

SAFETY STREET

In last month's edition photographs showing some of the imaginative set pieces that are used in the project were promised, and below are four of them, used to indicate scenes of possible danger in the environment. They show the street, a building site, a railway line and the outside of a house and form part of the aim to teach safety to primary school children in a real life atmosphere.

Over a thousand children have already visited

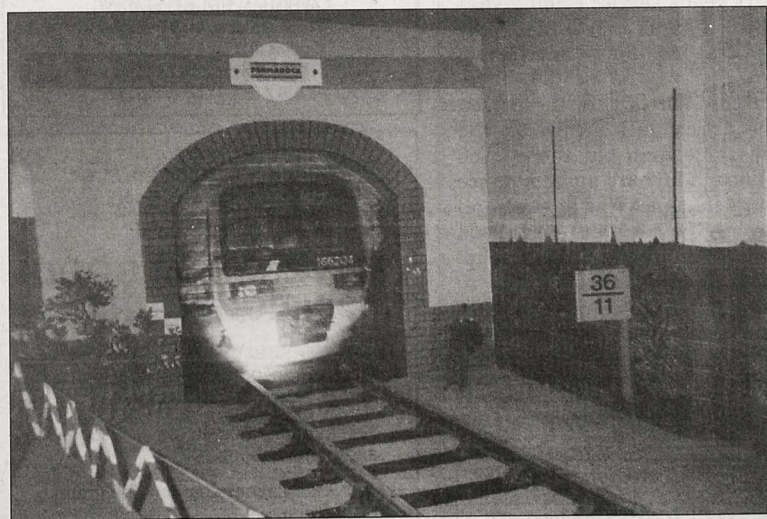
— many are still waiting to come. A follow-up scheme has found that the lessons were well learned and remembered. So very successful has Safety Street been that voluntary helpers are in a desperately short supply. Patricia Knight the organiser on 512612 or Cyril Kirby on 475174 will be happy to invite anyone interested to one of the open days, where all questions will be answered. This is a really valuable piece of community service and a most rewarding one.



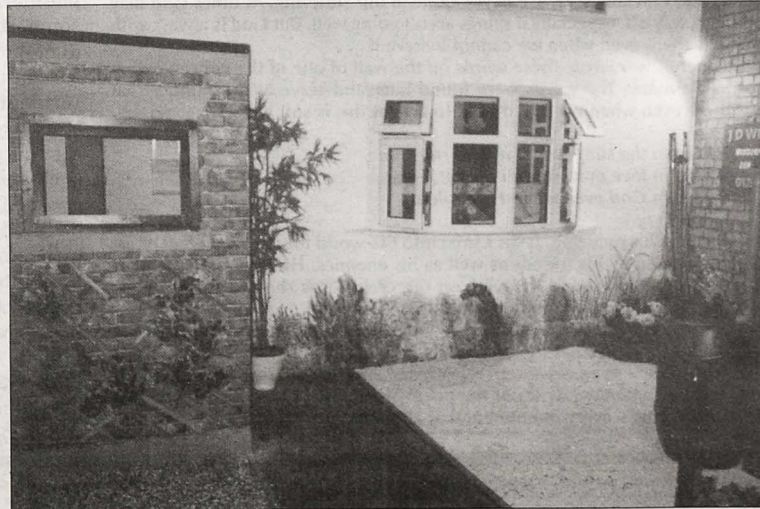
The Street



A Building Site



A Railway Line



The Outside of a House

Cyril Kirby took the pictures

TALKING POINT

by
the Revd. Stephen Rowe
St. John's Church



ARE YOU LONELY?

Whilst on holiday recently, we spent the day in the local town with 'thousands' of other tourists. It had a small harbour, with a good number of boats and ample opportunities to buy clotted cream, postcards, and fudge. I was waiting for the family to emerge from yet another gift shop and was looking into the harbour. One boat caught my eye. It was at least four times the size of any other yacht there. It was huge, with all modern communication systems – in fact it was remarkable that the thing could get into the tiny harbour in the first place. It clearly was a very expensive hobby for someone. The owner (he looked like the owner!) was lying on deck sun bathing. About half an hour later he was sitting reading the paper. He was quite alone – in spite of many hundreds of people round about him – and yet he looked lonely. Perhaps he wasn't and in a sense that is not important. But there was a man who apparently had everything, yet who on the face of things seemed to have very little. At least he lacked one of the most vital things in human existence – the presence of other human beings.

At times in our lives we want and need to be alone. Many folk live alone and are content and peaceful in doing so. Others seem to miss having others around, especially if they have lost their partner and they have to face living alone for the first time in their lives.

The Christian hope assures us that we are never alone. God is always with us in all that we do and say, even when we don't feel God's presence – even when we feel God's absence, God is there. Perhaps at such times we find it hard, sometimes impossible to pray, we feel God has let us down, God has deserted us. Most people have to face difficult times in their lives – the losses of bereavement, the breakdown in relationships, redundancy, no work or not enough money to live on. Such disappointments and problems can lead us to lose some of our trust in God and perhaps even to wonder whether God exists at all. We live in a world in which there is a great deal of suffering. Every day our papers and the television give reports of individual suffering and the suffering of whole communities. But why does God allow such suffering?

It is easy to give glib answers or to ignore the questions. Yet we should face the issue, recognising that first, as human beings, God has given us freedom to choose right or wrong. It is a choice we have to face every day of our lives. When we choose to do wrong, our actions have consequences, not just for us, but for many other people as well. Rather we are called to face God, to confess our faults and our actions will contribute to the good of the world.

Secondly we ask – why doesn't God stop disasters, human or natural, from taking place? Again we cannot know the answer to this question. However God, through the person of Jesus Christ wants human beings to enter into a mature relationship with him. God is like a parent who finally has to allow the maturing young person to grow up and make their own decisions in life. In the end we do have to make our own decisions, and face the consequences of those decisions. Whether we choose right or wrong, our parents cannot step in and bail us out every time we seem to face difficulty. So it is with God – God allows us freedom and we would have no freedom if God stepped in every time things weren't going well.

Finally and crucially – we are never alone in our suffering. At times God may seem a long way off, especially if things aren't going well. But God is always with us – God is there even when we cannot believe it . . .

