

## PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST. ANNE CAVERSHAM PAPAL NUNCIO'S HISTORIC JOURNEY



**D**uring the Middle Ages, many pilgrims made the journey to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Caversham. On Sunday 21st July 1996. His Excellency Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, the Papal Nuncio, made such a journey from London, the first, it is thought, since those far off days, by a personal representative of the Pope. There was on this occasion a very particular

objective to the Nuncio's journey for he came, not simply to visit the shrine, but to crown the statue which graces it. The crown itself had been specially commissioned to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Parish of Our Lady and St Anne and in May it had been taken to Rome where it was blessed by the Pope. How fitting now that the latter's personal

representative, the senior foreign diplomat in London, should come to preside on his behalf at the coronation of Our Blessed Lady in the shrine at Caversham. The weather was brilliant and the church packed for 10.30 Mass which was concelebrated by the Nuncio with Parish Priest, Fr. Tony Jones, in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, local

Councillor, Pauline Palmer, Rev Nigel Harcastle, chairman of Churches Together in Caversham, and representatives of the other local Christian denominations. In the course of his homily, Archbishop Barbarito told the congregation that, in placing a crown on the head of Our Lady, they would be fulfilling the dreams

of their ancestors who had done likewise over 500 years earlier. Then, in a simple but dignified ceremony, he echoed their actions by placing the new crown on the statue to loud applause from all present. Following Mass, the Archbishop attended an informal reception in the Parish Hall where he was able to meet members of the parish. These ranged from the youngest babe

in arms to the senior parishioner, Sister Mary Aidan, who, having spent 67 years of her life at the Convent of the Visitation, is now in her 99th year. The first visitors to the newly enhanced shrine arrived three days later when a party of about 55 French and British pilgrims who had walked from Southampton to Reading took part in a simple service at the shrine before being

entertained to supper in the Parish Hall. Although primarily concerned with retracing a route likely to have been taken by medieval pilgrims from the Abbey of St James in Reading to his shrine in North Western Spain, the party were clearly much impressed by the shrine of Our Lady at Caversham which added an extra, and unexpected, dimension to their own journey.



- Photo by K. Turner

Archbishop Barbarito crowns the statue of Our Lady of Caversham.



- Photo by K. Turner

The Papal Nuncio with Caversham clergy, servers and flower girls.



- Photo by K. Turner

Visiting pilgrims enjoy their supper.



- Photo by K. Turner

The Papal Nuncio meets Sisters Anne and Mary Aidan from The Visitation Convent.

# TALKING POINT

by  
**Revd. N. J. Hardcastle**  
 Vicar, St. Barnabas Church



## ENJOY CAVERSHAM'S FEASTS

Do you like feasts? Naturally!

Do you like free food? Perhaps even a glass of free wine? Who doesn't?

Do you like good company? Meeting new people? Of course.

Are you interested in the local community? You wouldn't read the Bridge otherwise would you.

Do you like to see old customs kept still full of life? And, whether you are religious or not yourself, do you take an interest in what happens when local religious communities meet?

If so, who not make a point of visiting your local Church of England or Catholic Church for its PATRONAL FESTIVAL? Or indeed inquiring about your Free Church's ANNIVERSARY.

### Local Vicar feasts 38 times in 7 years!

I have now been in Caversham for 7 years and 3 months. In that time my waist has expanded. Could it be Patronal Festivals are to blame? There have been 39 Patronal Festivals in the Church of England Churches of Caversham since I arrived and I have been to 38 of them! (I missed one of the eight St Peter's Days for the 60th Anniversary of our own Church's Consecration and Dedication of our new parish). Each of these 38 Patronal festivals was, in its way, enjoyable as well as edifying. Each festival usually consists of a special service followed by FREE refreshments afterwards. Anyone is welcome.

### All Welcome at Our Patronal Festivals

Unless they fall on a Sunday the dates are:

- St Barnabas Day 11th June (service usually at 8pm)
- St John's Day 24th June (service usually at 8pm)
- St Peter's Day 29th June (service usually at 8pm)
- St Margaret's Day 20th July (Service usually at 7.30pm)
- St Andrew's Day 30th November (Service usually at 8pm)

Anyone can turn up. Atheists and agnostics or members of other religions are welcome to observe the service as welcome guests. They need not compromise their beliefs by pretending to join in. People from other Christian denominations who receive communion there can receive communion. The Roman Catholic Church doesn't usually like their members to receive because of genuine theological differences. Anyone is welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. (Bow your head and put your hands behind your back if you don't want communion.) Try the wide variety of excellent refreshments, and introduce yourself to a few people. "I'm X, are you from this church? Been here long? Good food isn't it?" And so the conversations start.

### Different Characters

Each festival is different. St Margaret's has the charm of an ancient village church and refreshments in the open air, usually on a warm Summer Evening. St Andrew's has an excellent hall for the refreshments. St John's may eat and drink in the church itself. Most churches have a choir that does something special. St Peter's was particularly good this year. Last year St Barnabas Day fell on a Sunday so we had a formal communion in the morning and did a "This is you life St Barnabas" in the evening, with about 20 characters in full costume. "All the way from Tarsus . . . You haven't seen him for 2000 years, your old friend and partner PAUL." etc. This year we were more traditional and none the worse for that. Sometimes a music group will play. Occasionally we have had dancers. Preachers visit from near and far. Old friends return. We sing the time honoured hymns of the season, and a few new ones too. The celebration of our patron Saints, which have gone on ever since the churches were built, sometimes many centuries ago, still continue, changed no doubt, but in essence still the same throughout the centuries.

### The Ordinary, Lovely People of God

Here in each of these feasts are ordinary people, just like you and me - ordinary folk who try and fail to do these greatest of all things perfectly, but also in part we succeed, and so reflect a little of that bright glory of God, the glory of his love. Here we see them, not the excited crowds of an evangelical rally, nor the grand people of formal occasions in Westminster Abbey, not the holiest of monks and nuns. Here they are, God's ordinary people, marvellous in their ordinariness, glorious in their penitence, lovely in their faithfulness and the gentle caring of their lives.

### Saints Feast on Earth and in Heaven

The saints we celebrate and ask to pray for us were ordinary too. These were not great academics nor distant serene mystics, nor terrible ascetics. They were ordinary working people with ordinary mundane lives like you and me. Like us they were failures at following the perfect example of Christ's love. But they, like us, sometimes wonderfully reflected the glory of the Lord on whom their hearts were set, and that reflected light has lit up the whole world. The Saints had no virtue of their own but they were filled sometimes by Christ's grace and love. These famous saints no longer walk this earth. This day they are with their Lord in paradise, sharing in a perfect feast of love. Here on earth, in ways dim and glorious, mundane and holy, faithful and lovely, the saints of Caversham gather at our dim but lovely foretaste of that great eternal feast of love.

