

ANOTHER WORLD

EARLY this summer, Patrick and I were lucky enough to be able to visit his young cousin and godson Peter Stuart with his wife and family in Zimbabwe. The all too few days we were there proved to be most interesting and eye-opening and a real contrast to life in Caversham.

THE FARMER

Peter is a tobacco farmer, as his father was in another part of the country, and we saw the whole operation, from planting the seeds onwards. We saw the drying sheds, the grading, the packing of the leaves and even the final auction at the biggest and newest Tobacco Auction House, opened by President Mugabe. But tobacco was not the only crop and we were fascinated by the variety of other uses made of the land to bring out its full potential. The tobacco fields are rotated with a maize crop, where the stripped kernels are used for beer and even the paper-like dried outer covers are used for cattle fodder, and rotation includes two years for grass. The best grass is cut by hand by gangs of specialist workers who also oversee the winnowing of the seed. The hand cutting and threshing of the grass is done to provide the finest seed, which is then sold to Saudi Arabia. We were told that a machine would be too rough. The latest techniques are used to help prevent disease among all the plants on an organic basis wherever possible.

A new venture was citrus trees, and orchards had been planted to come to fruition in four years, of three different types of orange; the climate produces a harvest which luckily fills a gap in the suppliers' market.

Essential oils from tagetes was another product, but the very newest is a small herd of cows, a composite breed called Beefmaster, which Susie, Peter's wife runs on her own, after a year in college to learn about the whole process. Being only a small farm the milking parlour consists of a shed with one stall - and of course the milking is done by hand.

SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

Many of the farmers in the area have a "godfather/godson" arrangement, whereby one of the smaller farmers (African) visits a larger one month by month, or more often if needed, and information is given and views exchanged. Peter had an excellent arrangement with his "godson" and has taken it even further, as about 40 smallholders visit the farm every month to see the progress made throughout the year.

THE FARM SCHOOL

The farm has employment for 250 families which is quite enough for it to have its own lively school. We made two marvellous visits to it and were so impressed with what can be done with virtually nothing. There are 150 children and that means 75 come to school in the morning and 75 in the afternoon. There are three teachers and Headmaster Norman introduced us to the morning shift, who then put on a splendid display of P.E. with perfect timing and rhythm under teacher Godfrey and an older group of about 15 boys and girls sang in the most beautiful harmony some songs of Africa ably conducted by their young teacher Claudia.

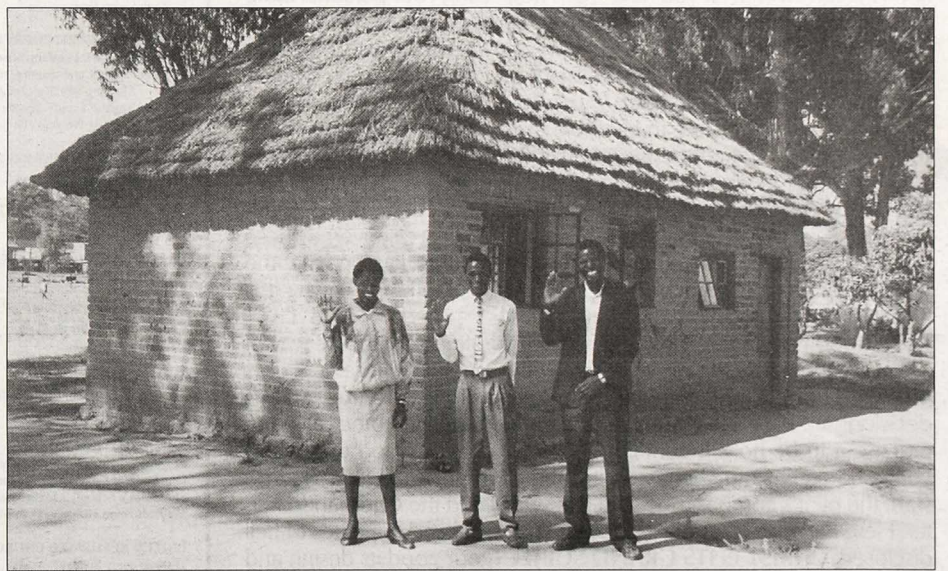
The children come from the age of six and are taught to read and write and learn maths and English as well as their own Shona language. The facilities are very simple: two brick-built classrooms (bricks made on the farm) and erected by farm workers, who also built the community hall, a bare room with concrete slabs for seats. In the village is a bar with a television set, the profits from the bar soon will be sufficient to buy another TV which would be installed in the community hall and would also help with lessons for the children.

We asked the Headmaster what his priorities were for



Class 6 Harmony Choir

- Patrick Baily



The three members of staff outside one of the two classrooms.

- Patrick Baily

"extras" and he said he would like to think about it. The next day a scrap of paper appeared listing three items - a radio/cassette, a globe, so that the children could see where they lived in the world, and some material to buy uniforms (by this he meant a simple cotton dress for the girls and shorts in the same bright blue material for the boys). We reckoned that about a fifth of the children were wearing this colour and when we saw the school off (in trucks, of course) and saw their bright and cheerful faces in anticipation of the inter-farm football and netball sports, we could visualise how much this would mean to them. Peter agreed to provide a tailor to make up the material and the globe and the radio/cassette were also promised. The running costs of the school are met entirely by the farm and Peter Stuart - who on a visit to Caversham some years ago cleaned cobwebs from St. Peter's roof! - is committed to seeing that the brightest pupils will have the opportunity to go on to a more advanced school. We should love the opportunity to go back and see how they are all getting on one day!

TALKING POINT

by
The Rev. Peter Edwards
(Caversham Baptist Free Church)



NEGLECTED TRUTH

At different times in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ there has been a tendency to neglect vital aspects of Christian belief or to emphasise some truths at the expense of others. Earlier this century many stressed the fatherhood of God to the extent of making the incarnation of Christ - His person and work - seem of less than major importance. I recall Christian writers in the 60s describing the Holy Spirit as the neglected member of the Trinity! When the charismatic movement had been under way for some time there appeared a book by one of the early leaders of the movement under the title, "The Forgotten Father."

In the 1990s it appears to be the **Bible** that is being neglected by many church-goers. This is potentially very dangerous because we believe that God has revealed Himself through His Word incarnate and through the Scriptures which are the record of His loving initiatives towards us. "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4) The scriptures contain all we need to help us know what to believe and how to put it into practice - or as the Apostle Paul expresses it, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Recent surveys have revealed that fewer Christians are reading the Bible regularly in spite of the proliferation of aids to understanding and applying its message. If you have been neglecting your personal Bible reading may I recommend that you start using one of the many study aids available. There will be someone in your church whose job it is to order these for you. You will find that your daily devotional reading will bring you closer to the God who inspired its message.