A prisoner of war wrote these words on the wall of one of the concentration camps in Germany. The words were found later and serve as a reminder that God is there even when we find it hard to accept this is so:

*I believe in the sun, even if it does not shine,
I believe in love even when I do not feel it,
I believe in God even when He is silent.*

For God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into the world for the sake of all of us. Jesus was rejected by his friends as well as his enemies. He gave up his life for the sake of the world – and by dying on the cross Jesus showed us that he is present in our suffering and in the suffering of the world.

Perhaps if we owned a large, ocean-going yacht with no one around we would feel lonely – perhaps not. Yet as Christians we should always remember that God is there – even if we ourselves feel distant from God, or feel God is absent. Like the unknown writer of the poem above, we should be assured that God is there for us – every moment and at all times.

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

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD
9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service

A READER'S VIEWPOINT

Having been involved in the united open air service in July. I was of course obliged to turn up but I am not sure that I would have done so if I had not been involved. I think the time of the service is inconvenient especially for families because traditionally Sunday lunch is eaten between 1pm and 2pm which makes a 3pm service a bit of a rush. Also I think that Sunday afternoons are often taken up with excursions or visits and I think people are rather loath to break with their usual habits. Would it not be better to have the service on a Sunday morning instead of our usual church service? Since people have allocated that time to go to church anyway most of them would attend even if it meant going a bit further afield for the service. Perhaps the planners of next year's service could give it some thought. It was certainly very disappointing that so few churchgoers turned up.

Incidentally I'm not sure where the person who wrote the article last month on the service got the name from but there is no such person as Jean Maynard and her dance group. The liturgical dance was devised and directed by Leslie Maynerd and performed by members of St Andrew's Youth Group. You interpreted correctly that it was to portray the wind of the Spirit and tongues of fire, the music was appropriately named 'Spirit of Fire'. Glad you enjoyed the performance!

(Any comments on this should be addressed to 'Postbag').

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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 November issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 1 October.
All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Monday 30 September.
The dates for December will be Monday 28 October and Wednesday 30 October.

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

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading.
Tel: 01734 471703.

Typeset by Right Image Graphics Co. Ltd, Unit 1, 151-156 Cardiff Road, Reading.
Tel: 01734 393032.

Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd

From the Methodist Sunday Service sheet:

Before the service
talk to God

During the service
listen to God

After the service
talk to each other

METHODIST WELCOME

The formal welcome and charge to the new members of Caversham team ministry – the Rev. Rosemary Fletcher and Deacon Vic Downs – took place at Trinity Church, Lower Earley at the Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit welcome service for several new ministers on September 2. This welcome was given by the Rev. Phil Abrey (for some years the Anglican priest at Caversham Park Ecumenical Church). Since that congregation includes Methodists he is 'recognised and regarded' as a Methodist minister who is part of the team ministry in Caversham. The welcome on behalf



The picture of the members of the team ministry, taken at the Coffee morning (by Mary Prior) shows (from left to right): David Herbert, June Harper, Deacon Vic Downs, Rev. Rosemary Fletcher, Rev. Phil Abrey and Rosemary Nagle.

of the wider community came from local ecumenical representatives and also from a representative of the Chairman of the Southampton Methodist District, the Rev. Nigel Collison, who is also this year's President of the Methodist Conference.

Local Methodists

from the area members of the served by the team team including the ministry met the lay pastoral

David Herbert, June Harper and Rosemary Nagle on September 7 at a coffee morning hosted by the Gosbrook Road Church. There was a very happy atmosphere full of eager anticipation for the future. The church at Caversham Heights returned the hospitality with a united Harvest Supper there on Saturday September 28.

JAKE ELSON



Jake Elson, known to many Caversham Heights people, in his 'Mobile Prone Stander'. Its purchase was helped by a very successful fete held in his sister's garden on 31st August. The sum of over £800 was raised and many old acquaintances were renewed. While he lived in Caversham over seventy people helped Jake with his special exercises.

A VISIT TO DURHAM CATHEDRAL

There is always a danger that if you go somewhere you have always wanted to visit you'll be disappointed. The actuality falls short of expectation. However, there are some places that exceed our expectations and offer more delights than we anticipated.

Pisa was like that – I remember – those icing-white buildings grouped together on the greensward; so too was the Taj Mahal, magical in its symmetry and perfection of form. But much nearer home I experienced the same thrill of satisfaction when I visited, for the first time, Durham Cathedral.

Built to the orders of Bishop William Calais on the site of the shrine where St. Cuthbert's remains had been placed it is a perfect example of Romanesque architecture. On entering the cathedral the first impression is of majesty and power. This is because of the mighty pillars which flank the nave, each one made up of numerous blocks incised with patterns and then put together on site to provide a satisfying whole. In addition there are clusters of plain pillars which support the vaulted stone roof above, the first rib-vaulted stone roof in Christendom. In contrast to the massive pillars in the nave, behind the high altar is a screen wrought in Caen stone of such exquisite workmanship that it is difficult to believe that it has been fashioned from anything as solid as rock.

Our visit was considerably enhanced by the guided tour we took which was conducted by a most knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide. What a wealth of information we assimilated in an hour and a quarter and that, she assured us, was only a fraction of what she could have told us.

At the start of the tour she took us to the Galilee Chapel at the west end. This is actually the Lady Chapel. These are usually at the east end but the story goes that when the original Lady Chapel was built at the east end it fell down. This, it was alleged, was because St. Cuthbert didn't like women and didn't want them anywhere near the sanctuary, although in actual fact it was more likely because the foundations hadn't been properly dug. Now at the east end there is the Chapel of the Nine Altars built to accommodate the many clerics who had to perform the Offices daily.

The cathedral at Durham has stood for over 800 years, surviving the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Reformation, the Civil War, the would-be improvements of the Victorians, the changes in the industrial scene, the changes in the Church itself.

Set as it is with its soaring towers and lantern, high above the city and its surrounds, it symbolises in stone the strength, the majesty and the continuity of the God in Whose name it was built.

It's a long way to go to see Durham Cathedral – but it's worth it!

PICTURES

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

Mention was made in last month's issue of incipient plans for developing Abbotsmead and the waste land next to it. These - have now appeared on the register and they fully justify the misgivings initially aroused. They propose sixty dwelling units, some of them in blocks four floors high. This is unacceptable in all respects.

There is no access to this land by existing, normally trafficked roads. The service road to Waitrose and St Martin's Car Park and Promenade Road, no more than an entry to the flats and the riverside, are all that there are.