## 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  
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 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

## POSTBAG

### DRUGS

Dear Editor,

*A below-teenage bomb is about to explode. Today! received information that not only teenagers but children are experimenting with different drugs. This will escalate if the Church does not awaken to the fact. These are children from a Christian background who see their friends using drugs without apparent ill effects.*

*These young people are part of today's instant gratification trend which Society has conspired to encourage, and the Church must face up to the danger without delay.*

*Yours etc.  
 Ted Burnell*

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 upon me Oh  
 Lord for I am  
 weak  
 Psalm 6:2

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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 October issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 4 September.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 2 September.

The dates for November will be Monday 30 September and Wednesday 1 October.

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

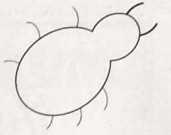
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# BEETLING ABOUT



## KATY

The very fact that I am writing this column at all indicates how much we are missing Katy. Her lively prose was most people's first read and we look forward to the time when she can continue. Sadly, her health is not good and the thorough investigations she has had about her eye problems have not resulted in any significant improvement as yet. Indeed, she cannot walk out from home very far and so her cheery face is another miss. She is trying to rest and relax as much as possible and will return to her hypnotherapist for further treatment too. Keep going, Katy, and come back to us soon.

## HECTOR PURVER

Our faithful layout

man for nearly 30 years is celebrating his golden wedding and deserves more than a note on this page. Read more about him on page 9.

## ADVERTISING MANAGER

Peggy Maule, whose husband Eric died so recently and both well known in Caversham, has asked me to make a further plea for assistance. She stresses quite firmly that she has no desire to give up, but she has reached the point when she feels that a back-up would be most useful. Is there someone among our readers who could help her? We are fortunate in being well supplied with advertisers, so it's not a question of having to tout for custom - it's really at present to be able to check whether the

advertisements are printed correctly and to count up the space allocated to them in the paper. And it would be for the present just learning how the ad gets into the paper and to be cognisant in case of an emergency. If this is getting to you, please give Peggy a ring on 01734 471816 and have a word about it.

## OWEN JEWISS

I don't want to make this edition a eulogy for all those who give their time voluntarily to seeing that a well rounded paper is published every month, but it would not go amiss to mention Dr. Owen Jewiss who has done so much in the past couple of years to keep us au fait with what is going on in the wider aspects of Christian faith and practice. His pictures have been most welcome too and we are grateful for his thoughtful input.

## ST. PETER'S TREES

The churchyard often has commendation for the early spring showing of aconites and snowdrops and this year I have noticed the variety of trees that have been planted. The most spectacular for me was the

*Liriodendron Tulipifera*, known as the Tulip tree or Whitewood. I was shown its amazing flowers, in pale green cups for which you had to look carefully, as they were almost the same colour as the pale green leaves. I must make a note to remind you all to look for them next year. A gingko (maidenhair tree) also flourishes and I was interested to read that it is the only representation of plant life surviving from prehistoric times - well before the ice age. A catalpa is also flourishing rather too well - but it is a lovely shape.

## ROWING

I always enjoy a day at Henley, even in the rain, and it is particularly rewarding if you can actually cheer for a chum who is rowing. The London team I support was knocked out in one of the early rounds so it was good to look for the son of John and Regula Adams from St. Peter's. Richard was rowing for the University of London and made it to the semi-finals, when they were beaten by their great rivals, Imperial College - who themselves were defeated in the final. Later Richard was picked to row for Great

Britain in the under 23s in the Nations Cup in Belgium. He and his partner - a coxless pair, came 11th out of 18, so a very good start to a couple who hope to emulate, if not better, Redgrave and Pinsent in the years to come. Why not? Richard has only done one year at King's, so I look forward to seeing him at Henley often.

## SPORTS

We are fortunate to have the Thames for our water sports. The Prime Minister has called for more money to be spent at grass roots and our Olympic results are pathetic, and here in Caversham we have this marvellous opportunity of acquiring the Elliott site as a playing field. Thameside School would love it!

## WAITROSE...

I do love my corner shop and this week I very nearly scored a first. I had done all my shopping without seeing one person that I knew. I could hardly believe it. Then at the cash desk I saw two friends. (The more friends the merrier, as it saves me money on telephone calls when I shop as the very people I've been trying to ring are then pushing their

trolleys). The manager has taken Customer Service to a fine art - he too seems to know most of us and will turn his hand to all the jobs - emptying heavily laden trolleys, filling up shelves, even producing recipes from something caught on the radio. The staff all seem to have been there for ever, itself a sign of a happy ship.

## ...AND OTHERS

All my eggs aren't in one basket and the free range come from the local green-grocer, where bargains in bedding out plants are to be found. Indeed, all the smaller shops need our support too and I'm sure most

readers have their favourites locally. Tesco, the other superstore is for winter and spring when a walk on the towpath beforehand (kingfisher, heron, grebe for starters) gives a good glow to the shopping. No, we don't need another superstore - let's have a playing field instead.

## GROUP MINISTRY

The Anglican Church in Caversham works as a Group Ministry. It is very good to know that when there are difficulties and gaps to be filled, all in the group offer their services immediately. Thank you all for this piece of Christian care.

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(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 947 1703)  
Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 947 2788.  
(Rev. Andrew Tyler, Hon. Asst Priest)  
Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.  
Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,  
The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 947 1814.  
Rev Sheila Nunn, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 947 2070.

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METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY  
Rev Rosemary Fletcher, 72 Highmoor Rd. Tel: 947 2223  
Vic Downs (Deacon) 9 Woodlands Grove. Tel: 948 2530

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

### OUR VILLAGE

Is it any longer appropriate to call Caversham a village? Nostalgia comes up with the answer 'yes' but already it is larger than many a town, dwarfing in size, for instance, Henley and Wallingford. Yet there is still much of a village about it. The houses and shops are still intermingled; it hasn't got a town hall or anything resembling one and its parish church stands apart from its centre. Most people who live here want to retain its village character. The real threat is not that it will turn into a town, (some developers from outside already refer to it as that) but that it will become an anonymous suburban sprawl.

Open green spaces are disappearing before our eyes. The large gardens which were once a characteristic feature are becoming a thing of the past. And throughout it all hurtles a constant stream of traffic, though that is something it shares with many a village.

As the prospect of a large superstore close to the centre refuses to go away and as a question mark hangs over what is going to happen to Abbotsmead and the wasteland next to it, scarcely a thing of beauty at the moment as it is a mass of brambles and weeds, anxiety has been renewed about dense urban development in what was once a South Oxfordshire village that even now retains vestiges of its former character.

Letters have been written, a public meeting has been arranged and a petition is circulating in the hope of preventing or at least mitigating the worst effects of these threats. Since the spoliation of Bugs Bottom in the face of sustained, well argued and hard fought opposition (and it was a planning officer who said 'If Bugs Bottom goes anything can go') there is understandably trepidation that Caversham will get

engulfed by yet another unwanted development.

