

What kind of Caversham ?

ASKS the RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

One's memory does not have to go back very far to remember the days when St. Martin's shopping precinct wasn't there. Church Street even then was too busy to cross easily and the Minister of Town and Country Planning (the Minister of the Environment's predecessor) made it clear that he did not favour shopping centres being built on either side of a main road. To placate him, it was necessary to produce a plan to pedestrianise Church Street, and to do that a road was to be cut behind the precinct from the Gosbrook Road junction to Caversham Bridge.

Fired by their own enthusiasm, the local planners then got to work on a major scheme which would take traffic out of Prospect Street via a new road that would link up with Peppard Road and lead down to the river, ready for a third bridge. On spare land behind the precinct they envisaged a library, health clinic and a community centre.

Insecure

The plan aroused widespread hostility, not because Caversham people didn't like the idea of freeing some of their roads of traffic, nor because they didn't like the idea of a new library or health centre, but because they didn't like the destruction of existing property that the scheme entailed. Tenants and owners of property between Westfield Road and Prospect Street felt insecure in spite of assurances that it would be years before these plans were put into effect, if they were at all. The plan appeared, in fact, to have been quietly dropped.

Cost

But now it has suddenly re-appeared and plans are afoot to spend vast sums on carving up the centre of Caversham and giving us in its place a planners' dream.

We are told that we want a traffic-free centre, a new library, a health centre,

and a community centre. Well, perhaps all of us want some of them, or some of us want all of them, but at what cost? How many houses, shops and other buildings must we lose to get them? Is it a package deal, or can we have bits of it only?

Identity

It is interesting that psychologists are beginning to ask how much change people can tolerate without suffering a loss of identity. If all these plans are carried out, many familiar landmarks will disappear. Perhaps some have outlived their usefulness and should go, but many of them, such as the public library with its turret surmounted by a flying swan weathervane and its big public clock held up by a Victorian stone angel, and the friendly huddle of houses off Prospect Street, all go to make Caversham itself instead of any town, anywhere.



—Walton Adams

In fact, what do we need, what do we want, what shall we lose, how much are we likely to get? Can we have some and not the rest, and when is it all likely to happen? These questions need asking and answering.

THE GAZEBO

The town Planning Committee, on the advice of the Department of the Environment, has decided that the Gazebo in Caversham Court is beyond repair and the only way of renewing it would be to rebuild it. The money for this is, however, simply not available.

It is a pity as this pretty little building, had repair been possible, would have made an attractive focal point in a rather neglected corner of these lovely gardens. But a rebuilt gazebo would, in any event, scarcely be the original building.

Perhaps it would be possible to use the bricks and flints to build a simple summer house or shelter to replace the gazebo and act as a link with the past.

Conrad Willcocks, FSA, FRIBA, a member of Caversham Residents' Association, who died on Christmas Day, had tried

for a long time to get this building restored. Perhaps this solution would meet with his approval.

CONSERVATION

The Borough Planning Committee is to reconsider designating part of Caversham in the vicinity of the bridge and Parish Church as a conservation area. They have already listed as worthy of preservation the walls and hedges of Caversham Court. This is a welcome step, though cynics could be forgiven for feeling that with Reading's re-

cord for demolishing listed buildings, this could be a tenuous locality, further protection for a death sentence. However, with greedy if it were to become a conservation area. M.C.

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CAVERSHAM'S FUTURE

Mon., 5th March, at 8 p.m.
Caversham Residents' Association has arranged a meeting for Monday, 5th March, in Church House, to discuss the proposed redevelopment of the centre of Caversham. The deputy Town Clerk will explain the plans and listen to residents' comments. The Chairman of the Planning Committee, and a member of the Planning Office, will also be present to answer questions.

ST. BARNABAS NEWS

On Christmas Eve members of St. Barnabas Church choir went carol singing. First they went to Springfield St. Luke and sang to the residents there, including Miss Williams who was 100 on Boxing Day. After that they went by special request to sing at Caversham Park Village, and then on to Miss Ryder at Kidmore End Road. There they sang for their supper of soup, sandwiches and mince pies, and are most grateful to her for her hospitality.

The Editor's Column

Introducing Ourselves

THIS NUMBER OF THE 'CAVERSHAM BRIDGE' WILL, I HOPE, REACH EVERY HOME IN CAVERSHAM AND MAPLEDURHAM, AND THEREFORE BE READ BY MANY WHO DO NOT NORMALLY SEE IT.

The 'Caversham Bridge' was launched in October 1964 when the Anglican parish magazine was discontinued, the other denominations having accepted an invitation from the Church of England to join in the production of an ecumenical newspaper. In 1969 the area covered by the paper was extended to include Mapledurham. The paper is at present delivered by some 250 volunteers to about 3,000 homes, and copies are sent by post to many parts of the world for the benefit of former local residents who have moved away.

The bridge which separates Caversham from the rest of Reading helps to make Caversham a distinct community, and indeed older residents still remember the time when Caversham was an Oxfordshire village and not part of the county borough. In launching the paper it was our hope to foster a local community spirit and help to bridge the gap both between the Church and the rest of society, and also between Christians of different traditions. We know that these aims have been forwarded by the monthly production of this paper. The 'Caversham Bridge' was also largely responsible for the launching of the social service scheme which bears its name and to which two pages of the present edition are devoted. It is because we believe that the paper has an even greater part to play in the life of the local community that last month we altered the format of the 'Bridge' so that it now consists entirely of local news. At the same time the editorial board felt that this would be the time to invite all residents of Caversham and Mapledurham to become regular subscribers. It is our hope, therefore, that if you are not already one of our readers you will accept this copy of the 'Caversham Bridge' and, when your street distributor calls next month, you will ask to have it delivered to your home regularly.

"HE'S NEVER BEEN TO SEE ME"

This remark is made from time to time by people in reference to the fact that none of the clergy has called on them (or perhaps more correctly that they have not been at home when anyone has called). The clergy are always pleased to call if requested to do so, but the days when the clergy could spend a considerable number of hours each week going from door to door are long since past. There are too many doors for this to be possible: probably 600 houses change hands every year in Caversham and it is impossible to visit all newcomers because we do not know who or where many of the new people are. People move with increasing frequency and with so many married women now working it is perfectly possible to call at a dozen houses and find no one at home. But if you would like a visit from one of the priests or ministers of Caversham please fill up the form on this page and send it to the 'Caversham Bridge' office, and every attempt will be made to see that you receive a visit.

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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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Making the Most of Retirement

Mr. Jack Houghton, of St. John's Road, Caversham, is a wise man. Long before retirement was due he had several hobbies on the go.

Youth work

As secretary for the Y.M.C.A., he worked in Reading for seventeen years before moving to Wales in 1953 to do similar work. Retirement six years ago brought him back to Reading.