They would both need so-called 'upgrading' (some might consider it downgrading) and if that were done all that would happen would be even more traffic (at least sixty cars) pouring on to already congested roads, including Wolsey Road, heavily used by primary schoolchildren. The site is moreover very close to the river, one of Reading's foremost assets, which it should enhance rather than spoil.

The land will of course be developed. The chance of its being left as an open space leading down to the river is too remote even to consider. Any building there must be low density and high quality with plenty of trees to soften it. The temptation to utilise it for a relief road for Church Street must also be resisted.

SOUND OF MUSIC

The Reading Festival, its official name, though it still gets called 'The Pop Festival', attracted the usual hordes once more, anything from forty to sixty thousand, depending on how they were counted. They were a cheerful and, on the whole, well behaved lot who managed to keep themselves surprisingly clean considering the night-long rain which turned the previously bone dry site into a muddy morass, and the lack of home style bathrooms and plumbing. Some of them certainly had a somewhat less fussy attitude to dropping litter but plenty of crowds leave even more lying about. And you could hardly expect them to be dressed in the style of

sober Caversham residents going about their Saturday morning shopping.

Most of them, as they streamed along Caversham Road on their way from the railway station, looked beautifully happy to be back amongst like-minded friends and at a site they rank as one of the most attractive on the festival circuit.

The rain and lowered temperatures dampened the enthusiasm of those who might otherwise have swum across the river to land in the gardens on the other side. It was WOMAD clients who did that in order to cool down in the hot weather that blessed their event. The music could be heard over most of Caversham for most of the time but it did finish by midnight; at least the official music did. The unofficial stuff, which could not be heard over such a wide area, went on till about 5am when its exhausted exponents presumably fell asleep, allowing residents in the Warren area who were light sleepers to do the same.

The Festival is not going to go away. It has been around too long and is thoroughly established; it is enjoyed by large numbers and it brings a useful slice of trade along with it, as well as making a useful contribution to the Borough coffers. It also inflicts less permanent damage on the area than our own home grown vandals inflict on Caversham Court on the other side of the river.

NIGHT LIFE

The Festival only happens for one weekend in the year but Caversham attracts entertainment seekers every week of the year. The whole area from RG1 in Caversham Road (that building that has had a whole series of names from Washington Heights to the Majestic to the staid Corn Exchange) across the Bridge and into Caversham has become the 'nite-spot' of the town. Well, it all helps with the twenty-four hour economy and keeping the streets alive after dark, but it is not much appreciated by residents who are so stuck in the mud that they think night time is for going to sleep.

Prominent among the night spots is Nue Valbonne, the first building to be seen ahead as you come over the bridge, and here let me hand the owners a bouquet straightaway; they do keep their listed building, which was once on the point of falling down, in good repair, not a cheap thing to do, apart of course from the posters which cover it, listing what are presumably regarded as its attractions.

This establishment has recently applied for and been granted a ten year licence. There were a lot of objections to this from nearby residents who have to put up with cars parked in their streets, the noise of departing revellers and, too often, broken windows, some of which suffer this damage on a weekly basis. Vomit, urine and even blood besmirch the pavements and leave them permanently stained.

Nevertheless, none of these objections was considered strong enough to refuse a ten year licence. The club is well run, interior noise cannot be heard outside and it fully complies with all the conditions required. What its clients do once they leave the premises is not their responsibility, however violent it might be. That is the responsibility of the police, who, as the clients well know, are not exactly thick on the ground at night.

The club owners claim they are providing a socially desirable service by taking youngsters off the streets at night, the implication apparently being that if they weren't in the Nue Valbonne, they would be out mugging little old ladies, not much of a compliment to all those young people who are able to enjoy life in a much more constructive way.

READING BRIDGE

One lane on Reading Bridge will be closed at non-peak times until mid-October to enable the parapets to be repaired. How do these get damaged? It cannot all be accidental, yet to do it deliberately requires some force and possibly some advance planning. When more than one pillar is broken in a row it can be rather dangerous for anyone walking over

the bridge with a toddler. Tots of that age can never resist squeezing themselves into small spaces which could mean falling into the river. The repair of deliberate damage is now taking a significant sum of council money.

FRESH VEGETABLES

Do you like fresh vegetables? Did you know that a box of fresh vegetables in variety according to the season can be delivered to your house weekly for £3? They are grown by Green Shoots of Amersham Road, an Organisation which promotes the therapeutic value for people with problems of growing vegetables. Ring Frank on 464028 for details.

WHEELED BINS

Did you also know that if you require another dustbin you will have to pay something above £20 for it, contrary to what was said when they were first distributed? This is because some people are using them to dispose of garden refuse - naughty, naughty! This will never do. They were intended

for household refuse. But what are we expected to do with our garden rubbish which in this year of mixed high temperatures and rain is burgeoning at an unprecedented rate? (See Hortus) Are we meant to pile it in the car and transport it across the town, contributing to traffic congestion and pollution as we do so? This is a problem that Reading has been dilatory in solving.

SECRETARY REQUIRED

Bob Winter has resigned from the Secretaryship of Caversham and District Residents' Association, which is now once more without a secretary. Bob brought with him an enthusiasm for the well being of Caversham for which he very much cared, an efficient approach and, very usefully, some of the latest technology. It was unfortunate that tactical differences arose with the committee about the best way of dealing with problems, for it means that Caversham, which

turn to page 5

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ONE
WORLD
WEEK

LIVING ON THE EDGE

THIS year's One World Week takes place from 20th-27th October. The theme is "Living on the edge".

Millions of rural people in developing countries farm "marginal" land, on hillsides with poor soil, for example. Their food is often precarious. They live "on the edge". The pace and direction of changes in their countries can mean that they find themselves increasingly squeezed and marginalised.

Since 1977, One World Week has been an opportunity for people in Britain to express solidarity with marginalised groups, both in Britain and abroad, as well as highlighting the ways in which we in wealthier countries have an impact on far less secure people overseas. This might be through our role as consumers or through large corporations or government policy. Unfortunately, the effect is all too often negative. Nevertheless, there are encouraging examples of positive co-operation, and of communities developing their own initiatives in spite of great difficulties.

This year's theme, "Living on the Edge", highlights that, for many people, life itself is precarious, and that for all of us the place to be is out on the leading edge, in terms of involvement and initiative.