I have in my possession an old Bible that belonged to a pastor who believed and preached the message of the Bible. It contains his personal notes, cuttings on biblical topics pasted in and with significant themes in the text underlined - all evidence of many hours spent studying its message. On the inside front cover I discovered these words - I've no idea where they come from but they sum up what the Bible meant to this preacher of a previous generation and why it is important to me today:

"This book contains - The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practise it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed. **CHRIST IS ITS GRAND SUBJECT**, our good its design and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgement and will be remembered for ever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labour and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents."

If you wish to renew your contact with the Bible I'll be glad to help you in any way I can.



- Andrew Lamb

LIBRARY PRIZE

Caversham Library borrower Ann Kedge receiving her prize of an atlas from Mark Taylor, Acting Divisional Librarian: Elaine Shackelford, Reference Librarian, is also in the picture. The competition was reported in last month's Bridge.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 1996

The Street Collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised the sum of £5761.44. In addition there were Christian Aid services at St. Peter's and Queen Anne's School which raised £178.05 and £26.77 respectively. The total therefore collected during the week was £5966.26, slightly below the 1995 figure of £6079.51.

Some 20 walkers representing the Caversham area braved the elements on the second rainy walk in the last three years. With a few contributions to come the total so far received is just over £1000 which again is about the same as 1995.

Many thanks to church representatives, collectors, money counters, walkers and all those who helped to bring about such a magnificent result.

Keith Stephen-Evans

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)
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11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service

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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 September issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 31 July.

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

The dates for October will be Monday 2 September and Wednesday 4 September.

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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It is more
blessed to give
than to receive

Acts 20:35

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

THREAT THAT WON'T GO AWAY

When Safeway's effort to get a superstore at the former Elliott's site included in the Borough Structure Plan was rejected, great relief was felt by those who could see what damage it could inflict on central Caversham. This was to be short lived for Safeway has now registered an objection to the plan because it does not include the option for a superstore there.

They lost their original application for an even larger store with a whole host of accoutrements on Queen Anne's playing fields. Part of Reading's case against them was that a superstore was a possible option for Elliott's site. The Borough has now dropped this proposal in view of the widespread opposition it raised, for it would not have been all that less damaging than one on Queen Anne's site. Safeway's argument is that the Borough is going back on a proposal it once suggested itself as an option.

Safeway will be opposed all along the line and a public inquiry is almost a certainty. However, they are determined and they have large financial resources at their disposal, far more than a "hard up" local council has. The battle lines are drawn and it is likely to be a hard fought conflict.

UNITED WE STAND

It is partly to combat Safeway's plans, but also for a whole host of other reasons, that the various residents' associations in Caversham have got together to work out plans for co-operation.

The largest of these Associations and the only one to cover the whole of Caversham as well as its immediate environs is the Caversham and District Residents' Association. It is not the oldest. This distinction belongs to the Warren Residents' Association which beats it by five years. As its name implies, its main area of concern is its own part of Caversham. This applies also to the other residents' associations

and very properly too as it is only by living in an area that all the details of its problems can be known.

There are, nevertheless, many fields on which there is a common interest and here a united voice will bring added strength to a case. An obvious example is the continued growth in traffic, itself largely the result of all the extra houses being built. Still being built are those in Henley Road and Bugs Bottom. Still to come are Amersham Road and Elliott's site, and more 'in-filling', particularly in large gardens, can be expected. With all this increase in traffic pedestrians are likely, it is felt, to be a low priority. The main road junctions leading to the two bridges remain serious hazards to them.

One result of all this activity is a petition that is circulating (sign it when it comes your way), opposing proposals for the inclusion of a supermarket at Elliott's site in the Borough Structure Plan. Another is a meeting shortly to take place, between representatives of the residents' associations and members of the Borough Planning Committee.

A reminder to readers who do not belong to a residents' association - The membership secretary of Caversham and District Residents' Association is Marian Fallowfield at 40 Matlock Road RG4 7BS, and £3 will bring you three years' membership.

ST PETER'S CONSERVATION AREA

One of the most attractive of the town's conservation areas must be St Peter's, extending from the Bridge Street-Church Road junction to the top of the footway section of the Mount it includes St Peter's Church, Caversham Court and the great chalk pit with its towering cliff. It used to be a pleasure to take visitors there to see this tranquil and historic part of Caversham. That is now no longer the case.

St Peter's Churchyard is, on the whole, the exception. As an urban churchyard formerly, now no longer used for burials,

it comes under the care of the local authority. It is well kept and is usually a quiet peaceful spot, although I did recently only narrowly miss being cut down there by a hurtling motor bike. This is largely due to the care and attention given to it by a member of the congregation on top of the basic care it receives from the Borough.

Caversham Court is a different story. There is no doubt that it has been targeted by vandals as well as being a popular resort for the thoughtless who just want to work off excess energy. Amongst these latter I include those who play cricket and football amongst the flower beds and those who ride their bicycles across the lawns. Worse than thoughtless were those who recently left a heap of ten drink cans and a collection of crisp bags in the centre of the main lawn. Deliberate damage includes breaking up the benches, all of them good quality ones and scrawling or carving obscene or tasteless graffiti on them. Other examples of vandalism are throwing rubbish into the pond, breaking or stealing the pumping equipment, smashing the coping round the rockery and uprooting all the newly set out bedding plants in one of the flower beds. Even more difficult to comprehend is the mentality that can set fire to a motorbike on the lawn and throw the remains in the pond. Yet all this happened, the more blatant incidents mostly at night (and locked gates are no deterrent), but much of it during the daytime.

On the other side of St Peter's Hill the flint and brick walls of the Mount and the ground are frequently besmirched with chalk obscenities that one would be ashamed for a visitor to see.

None of this is easy to deal with, particularly that which happens at night. If the Park Rangers are there during the day, - and their responsibility is for all the town's open spaces - they, or at least the heftier male ones, restrain the cyclists and footballers, but often there is no one in authori-

ty there.

Over and over again it is claimed that having someone there all day would make no difference and that the day of the park keeper who struck terror into small boys, is over. Well, maybe, and it is not small boys who are the problem now. Common sense though proclaims that it would make some difference and a start has to be made somewhere.

Problems with male youth are nothing new. Most cultures have experienced it. The Scandinavians sent their roving, Genghis Khan led them raping and pillaging across the Asian flatlands and the Ostrogoths and Visigoths had them battering down the walls of Rome. Letting off steam in this small over-developed island can cause heavy damage.

PUBS

There has been quite a lot of comment recently on the changing of names of pubs, either to new trendy ones or to supposedly more up market ones from the traditional ones often dating back over centuries. Fortunately Caversham has suffered little from this, only one, as far as I know, having succumbed to the trend, and that one reverted to its old name before long as its customers preferred it.