### WHO IS TO BLAME?

The natural reaction to all this is to look round for a culprit and the usual one to point at is the local council and particularly the planners. Whilst they cannot be exonerated of all blame in every case, there are points to remember. They are under intense pressure from developers to release more land and to provide even more houses. To the south of Reading the position is even worse, as parishes battle to retain their identity in the face of central government insistence that, not hundreds, but thousands more houses are built bringing even closer the nightmare of a faceless Readingstoke.

In recent years the powers of local authorities have been so whittled away that they are in most cases, and this applies particularly to planning, simply a rubber stamp for central government policy which has already laid down what can and what cannot be passed. Modifications can often be extracted, though local planners must be vigilant to see that they are adhered to, but if a whole application is rejected because the public and councillors don't like it even though it complies with planning regulations, then the applicant can simply take it to appeal and if he wins, any modifications go by the board and the council could find itself paying out hefty compensation.

So before hurling brickbats at local councillors it might be more fruitful to ask some pretty tough questions of the candidates who will be putting themselves forward in the general election which is now only months away.

None of this is to say that local councils should have a completely free hand. If they did, anything or nothing could well be built. What is needed is

an acknowledgement that local people know their area and what is needed and what will be acceptable.

### SIGN OF THE TIMES

It is the holiday month. Familiar faces are temporarily absent as their owners seek the coast, the hills or the attractions of foreign fields. Those returning from the latter are frequently heard to say, 'It was so clean there!' and they have not all been to that spick and span country Switzerland. Time was when visiting France for instance that travellers would say, 'Beautiful country, but they do leave a lot of litter about'. Now it is the other way round. England is the mucky one whilst France is pretty tidy. Even the less highly developed countries which have problems with the disposal of their rubbish like parts of Spain who don't know what to do with their building rubble except to dump it wherever, have tidy towns. What has happened here? The slogan 'Keep Britain Tidy' can only produce a wry smile. If only it were.

Weeds growing in the streets have surely never been as noticeable as they are this summer, some are nearly knee high. The cause is two-fold. The long cold winter delayed the growing period, which resulted in a sudden spurt of growth when the weather changed. The other cause is the cut in public expenditure which has led to reduced street maintenance. Cuts in public expenditure are all very well when the money simply is not there but a daily trawl through the press will reveal heavy expenditure on projects or occasions of dubious public benefit. It cannot be repeated too often: there is nothing wrong about public expenditure as long as it is directed towards public benefit. Private affluence and public squalor is the hallmark of a degenerate society.

### GRAFFITI REMOVAL

In last month's issue I drew attention to the offensive graffiti sully-ing the non-vehicle section of the Mount and which has been removed by the Council's graffiti removal team. I speculated on how long it would remain clear. The answer is between two and three weeks but there is far less of it now and it is less offensive. There is little doubt that graffiti and litter attracts more graffiti and litter. Removing it will not bring about a permanent improvement but it does encourage a gradual improvement - and of course it costs money. The number for the removal of graffiti is 0800 834035.

### JOIN YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Shortly a leaflet exhorting you to join your local residents' association will land on your doormat.

Don't throw it away with the junk mail. It isn't junk. Instead, if you are not already a member, fill in the membership application form it contains and return it to the address shown. Membership of a strong residents' association is a way of making your voice heard.

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## CAVERSHAM'S OPEN AIR SERVICE

For the first few years after the inauguration of Churches Together in 1990 Caversham experienced a succession of fine September Sundays in which to hold its Open Air Service. Then in 1994 and 1995 it rained and the Service was transferred to neighbouring St Peter's Church. So in 1996 it was decided that to avoid the rains of September the Service would be transferred to May. What better occasion to hold a Service of Worship and Praise than on Whitsunday. Instead of being hidden away in the natural amphitheatre of Caversham Court would it not be better to witness our faith to the community by holding the Service in Christ Church Meadows? Thus it was all arranged for Whitsunday 1996 and then - it rained!

Not to be beaten by the elements it was finally decided to hold the postponed Service on the afternoon of Sunday 14 July. It was a hot and sultry, overcast afternoon with a threat of rain! A representative gathering of about 50 people, quite the fewest we have ever seen, came from the churches in Caversham to a site adjacent to the children's play area. There were probably more of the general population in the area. Like the few apostles on the first Whitsunday we did indeed witness to our faith. Certainly 3,000 souls were not added to our number but maybe the Holy Spirit did speak to some who were in earshot.

Led by the Revd Bill Carpenter, clergy from Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Anglican

churches took part. After a shaky start four brass players led the singing, which considering the numbers present and the fact that it was in the open air was reasonable. The Revd Peter Edwards preached enthusiastically about

God's Holy Spirit and His power. Jean Maynard's group of young dancers produced a delightful liturgical dance that I interpreted was to do with the wind of the Spirit and the tongues of fire. Graham Smith sang about the Holy

Spirit to the accompaniment of his guitar. Those who were there were convincing enough but the occasion hardly reflected the opportunity for Witness, Worship and Praise one would have expected from the ten or more congregations

from Caversham, neither did it equal the numbers we get when we meet behind closed doors in January during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Do we need to think again about how we witness to our faith in public?



- Owen Jewiss

The clergy leading the Service with some of the Jean Maynard Dance Group on the left and the brass ensemble on the right.



- Owen Jewiss

Some of those who attended the Open Air Service.

## CAVERSHAM BAPTIST YOUTH CLUB

On a Friday evening in July the "Pebbles & Gems" section of the Baptist Youth Club hosted their own version of the Generation Game. Instead of "Bruce" we had Robert Strong, with his lovely assistant Mrs. Shirley Strong on the Gong. Four pairs of contestants were chosen and the fun started with two sets of games. The first couples had to copy a disco dance that had been choreographed by three of the older girls, and then take part in a sound effects game in which they had to identify different sounds on tape.

The second pair of couples had to do some karaoke to the football song "It's coming home", and then draw parts of the body on to a paper cut-out of a human.

For the final there was a sketch written by Robert Strong and Richard Ousley, and the game ended with the conveyor belt which included a cuddly toy. An entrance fee of 20p was made and the proceeds were given to "Feed the Children" - now named "Children's Aid" - all who took part said the evening was a great success.

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

# DÜSSELDORFERS IN CAVERSHAM

OF THE 23 families from Düsseldorf who recently paid a week's visit to Reading in connection with the Reading/Düsseldorf Churches group, 10 stayed with Caversham families. Their activities during the week were varied, beginning with a Civic Reception and a tour of the council offices (for which we thank the Mayor and Mayoress very much), followed by a tour of the town for those who were here for the first time.



The committee of the Reading-Düsseldorf Churches Group which organised the recent exchange.



Revd. David Moody and Pfarrer Grebenstein with Eleonore Dedring, widow of one of the German founders of the Churches Interchange group.