Simon Bowden

LIVING ON THE EDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO LIBRE

Pupils of Caversham primary schools have been invited to learn something about children who are 'living on the edge' in San Francisco Libre, Reading's twin town in Nicaragua. Pictures and stories will enable them to compare the lives that these children live with their own in Caversham. Three young people from Reading have been to San Francisco Libre this summer and will be visiting school assemblies to describe what it was like to live a little on the edge themselves, sharing their room with a chicken, experiencing a week long power cut and eating rather 'boring' rice, beans and tortillas!

LIVING ON THE EDGE IN THIS GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND

In Caversham we shall be following the national theme "Living on the Edge" and thinking particularly about people in our locality who live on the knife edge of society, where any change could be disastrous - people, for example, who are homeless or face homelessness, people who feel marginalised, people who face drug problems or who are undergoing a personal crisis.

We have invited representatives of voluntary agencies in Reading that are working with people who

are living on the edge, to come to St Andrew's Church Hall on the evening of Friday, 25th October, and give us the opportunity of learning from them more about what they do.

Tickets, price £1.50 including refreshments, are available from the following One World Week church representatives:

Baptist Free Church - Gill Powell (483087)
Caversham Methodist Church - Dorothy Hicks
Caversham Heights

Methodist Church - Martyn Allies (472007)
Caversham Park Church - Hugh Carter (478112)

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church - Veronica Shew (482960)

St. Andrew's Church - Sheila Hodson (482229)

St Barnabas Church - Owen Jewiss (475003)
St John's Church - Richard Purkis (475120)

St Margaret's Church - Helen Dunn (477444)
St Peter's Church - John Madeley (476063)
Society of Friends - Liz Banks (473686).

Pupils of Caversham secondary schools have been invited to consider the plight of people who are living on the edge in this country and to express their feelings in prose and poetry. Some of the work of both the prima-



Photo - Sue Errington

The young people preparing to go to Nicaragua, July 1996. Left to right: Victoria Westall, Cindy Warner, Mark Errington.

ry and the secondary schools will be on display in the One World Week exhibition in Caversham Library from October.



Photo - Sue Errington

Mark Errington grinding maize flour for tortillas in one of the homes he visited in San Francisco Libre, July 1996.



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AROUND THE CHURCHES

DEANERY SYNOD ELECTS A NEW LAY CHAIRMAN

When the newly elected Reading Anglican Deanery Synod met in July it elected Miss Mary Harwood as its Lay Chairman in succession to Wilfred Dyer who retired after holding the position for 9 years. Mary Harwood is only the sixth Lay Chairman since the Synodical Government Measure was introduced in 1969. She has the distinction of being the first woman to serve in this capacity in Reading, the largest Deanery Synod in the country.

Mary Harwood is well known to the longer serving members of the Deanery Synod having been Synod Treasurer for the past ten years. She worships at St Michael's Tilehurst where she has served in a number of capacities. She was Organist and Choirmaster for a six year period and now runs their Music Group; she is also Church Treasurer. She has been a member of the Diocesan Synod for the past two years.

Military career

Mary Harwood is a local person, born and brought up in Tilehurst and a pupil at the Abbey School. However, she first moved away to be a student at the Bedford College of Physical Education and then to a teaching post in Bracknell which she left in 1972 to serve in the Army for the next 21 years. During this time she saw duty in Northern Ireland and Berlin. When she left she had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Adjutant General's Corps (formerly the Women's Royal Army Corps). She likens many Army Garrison Churches in which she has worshipped to the military equivalent of Local Ecumenical



Mary Harwood, Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod, is seen here being congratulated on her election by the Rural Dean, the Revd Brian Shenton.

Partnerships. Mary Harwood brings to the Synod an interesting background.

Role of the Lay Chairman

When the Synodical Government Measure was introduced in 1969 the laity were given a greater role in the affairs of the Anglican Church. As part of this process the synodical structures now have joint chairmen; at Deanery level this is shared between the Rural Dean and the Lay Chairman. Together with the Rural Dean the Lay Chairman now has a part in Services of Licensing, Institution and Induction of new clergy to the parishes

by the Bishop. The Reading Lay Chairman also chairs the Deanery Pastoral Committee. Mary Harwood takes over at an important time when the Deanery is considering the future pattern of ministry in the area in relation to the needs of the area and constraints on man and woman power determined both by the availability of people and the ability of the church to pay them.

Experience with youth

The involvement of youth in the church is another contemporary theme. In this respect it is interesting to note Mary Harwood's involvement and experience with the Girl



1896-1996

NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S

After the hectic activity of the summer's Centenary events, August and the beginning of September were a quiet period with many parishioners away enjoying their summer holidays. However, the celebrations resume on the last weekend of September when St Anne's church will be the setting for a Flower Festival.

Flower arrangers from the parish and from other denominations in Caversham are joining forces with representatives from the Catholic churches in Reading and friends from the Chiltern Edge Flower Arranging Society to create a beautiful display in St Anne's. The Festival will be open for public viewing from 10.30am to 4.30pm on Saturday 28th September and from 12 noon to 5.00pm on Sunday 29th with Donation Programmes available for £1.00.

The church, so decorated, should provide a very beautiful setting for worship and 10.30 Mass on Sunday 29th September will be a very special occasion during which the sick and handicapped of the parish will receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The principal celebrant will be Canon John Moran, the new Episcopal Vicar for Oxfordshire (and Caversham!) in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, appointed in the wake of the failed proposals for a Thames Valley diocese; it will be his first visit to Caversham.

Looking further ahead, the Centenary Dinner and Dance is being held at the Holiday Inn on Friday 18th October. This will be an excellent opportunity for parishioners to take part in a purely social celebration of the parish's 100 years of existence and promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP

Were you a member of this Group at St John's Church, Caversham during the 60's and 70's. If so, you are invited to a reunion on Wednesday October 23rd 1996 at the Traveller's Rest, Henley Road, Caversham, 7.30 for 8pm. If you can come, please contact Glenys Payne (479526) or Yvonne Milne (545690).

Guide movement in which she has been a Leader. Currently she is the Young Leader Guider for the Riverside Division of Reading, a trainer of Adult Leaders and the Programme and Training Advisor for Berkshire.

Professionally Mary Harwood now works for a leading scientific society; she is Meetings Administrator and Manager of all Member Services for the Society for General Microbiology. She therefore brings to the Synod a wide range and wealth of experience. Readers of the Caversham Bridge will want to wish her well as she begins her tenure of office. She has some illustrious predecessors: Dr Philip Giddings is currently Lay Vice-Chairman of both the General and Diocesan Synods; Mr Philip Mawer is General Secretary of the General Synod.

