

FROM CAVERSHAM TO CRUFTS

It is only in the last two or three years that Mrs. Thelma Lees of Ilkley Road has begun to show her West Highland terriers, so to get two qualifying for Crufts this year was quite an achievement. Carillyon Cadence, an eleven-month-old bitch was entered for three classes and her mother Tansy Whitebriar Jamanda was entered for one.

ITS A DOG'S LIFE

Training to be a champion is a dog's life! Each day for the last few mouths Carillyon Cadence has been put on a table and encouraged to stand with her tail upright while Thelma's friends have handled her and opened her mouth to accustom her to judging.



— Walton Adams

A SUCCESS STORY

Thelma takes dog breeding very seriously. As she says "Sometimes when reading about dogs left to stray I feel perhaps it is wrong to bring more into the world, but I check on the dogs for whom I have carefully found homes. They are always much loved members of families. One particular lady was not able to face the outside world until I sold her a Westie. Now she is out most days and even talking to strangers with her dog". What a pity that not all dog-breeders have this conscientious outlook.

OBEDIENT BOY

Rob, Thelma's third Westie, and known as her obedience dog, was given to her as a promising pup. However his show career ended abruptly at 7 months old with an accident. After two big leg operations, Thelma's father, aged 91, helped him recover by walking him very slowly each day. Now Rob goes for longer walks with Miss Smythe, a neighbour, and has already lost his limp.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All material for the May edition of the Caversham Bridge must be sent to the Editor's Office at Church House by Tuesday, April 3rd. The Caversham Bridge is normally published on the third Friday of the previous month: as the third Friday of April is Good Friday, the May edition will not appear until after Easter.

The Editors regrets that pressure of space has again necessitated the omission of certain contributions, and many articles are often received too late for inclusion.

HOLIDAY FOR ULSTER CHILDREN

POSITIVE ACTION is being taken this month by local people to help at least some of the victims of the tragedy of Northern Ireland. Following the success of last year's holiday scheme, the Thames Valley Province of the Knights of St. Columba has arranged a similar holiday for thirty Roman Catholic and Protestant boys and girls between the ages of eleven and fourteen.

They will be met at Euston on April 18th and taken to volunteer households where they will stay until May 2nd. Religious persuasion will be of no consequence in the allocation of places, though it is preferable for children to stay in families with children of their own age group. Hosts will be expected to entertain their guests as they would their own children. Entertainment on a group basis will be organised by the Knights of St. Columba.

Those who came last year took home with them memories of a period in which they were free from fear. It is hoped that the same can be achieved for this year's children.

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The Editor's Column

Your Questions Please

CHURCH ATTENDANCE MAY BE FALLING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, but it is undoubtedly true that there is still a tremendous interest in religion. In almost any group of people the conversation will turn before long to a topic which calls for a Christian answer. Indeed anyone who reflects at all on the state of society today cannot avoid facing up to the question as to whether man is quite as much the master of things as he sometimes imagines himself to be. Affluence has not solved man's basic problem of himself.

With this in mind the Editorial Board of the 'Caversham Bridge' feels that a useful purpose would be served by our providing each month a question and answer column. We invite, therefore, readers to send in their questions, which one or other of the Caversham clergy of different denominations will endeavour to answer.

The problem of suffering; the Christian attitude to race, abortion, leisure, work; the relevance of the Bible to-day; marriage and divorce; prayer in the 1970's; the divisions of Christendom; God's earth and man's use of it, with the problems of pollution and conservation — are these the sort of problems which concern us? We should be glad to know and if your question is sent to the Editor at Church House we will hope to print an answer to it. The clergy are sometimes accused of preaching splendid sermons on topics which are quite irrelevant. The questions we receive may also give us a guide as to the subjects we should be preaching about on Sundays.

I write this a week before the two Lenten courses on the New Testament and Christian belief are due to start. These have been arranged because of the requests received at the conference last autumn at Caversham Park School. Already 150 people have sent in their registration forms and the rate at which they are now being received suggests that many more have yet to come. This response implies a desire on the part of many people to hear about some of the basic matters of our Christian faith. That is splendid, and these two courses, together with our proposed question column in this newspaper, are intended to be two steps in fulfilling that need.

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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GANG SHOW



— Walton Adams

This must have been one of the greatest joint events put on by the uniformed organisations of Caversham for many years. For three evenings, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 22nd, 23rd and 24th February, the Show attracted large audiences at St. Anne's Hall, Caversham. The North Reading organ-

isers of the Cubs, Scouts, Rangers, Scouters and Guides produced a cast of over a hundred performers, all eager to match their talents with those of the well-known Gang Show held in London each year. Judging by the enthusiasm of all those involved it looks as though the Caversham production will become an annual event. Scoutmaster Dave Barter was responsible for producing the show, and Mr. Cyril Werrell ably shouldered the burden of ticket allocation. The main object of the event was to bring to the notice of the general public the activities of the Scouting and Guiding Movement in the area.

