better hygiene in milk production and for girls to be taught domestic science in school. She wrote a text book on this subject and later was involved in the establishment of a college for domestic science teachers at the University of Guelph.

The Women's Institute Movement came to the UK in 1910 when an institute was started in Anglesey. There are now 8,500 institutes in England, Wales and the Channel Isles.

The President, Mrs Audrey Saunders, and her committee were re-elected at the meeting, she was thanked by Mrs Ellingham for a successful and happy year.

The resolutions to be put to the IGM at Cardiff will be considered at the meeting on 1st May (St Barnabas Hall, 2.00pm). There will be a plant stall and visitors are welcome.

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