Owen Jewiss

ST. ANDREW'S FETE



St Andrew's Fete was held on Saturday, 22nd June, in aid of St Luke's Hospital for the clergy and 'Feed the Children'.

A children's colouring competition resulted in over two hundred entries and the children's flower arranging competition produced over fifty entries. These were afterwards taken into the church to the pleasure of the congregation on Sunday.

A fine day, lots of stalls and sideshows, including Punch and Judy, a raffle and a grand auction resulted in the magnificent sum of £1,823.58, of which £455.90 was sent to St Luke's Hospital and £1,367.68 was recently presented to Mrs Dorothy Hicks of "FEED THE CHILDREN" at the 10am Sunday Family Eucharist. Dorothy is seen here receiving the cheque from the Revd Bill Carpenter, Vicar of St Andrew's.

Caversham Baptist Youth claim

Jeremiah Ch. 29 v. 11 N.I.V.

Late September saw the arrival of Daniel and Helen Spooner and young son Peter, into our Fellowship. They will be staying for approximately 2 years and their task is to revitalise the children's and young people's groups within our church. No mean feat - but between them they have a good deal of training and experience with youngsters.

After working in Public Administration for 9 years, Daniel trained with Youth With a Mission (YWAM), which took him to Spain and Tanzania as well as places nearer home. He is currently studying part-time at Spurgeon's College for a Degree in Theology and Diploma in Church Planting and Evangelism.

Helen completed her studies at Spurgeon's in September and will continue to work alongside her husband and the current children's workers as they seek to plan, organise and take responsibility for co-ordinating the youth work. Also on their agenda will be the introduction of monthly Family services and schools work. In his spare (?) time, Daniel will assist Peter Edwards our Pastor.

We look forward to an exciting and rejuvenating time ahead and would welcome any young people (as well as the not-so-young) to come and join in the fun. Watch this space!

CAVERSHAM CLERGY

ANGLICAN

Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 947 9130.

(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 Hardecastle, 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.

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

Rev. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 947 5152.

METHODIST TEAM MINISTRY

Rev Rosemary Fletcher, 72 Highmoor Rd. Tel: 947 2223

Vic Downs (Deacon) 9 Woodlands Grove. Tel: 948 2530

BAPTIST

Rev Peter Edwards, 14 Tredegar Road, Emmer Green. Tel: 947 7697

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

GIFT FROM ST. PETER'S WIVES' GROUP to SUE RYDER HOME

So far this year the Group has raised £500 for their special charity, the Sue Ryder Home. Each year the Group does the teas for the Sue Ryder fete in July. Members bake cakes and scones, make sausage rolls and sandwiches and then go along on the day to serve the teas. These are proving increasingly popular and this year there was a queue waiting when the first shift arrived to set out the tables

and arrange the goodies. Business continued to be brisk the whole afternoon, the satisfied customers really tucked in to the spread which had so generously been provided and there was very little left over.

Over £300 was raised and the photo shows Jean Pugh, Chairman of "The Wives" (second from left) presenting a cheque to Ken Bennett, the Sue Ryder Home's Honorary Chairman.



GOLDEN WEDDING SURPRISE PARTY



On 3rd September, Victor and Vera Smith of St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Over one hundred guests at a surprise party helped them celebrate at St Andrew's Church Hall on 31st August.

Victor and Vera have known each other since childhood but it was a chance meeting in a teashop in Banbury just after the war that brought them together. Victor, handsome in his RAF uniform, was going up a narrow staircase, Vera was coming down, and as he gallantly stepped back to let her pass down the stairs, he decided that this was the young lady for him. He proposed in the November and they were married the following September in St Mary's Church, Banbury.

They moved to Leicester and then, thirty-five years ago, to Reading. They have three children, Suzanne, Victor and Louise, and seven grandchildren Adam, Peter, Sarahjane, Lucy, Greg, Alex and Jacob, with one more on the way!!

They have been staunch members of St Andrew's for thirty years, Victor acting as sidesman, server, member of the PCC and taking fellow worshippers to services when otherwise they would not have been able to go.

Vera has worked hard for the Mothers' Union, cleaning the church silver and arranging flowers. For many years they organised St Andrew's Church Fete and it is also thanks to Victor and Vera that many of you get your Caversham Bridge as they help organise the delivery.

Their grandchildren, family and friends would like to join together to say congratulations and well done!

METHODIST DIARY

Caversham (Gosbrook Road)

- October 6 10.30am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
6.30pm Rev Derek Shaw of Oxford Road churches (Emmanuel)
- October 13 10.30am Mr John Phillippo of Woodley
6.30pm Mr Roy Colvile of West Reading
- October 20 10.30am Professor John Marsh of Wesley
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs
- October 27 10.30am CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Deacon Vic Downs
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher

Caverham Heights (Woodcote Road)

- October 6 9am Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
11am Deacon Vic Downs
6.30pm Mr Emyr Thomas of Tilehurst
- October 13 11am Parade Service and Youth Workers' Dedication - Rev Rosemary Fletcher and Deacon Vic Downs
6.30pm Holy Communion - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
- October 20 11am Holy Communion - Rev Laurance Stedeford (Retired)
6.30pm Rev Judy Davies of Trinity, Lower Earley
- October 27 11am Dr John Sumitra of Tilehurst
6.30pm Deacon Vic Downs

OBITUARY

DORA SMITH

Dora of Ellesmere Close, died in Battle Hospital on 19th July after a gradual progressive illness. She leaves her husband Fred, in whose artistic abilities and gardening prowess she gloried. As long as she was able, she entertained friends annually at a party on his lawns. On these occasions her energy was boundless. She was a very busy little lady, with a lovely smile, bright eyes and ready friendship.

Her younger daughter Sue and son Paul also mourn her, as do her seven surviving grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Dora never really recovered from the premature death of her elder daughter, Rosemary, in 1992 and also of Rosemary's daughter, Dawn who died as a result of a motor accident in 1985 whilst at Bristol University.

Neighbours and friends will miss seeing Dora speeding to the bus stop en route for

Reading or one of her Clubs. She loved company and to take the occasional bus trip and holiday. Personally, I still listen for her quick little footsteps on the garden path, going to pick up the milk in the mornings.

Subscriptions, to her memory, have been sent to the NSPCC and the Dingley Centre at Battle Hospital. Dora was a Nanny and Foster Mother in her younger days, so it was felt appropriate to give to the benefit of children. We felt she would approve.