Postbag

Reading School

Dear Sir,
I was interested to read Mrs. Coope's letter in the February issue of "Caversham Bridge", and feel like her it would be wrong to close Reading School, especially if the education is as Mrs. Coope describes it. However, I cannot think that Mrs. Coope often travels on the 29 bus about 4 o'clock. Then it is the usual custom for most of the Reading School boys to keep their seats, allowing elderly, disabled and ladies often heavily laden to stand. Then follows a rush of the boys to get off at certain stops, when people standing are jostled aside. I am not alone in deploring the behaviour of Reading school boys on the bus. To be quite fair some boys do

relinquish their seats, but only a few.

Your etc.

Eva Hursey

280 Kidmore Road,
Caversham.

★

The Bridge

Dear Sir,

I have just been looking through the Caversham Bridge (No. 101) which, as usual, I have found of considerable interest.

May I congratulate you and your Board on the marvellous job you are doing in helping to fulfil a need in the community, and also to say what an excellent paper you produce.

Let us hope that circulation increases.

Yours etc.

Gerard Vaughan

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Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive.
Telephone: 476494.

St. John's. St. John's Hall, 11 a.m. age 4 upwards.
Superintendent: Mrs. A. Yates, 39 Field View,
Derby Road. 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: Mrs. J. Trevis, 40 All Hollow's Road.

Caversham Heights — In Church, 11 a.m. age 3 years and upwards.
Superintendent: Mrs. P. Court, 3 Woburn Close.
Tel. 471445.

Baptist Church

11a.m. age 3 years and upwards.
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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

UNITED WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, April 19th, at Caversham Free Baptist Church.

United service of Holy Communion for members of the Free and Anglican Churches.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND — PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, April 15th.

8 a.m. — Holy Communion (all churches).

9.15 a.m. — Family Eucharist with distribution of palms (all churches).

10.30 a.m. — Family Service (St. Peter's).

11.15 a.m. — Holy Communion (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).

6.30 p.m. — Evensong (St. Peter's, St. Andrew's and St. Barnabas').

Monday, April 16th:

Holy Communion: 7 a.m. — St. Andrew's

7 p.m. — St. Peter's.

Tuesday, April 17th:

Holy Communion:

7 a.m. — St. Peter's and St. Andrew's.

Wednesday, April 18th:

Holy Communion: 7 a.m. — St. Peter's.

9.30 a.m. — St. Andrew's.

10 a.m. — St. Barnabas'.

7.30 p.m. — St. Andrew's.

Maundy Thursday, April 19th:

Holy Communion: 6.30 a.m. — St. Andrew's.

9.30 a.m. — St. Peter's. 10 a.m. — St. John's.

Good Friday, April 20th:

9.30 a.m. — Litany and Ante-Communion (St. Andrew's).

10 a.m. — Morning Service (St. John's).

10 a.m. — Children's Service (St. Peter's).

12 to 3 p.m. — THE THREE HOURS DEVOTION (St. Peter's). Conducted by the Rev. G. I. F. Thomson, Director of the Bible Reading Fellowship.

12 to 3 p.m. — Good Friday for the Children (Caversham Primary School).

6 p.m. — Evening Prayer (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).

Easter Day, April 21st:

7 a.m. — Holy Communion (St. Peter's and St. Andrew's).

8 a.m. — Holy Communion (all churches).

9.15 a.m. — Family Eucharist (all churches).

11 a.m. — Matins (St. Peter's).

11.15 a.m. — Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).

12.15 p.m. — Holy Communion (St. Peter's).

6.30 p.m. — Festal Evening (all churches).

CHURCH OF ENGLAND — ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Palm Sunday, April 15th:

9.15 a.m. — Parish Communion with distribution of palms.

Good Friday, April 20th:

9.15 a.m. — Morning Service.

Easter Day, April 22nd:

8 a.m. — Holy Communion.

9.15 a.m. — Parish Communion.

6.30 p.m. — Evensong.

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 15th:

11 a.m. — Family Service.

6.30 p.m. — Music and readings for Holy Week.

Easter Day:

11 a.m. — Family Service with Communion.

6.30 p.m. — Evening Service.

8 p.m. — Sunday evening youth group.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH, GOSBROOK ROAD

Palm Sunday, April 15th:

11 a.m. — Mr. D. Clitheroe, B.A.

6.30 p.m. — "The Objects of the Cross," led by the Rev. T. Harris.

Easter Day, April 22nd:

11 a.m. — Mr. R. A. Gray.

6.30 p.m. — The Sacrament of Holy Communion — The Rev. T. R. Harris.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH, WOODCOTE ROAD

Palm Sunday, April 15th:

11 a.m. — The Rev. T. Harris. Parade of 12th Caversham Girl Guides.

6.30 p.m. — No evening service.

Tuesday, April 17th:

8 p.m. — Stainer's Crucifixion, sung by an augmented choir.

Good Friday, April 20th:

10.30 a.m. — United Free Churches service, conducted by the Rev. Laurence Stevens and the Rev. Terence R. Harris.

Easter Day, April 22nd:

8 a.m. — Holy Communion.

11 a.m. — Holy Communion. The Rev. T. B. Harris.

6.30 p.m. — Evening Service. The Rev. B. Maurice Wendt.

OUR LOCAL HALLS

The halls of Caversham and Mapledurham play an important part in the life of the local community. Every week hundreds of people of all ages use them for meetings of different kinds. There are play groups, Scout troops and Guide companies, youth clubs, branches of the Womens Institute and Townswomen Guild, Darby and Joan Clubs, dancing classes and other organisations meeting in these halls as well as many church gatherings. There are also a number of special functions: Saturdays sees many of the halls used for wedding receptions and jumble sales.