On Saturday morning we had a working breakfast at Caversham Heights Methodist Church where we discussed the attitude of Christians to other religions in our modern multi-faith society. The rest of the weekend was free for them to "do their own thing" with or without their hosts. Some of them went to church with their hosts, others thoroughly enjoyed a 12 mile walk through our lovely countryside on the St. Birinus Pilgrimage from Blewbury to Dorchester or joined the pilgrims for tea or a barbecue supper.

Monday was our big day out. 50 Germans with their English friends started from Caversham Heights at 7.30am and, after picking up another 30 in South Reading, travelled to Salisbury on a double-decker bus, arriving in time for coffee at Sarum College, followed by tours of the cathedral, its tower or its workshops. Lunch in the college, a short talk on its ecumenical training by the director, and we all piled back into the bus to travel further back in time to the Standing Stones of Avebury. The Germans did enjoy their English cream tea with homemade cake and scones, provided for us by the Avebury W.I. The

weather was kind and everyone voted it an excellent day out.

The days of Tuesday and Wednesday were "free" time. Some went to London, Oxford or Windsor, to the University Museum of Rural Life, or visited Park Lane or Upcroft primary schools (so much quieter and more peaceful than their German counterparts,) or Brookfield Special School where they were impressed by the caring atmosphere and the dedication of the staff.

On Tuesday evening we had a service at Park U.R.C. Church, part in English and part in German, led by the English group's chaplain, David Moody, with the address in English (with a German translation) by Pfarrer Grebenstein, the leader of the Düsseldorf group. The Wednesday evening saw the "Farewell Party" at Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Reading; a bring and share supper followed by a demonstration of Scottish Dancing in which some of the English and Germans joined.

Thursday lunch-time saw them all on their way home, grateful for all that had been done for them, looking forward to renewing friendships next year when it is our turn to visit Düsseldorf.

## ST ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship members enjoyed a lovely, sunny afternoon outing to see the garden of Mill Cottage, Goring, in July. The garden is right on the riverside, on the site of an old mill, and is very beautiful. They were met by the owner's wife, who made them welcome. The party then proceeded to Dorchester where they went round the Abbey and had tea, some in the Abbey tearooms, and others in a tea room along the street which specialised in delicious cakes.

Members were joined by two of the Reading-Düsseldorf exchange party, who thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

## NEWS OF THE ALLSOPP FAMILY

Several weeks ago I met up with Denis Allsopp and was able to hear news of all the family which I now pass on to you. Christine is as busy as ever and Denis was his usual cheerful self. David has just ended his first year working for his PhD at Cambridge, and has been to California and Mexico. He is a half blue for Archery for the University. Katharine has just finished her first year at Brighton University, studying illustration at the school of Art.

Tom hopes to go to University to read philosophy having completed his first year in the sixth form. He is an avid skateboarder.

MK

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## ST MARGARET'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL - A SPECIAL OCCASION

When St Margaret's celebrated their Patronal Festival on Saturday July 20th they were able to use the treasured Savill Flagon at Communion. Some who attended the service and were able to see this valuable piece of Elizabethan silver may like to know more about it. The fact that it was under guard throughout the evening stresses just how important it is. Some fifteen years ago or more it was valued around £30,000; today that price is likely to have doubled. It is a well known piece of Elizabethan ecclesiastical silver and has been on display in New York. Below is a piece written about the Flagon by J. H. Baker in his booklet *Mapledurham Church and Village*, now out of print.

### THE SAVILL FLAGON

"The Savill Flagon is a beautiful specimen, the only 'round bellied' Elizabethan Flagon belonging to the church in Oxfordshire. It bears the hallmark 1598 with the maker's mark R.S. . . The bowl is ornamented in flat repoussé work, chased with scroll work and flowers, and embellished with a coat of arms . . . around which is engraved in stippled script characters 'The Guift of Lady Margaret Savill'."

Lady Margaret was the wife of Sir Henry Savill, Provost of Eton, 1596-1622.

With its rich ovolo moulding and the projecting flange beneath the bowl this example of these very rare flagons is perhaps a finer speci-

men than the pairs at Cirencester (1576) and Rendcombe (1592), though the four Gloucestershire ones are considerably taller and more massive. The height of the Savill Flagon is eleven and a half inches.

Lady Savill presented two identical flagons to Eton College, which gave one to Mapledurham and the other to Worplesdon Church, Surrey.

Sir Henry Savill having been knighted in 1604, the 'guift' must be dated in or after that year."

St Margaret's are not able to use the Flagon at every Patronal Festival because it is kept at Eton College, Patron of the living, and it must be four years or more since it made its last

appearance prior to 1996.

Most of the congregation know of the Savill Flagon, but I doubt they realise the church had a statue of St Margaret in the thirteen hundreds. I didn't until I read Mr Baker's book on Mapledurham and then checked what I discovered with Dr Cooke's *Early History of Mapledurham*, again out of print but a very erudite work by a great scholar and vicar of Mapledurham (1920-1934). He mentions the will of Sir John Bardolf the Younger and in it is written "... one wax taper . . . before the image of St Margaret". The statue was probably destroyed after the Civil War, if not before.

M.K.

## AROUND THE CHURCHES

NEW DEACONS FOR ST BARNABAS,  
ST PETER'S AND ST MARGARET'S

Among those whom the Bishop of Oxford will be ordaining deacon in the Cathedral on 29 September will be two lay people from the Caversham area. Edward Tildesley will be attached to St Barnabas, Emmer Green, and Cathie Pynn to St Peter's, Caversham, and St Margaret's, Mapledurham, but as Ministers in Secular Employment (MSEs) their main ministry will be elsewhere. For the past three years both have been following the St Albans and Oxford Ministry Course, a part-time course involving an evening a week in Oxford, two weekends and a nine day spell away during the rest of the year, much study in their own time and numerous essays. It is a course undertaken by men and women, many of whom are still pursuing their normal working lives, that requires dedication, commitment, sacrifice and a fervent desire to serve God. It also requires a tolerant, loving and supportive family. The training course is a route that people of mature years may take to enter the Stipendiary, Non-Stipendiary or Local Non-Stipendiary Ministry, to become Readers or simply to obtain a theological qualification.

**EDWARD  
TILDESEY**

Edward Tildesley is one of the good things that have come from the new houses in Bugs Bottom; he and his family moved to the lower end of Tredegar Road a year ago. For 18 years he has been teaching religious studies in secondary schools, having graduated with a B Ed. in theology from Durham University. For twelve years he taught religious studies at Norwich School where he was a Housemaster. He moved to Pangbourne College as a full-time lay chaplain, one of only three such appointments in the country. There he not only taught religious studies but had a pastoral role. He left there after five years so that he could spend more time on his studies during the final year of his ministry course, which he was able to combine with some teaching in Reading at the Abbey School; he is also Visiting Chaplain at Cranford House School in Moulsoford. In September he takes up a new post as Chaplain to Shiplake College and, although this will be a full time occupation during term time, he will assist at St Barnabas during the holidays.