Most of Caversham's pubs are not very old as it only began to grow in the nineteenth century. The Red Cow, the oldest, dates back to the mid-eighteenth century and is of course in one of the oldest parts of Caversham. The Griffin is a more recent replacement for an old thatched

inn, which old photographs show as being very picturesque, if a bit decrepit.

For old pubs you have to go into the nearby Oxfordshire countryside where there are several, mostly pleasingly situated and with good gardens, just the place for a nice warm summer evening.

SMARTENING UP

Congratulations to the Church Road shop owners who have laid a neat brick paved forecourt along their frontage. For those who live on the other side of Caversham and rarely venture beyond the Bridge Street junction, there is an interesting collection of shops there, well worth coming along to see. Moreover there is always the excitement of watching a huge HGV trying to negotiate the corner, particularly if two happen to meet just there. The heavy traffic is another thing that spoils

the Conservation Area.

POSTSCRIPT

I had only just handed my copy for Residents' Viewpoint to the Editors when, on walking up the Mount I came on a group of workmen engaged in removing graffiti from the walls and ground. How much better it looked. The question now is how long will it remain in this condition.

There is a telephone number for the removal of graffiti. It is 0800-834035. They will remove offensive graffiti from public places within two days and other graffiti within seven days.

LOST AND FOUND

Has anyone lost a set of house keys, one Yale and one Chubb - on a ring marked 'Escap Servo-motors'? It has mysteriously turned up in my possession. If you can throw any light on this please apply to me through the Parish Office, Church House, Caversham.

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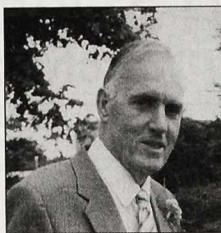
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OBITUARIES

FRED BOVEY



Many in Emmer Green and Reading will remember with thanksgiving the life of Fred Bovey who died in his 83rd year on 18 June. He came to Reading in 1951 to be Head of Science at Reading Technical College and became its Vice-Principal in 1962, a post from which he retired in 1979. He and his wife Molly, who predeceased him by four years, came to live in Emmer Green in 1969 and he remained there until he moved into Summerfield Residential Home over two years ago.

A Devonian by birth, his accent never lost its Devon burr, despite training as a physicist at Imperial College, London, and spending the early part of his career in Yorkshire, first with an optics firm in York

and then as a Lecturer at Rotherham College of Technology. His interest in natural science permeated his life. At Reading College he was keen to encourage young people to take an interest in science and in his own private life he shared an interest with Molly in natural history, both in a richly stocked garden in which they both loved to work and in the surrounding Oxfordshire countryside.

Although having no family of their own he was much interested in the welfare of the young; he was one time Chairman of Foley Hall, a hostel for

overseas students, and for a time was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Wesley Methodist Church, where he also sang in the choir. He and Molly not only maintained an intense interest in the progress of the younger members of their wider family, but also in the children of their neighbours and friends. When Molly lost much of her mobility in later life, Fred was always there looking after her with love and sensitivity. As described by the Revd Tom Stuckey at his funeral, "He was a good and gentle man, full of grace and truth." He was a man with a great sense of humour, a twinkle in his eye and a sense of fun. He will be remembered with love by all; it has been a privilege to have known him.

Owen Jewiss

WYN DAVIS 1903-1996

Wyn came to Caversham in 1946 and her home on the corner of Albert and Highmoor Roads became an open house for family and friends, some of whom stayed for many years.

She worked for Pulsometer, MacFisheries and eventually for Western Fuels, not retiring until she was well into her seventies. She took an active role in the life of Caversham Heights Methodist Church and was for many years involved with the Polio Fellowship, becoming a Vice President. Children were a great love of Wyn's and they were welcomed into her home with joy whether they were the local play-group visiting with a gift or children (and grandchildren) of friends and family. It was appropriate that donations in her memory were given to NCH

Action for Children - a charity for which she had rattled many collecting tins.

For many people in the Caversham area their memory of Wyn in recent years will be of her trundling through the village on her electric "chariot" which gave her independence when her knees refused to work (and she took a wicked delight in coming up Priest Hill at 4mph, making a bus wait behind her!) It was that independence of spirit that kept her going through many operations, particularly on her eyes and through her increasing frailty.

Wyn was a very special person and will be much missed - a fact reflected in the presence of the many people at the Thanksgiving Service for her life at Caversham Heights on June 21st. JH

OF BIRDS AND BOATS

The first fine day in June saw us boarding Salter's steamer at Caversham Bridge with my King Charles, Scooby. Originally coal-burners, these boats were long ago converted to diesel, with all 'mod-cons'.

Plenty of Canada Geese were seen but Grebes and Herons seemed scarce. No Kingfishers appeared throughout. Even bread for ducks and swans remained unused. The only notable bird was a migrant Hobby above our boat at Henley landing-stage.

Years ago when Thames-boating was 'DIY' (manually-propelled), punts were the safest and most comfortable of all. Surprisingly, once the combination of steering and propulsion with paddle operated

from ONE side only was understood, their long, flat keels made them highly manoeuvrable. Colloquially and literally, they could be guided to within the 'width of a cigarette-paper.' Know them not, however, and a full hour's hiring-time could be spent gyrating opposite the boat house!

We once enjoyed a holiday up-stream, using a camping version. In quiet backwaters with canvas furling, we regularly 'slept beneath the stars'.

One morning I awoke to discover a Kingfisher perched atop an awning-hoop. Trotting about on the stern was a handsome Yellow Wagtail. The slightest movement would have scared them both.

Summer migrants being very late this year, sought out old haunts - and quickly bred. Thus the beautiful songs of Blackcap and Willow Warbler returned on a 'Crash-course' to the sycamores and scrub of Hemdean House School. I suspect this was purely a 'One Off' convenience of a very long tradition which, in recent years, has been sacrificed to ever-increasing noise-pollu-

tion. We must understand that both birds AND our future generations are the real losers of this current trend!!

It is worth reporting that a pair of migrant Lesser Whitethroat bred 'Over-the-garden-wall' of a twitcher friend in Blenheim Road. Could it be coincidence that this species was an annual breeder in Bugs Bottom, just a few hundred yards away, where intruding bricks and mortar have now devastated its site?

A pair of Blackbirds staunchly reared two broods in my front-garden Jasmine. The young shrieked scorn for feline hazards as they departed their nest. Wonderful parents - wonderful 'kids' - what an example for the human race!