St. Barnabas have recently spent over £1,000 on new hall toilets, St. Peter's £700 on an improved kitchen for Balmore Hall. St. Andrew's last year completed repayment of the loan on the fine hall which was built in 1962, and hope now to improve the heating of it. Many improvements were made last year to Church House.

These halls vary in size from St. Andrew's Hall downwards but they exist both for the benefit of the Church and of the local community. Letting fees are in many cases very moderate but we are glad to draw attention to the whenever space permits, role they play in the hope that they may fill an even- ing greater place in our community life.

CLERGY AND MINISTERS OF CAVERSHAM

ANGLICAN

The Rev. John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.

The Rev. John Stevinson, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471603.

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 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 17 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

TO HIRE A HALL

BALMORE HALL

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CAVERSHAM HALL

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Talking Point**by Terence Harris**

Life on the Ocean Waves

*A stone thrown into a pond causes ripples to spread over
the surface of the water.*

A similar effect is being felt throughout the Methodist Church by the declarations of the World Methodist Council which met in Denver, Colorado, on August 20th, 1971. The movement caused the British Methodist Conference, which met on July 4th, 1972 in Nottingham, to make reply. Now the ripples have reached us here in Caversham.

What has caused this disturbance? It is partly due to some Christians discussing what the supreme business of the Church is. The Christian Church in these days is involved in so many activities that it is good to get back to priorities. The Lord's commission to His Church was to preach the gospel and to make disciples. There comes this movement of the Holy Spirit calling the Church to mission and evangelism.

Undoubtedly, it is also due to the social climate of our age. So many people are bewildered and confused in their lives. They turn first to one thing, and then another, hoping that life will take on a new meaning and purpose. They look wistfully at the Christian Church. In the past the Church was criticised for arrogantly giving the impression of knowing all the answers. It's certainly not true today, if ever it was.

What are we going to do about it? The Methodist Conference has called the Methodist people to prayerful preparation and effective involvement in concentrated mission and evangelism as part of a worldwide witness culminating before 1975. Mission and evangelism is going on all the time in the life of the Church, but this is a call to pay particular attention to our message and our responsibility.

The Revd. Harry O. Morton, President of the Methodist Conference, has said, "Too often, we wait for someone to produce a marvelous formula for reaching the masses. In fact, all great movements of faith have begun with the serious effort of small groups of people to share their faith with those nearest to them. . . . They can be drawn in by friendship, by prayer, by personal and social challenge, by patient conversation, if the right occasions are chosen."

Who knows? These ripples may become ocean waves! What a wonderful and exhilarating life it is to commend a Saviour, Jesus Christ, and a new life under His Lordship. The Call has come to the Methodists, but I hope the whole Christian fleet will set out to sea. Let me mis-quote Viscount Horatio Nelson: "Christ expects that every man will do his duty."



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THE GREAT GALLOWS FIELD OF MAPLEDURHAM

Looking through notes on field names in the district I discovered that the houses in the Woodcote Way area were built on a large field once called Great Galley Common Field, or Great Gallows Field. The second name could be the more likely one for the following reason.

MURDER

On February 7th, 1723, the following appeared in the Reading Mercury: "On Sunday last, between the hours of two and three in the morning, one Mr. Blagrave, a farmer of Mapledurham, was robbed by three footpads as he was going home. This happened two fields beyond Caversham Church, and he was so bruised that his life was despaired of; three persons are took up on suspicion".

A DISCOVERY

Now in 1888, when the large house Westdene was being built (it is opposite the terminus of the No.20 bus service) a drive was being made. In the course of construction three skeletons were found two feet below the surface. All were stretched out stiff as if they had been hanged. Two belonged to a couple of men and a little way apart was the skeleton of a woman.

STOPPED AT THE GRIFFIN

In other information I found out even more of the story. The farmer had stopped at the Griffin, which even in those days was an ancient inn — it was built in the fifteenth century originally — and he had bragged about the money he had made that day selling corn. The footpads heard him and followed him, murdering him before he reached home. They were caught at Goring and hanged, as so often happened, near the scene of the crime.



— Walton Adams

Several interesting points come out of all this. Firstly, Greatly Gallows Field was no doubt a large common field for the people of the district and there were at least twelve cottages at Chazey Heath, so no doubt it was one of the fields these people used before the Enclosure Act came in. Secondly, two fields beyond Caversham Church (St. Peter's), according to us, would end about Darell Road and make the murder happen here. However, if these two fields were again Common Fields used by all those living in Caversham Village around the church, they again would be much larger and would probably have reached well out towards the Woodcote Way area. Lastly, it is very probable that the Mapledurham farmer, Mr. Blagrave, lived at Blagrave's farm. It could well have had another name at the time and only after this macabre incident might it have become known in gossip as Blagrave's farm — the murdered farmer's farm. It would be interesting to know what name the farm had up to 1723. There is no doubt that Mr. Blagrave was a very foolish man to leave the remainder of his journey home till dark, and even more foolish to travel alone after midnight.