Edward comes from Wolverhampton where, from an early age, he was involved in his local church and was strongly influenced by David Tustin, his vicar (now the Bishop of Grimsby). This and his educational background, a boarder at prep school and then Uppingham, seem to have fashioned his life. His focus is on education but he says he is being ordained because the Church wants people in work places; his is with young people. His pilgrimage so far is interesting: Chapel Warden at Durham, six years as a Reader in the Norwich Diocese where he was much used in rural ministry, now an elected Governor and Senior Student on the St Albans and Oxford Course, where he has been much influenced by Canon Vincent Strudwick, the Course Director. Next, in his words, he is to become a self-supporting member of the clergy.

While in Norwich Edward met and married Pippa, a Roman Catholic; they have a nine year old daughter, Dora, and they are very much an ecumenical family. Relaxation, he says, is as a trailer sailor, either on the water in his cruiser at the Sonning Gravel Pits or in Cornwall. He also confesses to some latent musical talent with a trombone.

**CATHIE PYNN**

Cathie and her husband John have lived in Caversham since the early 70s, first in Caversham Park and then for nearly 20 years in Caversham Heights where they became associated with St Margaret's, Mapledurham. (John is organist there.) Cathie's route to ordination has been an ecumenical one; she was brought up as a Roman Catholic and once contemplated becoming a nun, whereas John's background is in the United Reformed Church. It was, however, a perceptive remark from Canon Richard

Kingsbury that really set her thinking about ordination, thoughts which were consolidated by a discussion with a business colleague and then the Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands. In rapid succession she was selected for and began her training. She is now at the end of her final year, one in which she has been Worship Coordinator for the course.

Cathie is no ordinary person. A Reading University Maths graduate, she is now Manager of Business Information Systems at the Reading branch of the multinational engineering firm Foster Wheelers, a professional job that itself takes at least 40 hours a week. This has to be set alongside the fact that she is also the mother of three children, the youngest of whom, Michael, is still at home having just done his GCSE at Chiltern Edge School. Christopher and Marianne, the older two, have both been through university and gained scientific qualifications. Husband John is a physicist at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory in Crowthorne. Not unnaturally Cathie speaks of the stresses in undertaking such a course and of the supportive role of her family and her colleagues where she works.

Her future role is interesting. She will not be a chaplain but an employee like everyone else with a responsibility to undertake her job to the best of her ability. However, as a Minister in Secular Employment she will also be the visible face of the Church in the workplace affirming the presence of God in everyday things, showing that He is there sharing in their stresses, reminding them that Christ suffers with them and that God's ministers share the same emotions as the rest of us. She will be the interface able to disclose God to those at work and to reflect on the world of work, its problems and its stresses, to other clergy and to those back in the church.

Cathie says she is being ordained because she is convinced that is what God wants her to do. Through ordination she sees herself being empowered to facilitate her ministry to all, whether believer or not. As a future priest she sees herself being able to represent God's authority and His love to all.

Cathie is not only caught up with the world of work. Before embarking on her present job and that of a Business Systems Consultant she taught at Hemdean House School for five years where she was responsible for the introduction of the computer. This link is still maintained in her continuing role as Chaplain, in which capacity she will be responsible for a number of services during the school year. She is also a member of the School Council.

**THE ST ALBANS AND OXFORD  
MINISTRY COURSE**

There are now about 100 students on this course, part of which meets in Oxford on Tuesdays and part in Dunstable on the following day. All the students periodically come together for residential periods. They represent a new way of training and some changing patterns of ministry. Caversham, Mapledurham and Emmer Green will be privileged to have two of its former students in our midst. May their future ministry be richly blessed.

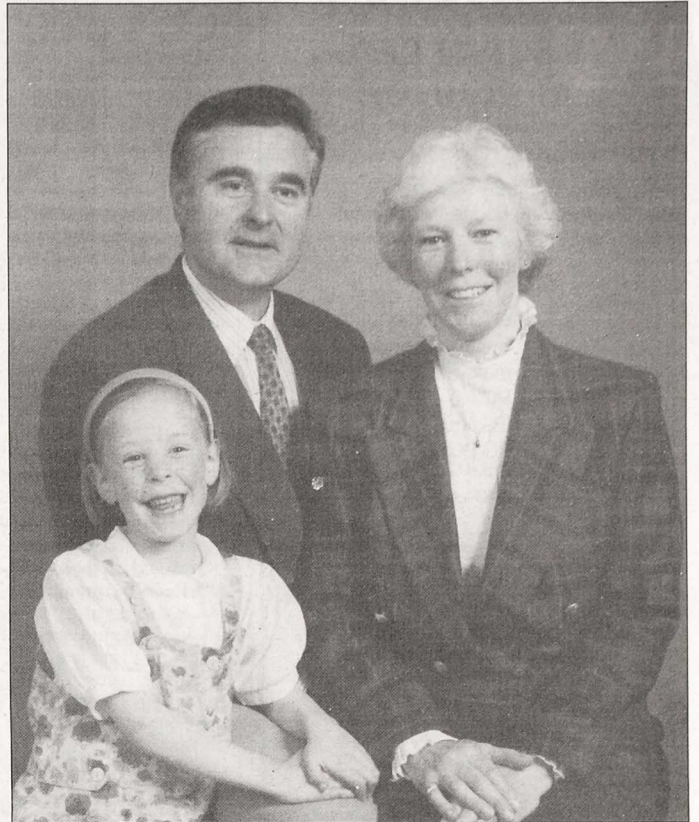
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'The Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer' is an open group which meets at 8.30pm once a week. (Details of this from Mrs Rosemary Carpenter at the Vicarage - 9472788). 'Come Unto me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest' (Matt. 11. 28) This is a time well spent listening to God the Father talking to us instead of us talking to Him - give Him a little of your time in silence. We close with Night Prayers or as some of us know it, 'Compline'. It is very much worth while.

"Amen, Come Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22 v. 20).



We are indebted to Edward and Pippa Tildesley for this copy of their family portrait with daughter Dora and to Cathie and John Pynn for their family photo; Cathie is in the centre surrounded by daughter Marianne, husband, John, and sons Christopher and Michael (on extreme right).

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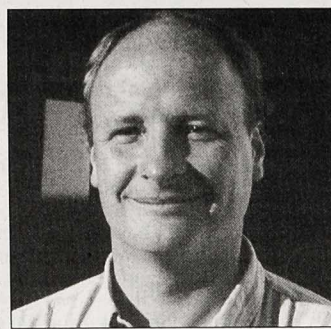
Caversham Hill is set to start its third Alpha course this month (September) and ten people had already signed up for it by the end of July. The course, designed as an introduction to the basic principles of Christianity, will run, as before, nightly on Wednesdays over a period of ten weeks.