Twitch Travels

Titchfield Haven (Solent) - Spoonhill, Cetti's (pronounced 'Chetti's') Warbler and Black Tern were 'bonuses'

Epsom Common (stew-pond) - Little Bittern (a 'hard' tick). Well seen, if minimally, at rest and in flight. We were fortunate, as the bird was not seen again.

Scops Owl

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHORUS OF READERS AT ST BARNABAS DAY



Readers' ministry was prominent at the well attended St Barnabas Patronal Festival. The special preacher was the Sub-Warden of Readers for the Berkshire Archdeaconry, Mr Bill Jolliffe, who in his sermon drew upon the salient points from St Barnabas' life. Robed in support were the Caversham Park and St Barnabas Readers, some of whom took a part in the Service and are here seen in our photograph taken before the start of the Service. From left to right they are Mesdames Paula Andrews, June Hardcastle, Margaret Dimmick, Elizabeth Gash, Mr Bill Jolliffe and the Rev Nigel Hardcastle, who presided at the Eucharist.

LINK GROUP NEWS

At a recent Link Group AGM May Smith replaced Pat Jenkins as Chairman and Angela Kingsbury took over from Sonia Higgs as Secretary. Janet Ferguson gallantly agreed to remain as Treasurer. The generous amount of loving care, time and effort devoted by Pat, Sonia - and Janet, of course! - is greatly appreciated.

May attends St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, and represents Reading Family Aid. Worshippers at St Peter's Church, Caversham will need no introduction to Angela (wife of Canon Richard Kingsbury), who also represents Berkshire Women's Aid.

After AGM business was completed, Peter Edwards, Pastor of Caversham Baptist Church, celebrated Holy Communion.

There was a social evening on 22nd July (buffet and drinks provided) when potential new members were made welcome, and there will be other events throughout the year (next business meeting takes place on Monday, 23rd September) so please watch out for further news in "The Bridge" or give Barbara Graham a ring on 482043 for more information, or if you would like to join the Group.

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AMERICAN CHOIR VISIT

Caversham Methodist involvement with American Methodism was furthered when the Chancel Choir from the First Methodist Church of Miami, Florida visited Caversham at the invitation of both local churches. Members of the choir were guests of several of the churches' families during their two night stay. They gave a concert, held at the Heights Church, which was the first in their 1996 tour of England taking them to the Midlands, Deeside, Bristol and Cornwall.

It was good to see a well mixed and balanced choir. The church from which they hail is multi-racial and this is reflected in the choir. The members, seven men and ten women, are students, professional and retired, young, middle-aged and older. There are not many English Free Church choirs able to provide such a balance.

The concert was different from one in the English choral tradition. Firstly the sound produced was slightly harsh but with plenty of volume where required. Then the repertoire was different. There was little immediately familiar since most of the numbers were written by contemporary American church composers mainly in an easy-listening style with unison singing prominent. Some introduced, in their middle sections, recognisable tunes

like 'O Waley waley' (the Somerset folk song) and 'Finlandia'. Others, for variety, repeated themes transposed into higher keys. Three pieces stood out: a black gospel setting of 'Amazing Grace', which lifted the piece out of its usual somnolence. This was sung crisply and was repeated (by popular request) at the close of the concert. The second was contemporary original writing 'The Majesty and Glory of Your Name' which was introduced by the Choir Director as one of the choir's favourites. This clearly showed. It was beautifully sung with good light and shade. The piece concluded with a series of 'Alleluia's' bringing forth from the choir confident and convincing sound. The third piece was a reworking of the Sankey and Moody number 'It is well with my soul'. The piece took on a much lighter complexion in this well decorated arrangement with the melody being taken alternately by the men and the women.

The choir, as a body, blended well and where the music required the under parts to be prominent there were heard some very pleasing sounds. The soprano line of the choir was particularly impressive with the front row producing beautifully clear and powerful high notes. In one of the pieces there was a haunting

pianissimo descant which floated above the body of the music sung by the rest of the choir. It would, however, have been good to see the members show a little less dependence on their scores, particularly as they were singing from their regular repertoire - it would have allowed them to put more of themselves into the performance.

All in all this was a very enjoyable concert giving a glimpse of the different nature of American Methodist church music.

St Andrews Fellowship

About twenty Fellowship members set off for an idyllic summer's day out in June. They went first to Jane Austen's house at Chawton where they were given a very interesting talk about Jane and her family before they went round the house. There was then time for everyone to find some lunch before they went on to Hinton Ampner House where they were met by a National Trust representative who told them about the house. A visit to the nearby church was made by most of the party, who went round the house, and who also enjoyed exploring the very extensive gardens before having tea and coming home.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEW TEAM MINISTRY FOR CAVERSHAM METHODISTS

From Sunday 1st September there will be a new team ministry for the Methodist Churches at Gosbrook Road, Caversham Heights and Woodcote. Rev John Boakes and Rev David Moody will be replaced by Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Deacon Vic Downs assisted by a group of three local pastoral helpers. All the team will be working across the whole area of Caversham, Sonning Common, Emmer Green, Caversham Heights, Goring and Woodcote.

Rev Rosemary Fletcher, who comes from the Swindon Circuit where she has been working for the last 7 years, has a particular interest in music. Before ordination she worked in the law courts in Birmingham, and has a great enthusiasm for ecumenical relationships. She will occupy the manse at 72 Highmoor Road. Deacon Vic Downs comes, with his wife Anne, from Bristol where he has been studying for the Diaconal Ministry. Previously Vic was a teacher and they

have two adult children (and a dog!). In addition to his work with Rosemary Fletcher he will act as Methodist Chaplain for Reading Prison as well as continuing his probationary studies. Vic and Anne will occupy the manse at 9

Woodlands Grove. The three pastoral helpers, David Herbert, June Harper and Rosemary Nagle, drawn from the two Caversham churches, make up the team and will work in varied ways as required by the team. It is envisaged that

the team will also be able to support the varied and valuable work already going on in the churches and all their members eagerly look forward to this new era of working together to enable further ministry in the area.

JOHN AND DOREEN BOAKES



- Walton Adams

The Reverend John Boakes is retiring this summer and with his wife, Doreen, will be moving to The Mumbles in South Wales. John has been the Minister at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church since August 1989.

One of the hall marks of a good ministry must be that a minister leaves a Church in a healthier state than he found it. Accordingly, John and Doreen must feel a great deal of satisfaction about their time at Gosbrook Road. In his quiet and undemonstrative way John has worked tremendously hard, and slowly but surely, his efforts have borne fruit. John's concern has always been the spiritual state of Church and the well-being of Gosbrook Road has undoubtedly improved under his stewardship and the members have grown to appreciate all his labours.