M.K.

GIVING UP SMOKING

by
ONE-ON-THE
WAY-TO-IT

Are you a cigarette addict? Do you want to give it up or, any rate, drastically reduce your smoking? Are you fed up with those clever people who, never having smoked much in their lives, tell you how easy it is?

If the answer is 'yes', I suggest you find your way to Abbey Mill House next Monday night between 5.30 and 7 p.m. Abbey Mill House, by the way, is part of the new St. Lawrence's block through the Abbey Gateway.

A sense of identity

Don't be scared, nobody is going to tell you to give up immediately, nobody is going to tell you it is easy, and nobody is going to lecture you. You will find instead a friendly group of probably a dozen people, led by Dr. Violet Fraser, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Geoff Myatt, Health Education Adviser and one or two members of his staff from the Reading

Berks Health Education Office. You will be invited to take a cup of tea, watch a film which probably tells you what you already know, and discuss with others like yourself the reasons why you smoke, the difficulties you have in giving up the number you smoke and so on.

A great stimulus

Started late last year by the Health Education Office together with Dr. Fraser, the Smoker's Forum is now an established weekly event. The course is actually six weeks, but anyone is welcome to stay longer or leave earlier. Some people find two weeks is enough to put them well on the road to recovery, while others say that the need to 'report back' weekly is a great stimulus to keeping up the non-smoking habit. And Geoff Myatt says it is surprising how often people return after several weeks just to give encouragement to newcomers.

Group Therapy

It is this group therapy, so successful in other fields, that is probably the biggest help to smokers and is probably the key to the apparent success of the forum. It is easy enough to ignore 'orders', it is another thing to face your fellow sufferers of the week before and admit that you've not even tried to cut down. It was this thought that brought your reporter, two days after the first visit, down from a 25 to 30 a day consumer to a five a day one, and it is this which will probably get her to reduce it even more, cut out altogether or, at worst, stick to five a day.

It might do the same for you — why not try it? I don't think anyone really needs convincing that cigarette smoking is more than likely to injure health, is certainly devastating on the pocket and, in many cases, is becoming a social handicap. But if you do want any information, then Dr. Fraser or Geoff Myatt will be only too happy to supply it.



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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.

We discuss with our clients their requirements. From our knowledge of the market we are then able to advise on the most suitable scheme. In advising we take into account protection against inflation and gaining maximum relief of income tax.

Our advice is completely independent

Our Service

Some of the reasons for saving and investment are:

- house purchase
- financial protection for dependents
- school fees
- university costs
- creation of a capital fund for retirement
- maximum tax free income from capital

In the last decade there have been great changes in the ways such needs may be satisfied. Also your circumstances will have altered.

We strongly advise new clients to review their existing plans before making new commitments.

We make freely available to you our up-to-date knowledge of the market to assist in your appraisal.

Your interests always come first

General schemes available

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For all our clients we provide a comprehensive range of supporting services.

- Industrial and commercial finance.
- business insurance.
- household insurance.
- mortgages.

Our main aim though is to help you maximise your savings in the most efficient way.

You make the decisions

WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

GOING UP THE WALL

Spring always brings me out in a 'do-it-yourself' fever, so finding myself recently in the Donkin Hill area I decided to look in on 'Just Tiles' at the end of South View Avenue and see how they were getting on. From now on I shall have to be forcibly restrained from using tiles for every room in the house — such a gorgeous display of colours and effects, tiles for all purposes and all prices. Just go and look — even if you don't want to buy — and I imagine you will after seeing them. You will find the visit an enjoyable artistic experience. Tiles, it seems, aren't all that difficult to put up, says she with

her fingers crossed. After all, mine have only been up a week, so I guess there's still time for the whole lot to come crashing down. But I hope not — they look lovely.

Man's world

For many reasons — readers, feel free to enter into correspondence — I'm not a member of any Women's Lib. But I am an ardent campaigner for women's rights and am constantly getting involved in battles in a way Germaine Greer would probably consider beneath her. Why, for instance, when I am in a pensionable job, with a banking account of my own, several hire purchase accounts behind me, with no husband or children, should I not be entitled to take out a hire purchase account or a TV rental in my own name without a lot of fuss about producing a man to do it for me? Believe it or not, faced with such a situation some years ago, I actually offered a friend who had been out of work for six months and with no prospects — the firm admitted that it sounded crazy but just said lamely "Well, he is a man". Crazy world, isn't it?

A little appreciation

At the time of going to press we are in the middle of yet another strike which threatens to disrupt our life considerably. Now I don't want to be drawn into a discussion on man's right to strike, and I should warn anyone foolish enough to start it that I know the ground I'm standing on (nevertheless all correspondence will be welcome), but it does give me the chance to remind myself and the public at large that it wouldn't hurt if we showed a little more appreciation and consideration to our public servants at other times. We tend to take them very much for granted until they do something which annoys us. I felt this particularly at the time of the strikes by dustmen, postmen and miners. Most of all, though, when the nurses were discussing possible action, I couldn't help thinking what a rotten society we were, taking for granted that these girls should work on a mere pittance for what, even the most grudging critic admits, is a wonderful service.