Crispin Fairbairn, trainee pastor at the Chapel in Peppard Road, is thrilled with the success of the previous two courses. "About twenty guests have attended our courses so far this year," he says, "and the majority have become Christians. We have devised a follow-up course for them afterwards and all those who made a commitment while on the first course took it up and we are expecting at least six from the second course to start follow-up in September".

The course originated

at the church of Holy Trinity Brompton, in London, in the 1980s and has become so successful as a means of friendly evangelism that more than four thousand Alpha courses are now running world-wide - an increase of one thousand courses in the last four months. They take place, sometimes slightly adapted to meet local needs, in churches of every mainstream denomination as well as in homes, schools and even prisons.

Many Christian bookshops are now stockists of Alpha-related material and information about Alpha has recently become accessible on the Internet. The ten talks which form the course cover subject reckoned to be the key questions that non-churchgoers have about Christianity, such



Crispin Fairbairn

as Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? Why read the Bible? and Why and how should I pray?

At Caversham Hill Chapel, Wednesday evenings follow the recommended pattern by starting with a meal. This

is followed by the talk and afterwards participants break up into small groups for a discussion.

"Alpha explains the basics of Christianity in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where guests don't feel pressurised," says Mr Fairbairn. "We have found that most people who don't come to church regularly have only a limited understanding of what the Christian faith is all about. The course lets them find out for themselves, ask whatever questions they want to and make up their own minds."

The Chapel's guests

seem to have agreed. "It has really been a great way to learn about Christianity in a very basic and easy form," said one young mother. The small-group discussion format worked well, too. "We always seemed to run out of time just when things were warming up," was a common view. Alpha's wide appeal was reflected in the ages of the guests which ranged at the Chapel from twenty to seventy something.

Caversham Hill Chapel's next Alpha course begins on September 11th at 7.30pm at the Chapel in Peppard Road. Anyone interested can obtain further details by telephoning 474529 or 474781.

### Book Review

"Power Lines - Celtic Prayers About Work"

by David Adam

If you are a listener to "Songs of Praise" you may remember the edition earlier this summer from Holy Island, that very special place for Christians off the coast of Northumbria, with its associations in the 7th Century with the Venerable Bede, and with the compiling of the Lindisfarne Gospel.

The Vicar of Holy Island is David Adam, and in recent years he has published several collections of prayers and meditations based on the Celtic tradition, the most recent being "Power Lines - Celtic Prayers About Work".

Celtic prayers have always spoken to God in a very direct way, and the threads of prayer in this little book are like lines of power connecting us to God. Whilst it focuses on prayers relating to the work situation it also contains many more general prayers, and I have found the book helpful on many occasions. Like his other books it is published by Triangle SPCK and it costs £4.99.

This is the first of an occasional series in which recently published books of interest to our readers will be reviewed.

### METHODIST PUBLISHING POST

The new chairman of the Methodist Publishing House is Dudley Coates of Crays Pond, Woodcote. A member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Dudley is a Local Preacher in the Reading and Silchester Methodist

Circuit, in which he also served as a Circuit Stewart until September when (at the end of the month) his wife, Mrs. Jean Coates, becomes the curate of Wallingford Church (Church of England) and the family move to that area.

## CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST DIARY

September 1

9am Holy Communion -  
Rev. Rosemary Fletcher  
11am Deacon Vic Downs  
6.30pm Rev. Rosemary Fletcher

September 8

Racial Justice Sunday -  
11am Professor Tony Bell,  
Minister in Training  
6.30pm Holy Communion -  
Rev. Rosemary Fletcher

September 15

11am Holy Communion -  
Rev. Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30pm Rev. Dr. John Ogden of  
the Town Centre  
Churches

September 22

11am Mr. David Beek  
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs

September 29

Harvest Festival -  
11am Rev. Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30pm Rev. Rosemary Fletcher  
and Deacon Vic Downs

## OBITUARY

### BARBARA MARY AVIS

With the recent death of Barbara Avis, St Margaret's have lost a much loved member of their congregation. Some twenty-five years ago Barbara began to worship at Mapledurham, and soon became involved in church life. She was on the Social Committee and for several years organised the coffee at the end of Sunday Worship. She also joined the Flower Arranging Group.

Outside church life she helped in the community, taking Meals on Wheels and becoming involved with the Reading Spastic Society.

To her many friends she was a tower of strength in their times of trouble, helping whenever she could. Ask any who knew her and they would all tell you she was sweet, loving and gentle.

A quiet, private person, she shunned publicity but had an immense hidden strength of character. No one could imagine Barbara riding a motor cycle in the mid-nineteen twenties - but she did. She also took part in a little acting, and was a member of The League of Health and Beauty.

Born in Reading, she came from an old local family and, except for the War Years, spent all her married life in Mapledurham and Caversham.

For over thirteen years she suffered from increasing Alzheimer's disease, yet when all communication with her dear husband, Robert, ceased, love remained.

To Robert, who so faithfully visited her every day whenever possible for the three years she was in the nursing home, and cared for her at home for many years before, we send our deepest love and sympathy and to his family also.

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# A GOLDEN WEDDING

Nearly 30 year ago, Canon Grimwade, then Editor of this newspaper, advertised for someone to take over its layout. He emphasised in the interview that he wanted someone who was thinking in long terms, not just a job for a couple of years or so, Hector Purver accepted the offer and since those days has kept us all in order in preparing the copy for him, and has been most faithful every single month since those days in the 60s and this is why we have such a professional looking paper.

Employment as a layout man for the Daily Mail and then area manager for that paper centred on Reading until he retired seems a far cry from the heady days of the war - good for some, not so good for others.

To record a meeting in Cairo and a wedding in Prague one must travel back in time when two journeys began. Sue, her parents and two sisters left Prague in February, 1940, fled to Italy, and after a few weeks to Turkey, having eluded the Nazis. They then travelled on to Jerusalem where she and her elder sister joined the ATS. Hector was conveyed to the Middle East via Cape Town, Colombo, Bombay and the Red Sea and joined the 4th Indian Division in the Western Desert. He fought in the first campaign against the Italians and was then withdrawn to clear Eritrea, which was done before returning to confront the Germans in the desert.

We pass over those hostile years and find that Sue had been posted (after being commissioned) to Cairo to the



Hector and Sue were married at the Town Hall, Prague on Saturday 24th August 1946.

General Staff Intelligence. A similar posting found Hector in Cairo too and five weeks before he was due to be repatriated they met. That must have been some five weeks! After that in August 1946 Sue, now a Staff Captain, and Hector, a Major organising the first elections in Germany, met (having attended the Nuremburg trials as an observer) on the platform of Prague Main Station, and were married during this leave and honeymooned at Marienbad.

Hector is a great gardener in his retirement; sadly his large garden was becoming more of a pain than a pleasure and the couple have now moved to a house with a smaller and more manageable garden in Earley. They have a daughter who is married and living in America who has 2 daughters and a son, and a son who married in February 1995 and whose wife has very recently produced Mark Robert, 8lbs 2ozs. All the family will be

together to celebrate this Golden Wedding in November.