John has been an encourager, persuading members to try new things and has brought fresh ideas into worship. The sacred dance group which visited the church from Cornwall gave a new insight into worship. The Praisemakers young people's choir also from Cornwall brought exciting worship ideas and fellowship. John has been involved in two missions within the congregation, a Lay Witness

weekend when he first came and a "Share Jesus" campaign. These weekends have been successful with more friends joining the Church (and staying). There have also been visits to "Spring Harvest" and "Easter People" which have been great experiences for those who were able to go.

Doreen Boakes, too, has more than played her part in supporting John. She has been unflinching in her efforts whether this has been with the Sunday Club, preparing Church lunches or organising social events. Doreen's forte is in caring for the Church family. This can be personally in people's homes, with the young Mums and their toddlers, or with visits to see the lambs and the bluebell walks, St Valentine's dinners and New Year's parties. All this work for the church, despite not being in the best of health, has made Doreen very special to the folk of Gosbrook Road.

Of course, John does have his weaknesses, but supporting Crystal Palace Football Club and indulging in Fantasy Cricket and Football should not be held against him.

John's last Sunday will be at Gosbrook Road on 28th July at 10.30am followed by a church lunch, and evening service at 6.30pm.

Thank you John and Doreen, and have a long and happy retirement.

DAVID and JOAN MOODY

One of the ancient doctrines of the Methodist Church is the concept of the itinerant ministry, which means that ministers generally move on to fresh pastures every five years, so bringing to another church their accumulated experience and ideas. This summer David and Joan itinerate from Caversham Heights to Grimsby.

David Moody was ordained at the Preston Conference in 1962 after being initiated into rural Methodism as a probationer at Gnosall, near Stafford, where he looked after five churches. If that wasn't enough to cope with, his first fully fledged appointment was to Biddulph, near the legendary Mow Cop, where he had to take nine under his wing!

At Biddulph he experienced a quirk of Methodism that existed three decades ago. Although the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists had joined forces in 1932, old loyalties died hard. David's church was in a former Wesleyan circuit but overlapping it was a former Primitive Methodist circuit. Methodist churches in one circuit would have no truck with Methodist churches in the other!

After Biddulph David moved to Salford and then took a long break from the active ministry - though not from active laymanship - and served as a personnel manager for ICI at Billingham and Wilton. The work provided him with invaluable experience in the techniques of forward planning and target setting.

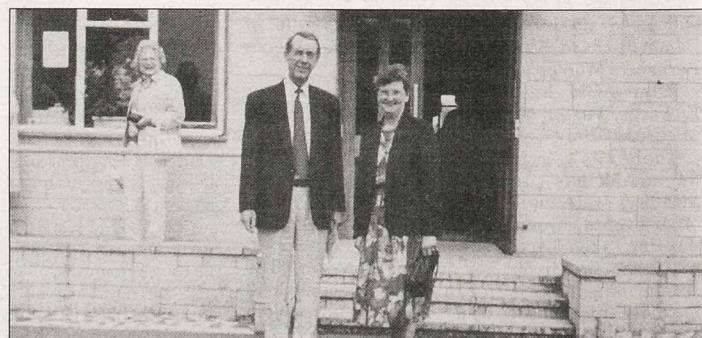
When he returned to the active ministry in 1986, being appointed to Sanderstead near Croydon, there had been significant changes in the Methodist Church, particularly the steady decline of the small rural churches.

Although David has been assiduous in his concern for the welfare of the members of the Caversham Heights church - to which he came in 1991 - when they were bereaved, sick or in hospital, he believes that the church must be less of a home of a Christian sect than a focus for the life of the community through which it can effectively perform its missionary role. He has been concerned to raise the profile of the church through better publicity and by setting in motion changes to the fabric which will make it more open and attractive to those outside the church who are reluctant to darken its doors. The church is no longer defended by a tall and tatty hedge!

What of the future of Caversham Heights, Grimsby and all the other Methodist churches? David considers it essential to ensure that more younger men and women are engaged in the management of the church and that the worship should be developed in a style appropriate to contemporary mood and taste whilst still retaining the distinctive character of the Methodist form. Different personalities find satisfaction in different doctrines, rituals and forms of worship and the different denominations meet this need. Methodist churches must, however, work more closely with other denominations in mission, youth work and outreach.

Caversham Heights has been fortunate in having a tradition of the wives of its ministers playing a full part in the life of the church and the locality and Joan Moody is no exception. She has taken a great interest in the women's work in the church, known as Network, and was President of the Free Church Women's Council. This appointment gave her the opportunity to choose a charity for the year and, typically, she chose 'Feed the Children' as she has been much concerned with the overseas work of the Methodist Church and voluntary agencies.

We thank them both for their ministry at the Heights and wish them well in their 'pastures new'.



CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST DIARY

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| AUGUST 4 | 9am Holy Communion - Rev. David Moody
11am Rev. David Moody
6.30pm Rev. Dr. John Ogden of the Town Centre Methodist Churches. |
| AUGUST 11 | 11am Mrs Christine Stuckey of Wesley
6.30pm Mr Dudley Coates. |
| AUGUST 18 | 11am Holy Communion - Rev. Patricia Herriott BA, MDiv
6.30pm Mr David Munns |
| AUGUST 25 | 11am Mrs Beryl Wootton of Woodley
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Laurance Stedeford (Retired). |

Informal

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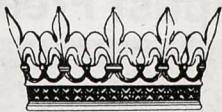
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AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEWS FROM ST. ANNE'S



1896-1996

Thursday 6th June was a scorcher as parishioners from St Anne's joined others from South Oxfordshire - and from further afield - to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi in the grounds of Mapledurham House. Together with a large number of primary school children from the surrounding area, they helped swell a congregation that must have numbered 400 or more for a splendid occasion of outdoor worship.

Five priests concelebrated Mass with the Rt Rev Finbar Kealy, Abbot of Douai, as the principal celebrant. Their variety of unpriestly sun hats, understandably necessary to ward off the fierce sun, was rivalled by those of the servers, collectively making a sight not often seen on the altar. Somehow they signalled that while this was a solemn occasion it was also one to be enjoyed, as it clearly was by all present. The slight agricultural smell that pervaded the scene only added to the sense that this was a special and different occasion.

Mass was followed by procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, music throughout being provided by the choir and organ of Oratory School. While the organ provided a fine underpinning for the congregational singing, it was a little overpowering when accompanying only the choir but the outstanding quality of the latter was clear when they sang unaccompanied. The procession managed to produce a whole range of differently timed versions of the same hymns but processional music was ever thus.

10.30 Mass on Sundays 9th and 16th June buzzed with excitement as some 30 young members of the Parish made their First Holy Communion. It buzzed again, though to a different beat, on 23rd June when, as part of its centenary programme, the Parish held its Marriage and Family celebration. Music for the Mass was provided by a band of Parish youngsters augmented by a few musical friends, their performance eliciting a burst of spontaneous applause at the end of Mass, the like of which your reporter has seldom heard before.