She will be missed by members of the WVS which she joined almost twenty years ago, the Darby and Joan Club, the Townswomen's Guild, the Conservative Association and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Following cremation at Caversham her ashes have been interred with her Mother, on 5th August, at Wargrave, where we all hope she rests peacefully.

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

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

NEWS FROM HIGHDOWN

A MULTI-LINGUAL COMMUNITY

Over recent weeks pupils at Highdown have taken GCSE examinations in the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Urdu, and Cantonese. On one Friday in May pupils did speaking exams in FIVE different languages in ONE day!

EXCHANGE VISIT TO GERMANY

On 12th July, eighteen Highdown pupils from Years 10, 11 and the Lower Sixth with their teachers, Mrs Anderson and Mr Denney, went to Germany. This was the return visit of the German Exchange when language skills acquired over the last few years were put into practice and proved to be good practice for the GCSE and A level examinations. During their stay the pupils and teachers visited the historic towns of Bamberg, Nuremberg and Coburg, attended lessons in the German school and took a dip in the thermal baths at Staffalstein.

LEARNING SUPPORT AT HIGHDOWN

The name of this department was changed two years ago from Special Needs in keeping with its changing role. The main job is to identify and work with pupils across all the years to ensure everyone can benefit from school equally. This is achieved by taking pupils out of lessons where appropriate for specialist help with specific skills or supporting in the classroom those who have learning difficulties.

TRIATHLON/BIATHLON

Every year, as part of the Year 9 health related fitness programme, all the boys take part in a triathlon (bike ride, run, swim) or biathlon (run, swim). The school Biathlon record was broken this year by two boys, Nick Young 14.37 minutes, and the new record holder David Elliott in 14.16 minutes. Well done! The top two in the Triathlon this year were very close indeed with James Stansbury winning in a time of 21.14 minutes, followed by Warren Thorne in 21.17 minutes. The record is still held by Wayne Thompson in 17.50 minutes.

PROJECT DAY AT SIR ALEXANDER GIBB AND PARTNERS

On 26th April a group of lower sixth maths and physics students were invited to take part in a bridge building competition at Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners. The task was to build a wooden bridge which spanned a three metre wide gap. They were given a choice of specific materials each with a unit cost and they also had to work to a budget to complete the task. They were working to deadlines for the design, completion and presentation. One constraint was that it had to carry at least two hundred kg. Their bridge supported this plus a further one hundred kg. After the final presentation each group was awarded marks in each area. Highdown won second place overall.

COMMUNITY ACTION

All sixth form students have recently been involved in community schemes throughout Caversham and Emmer Green. Each student volunteers two/three hours per week to assist in such activities as gardening, conservation projects with Reading Rangers, working in charity shops and assisting in local primary schools.

RECORD EXAMINATION SUCCESS

Record breaking results at GCSE and Advanced level were obtained by Highdown students this year, with a number of pupils getting A starred and A grades.

"GLOBE"

The Lower Caversham Lock. A second project is to clean the ditch parallel with the rear of Queens Road. We need help from anyone willing to give "hands on" assistance to accomplish this. Our interest is not limited to this area alone and we seek involvement from the whole of Caversham area, individuals or

THE INVIOLEABLE SHADE

"Still nursing the unconquerable hope,
Still clutching the inviolable shade..."

Matthew Arnold (mid 1800s)

Memories of bygone days remain pure and nostalgic when compared with today's noise-ridden scheme of things.

Although a quest for rare birds developed in the fifties, the 'seeds' may well have been implanted long before by two brothers who lived nearby. At eleven years, I was the 'baby' of the trio. Their ardent wish for me to be at Reading School with them was shortly fulfilled.

Adventures aplenty were shared; cricket, walking and cycling assuming rightful importance.

Watchdog

from page 4

he knows so well, will be unable to benefit from his energy.

The present committee, of which each member has traditionally always been responsible for some specific job, is at present covering the work of the secretary, but the post still needs filling. If anyone is interested, please telephone Reading 471647 or 472864 to discuss the matter. A period of 'lead in' will be given to allow familiarisation with the work of the Association.

ALAN HENDRY

The Residents' Association joined in sympathy with Annette Hendry on the death of her husband. Although he had been ill, such an outcome had not been expected. It is a sad loss for her. Alan was a popular man who will be much missed by his friends and family. Annette works hard for the community in more than one sphere in spite of holding down a full-time job and caring for her family.

They 'introduced' me to their Spanish guitar!

One day, having taken binoculars in mind, we sat atop a five-barred gate beneath shady elms, adjoining clover-fields in Bugs Bottom.

The air was alive with carolling Skylarks as Willow Warblers sweetly sang in the hedgerow. During 'lunch' I was taught to play Chess on a pocket-set...

THAT is the Inviolable Shade - which housing-developers presumed to erase! They knew not - nor cared - of 'Five-barred gates', Meadow Brown butterflies, Mistle Thrushes, Red Clover or Poa.

Limping home one day, from a near forty-mile, circuitous walk, we returned through Balmore Woods, which echoed to Tawny Owls in the long-fallen darkness. 'Colours and acceptance from the Clan' had been won.

Their mother, a qualified nurse, once attended to a poisoned elbow, sustained when falling on gravel, and to which my arm still bears witness. Her two sons in close attendance ensured a 'stiff upper-lip' as hot poultices were applied. I grew into adulthood - rapidly. In WW2 they both 'achieved', the younger in the Fleet Air Arm.

The heat of this summer resulted in a bird hiatus, although our instant response to Rare Bird News 'hot-line' provided a smart-looking, White-winged Black Tern, at Brent Reservoir.

This marsh-tern was noticeably smaller than the Common Terns. It stayed for just one day but a later report in Essex could have been the same bird.

Similarly, a Little Bittern at Fleet Pond on 12th August was possibly the one we saw at Epsom, two months previously.

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The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is being held on Friday 4th October. Come and support it at Caversham Bowling Club (Albert Road recreation

ground) between 9.30 and 12 noon. We can promise you an excellent cup of coffee, pleasant company, a little flutter (on the Raffle!) and the opportunity to buy all sorts of things you never knew you wanted from the Bring and Buy stall - as well as some fine plants (at just the right time to put them in). All the proceeds will go to LOCAL funds.