Grudging critics

Talking of grudging critics, I ran into Zoilus the other day and asked him why that name — not having had a classical education myself. Apparently Zoilus was a kind of carping critic about three hundred years BC, and his name has been a byword ever since. Don't think he's chosen a very appropriate name. A critic he certainly is, but carping, no. Personally I get more giggles out of his column than anything else I've read in the 'Bridge' for many a year.

Carry a tape-measure

Be wise, carry a tape-measure wherever you go; it has just come to my notice that you can't claim when you trip over a paving stone unless it is at least 3in. out of true.... So next time you find yourself flat on your face on Caversham's uneven pavements, make sure you're equipped with the wherewithal to check on the possibilities.

HELP THE AGED

St. John's Church will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10th and 11th, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., as a reception centre for good used clothing.

Clothing and blankets sent abroad and £5 will be urgently needed and provide shelter and medical care for an aged refugee for one month. Donations, large and small, will be treasured areas abroad. Help gratefully received by the the Aged works in co-operation with the Red Appeal, Barclays Bank Ltd. Cross, Salvation Army and 3-5 King's Street, Reading, many missionary societies. 25,000 leaflets will be distributed. Gifts of money are also tributed throughout the needed: £1 will cover the area by youth groups and cost of shipping 40 garments of local churches.

A Local Need

WARREN HOUSE AND WYCHCOTES

The Residents' Association has been having discussions with the Director of Social Services about the future of Warren House and Wychcotes. Although no final decision has been taken, the present recommendation is that these two houses should be closed as accommodation for the elderly.

When this was made known, there was considerable indignation among Caversham people who had been happy in the thought that when they no longer felt able to cope on their own, they would be able to remain in a familiar locality.

But the beautiful rural setting of these two houses has accompanying disadvantages. It is difficult to attract domestic staff and many of the occupants feel isolated. The Victorian houses are also unsuitable for those with any infirmities and afford little privacy.

But this does not alter the fact that Caversham people do not relish the idea of being taken off to another part of the town just as many other people resent being taken off to rural Caversham. Before an irrevocable decision, such as selling the land, is taken perhaps further thought can be given to the matter. The land is worth an enormous sum. Would it be better to sell it to a private developer, or keep it for the use of the town? What about purpose-built sheltered accommodation?

M.C.

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GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by Zoilus

A LETTER in the last issue from Mrs. Molly Casey referred to my recent piece about fluoridisation and exhorted Zoilus to come down from his fence and his seat in the gallery of the Council Chamber. Always eager to please, this month I gave the full council meeting a miss and went to a meeting of the Policy and Amenities Committee instead. This meant that I was able to exchange a place in the gods for an orchestra stall in the auditorium and a wooden seat for the comfort of a club-size leather armchair, with the added attraction of tea and biscuits at half-time — they don't call it the Amenities Committee for nothing!

The recent decision to allow public and press into all committees has its critics who fear the loss of that informal atmosphere which encourages balanced discussion, and wonder if the presence of reporters will cause a spate of political and personal tub thumping among the more publicity conscious members.

On the evidence of the meeting I attended they need not worry. The main business was to receive and discuss a report from the architectural consultants on plans for the assembly hall in the new Civic Centre. This may have been a controversial issue a while ago when some representatives thought in terms of a civic theatre to rival the Palladium plus a good sized assembly hall, whilst others, it seemed, would have been content with a modernised version of Balmore Hall. Good old British compromise and the expertise of the technical advisers have now come up with a scheme for a combined theatre and assembly hall which can be adapted by an ingenious system of moving partitions for an audience ranging from 300 to 1500. Assisted resonance, an electronic microphone system, will be installed so that acoustics can be balanced to serve all types of performance, from a poetry reading to a brass band concert.

This formula seemed to meet the general approval. Some members were a little worried about the cost which will be over a million pounds. Pointing out that the original concept of a 700-seater hall would have cost only £460,000, Ald. deputised to deal with re-Busby said that the pro-

posed building should be run as a trading concern and that admission charges should be geared to maximum audience. Cllr. Towner thought that this would inhibit its use as a multi-purpose hall and Cllr. Rush said that its community use was just as important for small societies as for large. Cllr. Francis asked to be assured that the acoustic system would not need a large staff to run it and that it was easily repairable, and Cllr. Alexander was hopeful that indoor tennis tournaments could be staged, but was told that he would have to be content with table tennis and badminton.

So the discussion ended in a relaxed, even jokey atmosphere, despite the presence of the Press, and at least one member of the public. Their stint being over, the Amenities Committee and the technical experts departed and the Policy Committee tore their minds away from the delights of the new Civic Centre to the more mundane matters of the town rate and governmental dis-pleasure that the proposed rise of 34 pence is more than the permitted increase.

Aldermen Woodrow and Busby thought that Reading could copy other authorities and get down to the required figure, but the Finance Chairman, Cllr. Towner, was sure that Reading knew better than the Government what was good for it, so it was decided to send a deputation to Whitehall to point this out to the Minister for Environment or whoever is

deputised to deal with recalcitrant Town Councils.

Do You Know Your Distributor?

Three ladies who for many years have distributed Caversham Bridges each month in Caversham Heights were recently photographed together.

On the left is Mrs. Doris Titley who lives and distributes Bridges in Ilkley Road. A well known Caversham resident she is a keen Red Cross worker at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and has also done much voluntary work for Christian Aid.