For some people this might well have been the end, but not for Jack Houghton. With his life-long interest in young people he has given much of his newly-found time to scouting, not only to St. John's group, but also to the Berkshire Association. During the past year he has been their county adviser for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

All his own work

A keen walker and climber at home and abroad, he has reached the top of every peak in the Lake District and knows almost all there is to know about that part of the country. Walking and climbing, of course, may not be extraordinary pastimes, but Jack Houghton is also a gifted artist and his great achieve-

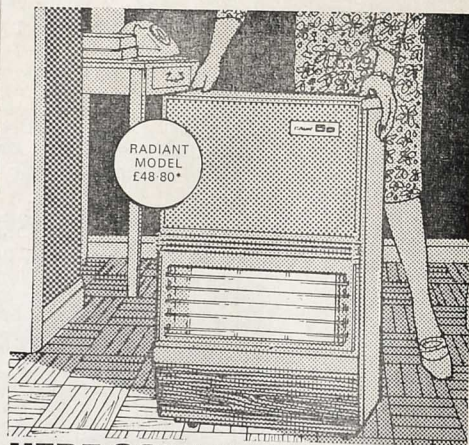
ment is to have painted most of the places he has visited. His travel notebooks are full of most attractive sketches. Many people feel moved to keep holiday diaries, but these are more than that — they are books running to several hundred pages, all beautifully arranged. Prominent among his collection are accounts of travels in Canada and the U.S.A., Scotland and the Lake District.

Perhaps the greatest achievement is the latest. It's a book about the Thames from Staines to its source at Seven Springs. With about two-hundred delightful little water colour pictures of bridges, churches, villages, towns and local landmarks, all seen along its banks, it represents hours of painstaking and detailed work. Mr. Houghton is to be congratulated on a first class effort. But however great an undertaking it may have been, no doubt it will not be his last.

M.K.

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'CHANGE and DECAY...' by Zoilus

As the next meeting of Reading Town Council does not take place in time to report for this issue, the Editor asked me to do a piece on some local topic. "What about Fluoridisation of the Water?" he suggested.

Well, what about fluoridisation of the water? It is a scheme that has the strong support of much of the medical profession, the Ministry of Health looks on it favourably, and my dentist was all for it when consulted. It also has the vehement opposition of many other people. I remember, a few years ago, being bombarded with pamphlets by various bodies who regarded the medication of our drinking water as an assault against the person almost as violent as present day mugging.

Mulling it all over, I found it a subject difficult to get excited about one way or the other. If it was going to stop tooth decay in children, all well and good, though a strict rationing of sweets might be more effective — and if Henley and other authorities intended to introduce it, how was the river going to be divided up into pro and anti stretches? Though again it was rather depressing to think that such a basic essential of life was going to be chemically messed about, like so much of our staple diet.

Anyhow, travelling in a Corporation bus from Shinfield Road I was pondering somewhat despondently about these worthy but dull matters when we stopped by "The Turk's Head" public house, and one aspect of fluoridisation became clear.

NEED FOR CHARACTER

Now it may seem a little obscure that the sight of such an excellent hostelry should spark off an instant mental connection with water, which is hardly meant to be one of its main attractions, save perhaps as a decently small additive to whisky, but "The Turk's Head", we know, is in grave risk of demolition to make way for another of those inner ring roads without which no modern town can regard itself as truly progressive. This threat to one of our older inns has brought protests by a host of people, ranging from outraged patrons to the local Member of Parliament.

Personally, I have some sympathy with the planners. If their brief is to re-design parts of the borough to let traffic move reasonably freely, then sooner or later they are going to find an old and charming building obstinately straddled across the path of one of their main arteries, and to by-pass the obstruction could well cost a fantastic amount of money. But, on the other hand, most of us have a desire to live in a town with some character, some feeling and evidence of the past, particularly in the case of Reading, which has saved little to remind us of a thousand years of history.

Understandably, many of us have an in-built resistance to change. By and large we like things to remain much as we have always known them and this applies particularly to such landmarks as churches and pubs. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, also in London Road, has been pulled down and a brand new contemporary style church has arisen in its stead. Apart from the possibility of being mistaken for a new administrative block of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which it adjoins, it is obviously a far superior and a more efficient building than the old edifice, which was hardly one of the gems of local ecclesiastical architecture. But still... the corner of Erleigh Road will never be the same and some people will regret it, no doubt.

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TOP DECK VIEW

Viewed from the top of a bus, many parts of Reading have a look of gaunt devastation, like the blitzed areas of Portsmouth just after the war. We know that much which has been demolished was substandard rows of dreary little terrace houses and that the brave new buildings that will replace them must be more in keeping with present day aspirations. But numerous families still hanker after the old streets they knew and don't want to exchange the matey domesticity of Coronation Street for a centrally-heated fourth floor flat with luxury bathroom and a window box. What is more, this desire to keep links with the past is by no means confined to one income bracket, for it is the ambition of many a high-powered executive to change his town house for a country cottage, the older the better and damn the inconvenience!

So the fate of "The Turk's Head" and the possible introduction of fluoride to our drinking water have this in common. They are change and some folk may have an unworthy suspicion that all change is not necessarily progress, and if it is, it may not be in the right direction. For their sake we must not feel too impatient if the magnificently impassioned Turk continues fiercely to repel all invaders from his wall in London Road, or that people can still imagine that the water streaming from their taps is as pure and sparkling as when first it bubbled up from the original Thames spring way above Lechlade.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 14th December, 1972. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

In connection with the proposed development of a primary school off Shepherd's Lane, Mapledurham, the Council were informed that it was the intention of the Oxfordshire C.C. to submit a revised planning application for the primary school development to the Area Planning sub-committee — probably next month. It was therefore intended to call a local consultative meeting, late in January or early February, and the meeting would be initiated by the County Council as planning authority. The need for such a meeting to be widely represented was stressed by the Parish Council, and the County Council are to be asked for such a representation.

The Parish Council are also concerned that there has been no further mention regarding any development of a secondary school on the site in question, and it was agreed to seek information from the County Council regarding the Council's policy in connection with the possible development of a secondary school in this particular area. Regarding the selection of alternative sites for the primary school, the Parish Council were informed that the Planning Officer for Reading had indicated that it was doubtful whether the Hemdean Bottom area would be pursued. Also, it had been indicated that it was doubtful whether an alternative site for a school on the south-west side of Upper Woodcote Road would be considered, because of the traffic movement along the road, and the consequent traffic hazards.

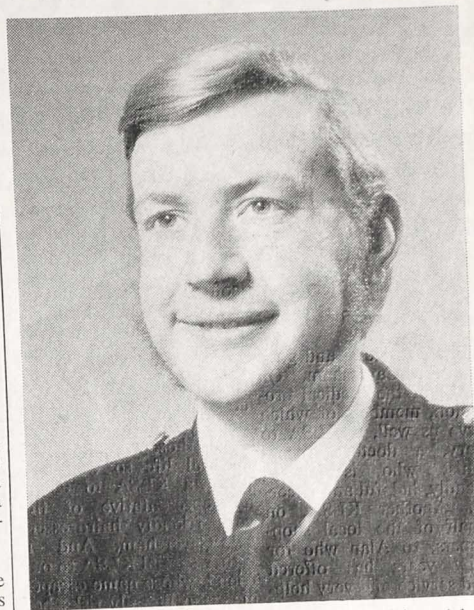
The Council have been informed that £10,000 has been allocated to them by the Oxfordshire Loan Sanction Working Party for the purpose of building a new Hall on the main Playing Fields. The money will be available from next April and building can commence after that date.

Although the 'No Overtaking' signs between the 'Pack Saddle' PH and Cane End had been erected for some months, no cases of prosecution had been made against motorists who deliberately overtake on this particularly dangerous stretch of road.