All of us working for the Bridge wish the Purvers many more happy years together.

## ENJOYING ANTIQUES

The 1996/97 season of illustrated talks organised by the Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society starts on Wednesday 2nd October and continues on the first Wednesday of each month, excluding January up to May 1997. Meetings begin at 7.30pm promptly at the Lecture Room, Chiltern Edge Community Education Centre, Reades Lane, Sonning Common.

A wide range of interesting subjects is covered and in addition there are two outings during the season.

If you are interested come and join the Society; the annual subscription is only £8.50. Join at the opening meeting or write to the Secretary, Mrs J. Bowen, CEAS, Chiltern Edge Community Centre, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, Oxfordshire RG4 9LN.

## SAFETY STREET

Safety Street was formed about two years ago by the Reading Borough Council in conjunction with Reading police with the aim of teaching safety to primary school children in a real life atmosphere. You may have read about it when the local press have published illustrated articles.

A derelict stable block on the old cattle market site off Great Knollys Street has been converted under the direction of Don Franklin and now contains a series of scenarios resembling film sets with superb murals painted on the walls by a graphic artist student. There is a building site, a railway line laid by British Rail, a river scene, a crash car, a vandalised children's playground, the outside

of a house possibly open to burglars, various rooms with everyday hazards for the children to discover and, of course, a street. They are also taught fire drill, dialling 999 for the fire and other emergency services and elementary first aid.

Schools from Caversham and all over Berkshire send primary classes along and the children are divided into small groups to visit each scenario in turn, where they are encouraged to question a trained volunteer and listen to sound advice. When duties allow, police also chat to the class and the fire brigade has an engine and crew to talk to them and demonstrate their equipment.

To date, some one thousand children have benefited from a visit

and very many more are waiting to come. Follow up visits to the schools have found that the lessons learned have been well and truly remembered. Mrs Irene Cameron (Reading Borough Council) and P.C. Peter Houlton, the Scheme's originators, must be very proud. In fact, Safety Street has been so successful that we are desperately short of volunteers. Do come along to one of our open days and see for yourself and be amazed, or better still, telephone Patricia Knight, the organiser at Safety Street on Reading 512612 or me on Reading 475174 and join our happy multi-aged band of volunteers.

Cyril Kirby  
(Some pictures of this venture will appear next month.)

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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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## TAPING THE BIRDS

As the dawn chorus dwindled to a few lingering voices, only the echo of a distant Song Thrush, Coal Tit, or Blackbird was audible. It is true that nothing can quite replace the real thing, but many good bird-cassettes are now available to fill those blank days. They are very useful for learning bird-song, as accompanying experts refer to the significant features of each songster.

A highly rewarding and fascinating aspect of bird-watching is that of tape-recording one's own birds of garden, country, and woodland. If a few of the above cassettes have been purchased, they may them be used for comparison with the DIY recording.

Portable tape-recorders are reasonably inexpensive, adaptable, easy to use, and provide years of enjoyment with good results. All are fitted with a built-in microphone, so merely aiming it in the direction of a singing bird may provide the recording of a lifetime. Day, Date, Time, Venue, brief weather details and suspected identity of bird should be added by speaking into the microphone at time of recording.

Do not attempt to record during strong winds or excessive traffic noise as these often ruin the result.

I still play self-recorded birds from ten or twenty years ago. They sound fresh as when originally taped and often bring back happy memories. Ensure that each cassette and its container are appropriately labelled, if then stored in order, they are easily found.

The more expensive portable recorders have facility for a plug-in parabolic-reflector, a dish with microphone inset. This considerably reduces extraneous noise and enhances the singing bird. They are quite often fitted with a cassette-speed control, with which incredible results can be obtained. One of the most beautiful sounds I have heard was an American wren at 'reduced-speed'. As most wrens introduce a trill into their song, perhaps ours would sound rather similar. I have yet to experiment!

My own tape-recorder has been ever ready on long-distance car journeys. It has also served in lieu of lengthy letter-writing; the original cassettes being used time and time again by each of us 'voicing-over' the recorded material.

Lectures and letter have been retained on tape, as well as several years of a very complete 'Daily Diary'. The uses are almost endless.

Most significantly, recordings of family and pets may live forever, with one's own voice alongside them.

Scops Owl



Reading Gospel Choir at CCF '96.

Caversham Charity Folk Festival 1996, held over the weekend 14/16 June, raised over £3,600 for nine local Charities.

The Charities supported at this year's Festival were Red Cross (Reddowns project), Berkshire Autistic Society, Camp Mohawk, The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Thames Valley Association for Mental Health, Cruse (bereavement counselling), Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Reading Industrial Therapy Organisation and the Air and Army Cadets.

Concerts, dances, singarounds, workshops, musicians' sessions, a variety of children's events and craft stalls attracted large crowds who basked in the sunshine and enjoyed the fun and entertainment.

Entry to the Festival was free but funds were raised by the sale of programmes, collections, raffles etc.

The Millers Arms in Paddock Road was the main Festival venue. The Crown on Caversham Bridge hosted a weekend of blues sessions and the Holiday Inn was the venue for some of the dance displays and for the big Sunday evening concert which featured Isla St Clair.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Reading graciously opened the Festival and also returned for the

Presentation Evening in July when the local Charities received their cheques.

Preparations are already under way for next year's Festival which is to be held over the weekend 13-15 June. Do make a note in your diaries. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy themselves and to help support local Charities.

There are regular meetings of Readfold Song Club at the Millers Arms Caversham on Sunday evenings at 8pm.

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### Chazey WI

Yes, we do need rain for our gardens, but what a lot of advantages the hot dry weather has brought. The Social Group's barbecue for instance. Not only did everyone sit comfortably outside, but candles stayed alight to add to the magic, and as the men did all the barbecuing (clever idea!) the women sat back and enjoyed Alan & Gail Russell's garden. The salads and breads had been prepared in advance and so it was very leisurely. Well, except for the organisers. They had been hard at work beforehand and the tables were set and

wine and beer cooling before the grateful Chazey members arrived. Next month's Social is a discussion evening, in another garden it is hoped.

The August meeting had a talk on collecting miniature hats by Mr Kirby. It is actually Mrs Kirby who started the collection about 20 years ago with a Southend crested china military peaked hat. It was a nice holiday souvenir and was followed by a Scottish bonnet, a forage cap, and a Torquay pink glass topper. Foreign hats include an ebony cardinal's hat from Como,

Turn to page 11

## the CLUBS

From page 10

Como, a Spanish policeman's helmet and a German helmet of 1914-18 vintage. Altogether there are now about 450 in the collection and as Mr Kirby said, no one is stumped for birthday and Christmas presents when there's a collector in the family!