Incorporated within the Mass was an Act of Dedication to Marriage and the Family in which family groups joined together for husbands and wives to renew their vows and for children to thank their parents - there were a lot of moist eyes in the congregation at this point. After Mass there was an exodus to Mapledurham for a family picnic by the river. A number walked from St Anne's following a Treasure Trail and a few cycled, while assorted vehicles delivered their cargoes of food and drink and all the paraphernalia of an outdoor meal to the picnic field.

The weather was fine, the company good; over 80 families took part and there were some gargantuan games of rounders, not to mention cricket and football and people just enjoying themselves. The afternoon concluded with a simple Benediction in the middle of the field - the end of a grand day for which thanks must go to the three organisers, June Falzon, Anne McLaughlin and Margaret Page, whose efforts bore such fine fruit.



Some of the young musicians on Family Day

K. Corrigan



Father Tony and some First Communicants.

D. Buckley



Concelebrated Mass on the steps of Mapledurham House.

K. Corrigan

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

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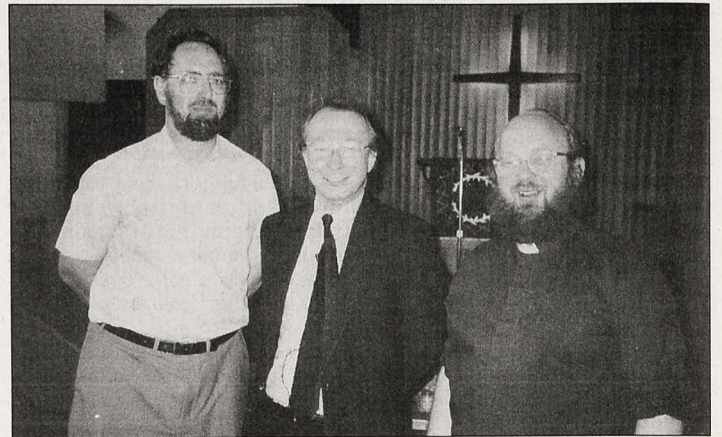
call at Caversham Baptist Free

On Tuesday June 16th, the Revd. Richard Thomas, Communications Officer for the Diocese of Oxford, visited Caversham Baptist Free Church at the A.G.M. of Churches Together in Caversham. His task for the evening was to communicate to us the art of communication between the church and the media. He started by saying that the churches will speak with a stronger voice if they work together - very appropriate considering the meeting at which he was speaking. He claimed that we expend much time, energy and money on 'talking to ourselves' rather than reaching out to the secular community, because we assume that they are not interested in church affairs. The fact is that they are interested and they want the Gospel not news about the institution of the church. They also want the church's view on what is happening in society.

Unfortunately, Mr Thomas continued, through certain areas of the media, the man in the street can get a very distorted view of the church, clergy and anything else remotely concerned with Christianity. This being the case, when we get the chance - when people come through our church doors - we must give them the true picture; whether this is at weddings, funerals or other functions they must see the church as it really is, not what they are told about it. Journalists will often print what they want to, not what you want them to so care is needed when dealing with the press so that the church member, clergy or whoever is making the news remains in charge of the situation and does not become the victim.

Another tip we were given was "Think of whom you are trying to reach" - the media in all its forms can be a great form of outreach - use it and tailor your contribution to reach your desired readership, listener or audience.

Mr Thomas gave us plenty of good advice on



The Revd Phil Abrey, retiring Chairman of CTC, the Revd Richard Thomas, and the new Chairman of CTC, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle.

reporting events within our churches and keeping the interest of the press and public.

Also and very importantly, he stressed that the community and the nation needs to see the real church - a body of believing sinners - not a bunch of 'perfect people'. The world deals with sin by ousting the sinner, Christ's way means repentance, forgiveness and restoration for that same sinner

and the world needs to know this. The media can help, or hinder, immensely, we have to give them Christianity in Action.

Annual Meeting

In many respects the Annual Meeting was the excuse for having a prominent speaker and, so as not to get in the way, the usual business was accomplished by tabled versions of reports with minimal discussion. Thus ended the Revd Phil Abrey's seven year tenure as Chairman of CTC, a period which has seen increased working together among the Churches in Caversham. The mantle of Chairman has now passed to the Revd

Nigel Hardcastle; a Vice-Chairman has yet to emerge from among the clergy. Although there was some initial reluctance for successors to be found for the posts of Secretary and Treasurer in succession to Mrs Audrey Preston and Mr Ken Deane, the Revd Tony Jones volunteered to find a Secretary for a year from the congregation at the Church of Our Lady and St Anne while Anne and Howard Ballard of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church have jointly taken on the role of Treasurer. On behalf of Caversham those present thanked the retiring team for all their work for Churches Together over several years.

ST PETER'S WIVES' GROUP

At the May meeting the Chairman announced that the recent Green Day had raised £200 for the Sue Ryder Foundation while the Bring and Buy Sale at the previous meeting had raised a further £60.55. The meeting continued with a talk by Marion, who is a children's worker with

Berkshire Women's Aid. Marion detailed the various types of refuges made available to women victims of violence, depending upon their circumstances and needs, particularly if they had children with them. She described the sorts of situation which would lead a woman to

seek refuge and the typical stages they would go through as they rebuilt their lives. The Aid workers help them to work out the options available to them but never advise what they should decide.

Marion herself is responsible for responding to the emotional needs of the children involved, for helping them continue with schooling and arranging holiday activities, but above all letting them talk to her, in absolute confidence, as they recover from the traumas they have endured. Marion then talked about the multi-Agency Domestic Violence Forum in Berkshire and the new Project to set up a furniture store in Newbury and co-ordinate volunteers. She concluded by thanking the Group for their support, particularly for Christmas presents supplied.

In June there was a much enjoyed visit to Dorney Court, where two very knowledgeable and committed guides showed members the delights of an extremely beautiful Tudor house, still used as a family home.

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

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CAVERSHAM THEATRE

NO TIME FOR FIG LEAVES

"No Time for Fig Leaves", the June production of Caversham Theatre, translates the audience to a time in the future when ladies control the whole world and in particular the British Government. This is not, as might be thought, the result of the relentless march of the monstrous regiment of women, but of radiation from a nuclear catastrophe which the females survived but the males did not!

When the play opens Constance, the Prime Minister, receives the dramatic news that two males have survived. An insulated capsule has been found

containing a boffin and a RAF Wing Commander, and the delighted PM promptly puts them under armed guard at her country residence. Her arch rival, the First Lord of the Admiralty has aspirations to the premiership and she believes that with this ace in her hand she can easily scotch them.