However, it is anticipated that this situation will soon change as the Parish Council are requesting the police from Reading and Oxfordshire to patrol this stretch more regularly and take positive action against motorists who deliberately flout these restrictions.

Letters are to be written to the appropriate authorities asking that the condition of the footpaths in Rokeby Drive, Chazey Road and Hewett Avenue be improved.

CAVERSHAM'S NEW AREA CONSTABLE



—Walton Adams

For P.C. Stuart Fletcher, Lower Caversham's new Area Constable, it is not so much a case of "Welcome to Caversham", as "Welcome home!" In replacing P.C. White, he returns to the district in which he spent his youth and childhood.

A former member of Caversham Baptist Free Church, P.C. Fletcher will also be known to many local people as the son of Vera Fletcher who runs the ladies' shop in Prospect Street. Many readers will also remember that his father was a policeman in Caversham before him. As area constable he is anxious to serve the community as well as he can. He is particularly concerned that there should be adequate provision for the needs of young people in Lower Caversham, perhaps in the form of a good youth club.

With an interest in outdoor activities, he has been responsible for training Thames Valley police cadets for the Devizes-Westminster Canoe Race. P.C. Fletcher is married with two children.

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KATY'S NEW YEARS HONOURS

POOR QUEEN! IMAGINE HAVING TO DISH OUT HONOURS TO PEOPLE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW! Now if I were Queen — not that I've ever actually been invited — I'd turn bolshie and insist on honouring people I knew and whose work I personally admired — people like the lady seen shivering outside Caversham library one cold December day trying to collect for Oxfam and the victims of the latest earthquake. What a lovely thought — just suppose . . .

Katy's Long Service Award

First, for long and good service to Caversham. On behalf of the medical profession, members of which serve us well, a KLSA to Mary, a doctor's receptionist who is always friendly, helpful and cheerful. Another KLSA, on behalf of the local shopkeepers, to Alan who for many years has offered good service and very helpful advice on do-it-yourself problems. On behalf of the teaching profession, all of whom deserve an award, a KLSA to Charlie, a school caretaker, who identifies himself completely with the work of his school, including seeing that the children reach it in safety. Another KLSA to Anne, on behalf of the local clergy and their wives; for more years than most she has patiently answered the telephone, served

coffee, comforted the distressed in her husband's absence, and put up with complete lack of family privacy. Another KLSA to Sylvia, a librarian, who copes so helpfully with our literary needs. On behalf of all those who keep our cultural life so well supplied, a KLSA to Hilda, as representative of the very friendly hairdressers of Caversham. And a rather special KLSA to our friend, whose name escapes me, who literally risks her life at the corner of George Street and Gosbrook Road to shepherd children across the road every day.

Katy's Community Award

Now for those many unpaid workers who do so much for our community, a special Community Award. At risk of being accused of nepotism, a KCA to my own sister who founded the Caversham

Residents' Association, on behalf of the many who for several years have fought so hard for improved amenities, and another to Joe, a typical supporter of the local Community Association. KCA, on behalf of all those who work for local voluntary organisations, Bernard, an official of Reading PHAB Club, to Peggy, a typical "Bridge" Social Service worker, and

to Judy, a local Samaritan. Another KCA to Betty and her husband, on behalf of all those whose community service lies in offering open house to those in need of a quiet refuge and helpful advice.

And now for a new award, Katy's Good Neighbour Award for those, often unhonoured and unsung, who give without counting the cost and labour without asking for rewards, who drop what they are holding in a flash

to help neighbours and friends in trouble. A KGNA to a whole list of people who serve Caversham in this way, Cynthia, Katie, Barbara, John, Stella, Lee, Sophie, Peter, Flora, Donald, Elsie, David . . .

Help! I'm not Queen of Caversham. I'm not even Editor of this paper. If I were I could go on indefinitely — so much kindness in Caversham, so much service. And these are only people I know personally.

Katy's Family Award

Last but not least, like the Queen I should be allowed awards for personal service so, on behalf of all the many families who support husbands, wives, sons and daughters who get involved in community life, I give a special Family Award to all members of my own family who put up with so much from people like me.

God bless you and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The Chairman, Mrs. C. Mitchell, opened the December meeting by introducing several new members. This was followed by a review of future activities given by the Education Chairman, Mrs. A. Smith, and reports on various aspects of the Guild given by members of the Committee. The speaker for the month was Mrs. Pamela Ridley and her subject was "1066 and all mod. cons.". This proved to be a most amusing and interesting subject greatly enjoyed by the large gathering. A well-deserved vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mrs. P. Goodyear. To follow the teabreak and close the meeting on a seasonal note, Mrs. B. Stratford had arranged carol singing. This session was most successful and all our members were in very good voice.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday in each month at 2.15 p.m. in the Caversham Community Centre, School Lane. New members are always welcome. Just come along.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Mr. Dougan, from Tate & Lyle, gave a brief talk on the process of refining cane sugar. Two films were then shown. The first "Sugar is our business" showed the gathering, refining, packaging and distribution of the sugar. The second "Sugar in the Kitchen" gave some surprising and extremely interesting hints on the uses of sugar in the home. A large number of beautifully wrapped crackers

were entered in the Christmas Cracker Competition. The winner was Mrs. Perrin. These presents were distributed to the old people of Emmer Green.

At an informal gathering after the meeting Carols were sung.

Guild meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at the Emmer Green Primary School. New members and visitors are most welcome.

Blagrove Women's Institute

At the tenth birthday party, held on 12th December in the Memorial Hall, Upper Woodcote Road, the Whiteknights T.G. Players, in attractive costumes, entertained with a varied programme of Old-Time and modern songs, and sketches.

Guests, including members from neighbouring Institutes and friends from the Meals-on-Wheels Service, were welcomed by the President, Mrs. Wright, who also made and iced the delightful birthday cake.

Committee members were the tea hostesses, and a Sales Stall made over £11.

The competition for a Christmas Table Decoration was won by: 1 Mrs. Sholl, 2 Mrs. Messent; 3 Miss Reynolds.

Maplewood Women's Institute

The December meeting took place in the evening when members and friends enjoyed Maplewood Guest Night and "Going for a

Song". The President, Mrs. Berry Lewis, presided and the panel consisted of experts Mr. J. C. Beauchamp and Mr. L. J. Ruse, and amateurs Mrs. Elizabeth Dinwiddy and Mr. Rex Justham. The latter two finished with an identical number of marks! A vote of thanks was proposed to

Mr. Criswick who collected such interesting antiques and objects from members. Refreshments provided and served by Committee members were very much appreciated. Mrs. Phyllis Duckworth was congratulated on being re-elected Chairman of the BFWI Executive Committee.

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Singing in the Abbey



—Walton Adams

Seventy-six members of the church choirs of Caversham recently visited Westminster Abbey to sing Evensong. In addition about one-hundred-and-fifty people from Caversham were among the large congregation that heard them sing. Catherine Coome, a member of St. Peter's choir, describes the experience.