One of Mr Kirby's interests is the running of 'Safety Street' in Reading, so well attended by primary and nursery schools that a queue sometimes builds up. There are twelve sites including a railway area, car crash, house, and rooms to demonstrate the dangers that children face. This is a very valuable resource in the area of child safety.

3rd September's meeting is a talk on the 'Devil's Chimney' in the Cotswolds, by Mrs Beek, at 8.00pm in Mapledurham Pavilion

### Caversham W.I.

A hot July evening aroused the curiosity of members waiting for the speaker, Mr Alan Copeland. His slide show called "Curiosities on

Your Doorstep" proved well worth the wait. His travels around Reading into Berkshire and Buckinghamshire found a wealth of unusual buildings, milestones, memorials, roadsigns and other things often missed by the casual traveller.

Mr Copeland also had the difficult task of judging the competition 'a curiosity' but eventually chose Margaret Hatcher's 'old iron' as 1st prize, with Nora Coates 2nd and Margaret Cameron 3rd.

Reminders were given of the two garden parties with hopes the sunny weather would continue. The evening ended with the raffle and a welcome cup of tea.

### Caversham Community Association

July started with a popular games evening, cards, scrabble, shove-halfpenny available to test brains and ingenuity. A delicious fish and chip supper was on offer to members.

Much needed funds were made the following week with Margaret Cameron acting as auctioneer for a bring and buy sale.

'Colour in Your Life' was the title of the talk the following week. Linda Roffey used one of the members as a model to see which colours suited her. She finished her talk by doing a make-up on the newly glamoured Daisy Heath.

A card was presented

to Doreen Crawley to celebrate her eightieth birthday and she led members on a popular Whist drive. Music was the theme for the fancy dress party at the end of the month. Jim Plunkett had been booked to play for a sing-a-long, but disaster looked likely when it was discovered the keys to the piano were missing. Jim, ever versatile, was able to lead the singing without a piano. He also had the difficult task of judging the fancy dress with Margaret Cameron declared as winner and Betty Colton was second. A delicious bring and share supper was enjoyed by all present.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild held their July meeting at Church House, Caversham with a good attendance considering it was a very warm afternoon.

The Chairman and Secretary had been to the National Council Meeting in Cardiff and the Chairman gave a very interesting report on the day.

Mrs. Sharman had tried to organise trips but had not been successful although she had kindly booked seats for Evita at the Hexagon in October.

Mrs Shepherd gave details of a forthcoming class on Gingham Lace. Members were reminded of the Garden Party to be held in Mrs Adair's garden on 8th August.

The Speaker gave a talk on Marriages she had attended at some very different venues and was thanked by the Chairman Mrs D. Smith. After the raffle for a dinner for two and the normal raffle, the meeting was closed.

The next meeting at Church House will be September 19th at 2.00.

### Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong opened the meeting and welcomed the members to their afternoon club. Business was discussed and completed. The Chairman was pleased to pass on that the Treasurer, Mrs Queenie Strong, was improving slowly and all hope they will see her at the September meeting.

There was no club meeting in August but the Chairman had a garden party at her house, with stalls and refreshments, as last year, on August 13th.

It was then time to introduce the speaker for the afternoon, Mr Noyes, with his old and new videos of Reading. This was his third programme showing all the changes

that have occurred over the years, each of different parts of Reading and these were of the eighties. It seemed that so many well known places have vanished through progress, and how soon they are forgotten, the old buildings demolished so suddenly and quickly. It was a very interesting afternoon seeing 'old and the new' side by side.

Mr Noyes had also brought along a large collection of photographs and members had a good 'remembering time' going through them. They showed their appreciation in the usual way, and on being told he has further videos, plus one of the real old eighteen hundreds, members hope it won't be too long before they can sit and watch the changes on the remaining videos. It was then time for their very welcome 'cuppa' before members realised four o'clock was with them and the end of the afternoon meeting.

### Emmer Green TG

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held its meeting in St Barnabas Hall. The speaker for the evening was Mr T. Heron from THE SWAN LIFE LINE. Most of us admire the large group of swans that we have near Caversham Bridge. After listening to Mr Heron and watching his wonderful collection of slides on Swans we realise it takes quite a lot of volunteers and work to look after these swans. Many of the slides showed the swans injured by dogs and others with fishing hooks embedded in the swan's necks and tongues. They also get lead poisoning. Apparently the swans crash land on bridges and this can be quite hair raising for car drivers. The swans are large strong birds and can be difficult to handle but the injured birds are easier to handle. Swans can live to 21-25 years but the majority live for 16-17 years. Although the swans are given names such as Jennifer, Verity & Louise, Mr Heron told us the swans do not form friendships with the helpers, although some of the helpers form an affection for some of the swans. Another interesting fact is that when the cygnets reach a certain age if they do not leave their parents then the swans make sure they do by giving them a bite or two. This is to make room for more cygnets in the new season.

ARTS & CRAFTS are learning how to make masks at their next meeting.

WORDS & MUSIC will discuss Radio & TV and have tea in the garden.

RAMBLERS have had a walk around Knowl Hill and because of heavy

machinery blocking their path had to make a very interesting detour. Another walk was a seven mile one around part of the Ridgeway and Nuffield Church. Next year's walking holiday has already been booked for 14 days in Majorca in March. Rose Randall gave her report on The National Council meeting held in Cardiff on June 26. It was a special meeting because the Princess Royal, Patron of the Townswomen's Guild was present this year. The Guild is taking the Princess Royal Trust for Carers as their Charity for this year.

There is to be a Skittle afternoon on September 17 Tuesday. The Guild Birthday party will be held on October 30 and will be organised by Arts and Crafts this year. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 September.

### Rosehill W.I.

Not everyone has an absorbing interest in fashion; but it attracts widespread attention. At the July meeting, members discovered that it wasn't necessary to have a seat next to the catwalk to view designer-label clothes. In the course of her talk on 'Making porcelain dolls', Mrs Parsons presented her audience with the opportunity to view her own collection. Each doll was provided with clothes that illustrated the arts of dress designer and seamstress. There were dresses for every occasion, for the ball and for the wedding, all in miniature but complete in the smallest detail.

The appeal for educational materials for the children in Bosnia had been well supported. Thirty-four packs had been made up and delivered to Feed The Children.

At the meeting on 4th September (St Barnabas Hall, 2.00pm) Mr Michael Paxton will give a talk entitled 'I know where I stand'. Visitors are welcome.

### The University of the Third Age Reading

When this appears in print the 'Conveners' Showcase' mentioned in the last article will, it is hoped, have had a successful afternoon and the group activities continue to interest members.

The next Open Meeting at 2.15pm on September 23rd, venue The Kennet Room in the Civic Centre, will be the Annual General Meeting and a celebration of the group's tenth anniversary.

Anyone interested in joining should contact M. Butler 0118 9484088 or A. Jones 0118 9580085.

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