Mrs. Burton (centre) is a distributor for part of Matlock Road where she lives. A member of St. Peter's Mothers Union, her husband is treasurer of St. Peter's and has sung in the parish church choir for longer than anyone else.

Mrs. Coome (right) came to Caversham in 1964. She is treasurer of the Mothers Union at St. Peter's and has also served on the Church Council. She has a son and daughter in the choir. She distributes Bridges in Woburn Close and also in part of Woodcote Road where she and her family live.



— Walton Adams

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS GIFT DAY AND CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, April 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Informal Coffee Evening has been arranged to welcome the return of a former Minister of Caversham Heights Methodist Church. The Revd. T. Brian Coleman, B.A. is at present Chaplain to Truro Methodist School and first came to Reading in 1958. He will conduct the services at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. on the Sunday. This will be the Church Anniversary Sunday, April 8th.

The Changing Face of Caversham

"Do you want seven-storey flats on Caversham's riverside?" This was one of the questions asked at a public meeting on 5th March when representatives of the local authority met Caversham residents for a dialogue on the proposals for a new road and developments in Caversham's centre.

Shortage of a hall

Over 200 attended the meeting, which was organised by the Caversham Residents' Association. Shortage of a large community hall being one of Caversham's problems, it was only due to the kindness of Elliott's directors in allowing the use of their canteen that everybody was able to squeeze in.

The local council, represented by Cllrs. Joe Bristow and Alan Marshall, together with the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Cowling, a principal planning officer in the Borough Surveyors' Department, explained the new proposals.

Shift of emphasis

Briefly there has been a shift of emphasis and it seems there is now no immediate threat to the houses in the Prospect Street/Westfield Road area. A road will continue due south from Prospect Street, thus pedestrianising part of Church Street, and, turning west behind the shopping precinct, will emerge just north of Caversham Bridge. The plan will be on exhibition at Caversham Library between 6th and 27th March and forms will be available for local people to register their observations; these forms must be returned to the local planning office by 3rd April.

Tinkering with the problem

Questions at the meeting suggest there is much doubt whether the new scheme will do much to solve Caversham's main traffic problem, that of through traffic. There was some thought that the local council was merely tinkering with the problem and considerable concern about the need for third bridge, preferably one which would draw traffic away from Caversham centre. Other doubts about the proposals were also expressed. There were, however, NO doubts about the high-rise flats. Nobody, it seemed, was in favour.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

ECUMENICAL PROGRESS BY ANGLICANS

Important decisions for the furthering of the ecumenical work of the Church were taken by the Parochial Church Council of Caversham at their February meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that on Maundy Thursday, instead of the usual evening Eucharists in each church in the parish, Anglicans should be urged to share in the united Free Church Communion which this year will take place at Caversham Free Baptist Church. It was felt that if inter-communion was to be realistic members of the Church of England should receive Holy Communion in non-Anglican churches as well as inviting non-Anglicans to their altars.

At the same meeting members were appointed to a working party to consider with members of Caversham Methodist Church the needs of the

church in East Caversham in the hope that some merger can be made between the present churches which stand on adjacent street corners in Gosbrook Road, and which at present witness to the divisions between Anglicans and Methodists.

Mothers Union Festival

The Mothers Union Lady Day Festival will be held in St. John's Church on Tuesday, March 27th, at 2.45 p.m., and the preacher will be the Rev. John Kemp, rector of Rotherfield Greys.

SERVICES AT CAVERSHAM PARK

Sundays at 11.15 in the School Hall
Fourth Sunday (Easter Day): Family Communion
Other Sundays: Family Service
First Sunday (April 1st): Bread - and - cheese lunch.
Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m.
April 11th: 5 Gifford Close
April 25th: 116 Lowfield Road.

WHAT HAPPENS AT 11.15 a.m. ON SUNDAYS?

SUNDAY SCHOOL work has changed since Robert Raikes first collected children from the streets and taught them to read. Changing understanding of how children learn is reflected in the Church's work among the young. In the next few issues we hope to report on the activities of the different departments of the Junior Church of the local Baptist Church. This month we start with the Beginners.

Activity is the Keynote

The room is set out in an attractive and welcoming way and soon the three and four year olds are busy playing with dolls in the Wendy Corner, sand in the sand tray, looking at books, painting or making treasured objects from cartons, string, glue and paper. Some of the time is spent looking at wall pictures, handling and talking about the displays relevant to the topic of the month and looking at 'special' things on the Worship table.

Appreciating the Things Around

As the weeks go by, simple percussion instruments will be made and played; seeds, bulbs and plants will be grown; worms, ladybirds and caterpillars will be watched, and in so doing an appreciation of God's wonderful world will be gained and of His precious gifts of sight, hearing and feeling. Gradually the children will become aware of God's love and care being made real to them.

Storytime

No gathering of young children would be complete without story time or a time for singing for those who wish to listen and join in, and of course there is prayer time when the children are encouraged to talk to God and to share with Him the joys they have experienced in their activities.