ON SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER, THE COMBINED CHOIRS of the Parish, including some members from the Free Churches, went to London to sing Evensong in Westminster Abbey. We had been waiting for this occasion for over a year, and had been practising hard for some months. We set off early and reached Westminster Abbey at about 11.30 a.m. After being welcomed by one of the Abbey clergy, we were divided up into groups and taken on a guided tour of the Abbey by three of the official guides. They showed us the main points of interest, such as the tomb of Edward the Confessor, and Henry VII's chapel, and told us some of the Abbey's long history. After a sandwich lunch in College Hall we processed to the choir for a short final rehearsal. This went well and greatly encouraged us, as we had been rather nervous when we arrived.

The service itself was very successful, especially the singing of the anthem "How far is it to Bethlehem?" by Geoffrey Shaw. We were rewarded for our hard work afterwards, when we were highly praised. We left for home almost immediately after the service, at the end of an exhausting day. Thanks must go to Mr. Brind and Mr. Rowe who worked so hard to train the choir for the occasion.

Letters to the Editor

Honesty

Dear Sir,

On Friday, December 29th, I boarded a No.29 Caversham Heights bus at about 12.20 p.m. in Broad Street, with my two daughters. As we neared our destination, the Highmoor Road bus-stop in Albert Road, my elder daughter fainted. In the confusion of getting her off the bus and coping with her once on the pavement, I dropped my purse. Unfortunately I did not realise this until I had reached my home. Returning to the bus-stop there was no sign of the purse and it's contents of almost £25.

Did I drop it on the bus? I checked, it had not been handed to the driver and there were only three stops to the terminus. Did it fall on the pavement? I have reported the loss to the Reading Police, but as yet it has not been handed in. Now all I can do is wait, and hope and pray that whoever did find it will do the right and kind thing and hand it in at the police station. It is a brown vinyl purse, with a clip top and zip side pocket. There is no identification inside, just the money and two keys on a leather tag with a Save the Children's medallion.

ation to keep such a large sum of money is great, but I now know the heartache and distress such a loss can cause. I feel so sad that although it happened so near to my home the chances of getting it back are so remote. Surely there still ARE honest folk about!

(Name and address supplied)

Reading School

Dear Sir,

In answer to "Katy" in December's Bridge, I would like to say that as a "Reading School Mum" it is not for prestige that I fight to save the school, nor solely for the academic teaching, but for Education in a very much wider sense; and examples of Godly living handed down over the centuries, and still upheld in the school today.

These are qualities that produce young men with a high sense of moral obligation and responsibility towards the community, and are surely of great value in which we live and should be saved for others to follow, not destroyed.

Yours faithfully,
Mary Coope.

I appreciate the tempt-

The Healing Waters of Caversham

At the turn of the eighteenth century, when great popularity was given to "taking the waters", several springs were discovered in Caversham with medicinal properties. In 1803, for example, a spring was discovered on Grove Hill containing a high degree of iron, and in 1804, according to the records, there was a Physic Garden in Surley Row with a spring which was found to be good for rheumatism. Could this be the origin of the name "Springfield St. Luke" I wonder?

Those who could not bear the following inscription: "The holy well of St. Anne. The healing waters of which brought many pilgrims to Caversham in the Middle Ages".

and sent by courier to Henley and Reading. One lady who received great benefit from it even composed a suitable ode in praise of the cure, written in the typical style of the day.

Who remembers?

As a child, over forty years ago, I can remember the spring on Grove Hill. Often after rain the whole road was running with water and I knew just where to find the source. There was an even better one before you reached the Gardener's Arms and medieval well of St. Anne, Bottle Cottage, coming at the top of Priest Hill, from the direction of High-

down. Often I would poke it to see what would happen and watch the bubbles and sandy soil swirl as it was disturbed. At the bottom of the hill a stream-let ran along by a path between two old stiles. Watercress grew along its bank and it was clear and swift running with a clean sandy bottom.

The stiles, alas, have long since gone and the water piped underground down Rotherfield Way, but there must still be many Caversham people who remember it.

M.K.

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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS — KILLIECRANKIE, PERTSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. R. Chewter.

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Excursions to Interlaaken, Jungfrau, 3 Passes, Lucerne etc. etc.

Inclusive price £75.

AUSTRIAN ALPS — KLEINES WALSERTAL — 12 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Monday, June 4th to Friday, June 15th. Overnight at AACHEN and HEIDELBERG.

Excursions to Lindau, Bregenz, Bodensee, Garmisch, Zugspitze etc.

Inclusive price £68.50.

BLACK FOREST — 9 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Thursday, June 21 to Friday, June 29. Overnight at AACHEN.

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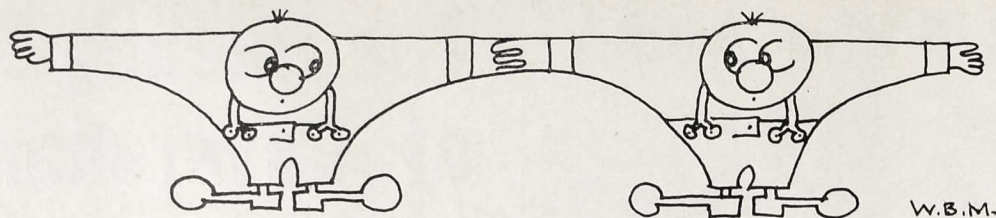
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Caversham Bridge Scheme

A MESSAGE FROM READING'S DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

I am very glad to accept this opportunity to commend to you the Caversham Bridge Scheme as one of the foremost voluntary associations in Reading. At a time when the statutory social services are increasing quite rapidly there is an obvious temptation to feel that voluntary social work is no longer necessary. In practice, nothing could be further from the truth, as perhaps the major effect of increasing social services has been to uncover more and more urgent social needs.

In any case, it would be a sad day indeed if we were ever to get to the situation in which the state met all the needs of its citizens. Good neighbourliness and a helping hand, are just as much a help to the giver as to the receiver and we should all be the poorer if we cease to help people in trouble.

The professional social workers simply cannot meet all the demands



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facing them and it would be a wrong use of a scarce and expensive resource that they should spend a lot of their time in friendly visiting. On the other hand, they are only too well aware of the loneliness and isolation from which so many people suffer, and are very anxious to encourage bodies such as the Caversham Bridge Scheme.

There are a host of tasks which the members of the scheme already undertake, to the great benefit of the people of Caversham and of Reading as a whole. I would therefore appeal to anyone reading this, who feels able to help with the work of the scheme, to contact Mrs. Besley, the Central Organiser.

R. BESSELL.

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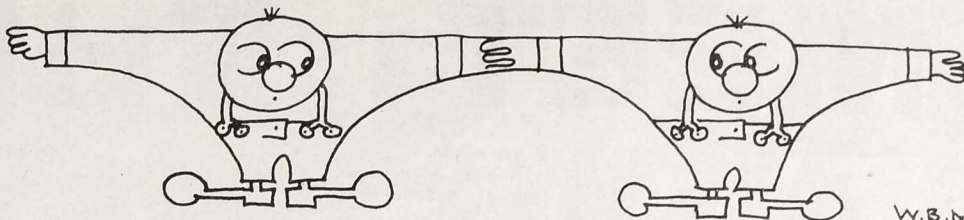
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of Social Service

In times of trouble and particularly national disasters, such as the recent earthquake, we are all of us anxious to help in whatever way we are able — either with money, our time or our labour. Does it really matter how we do it as long as we can help those we see on the T.V. screen who need our help so much? Yes, we are all so used nowadays to being shown where our help is needed and what we can do to assist. BUT do we use our eyes and look and see if our neighbour down the road, or someone round the corner, needs assistance?