When the play ends a trump card has come the way of the First Lord. One of her nuclear submarines, which was under the ice at the time of the calamity, has returned to port with a crew of warm blooded sailors only too keen to play their

part in ensuring the survival of the British nation!

Between the beginning and the end the play is brisk, fall-about farce, and none fell about so well as Dora, the gormless butler, delightfully played by Denise Bickerton. Dora fell in a faint at the first sight of one of the males, and if his eye fell on her she was not slow to fall on him.

To get the play off to a swinging start the play needed a rather more hearty, handbagging PM than Maggie Wild's range permitted, with the result that it did not come alive until Martin Leckie, as Wing

Commander Lawler, came on stage. Lawler, a quick-witted and accomplished lady-killer, quickly realised that, provided the boffin did not want a share, the world was his oyster. The boffin, Professor David Moxon, was played by Simon Lovelock whose shy, gauche, academic characterisation was a nice foil for the self-confident, eager-to-get-on-with-it Wing Commander.

The Wing Commander's roving eye quitted roving when it chanced on the charming Eve Forster, played volup-tuously by Anne Piper. It looked the other way

when it chanced on Penny Mason's no-nonsense Major Danvers-Bishop, who was his battle-axe gaoler until a strategically placed syringe warmed her heart. Liz Martin was most effective as a cool, supercilious and ambitious PPS, whilst Kathleen Marsh was appropriately severe and threatening as the First Lord. Kathy Munns nicely managed the melt down from a dry Minister of Science to an attractive potential seducer of the boffin.

Bob Green was the director of this witty laugh-a-minute production. E.M.A.

QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL

The Children's Society Art Exhibition, Henley

Five local schools, Queen Anne's, Pangbourne College, Shiplake College and Rupert House and St Mary's, both of Henley, joined forces in July to support The Children's Society,

with an exhibition of nearly one hundred and fifty items, in Henley during the Regatta. The exhibitors, aged between six and eighteen, produced work in oil, pastel, linocut, pottery, sculpture, knitting and papier maché, in support of this charity.

All enjoyed this first taste of working life.

Exchange Visits from Germany and France

A group of eighteen pupils from Die Luisenschule in Dusseldorf (Reading's twin town) came to stay with their exchange partners at Queen Anne's and Bradfield College. A programme of lessons and outings was undertaken, and the German pupils spent the week as boarders in both schools - a novel experience, and one they appreciated. The English group had visited Dusseldorf in March.

On 24th June a group of twelve girls from Le Caouson School in Toulouse came to stay at Queen Anne's for two weeks. They attended classes with their partners and joined in the different activities planned during the school's Activities Week. They were the exchange partners of girls in Form 4, who travelled to Toulouse during the Easter holidays and spent two weeks in school there.

Work Experience

Recently, most Queen Anne's girls who had just taken GCSE's have been on work experience all over the Thames Valley and London. Local placements included Norcot Nursery School, Rivermead Leisure Centre and the Thames Valley Clinic.

ORATORY CHOIR

A good audience supported the concert in St. Peter's Church on 27th June in aid of Save the Children Fund. It was given by the talented choir of the Oratory Preparatory School under the direction of Dr. Richard Goodall. Dr. Goodall was clearly at one with his young singers, who watched his directions carefully, something every conductor desires. The youngsters sang tunefully and accurately, no mean feat in Britten's Missa Brevis or Kodaly's Ave Maria. The Kenneth Leighton "An Easter Sequence" was also a testing piece. Other items in the varied programme pleased the audience, as did Kate Eckersley, soprano, who sang in each half. The trumpet was played by Shaun Hooke and Timothy Morris played solo organ pieces as a contrast during the evening.

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AUGUST AWARENESS

For me August the artist who spells the end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn. In the garden we are seeing the results of our efforts earlier in the year. So this is the time to start appraising what we have achieved and comparing it with what we wanted to do. Every year I realise that results fall short of aspirations and yet I know that next year I can start again and hope for better results then. A garden is not a canvas which is wiped clean every year. It starts with a framework, itself changing subtly with time. The gardener is

the artist who adapts that framework by beginning of introducing new colour and new forms to create a living picture. It is the opportunity to experiment, to 'paint' with living colours, to create new groupings that makes gardening so pleasurable and exciting for me. So a critical overview and a little forward planning will help our artistic efforts next year. As frame work is the basis from which to develop the whole picture of the garden, it is a good idea to keep an eye on the size and shape of trees and shrubs. These can reach

By Hortus

overlarge proportions without our being aware, so look at them to see whether they are outgrowing their allotted space or casting unwanted shadows. Do they need trimming or more severe pruning or perhaps even moving (although this is not always possible)? Are there areas where a contrasting shape of shrub or tree would enhance the composition? How do neighbouring plants associate? While contrasting form and colour can be effective, in today's smaller

gardens similarity of colour can be effective. We also need to remember that plants come into their own for a short spell only in the garden so that the picture is changing constantly.

However much we may plan and work at gardening in the end the climate plays the major role in what is or is not achieved. This year the spring and early summer blossom on the trees, in the hedgerows and in the garden has been superb. In part this reflects the hot dry summer of last year when the woody growth had the

opportunity to ripen. This spring there was a lack of frost at a crucial time so that plum trees are now laden with fruit. However we shall still need water and sunshine at right times before the young fruits can develop into luscious ripe plums.

Whatever effort and planning the gardener puts into his plot he still depends on the vagaries of the weather. So if you are on holiday this month hoping for the sun to smile on you and it rains, do spare a charitable thought for the gardener. He needs all the help he can get!

the CLUBS

Margaret Cameron with Ivy Butcher second, and Nora Coates third.

Everyone agreed it was a colourful and informative evening.

Caversham Ladies' Club

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, welcomed the members, but had some sad news to relate. Mrs Queenie Strong, the Treasurer, would not be at the meeting as while out walking she had slipped and broken her hip; but the good news is that she is coping well with a frame at home and steadily improving.

The trip to Compton Acres and Bournemouth was on a sunny, warm day with the most beautiful show of colours. Flowers were everywhere, one just went from one side to another, finding it hard to take in so many different exotic blooms. With the Japanese pool with huge carp swimming around and the stepping stones, it really was quite bewildering. Then on to Bournemouth for refreshments. Truly a memorable day.

The speaker for June was Mrs Auton who brought along a lovely show of Paisley shawls,

scarves, dresses, literature etc to talk about and answer members' queries. One amusing item was a pair of pure silk stockings that had a special pouch for the big toe to fit in. It would not be a favourite nowadays in the mad rush after getting up late for work to have to manoeuvre the toe into the pouch - modern ideas are certain-

ly easier. It was a very interesting afternoon and members showed their appreciation in the usual way. They were reminded that at the next meeting Mr Noyes would be showing a further example of old and new slides of Reading.