Already in Berkshire the CRMF has upgraded the facilities of the Radiotherapy department at the RBH and built the Duchess of Kent House in Liebenrood Road. There are 18 Macmillan nurses in Berkshire specialising

in home care, hospital support, breast care and chemotherapy. In 1995 in Berkshire 138 patient grants were made to ease financial burdens and improve the quality of life for cancer patients.

The Duchess of Kent House is a palliative care unit with both Inpatient and Day Care services. It allows respite for carers. It offers many facilities from aromatherapy to craft classes. Patients can have physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and dietary advice. They can also have the professional attention of a consultant, clergy and a social worker. A recent innovation is a family room where a patient's family can stay for the weekend or overnight.

The money you help to raise means that you are helping in the fight against cancer.

**OCTOBER 4th
SEE YOU THERE.**

KATY

Katy writes that she is undergoing further tests at the Radcliffe Hospital and does sincerely hope that there will be an improvement soon, as do we all. She will certainly do her best to write for us again when she is able. Meantime she wants to thank everyone who has been so helpful, like giving lifts and picking her up when she's been "a fallen woman" - not as much fun being this as she had thought! It's good to know that she's still able to laugh. Best wishes from us all.

IT'S APPLE TIME AGAIN

As soon as Gillian Franklyn talks to you about her apple orchard at Cross Lanes, Mapledurham, you realise how great is her enthusiasm for English apples.

Since moving from London with her husband several years ago into the Oxfordshire countryside her life has greatly changed. Once a statistician with the Electricity Council (since disbanded) apples have now taken over much of her life.

Leaving London was a great adventure. Gillian and her husband moved from the capital on a late November day having never seen Cross Lanes in daylight. However they did ask the Ministry of Agriculture to see if the orchard, a little under ten acres, was a viable concern and had been assured that it was. The remaining fifteen acres were unfortunately in a frost pocket and only good for grazing.

In early Autumn the apples for sale signs go up along the nearby roads, so look out for them again this year. Then life becomes at its busiest until the New Year. It is not only apple picking. All the fruit has to be graded and each individually inspected and, when harvesting ends, the whole orchard must be pruned before the end of December and Gillian is then working each day from 8.30-4.30. At the busiest time of the year there is help from two casual workers from Woodcote.

The history of apples is fascinating and talking to Gillian you discover much that is interesting. It was Henry VIII who sent one of his gardeners, Richard Harris, to the continent to study apple orchards and grafting.

On his return the King ordered him to plant an orchard at Teynham in Kent where there is still an orchard today. This royal project may well have been the start of commercial apple growing in this country.

The varieties of apples run into many hundreds, but today a lot have sadly disappeared. Their names are fascinating. There were Costards (once sold by costermongers), Beefans, Cat's nose and many others. Court Pendu Plat was grown by the Romans. In this country the Cox is firm favourite and yet, as Gillian says, "it gets every disease in the book".

Even crab apples have a commercial use as they are very good for pollination and reliable when it comes to flowering.

All this I learned and perhaps will one day increase my apple knowledge even more for Gillian would like to plant a history of apples right from Court Pendu Plat to the very latest varieties today. That would be a wonderful project and I hope it becomes reality. With some seventy per cent of apples being imported into the country perhaps more interest and knowledge about the English apple will do much to reverse this unfortunate state of affairs. Certainly the English apple has a great champion to its cause in Gillian Franklyn.

Cross Lanes is about 2 miles along the road to Goring Heath when you turn to the left off the A4074 at the Pack Saddle, Mapledurham coming from Caversham.

MK

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THE SAVILE FLAGON

A report in last month's Bridge of the St Margaret's Day service, at which the Savile flagon was used, resulted in more information about it. We are indebted to Mr John Eyston of Mapledurham who read the article and whose cousin provided these extra interesting footnotes, some from 'Treasures of Eton'.

Savile or Savill?

The spelling of the name has been taken from the very informative book "Mapledurham Church and Village" by J H Baker who acknowledges that many of his facts come from "The Early History of Mapledurham" by the late Rev A H Cooke MA DSc who was Vicar there from 1920-34. Only a good look at the flagon will tell us if the engraver made a mistake in the spelling, not at all uncommon in those days. However, Savile thus spelt, gives us quite a different story for the Sir Henry Savile, Provost of Eton 1596-1622 (whose wife, Lady Margaret, gave the flagon), is a forbear of Lady Agnes Savile, John Eyston's mother. This makes the con-

nection so much closer!

Lady Margaret's Will

In her will, Lady Margaret used these words, "To the Church of Eton College my 2 guilt Livery Potts to the intent that they may be employed always to the holding of wine for the Holy Sacrament only and not to any other purpose".

This type of livery-pot was used in private households of the time as decanters are used nowadays. The flagons were given by Eton College to two churches whose livings were in the gift of the college, Mapledurham and Worplesdon, but were returned to the college after the war for safe keeping. The Mapledurham flagon is often brought to the church for the patronal festival.

Sir Henry Savile

Sir Henry was a remarkable man himself, and said to be very handsome, something Queen Elizabeth would notice. He managed to combine two top jobs at one time, Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and Provost of Eton, and as Elizabeth's nominee for both of these posts, there was not



much either establishment could do about it. Eton appears to have been satisfied with the arrangement and Merton's records show him as a perfect Warden, though recently discovered letters reveal that Merton was far from happy.

After Elizabeth's death James I continued his support and Savile eventually received a baronetcy. Sir Henry was a gifted scholar, publishing a translation of Tacitus as well as being one of the Committee of translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611. His edition of Chrysostom was the first example of critical scholarship in England.

Savile's lasting gift was the introduction of geometry, bringing the best of Cambridge's mathematicians to

Oxford. He endowed the professorships of Astronomy and Geometry and also founded a mathematics library which became part of the Bodleian much later.

For all this Oxford owes him a great debt, as indeed does all

England. That he was far from perfect no one could deny, least of all Savile himself, who said on one occasion, "I could easily be replaced by a better man, but a better reason than that is needed for depriving a man of a position".

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the CLUBS

Chazey WI

On 3rd September Chazey WI went for an exhilarating walk along the Cotswold Way; for 100 miles, from Bath to Chipping Campden, and all within one hour. Well they didn't actually leave their seats in Mapledurham Pavilion but their hearts and minds accompanied Mrs Beek as she gave an illustrated talk about her holiday. Such a walk needs to be well planned. Clothing must be reduced to essentials so as not to weigh down the walker under a rucksack, but rain or hot sunshine are equally probable. The

Beeks book B & Bs at about 10 mile intervals to allow for sightseeing and taking photographs. They did try sending packages ahead and then posting home used clothing but, after a parcel went astray for 3 weeks, they don't do that any more. They did have wet days but good boots kept their feet dry and lightweight water-proofs covered them. Mrs Beek's excellent coloured slides showed members the lovely Cotswold countryside and villages in the spring, the ideal walking season for temperate weather.