An old man whose wife is seriously ill in hospital and he cannot visit her unless someone takes him there by car.

A young mother with an acute back injury and a toddler to be taken out.

Recently widowed lady needs company occasionally.

Lady alone in house confined suddenly to bed just before weekend needs meals over the weekend.

The above are examples of calls the Caversham Bridge Scheme of Social Service has had this year and were able to help.

Transport is one of our main calls for help to take people, to visit close relatives ill in hospital or to visit an optician etc., who cannot travel by other means. We never have a long enough list of drivers who are available, generally in the daytime, so that we do not have to call on the same person too often to drive. It is bad enough having a loved one taken to hospital, but how awful to be unable to visit them due to lack of transport.

Friendly visits is our other main call for help. Generally for an elderly person living all alone and perhaps housebound, but not always. In cases of sudden illness any person needs friends to help out and sometimes friends are not available, then the Caversham Bridge Scheme can provide visitors and help.

From the above you will all realise there are two main things YOU can all do to make our Scheme of Social Service work. They are to tell me, as Central Organiser, where help is needed, and the other is to offer your service as a helper.

The Scheme is a voluntary organisation to help all those living North of the Thames in this area, operated entirely by you, for you, and it is and will only be a success if everyone is alert in seeing where there is help required and letting me or the Area Organiser know of the need, and in reverse by volunteering your name and address and telephone number and specifying how you can help if need be.

Let it not be said that in Caversham we look too far afield and forget those near us, perhaps almost a neighbour who is living alone who, for one reason or another may at some time need assistance and we never notice. **HELP THE SCHEME TO HELP!** K. P. BESLEY.



Visiting

W.B.M.

WHOM TO CONTACT

Central Organiser:

Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close. Tel. 472374.

Area Organisers:

Dr. E. V. Beale (North Caversham) 1 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green. Tel. 471644.

Mrs. M. Coombs (Sth. Caversham) 5 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472689.

Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham) 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.

Mr. D. E. Thomas (West Caversham) 15 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472364.

Mrs. G. Thompson (Mapledurham) 205 Upper Woodcote Rd. Tel. 471328.

Mrs. S. Bould (Caversham Park Village) 18 Holyrood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 476126.

The BRIDGE SCHEME—HOW TO HELP

Please tick the appropriate space if you can help in any of the following ways:

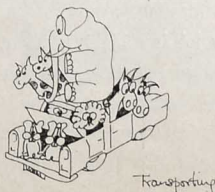
1. Visit the sick, lonely and disabled
2. Provide transport for elderly or disabled
3. Look after children
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING

AT HOME

PASSPORT

MEET THE

THE CAVERSHAM BRIDGE is a newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham. The Board of Management consists of ten members, who meet regularly to consider the editorial and business policy of the paper.

On these pages we explain who they are and the particular contribution they each make to the production of Caversham's own Newspaper.



—Walton Adams

PETER ATKINSON

Peter, Priest in charge of St. John's Church, joined the Board not long after his arrival in Caversham three years ago. He quickly became highly involved in the work, particularly on the editorial side, and was appointed Assistant Editor when the paper was re-

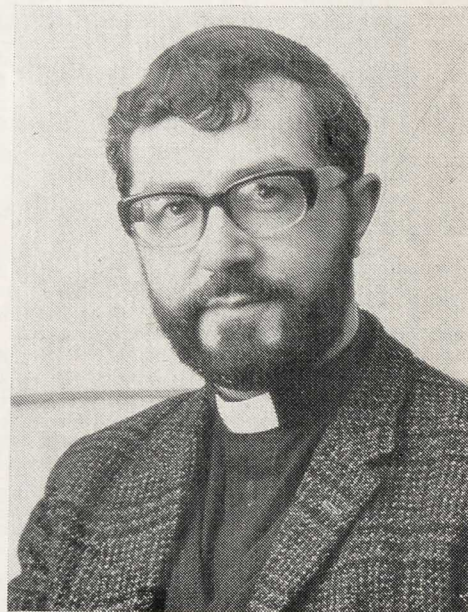
organised last year. For someone who claimed to know nothing about journalism when he first joined the Board, Peter has quickly proved his worth in this field and his work as priest enables him to suggest, and write, many articles on local people and organisations.



—Walton Adams

JIM PILGRIM

A founder-member of finance, and keeps the Board, Jim was appointed Secretary in 1965. When it comes to Performing an unspectacular job in a highly efficient manner, Jim even involves his own Jim, a deacon of the local Baptist church, keeps the feet of the 'Bridge' firmly on the ground in matters of



—Walton Adams

JOHN GRIMWADE

John, Rector of Caversham, needs little introduction to our readers. Described by the secretary as the 'Father' of 'Caversham Bridge', it was his ideas and organisation which started the paper going in 1964. Coming to Caversham with his family in 1962, he wasted no time before putting into practice many innovations and, since something obviously needed to be done about the old Church magazine, this was one of the first jobs he tackled. With the support of his colleagues in his own church and those of other denominations, he started something which, despite gloomy predictions, has become a great success.

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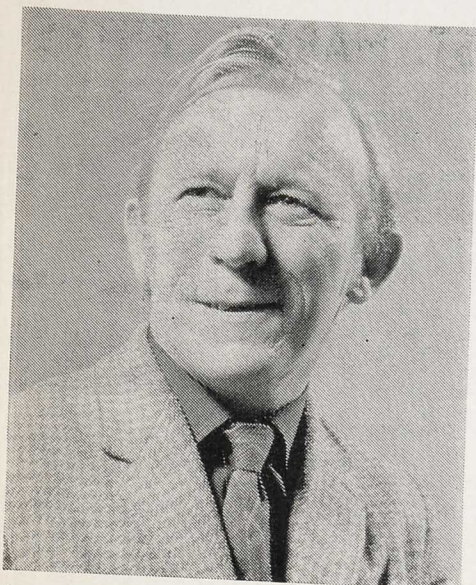
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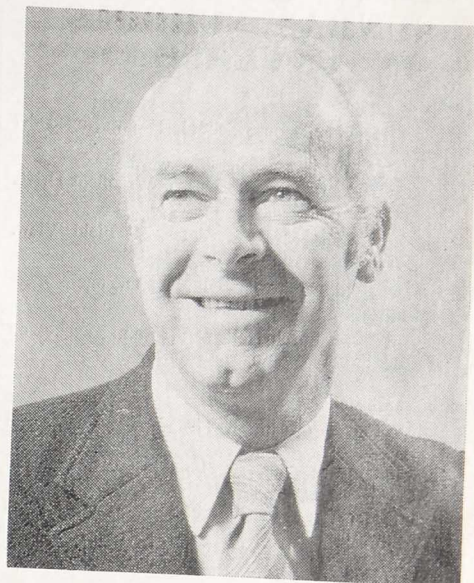
BERNARD MILLER

Bernard, a founder-member and trustee of the Board, lives in Highdown Hill Road. He and his family are keen members of the Caversham Free Church and still find time for other voluntary social work. Bernard, a director of Elliotts, has contributed a great deal to the work of 'Caversham Bridge' over many years, and is known mainly for his willingness to help with any task he can, also for his very cheerful approach to our work.