Objectives

In the Beginners' Department the aim is to lay the foundations of a Christian life. This is being done by providing an environment rich in material to stimulate creative and imaginative play, the way in which three- and four-year-olds most readily learn. A happy atmosphere is also provided full of brightness and warmth where each child is known and has his special place. In such surroundings the children will feel secure, wanted and among friends, and in this way trust will be built up and gradually and unconsciously the beliefs and Christian love of the adult world will be absorbed.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

The Mothers' Union is planning an interesting programme for its Tuesday afternoon meetings during Lent. Most of these will be at 3 p.m. in Caversham Hall, but on April 10th the meeting will be at St. John's House, when it is hoped members will be able to hear the tape recording of the recent Westminster Abbey evensong sung by the Caversham church choirs. Visitors can be sure of a warm welcome.

Reginald Illman

Sadly, St. John's records the loss of one of its members, Mr. Reginald Illman, who died on February 21st at the age of seventy-four. He will be remembered not least for the determined way in which, in recent years, with the help of his wife, he overcame the effects of a stroke to lead a normal life. Mrs. Illman and her family are assured of the sympathy of all at St. John's.

Pay a Visit to Mum

This stands for "Mothers' Union Mayfair", which is to take place on Thursday, May 3rd, in St. Laurence's Church Hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be opened by the Rt. Worshipful the Mayor of Reading. There will be stalls of all kinds provided by the Mothers' Union in the Reading Deanery, and the proceeds are to be given to the Mothers' Union Home in Nigeria for war orphans. It is called Unozoputa, which means "House of Salvation". Luncheons and teas will be available, so please come and support this worthy cause. Admission 5p, including coffee.

St. Barnabas' News

Last autumn a choir club was started at St. Barnabas. The club meets after Evensong, usually on the first Sunday of the month. In addition to the usual activities, such as table tennis and so on, the club has held a barbecue, a Christmas tea party and visited the pantomime at Wokingham. More activities are planned for the coming year.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. Cox, who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary this February.

NEW FACES AT ST. PETER'S

St. Peter's has been glad to welcome many new families in recent weeks. The Rev. N. H. Smith, the new chaplain of Queen Anne's, who was formerly vicar of Ivinghoe, will, like his predecessor, only be seen in the school holidays, but has expressed his willingness to help then whenever he can. His wife, their daughter Catherine and their son Timothy, will soon, it is hoped, feel at home in their new parish. Mr. and Mrs. Barge, with their naval son Michael, have returned to Caversham after some years in Tilehurst. Mr. and Mrs. Irvine, who have come to live in Chester Street, are not both newcomers as Mrs. Irvine was formerly at Queen Anne's School and has now joined the staff there: they are helping in the Balmore Hall Youth Club and Mr. Irvine is also teaching in the Sunday School. Mr. and Mrs. Chappell have moved into Peppard Road from Tring, and Mr. Chappell, together with his son and daughter, sings in the choir alongside his headmaster at Meadow School, Mr. C. F. Lorenc. Mr. and Mrs. Aisbitt, with their three children, have arrived from Sheffield, though there is no truth in the rumour that the arrival of a former curate of Caversham in Sheffield drove them south. The congregation of the parish church extends a warm welcome to these families, whom it is hoped by now no longer feel strangers at St. Peter's.

Can you make a kneeler?
The long-awaited chairs for the Lady Chapel have at last been delivered. It is hoped that twenty-one members of the congregation will each make a hand-made tapestry kneeler for them: so far fourteen people have offered. Seven more please.

Mothers Union News

A talk by Captain Oxley from the Church Army Hostel at Oxford made members realise what a real home this hostel is for many men, aged from seventeen to eighty-three. Mrs. Lewis has been a member of the Mothers Union for fifty years, and Mesdames Eves, Pratt and Allaway for over forty years. The Deanery Fair is to be held on May 3rd and gifts of grocery will be welcome. A visit to the Savile Gardens at Windsor is planned for May 8th and the Deanery outing will be to Bath Abbey on May 15th.

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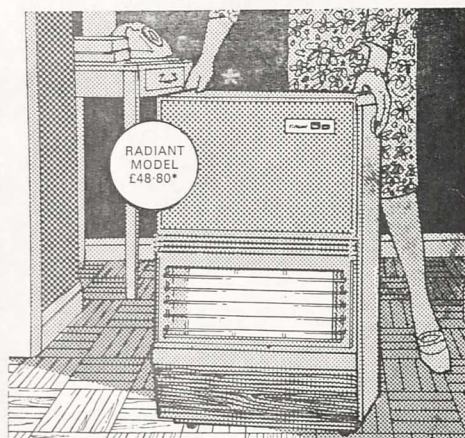
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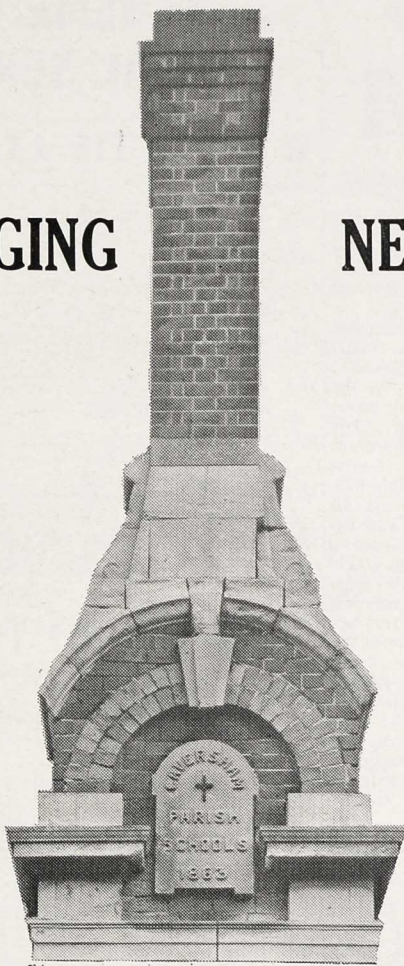
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WHEN St. Peter's Parish School was built in 1863 there could have been little thought of its continued existence as a centre of education 110 years later. In 1961 the Workers' Educational Association became concerned about the difficulties the people of the 300 students in 20 classes!