Turn to page 11

WASTE NOT WANT NOT

My eye was drawn to an item in a recent edition of one of the local newspapers. It concerned a Caversham resident's complaint about a charge being levied by the Council to provide a second wheelie bin which was required because of the impending closure of the rubbish tip in Hodsall Road. The local resident said that excess garden rubbish had been taken to the tip but that it was too far to take rubbish to Smallmead on the other side of Reading. The Council's view is that wheelie bins are intended for household waste but are increasingly being used for garden waste, hence the charge.

The problem of garden detritus is ever present. Certainly a compost bin is not a thing of beauty and needs to be sited in a convenient corner of

the garden out of general view. How many gardens in Caversham have such a space? In theory, smaller gardens should produce less waste so that only smaller compost areas would be required but there is a minimum size of bin for satisfactory functioning. Besides, how does one cope with all the leaves dropped from the trees in autumn? I'm quite sure the Council would frown on residents brushing leaves into the gutters for their sweepers to remove. Garden waste management requires effort as well as time and patience - something that many residents, particularly older ones, are not able to provide.

I have grown up with the notion that October is the month for a general clear-up in the garden in preparation for

By Hortus

November's bonfires to dispose of the refuse. Bonfires are not neighbour-friendly in built-up areas and are probably a fire risk in small gardens. There is also the problem of air pollution and the risk to the ozone layer so, from an ecological aspect too, bonfires are 'out'.

The problem of disposing of garden refuse in municipal tips is twofold. Firstly it increases the amount of rubbish to be disposed of by the Council - that in itself is becoming quite a problem - and secondly it means that gardeners have to import into their gardens fresh material - composts and fertilisers - thus putting pressure on finite resources - to maintain the viability of their plots. As in

other areas of life if you don't put anything in you won't get anything out.

So it really comes down to advocating the keeping of a compost heap wherever possible. There are plastic bins on the market (at little more cost than the Council's proposed charge for a second bin) but they need to be of robust construction. The outwards pressure of rotting garden material will soon find out any weak links in design. Alternatively it is not difficult for a handyman to make a timber construction with the slatted sides for ventilation. If there is space, have two so that production of compost can be continuous. Use your bin to build up a good mix of waste. Grass cuttings (untreated only), particularly, need to be mixed otherwise they will form

a thick mat which itself does not rot properly and will stop other waste from rotting. I find the best way to deal with leaves is to put them into plastic sacks. Leave the sacks tied up over winter and the contents will reduce down considerably to a quarter volume or less. While leaves need a couple of years to rot down properly bins should produce good compost in six months or so. While most things are compostable I avoid putting in non-vegetable food scraps so that rodents are not attracted. The local library will have garden books giving much more comprehensive advice on compost management.

Why not do your bit for the planet and your pocket - recycle your garden and household waste and save on the cost of fertiliser. It's worth it!

the CLUBS

From page 10

Chazey's own walkers are meeting on Sunday 6th October at 2.00pm. Details will be available at 1st October Meeting.

In fact October will be a busy month. Items for the Car Boot Sale are wanted on Saturday 12th by Marjorie McCombe, anything but clothes and shoes. All friends and family are welcome at Reading University for a talk on Herbalism by Dr Ann Walker on Thursday 17th at 8.00pm. The Age Concern Tea Party is on Wednesday 23rd in

Mapledurham Pavilion. There are outings to the theatre in Guildford on Thursday 24th and the Watermill, Newbury on Tuesday 29th.

Caversham Community Association

August began with a popular members' evening. Readings were given by Margaret Cameron (on Mrs Beeton) and Olive Howard (on past school days). Mrs Maida Feast gave one of her cookery demonstrations - a delicious apple cake and samples were handed round from one prepared earlier in true Blue Peter style.

Prizes and money were on offer the following week when Margaret Cameron did the calling for a bingo session and

the shortened month ended with a return visit from Elaine to lead a yoga demonstration. Though attendance was small the more active ones were able to do the gentle stretching exercises, a face and head massage and a final relaxation period with music.

St Andrew's Fellowship

Lovely weather blessed members and friends of the Fellowship for their outing to Petworth in August. Full advantage was taken of all the opportunities afforded by this wonderful house and everybody felt free to wander round the rooms, talk to the National Trust attendants, see the garden and enjoy the excellent food in the refreshment room. What spare time was left was used to look at some of the many antique shops in the town and visit the very large church.

The swift journey home was appreciated by two of the party who had meetings to attend that evening!

St Peter's Wives' Group

The speaker for the July meeting was Veronica Armstrong, the Education Officer for Reading Museum. Veronica explained that her usual talks were to

primary school parties; basing her subject on one of the major displays at the museum such as the Silchester Roman collection or the Victorian Washday display at Blake's Lock museum. She could hold their attention with the many "real" items available. Another favourite subject was Reading's Bayeux Tapestry, and that was to be the theme for the evening, illustrated with slides. She spoke about Mr Thomas Wardle, who ran a dyeing factory in Leek during the Victorian era, and his wife Elizabeth. They had seen the original Bayeux tapestry and determined to copy it. Mrs Wardle had organised a team of ladies from Leek to undertake the task. Being friends of the curator of the Kensington Museum (now the V & A) they were able to borrow photographs of the original, while Mr Wardle's dyeing techniques proved invaluable to the project. Apart from a few minor changes to accommodate Victorian modesty and the addition of a blue border enabling each member of the team to embroider her name under her work, it is an exact replica. When complete, the tapestry, (technically in fact an embroidery) was taken on tour around both the United Kingdom and the USA. Eventually the tour started to lose money and the then Mayor of Reading bought the tapestry for £300. Mrs Armstrong then showed slides of a

selection of panels from the work. She pointed out details relating to the everyday life in both England and Normandy around 1066 with particular reference to costumes and castle building, hunting and farming.

In August, a group of members, augmented by husbands, was able to take advantage of the continuing fine weather and enjoy a walk along the Thames and back into town along the Kennet, with a welcome stop for refreshment along the way.

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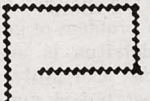
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