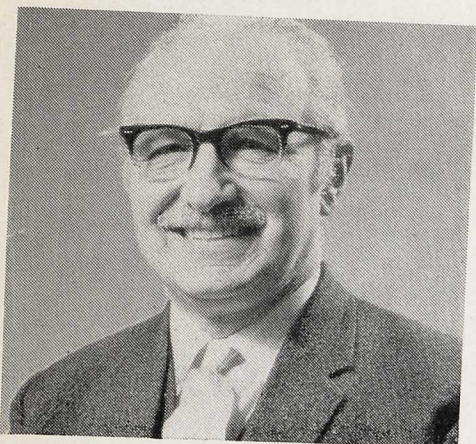
PEGGY MAULE

A more recent addition to the Board, Peggy joined us in 1970 and was immediately asked to take over as Advertisement Manager, a job which she has performed so successfully that the 'Bridge' is able to face its financial future with a fair amount of confidence. An ex-Company Sergeant Major, Peggy, the wife of a local bank manager, has worked in Reading since she left the ATS in 1947, and now lives on Caversham Heights.



NORMAN COSLETT

Norman, who came to Caversham from Singapore seven years ago, very quickly became involved in the work of the 'Bridge' and was appointed Director and Circulation Manager in 1968. He works at the local Royal Signals Records Office, as befits an ex-soldier, and lives in Caversham Park Village, where he has done a great deal to set up a firm liaison with the local community. A member of the Methodist Church, Norman has done good work as circulation manager; his wife is a 'Bridge' distributor.



JOHN CLARK

John, a member of the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church, has been a Director since 1968. A local preacher, John has a great sense of responsibility towards Caversham as a community. Always helpful, he has undertaken many somewhat tedious duties on behalf of the 'Bridge', always willingly, and has made many useful suggestions about the contents of the paper.

MARY KIFT

Mary, who until she retired a few years ago, was headmistress of Mapledurham Primary School, joined the Board in 1969; she has been helpful in so many ways, particularly on the editorial side, and her features on old Caversham are very popular with our readers. Mary, who comes from an old local family, lives with her elderly father in Darell Road. Always cheerful, she has contributed a great deal of enthusiasm to the work of the Board.



PHOTOGRAPHS
BY

WALTON ADAMS

CHARLES BUCK

Charles, or Charlie as he is more popularly known, will probably be better known to local people as an ex-Councillor, a local preacher with the Methodist Church, and a member and official of many local organisations. Joining the Board early last year, Charlie has already offered much helpful advice and has been a useful liaison member with such bodies as the local Residents Association, of which he is chairman.

MAEVE O'CONNOR

Maeve, a local Roman Catholic and a school teacher, brought a touch of culture to the Board when she joined early last year. A keen musician herself, her features on local organists have already become well known, and besides serving on the Management Board she has proved a useful addition to the editorial staff. Her father will be remembered by many Caversham residents as Dr. O'Connor, who until recently practised in Caversham.



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WHO, WHEN & WHERE ?

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

Church of England

- St. Peter's Hemdean House School, 11 a.m., aged 4-7 years.
Baltimore Hall, 11 a.m., age 7 upwards.
Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive.
- St. John's. St. John's Hall, 11 a.m. age 4 upwards.
Superintendent: Mrs. A. Yates, 39 Field View.
Tel. 477895.
- St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m., age 4 years and upwards.
- St. Barnabas' — Church Hall, at 9.15 a.m., except on 1st and 2nd Sundays of the Month.

Methodist Church

- Gosbrook Road — In Church, 11 a.m., age 3 years and upwards.
Superintendent: Mr. R. Hodgkinson, 22 Church Hill, Sonning Common. Tel. Kidmore End 2785.
- Caversham Heights — In Church, 11 a.m. age 3 years and upwards.
Superintendent: Mrs. P. Court, 3 Woburn Close.
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FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. John's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
6.30 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday).

St. Andrew's
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. Barnabas'
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (4th Sunday Matins).

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

CAVERSHAM PARK SCHOOL

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service.

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

Caversham
11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
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ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's
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Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

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The Rev. John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.
The Rev. John Stevinson, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.
The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.
The Rev. Michael Atkinson, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.
The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 471572.
The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.
The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.
The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Baltimore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 7 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

ST. MARY'S CENTRE

The Ecumenical study groups, arranged recently by many of the Caversham churches, provided an opportunity for wide-ranging discussion. The most frequent request from the groups was for education in the Christian faith, both for adults and children. This request couldn't have come at a better time, because Reading is now equipped with a centre capable of meeting just such a need.



Resource Centre

Opened on October 6th, St. Mary's Centre, in Chain Street, is sponsored by the Reading Council of Churches. Its two full-time members of staff, the Revd. G. Restall, Director, and Miss D. Barrell, plan to make it both a library of teaching aids and a source of ideas. With rooms for lectures and discussions, and a permanent display of the latest books and visual aids, teachers and anyone else concerned with Religious Education can be kept up to date. There is also a library of film strips and a bank of catalogues to be borrowed or consulted.

Practical Help

Day courses are already under way. Early in November about thirty Sunday School teachers spent a stimulating afternoon and evening discussing the scope and purpose of their work with Krister Ottosson, Education Secretary of the British Council of Churches. Similar days have been planned to explore post confirmation

training and the scope of R.E. in schools. Some Monday evenings have been devoted to workshop sessions, giving practical help on matters such as making music and models.

Thinking Together

It should be made clear that the centre is not intended to be the exclusive reserve of teachers, whether voluntary or professional. It is for all Christians. As lay people take an increasing part in planning and carrying out the work of the church, it is becoming evident that "doing theology" is no longer restricted to the professional. The centre provides the opportunity for lay people to increase their understanding of the Christian belief, by studying together. The parish of Tilehurst, for example, is using the centre's help for a course on the Bible. After a great deal of careful thought and planning, St. Mary's Centre is at last in existence. It is up to the churches to use it.

Ecumenical Studies

As a result of suggestions made at the ecumenical conference held at Caversham Park School, which was reported in the January edition of the "Bridge", the ecumenical house groups which have met for several years during Lent will this year be replaced by two courses of lecture-discussions that are to be held in Church House Caversham. These have been arranged by the Director of St. Mary's Centre.

Course No. 1. 8 p.m. Mondays, March 19th,

26th, April 2nd, 9th, 16th. Introducing the New Testament.

Course No. 2. 8 p.m. Thursdays, March 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th, 12th. Things Christians Believe.

Course fee 35p. Fuller details will be given next month, but early registration is advisable. If you would like to attend one or other of these courses please send the registration form marked "Ecumenical Studies" to the Parish Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham.

Course A

I wish to attend _____ (Please delete accordingly)

Course B

and would be grateful to have further details as soon as they are available.