A cup of that welcome

Continued on Page 11

Caversham W.I.

'Through the eye of my needle' was the intriguing title of Mrs Susan Berry's talk at the June meeting. She started with a bare table and showed and talked about many of her embroideries and cross stitch and counted thread tapestries. Everyone was most impressed with her skill and obvious enthusiasm. In the business part of the meeting reminders were given of future events including two garden parties in July and August.

The president welcomed Miss Rita Barnes from Earley W.I. who gave a report on the I.G.M. in Cardiff. She gave a comprehensive account of her attendance and the voting on the three resolutions all of which were carried.

After the raffle, the competition for an embroidered hanky was won by

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the CLUBS

Continued from Page 10

drink - tea, brought the meeting to a close.

Caversham Community Association

June opened with a popular bingo session with some lucky prizewinners of cash and prizes. Some interesting facts about the origin of Reading street names were given by the speaker, Lorna Jackson, on the following Monday. Some were based on a trader, like Hosier Street or Butcher's Row, others on local worthies like Vachel or Blagrave or Addington. Brain cells were working overtime when members enjoyed a quiz evening. General knowledge, music, animal stars, missing letters, were all on offer. Lucky winners

included Margaret Cameron and Muriel Waite. The evening ended with the popular card and prize game.

Members were on the move on the last Monday in the month with a countryside coach tour ending with a delicious supper at the Reformation, Gallowtree Common, a most enjoyable outing.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

How fortunate that the meeting this month fell on Ascot Ladies' Day, it made a wonderful excuse for a theme for the Birthday celebrations. With the imagination and the organisation of the chairman, Margaret Mellin, and backed by her com-

mittee, the evening went with a swing/gallop.

The guests, arriving in summer dresses and wearing beautiful hats, were given a glass of punch as they entered the hall which had been decorated in Silver and White. The chairman welcomed over 70 guests, including six founder members and two new members, and the business of the evening was kept short. Angela Lovewell was invited to cut the birthday cake because she had served nine years on the committee.

The Guild were entertained by six members of the Sainsbury Offcuts, who in the spirit of the occasion commenced with the Ascot Gavotte and then not only sang but produced a quiz. The prize was two tickets for their next show and was won by Marion Miller. They also had the onerous task of choosing a winner for the hat competition the winner being Lillian Dewar with her amazing design - a silver hat supporting a gold beaker containing straws for the horses and the whole with a price ticket of 1000 guineas.

Supper followed, a cold buffet with strawberries and cream and champagne. Racing cards were on sale and the results of the races were announced while everyone was drinking coffee, the first prize being a bottle of champagne. Everyone agreed it was a fantastic evening and joined the singers in more songs to bring the party to an end.

Why not come along to a meeting, they are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in St Andrew's church hall, Caversham Heights.

Caversham Afternoon TG

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild had a very full and interesting afternoon at their June Meeting. The Federation A.G.M. Report was given by Mrs. Smith, which proved how active this organisation is. The speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Arnold with a very erudite commentary, accompanied by slides, on chairs, their origins and manufacture. The richness of brocades for the upholstery was illustrated along with short biographies of the original owners.

After the raffle and the competition results the meeting closed. The Ramblers are meeting and enjoying their activity. The Social Studies Group met with other members playing Scrabble. The next July meeting featured Mr Engler from Shiplake Garden Centre who gave some tips on how to maintain the garden.

Chazey W.I.

The June meeting was an outing to Kingston Bagpuize House, Abingdon, in lovely warm weather. The Social Group also organised an outside event; a trip to the Rainforest, near Newbury. Again the weather was warm but the Rainforest doesn't rely on outside temperatures. It really is a complete micro-climate of its own, totally independent of local weather. There are three large tropical glasshouses with plants and small animals - amphibians, butterflies and little monkeys. They are waterlily leaves that are said to grow 3 inches in a day, finishing at three or four feet across. Members all felt that it would be a very good children's day out in the holidays.

Chazey W.I. has been thinking of other children too; the children of Bosnia. Berkshire Federation has been organising Gift Packs to be sent out by FEED THE CHILDREN. So far 30 packs have been assembled by individual members. There are Education Packs containing exercise book, pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener and pencil case, and Children's Packs which include soap, toothbrush and paste, flannel, sweets and a small toy. FEED THE CHILDREN will try to deliver the Berkshire Gift Packs to the same town, village or school if at all possible, and members enclosed cards with their own name, and Chazey W.I. offering good wishes.

On July 2nd, Mrs Dot Kaines of the St John's Ambulance instructed members on First Aid. They were interested to learn of a new Recovery Position, introduced in the last two years and Mrs Kaines impressed on them the watchword DR A B C, that is Danger Response - check on electricity or unsafe building - Airways, see that there is no obstruction - Breathing, establish this - Circulation, check pulses. St John's Ambulance and Red Cross both run First Aid classes and members felt that these are very worthwhile. You don't have to be a W.I. member to join a class.

A visitor from Earley reported to the meeting. Miss Rita Barnes attended the Intermediate General Meeting in Cardiff as a Berkshire Federation representative, a first IGM for Wales.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild meeting was held at St Barnabas hall on Monday 10 June 1996. The speaker was Mrs Lesley Gash on the subject "Am I paying too much Tax".

ARTS & CRAFTS held a meeting to discuss old articles brought by members. The next event will be a visit to Mrs Merton's garden at Burghfield village.

RAMBLERS have had two walks through woods to see the bluebells. They also had an interesting outing to the Basingstoke Canal at Mytchett and walked along the canal Banks

WORDS & MUSIC met on 24 June for a poetry afternoon.

The jumble sale held on 18 May was considered to be a great success with a profit of £189.

At the meeting on 9 July the speaker was Mr T. Heron on the Swan Life Line.

Rosehill W.I.

Everyone can enjoy a party. This was demonstrated at the celebration of the anniversary of the Rosehill branch. A cake bearing the logo of the W.I. made in icing, baked by one of the members, was a main attraction at tea-time. Hand bell ringers from Henley provided entertainment and impressed the audience with their musical skill and timing. They took as their theme 'a voyage down the river' and their bells rang out the Eton Boating Song and Handel's Water Music among other favourites. There was a welcome to visitors from other local Groups: Chazey, Woodford Park and Radstock Institutes were represented as also was Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild. Greetings from other institutes were received and were much appreciated by members.

There will be a Garden Party on August 7th. At the meeting on Sept. 4th Mr Michael Paxton will give a talk entitled 'I know where I stand'.

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