Name

Address

ST. ANDREW'S NOTES

St. Andrew's Children:

On Christmas Eve morning at 11.00 St. Andrew's Hall was packed with parents and children for a Family Carol Service. Carols, songs and readings were given by the children under the direction of Mr. John Gazzard. Parents were able to see some of the things their children do. They were also able to meet some of the teachers. Mr. Norman Kent thanked everyone for coming.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

A full church took part in the traditional Festival of Carols and Lessons at St. Andrew's on Sunday, 31st December. During the service a presentation from the district was made to Mr. W. H. Rowe who has been organist for twenty-five years. A recent article in the Bridge told of Mr. Rowe's great talent and ability to draw out the very best from his choir. A gift was given to him for Mrs. Rowe who was not able to be present.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rowe for all that you do for St. Andrew's Church Family.

Old Ones — Young Ones

On Sunday afternoon, 17th December, 1972, a party was given by members of St. Andrew's Teen Action, for about twenty-six elderly people from the district.

Arriving at 3.0 p.m. at St. Andrew's Hall the guests were served with a cup of tea, and welcomed to the party by the young people. The chairman of Teen Action, Jim Stevens, gave a short welcoming speech and hoped that everyone would have an enjoyable afternoon. Some rousing community singing was led by Ian Canning, and a visiting Folk Music group provided some very professional music.

A lovely tea was served on very attractively decorated tables. This was a happy tea party and young and old sat and talked together.

There was more singing of Christmas Carols and other songs and at the end of the party all the guests were given a gift to take home. Mr. C. Chennell expressed thanks to the

young people for such a lovely party.

Teen Action

Following a very successful party for elderly people, given by members of St. Andrew's Teen Action, St. Andrew's Hall was crowded on the evening of 17th December. During the evening a presentation was made to Mr. Derek Shrimpton and his wife Frances. For the past three years Mr. Shrimpton has been the Leader of St. Andrew's Teen Action. A growing confidence between Mr. Shrimpton and the young people has developed over this time. It was with sadness that Mr. Shrimpton felt that he had to give up this work, as he did not now have the time to give which he would like. Mrs. Frances Shrimpton has always been of great support in this work and their home has been open and welcoming to the young people.

Grateful thanks were expressed by the chairman Jim Stevens and by Peter Goodman.

The chairman of St. Andrew's Teen Action also introduced the successor to Mr. Shrimpton. He is Mr. Spencer Hall of Matlock Road, Caversham. Mr. Hall and his wife Christine recently came to Caversham, and they were both given a warm welcome on this occasion.

The Mothers' Union

Meetings at St. Andrew's Mothers' Union have been very well attended in spite of wet weather. Mrs. Ridley's "Reading of Prose and Poetry: Times and Seasons" was most interesting, particularly the poetry by Sir John Betjeman concerning events in Parish Churches such as the installing of electricity in a country church. Mrs. Rose Painter demonstrated the making of beautiful Christmas decorations which were greatly admired by all.

Members entertained about 24 young people from Borocourt at a Christmas Party on December 12th, arranged by Mrs. St. Alphonse, Enrolling Member. This annual event, enjoyed very much by all, began with a party supper, followed by Punch and Judy. Musical games were included and Carols sung with great enthusiasm.

St. Peter's Helps Others

Over the Christmas season St. Peter's has been able to send help to a variety of charities. The ever popular childrens service on Christmas eve was again well attended and toys were sent both to the Chiltern-Nursery Training College for the children in care and to Miss Angela Butler for her work among immigrant families in Birmingham. St. Peter's Wives carol party also collected on behalf of her work, while a part of forty young carollers raised £17 for Homes for the Aged.

Instead of the usual carol service on the Sunday night after Christmas a large congregation braved the

thick fog to share in a delightful evening of Christmas readings and music. The readings by Mrs. Anne Latta and Mr. Edward Lewis included poems by Thomas Hardy, G. K. Chesterton, T. S. Eliot, Eleanor Farjeon and Tennyson. There was music for harpsichord and recorders played by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Standing and Mrs. Westmeath, and choir and congregation also had ample opportunity to sing carols. The collection for the work of Shelter amounted to £41. Collections at other Christmas services produced £78 for Christian Aid and £74 for the work of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel bringing the total during the Christmas season to £200.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

UP IN THE WORLD

Mrs. Titchener, of South View Avenue, had good reason to be proud of her family recently. Her son Brian, for several years now a Captain with B.O.A.C., flying VC10s, has been appointed Vice-Chairman of B.A.L.P.A., the pilots' union. Now living in Hythe, Southampton, with his wife and family, he will be remembered as a former pupil of Hemdean Road and Reading schools.

NEWS FROM NIGERIA

Just before Christmas news reached St. John's from Virginia Yewdall whose departure for Zaria, Nigeria, to work with V.S.O. was reported in the October 'Bridge'. Although appointed as a research technologist at the hospital, most of her time has been spent in teaching and supervising routine laboratory work. However, she has her own research project planned. Teaching apparently is far from easy. She finds that discipline among the students is almost impossible to enforce. As something of a relief, Virginia has kept up her choral interests by joining the Zaria Singers, reported to have been preparing Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" for a Christmas concert.

FRANK TAYLOR

Regrettably, St. John's notes the passing of one of its life-long members, Mr. Frank Taylor, who died shortly before Christmas. The church's first server, member of the choir, and secretary of the Social Committee, he will be remembered with gratitude and affection.

VENTURES

The biggest venture this term was on Saturday, 9th December, when the Brownies of St. John's Pack entertained those of St. Anne's Pack to a Christmas Party.

There were preparations

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Members of the Church Council were confronted at their December meeting with such a long and varied agenda that it took two-and-a-half hours to consider all the items.

In view of the financial loss on the parish holiday in 1972 it was decided not to hold another in 1973 unless by the beginning of the new year a sufficient number of people had stated that they would be likely to attend.

The Council heard that the parish would be able to elect an extra member to the deanery synod in 1973. A letter was received from St. Peter's Scout Group asking if the letting charge for their use of Balmore Hall could be rescinded. The Council were unanimous in upholding the decision reached earlier in the year that a small but reduced charge should be asked from all Church organisations for their use of halls in the parish so as to cover the cost of heating and lighting, and it felt that exceptions could not be made.

Considerable time was spent discussing a resolution which it was proposed to send to the deanery synod requesting the synod to take such steps as it could through the diocesan and general synod to make it possible for a communicant member of a non-Anglican church to have his name on an Anglican electoral role. The Council agreed to the resolution in principle but referred the matter back for clearer drafting. The Council considered the future of the Church in East Caversham and resolved, if the Methodist Church was willing, to appoint at the next meeting members of a working party who, with the Methodists, would be asked to make positive proposals for the future. A report was made about plans for Lent courses on the Bible and the Christian faith which the Rector of St. Mary's Centre is willing to arrange on two nights a week in Church House. The implications of the possible compulsory purchase of Church House were considered and the Rector undertook to consult the Diocesan Registrar so that he could act on behalf of the parish with the Borough Council. The suggestion that grants should be made to enable selected candidates to attend Outward Bound Courses and similar youth training schemes was referred to the Finance Committee.

The Council meets again on February 8th in St. John's Hall.

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AN APOLOGY

We apologise to Mr. and Mrs. O'Boyle for our mistake last month. Their names should have appeared as married at St. Margaret's on Nov. 18th.

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SPORTS SPECIAL

TOP TEAM

In 1964 a new football team was born in Caversham, when customers at the Clifton Arms in Gosbrook Road decided to start a football team to play in the new Sunday football league. In the early days they sometimes found it hard to find eleven players willing and able to play for them every Sunday but hard work and success has changed all this now. They now field two teams for Sunday matches and two more on Saturdays with a total playing strength of about 50 signed on players. The Sunday team had its biggest success three years ago when they won the 1st Division of the Sunday League and this has been backed up by the Saturday team who won the 4th, 3rd and 2nd division titles of their league in successive years. Only last year they formed their Saturday reserve team and in the first season carried off the 2nd division championship.

Only one of the original team members has stayed with them for all the eight years, Alan Clinch, who is now the club secretary, but the headquarters is still the "Clifton" with the team using Kings Meadow as their home ground for Sunday matches and Prospect Park for the Saturday teams. By their own efforts at fund raising with a

weekly draw and annual dance etc. the club has been self-supporting and well organised. With the coming of Sunday football eight years ago the number of football teams increased very considerably and because there are not enough willing workers and players to go round many have collapsed before they have really begun and it is to the credit of Clifton F.C. that they have more than just survived but proved themselves to be the most successful team in Caversham.

SHARE OUR SPORTS GROUNDS

Once again after the recent Olympic Games we were told that our comparative failure to win medals was due to the lack of proper training facilities in this country. This may be true if we compare ourselves to some of the Nations who have pumped millions of pounds into sport over the last 10 to 20 years but also it could be said that we have far better and more facilities in this country than, say, Kenya who as far as track athletics was concerned had more success than Britain. What we do not seem to have learned in this country yet is how to make full use of the stadiums, sports grounds, swimming pools and gymnasiums that we have and are not used to

their full capacity. Many schools now have first class sports fields, indoor games halls, etc. that in most cases are not used at all for up to three months a year when the schools are on holiday and are not used fully at weekends and evenings either. In some areas, the Bulmershe Centre, at Woodley, is one, the swimming pool and sports hall are fully used by the schools and local people. There are practical problems to overcome but the benefits to the whole community are easy to see.

Then we have in many of our larger towns football stadiums as our own Elm Park which are used exclusively for one sport. Many of these clubs have serious financial problems which could be helped by improvements, financed by local authorities, that would enable other sports to be played at the football grounds. For example a running track around the pitch as with many 1st division and Scottish grounds, squash courts under the stands, and an indoor sports hall for winter training and table tennis.

With the shortage of land available in and around our towns and cities for sport and recreation we must make sure that no stadium, sports field or recreation centre is allowed to remain idle even for one week in the year.

METHODIST NEWS GOSBROOK ROAD PARTIES AND CAROLS

Successful parties for both the junior and primary departments of the Sunday School were held before Christmas. On each occasion, after the usual fun and games, the children were given presents to take home. Grateful thanks to Mrs. Jean Trevis for organising the junior party, and to Ann Gale and Mary Prior for looking after the primary children's party.

The Annual Toy Service, conducted by the Revd. T. Harris, drew a large congregation. Gifts from the children were received by Mr. B. T. Gregory of the Berkshire County Council Social Services Dept. The Sunday School and Girls' Brigade sang several carols, some to guitar and recorder accompaniment.

An evening of Christmas readings and carols was held in the candlelit hall on the Thursday before Christmas. Readings included extracts from Dickens, Dylan Thomas, Laurie Lee and John Betjeman. Mr. F. Daniel closed the evening with the nativity from St. Luke's Gospel.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

"How far is it to Bethlehem" was the theme of the evening service conducted by the Revd. D. Le Poidevin on Dec. 17th. Afterwards the Christmas posting box was emptied and 379 cards were distributed to members of the church and friends in the surrounding district.

On Christmas Eve many children and their parents joined in a service of favourite carols, requested by the congregation during the evening, by the Revd. T. Harris.

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

Thameside Schoolchildren

It was a gay afternoon for the old folk of the Arthur Clark Home, Caversham Heights when forty-two children from Thameside School paid a Christmas visit on Monday, 18th December. The children, accompanied by their teachers, delighted their audience with the singing of festive carols; Christmas presents were distributed, then young and old alike joined in playing old-time party games.

When time came for the children to return to school, a little surprise awaited them as the Matron arranged for each one to receive a bar of chocolate. The visit to the Arthur Clark Home is an

and Geoffrey Powell (darts doubles), lost the final rounds of their respective sections, but were presented with runners-up medals.

Austrian Hospitality

It is hoped that a small group of Austrian schoolchildren will be able to visit Caversham this summer under the Anglo-Austrian Society's scheme. As the organisation's local liaison officer, I would be delighted to hear from any families who may wish to invite an Austrian boy or girl for a three-weeks' stay between 19th July and 9th August. The visits can be effected on an exchange basis, with Caversham children returning to Austria for a holiday for a similar period either

by PETER SHOCK

annual feature of the Thameside School's Christmas activities.

Champion Anthony

As I reported in last month's edition, five West Caversham Boys' Club members emerged as finalists in the Reading Borough Youth Clubs' Indoor Games Tournament. On December 10th, these boys represented the Borough in the Berks County Finals at the Crescent Club. West Caversham's Senior Draughts contestant, Anthony Bateman went through with flying colours and was successful in the final event. Only 14 years of age, Anthony was the youngest competitor in this section, and received the championship medal at the presentation ceremony. Paul Mason and Michael Molineaux (batinton doubles), and John Home

this year or in 1974; or some families may wish only to invite a young Austrian guest without a return to Austria being involved. Generous grants by the British Council and the Austrian Government enable a British child to spend three weeks in Austria, under the reciprocal arrangement, for a charge of about £25. If you would like further information, pick up the phone and dial me at Reading 473793.

Silver for Simon

Congratulations to 15-years-old Simon Latham, of Priory Avenue, Caversham, a member of the 2nd Reading (Trinity) Sea Scout Venture Unit, who has just gained his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Certificate. The award is in recognition of his abilities in four sections: community, Church, expedition and physical activity. It was presented to him by the Group Leader, Mr. W. May, at a ceremony at the United Reformed Church Hall, Sidmouth Street, Reading. As a Sea Scout, Simon has become an expert canoeist. He was at one time a member of St. Peter's Sunday School and since his Confirmation has become a regular Server at the Parish Church. He attends Highdown School at Emmer Green. When asked what was his next ambition, Simon replied, "I'm going all out for the Gold!"

FAMILY COMMUNION

Every fourth Sunday of the month at 11.15 a.m. in Caversham Park School Hall there will be a Family Communion Service. As usual this will be ecumenical and will be celebrated by a Methodist and an Anglican minister. The form for the Communion will be the new Series 3 Holy Communion with hymns and an address. Children will be present for the whole service which should take no more than three-quarters hour.

On the other Sundays of the month there will be the usual Family Service.
February 14th 10.30 at 18 Holyrood Close.
February 28th 10.30 at 76 Lowfield Drive.
P.G.



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INTRODUCTION. Each month a brief article dealing with an aspect of saving will appear in this space. This month we introduce ourselves with a general indication of our service which is free — if you want advice ask for it.

Introducing Ourselves

We are a firm of savings consultants who offer you a free advisory service on saving and investment.

There are many saving and investment schemes available of which most people are aware. We feel that knowledge of the savings market should be more widespread so that with professional help people may select a scheme that is best suited to their needs.

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Our Service

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