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NOTE

The photograph of the wedding of Mr. Graham Kinby and Miss Linda Dawson published in our March edition should have been attributed to Hymor Photographers.

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rapidly increasing population of Caversham had in 1972, 1400 students were enrolled in 74 classes, and the Adult Centre now being open mornings, afternoons and evenings. Use is also made of Highdown Emmer Green and The Hill schools, E. P. Collier and Caversham Primary schools, Thameside school, Emmer Green Youth club and Wilson Secondary school.

This proved so successful that the Advisory Committee for Adult Education decided that further classes should be offered. As, previously, there had been only 37 students at the E. P. Collier Evening School, preparations were made to enrol about 100 students and a part-time principal was appointed. The first enrolment was for

The full scope of well-known adult classes are carried on from Antiques to Yoga, while the community atmosphere has been encouraged by the presence of Caversham Community Association, Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild, School Lane Play Group, and the Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club.

The policy of the Centre, since its inception, has been one of full co-operation with the students, suggestions for new classes being eagerly sought and carefully considered.

The proposal for a purpose-built centre seems to presage the end of the old Parish School, but promises great development for adult education in Caversham for the future.

THE GARDEN THIS SPRING

TO HELP the housekeeping purse go a little further, if you haven't been bothering with your garden, why not use it this year? It really doesn't take much time or space to save a few pence. Perpetual spinach is a very good standby if you like it. Even a few seeds grown in clumps at the back of the flowerbed if you are short of space would not look too unsightly, but remember to mark your sowings with a stick. When cooking, spinach needs little water and wants draining well. Chopped up fine with a dab of butter and a poached egg on top and you have an easily prepared snack.

Runner beans are worth growing, too. Again it is not necessary to sow a complete row. Try a few up a wigwam of sticks in an odd corner or grow a few up strings attached to the eaves of the shed, or even up the wall of your house — with their scarlet flowers they are not unattractive. At first they may need a bit of help with their climbing, but after that they are soon away. Don't sow before the end of the first week in May, in case of frost.

Leeks are another easy vegetable with which to start your tentative gardening efforts. Like spinach, they do not suffer much from various garden pests, but they do need planting out from a seed bed into rows at the end of July. Each plant needs to go into a 6 inch deep hole made by a dibber (the end of a broom stick will do). Water in well and, if the next few weeks are dry, do this several times. Leeks can be sown in their seedbed in March and April.

Going on to flowers, it is vivid yellow centres and Its seeds can easily be saved always interesting to grow greyish leaves. I find it is for the next year — something new if you best grown in puts under thing which many gardeners are a keen gardener. Probably few people know the little Alpine wallflower, *Cherianthus linifolius* from Dobies of Llangollen. With deepish lilac flowers similar to its Siberian relative and attractive deeply notched evergreen leaves it is charming and will flower in the autumn as well as spring and early summer. Easy to grow it would make a change of bedding out plant next spring and would look lovely with mauve, white and yellow tulips.

For an unusual annual there is *Anagallis* (pimpernel) from the same firm. Only 6 inches high it comes in gentian blue or the normal orange-red of our own wild pimpernel, but of course with larger flowers, each about the size of a penny. *Anagallis* is slow growing but when it does flower in late August it continues into the autumn despite first frosts. It looks well in clumps on the rockery where *cherianthus linifolius* will also not come amiss. Another little beauty for this part of the garden is *Felicia* (the kingfisher daisy). Very dainty and of exquisite blue with

April and then planted out. M.K.

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STREET NAMES OF CAVERSHAM

WE BEGIN THIS MONTH A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE STREET NAMES OF CAVERSHAM, SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE 'CAVERSHAM BRIDGE' BY MR. F. MALPAS.

Gosbrook Road is one of our oldest roads, for it joins the ancient settlement of Caversham (by the bridge and the parish church) with the equally ancient Lower Caversham (lower down the river, by the mill). Called Gosbrook Lane in 1877, it seems to have had

no fixed name in the middle of last century. The Tithe Map of 1844 shows to the north of the road Great Gosbrook Meadow; where now is Elizabeth House, there was a pond, and from there a stream ran eastwards to join the Berry Brook below the Lower Henley

Road. So that was the Gosbrook — but does the name mean God's Brook or the Goose Brook? There seems no special reason for the first alternative, so the second must be more likely. The brook is not marked any more on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1864, though the pond stayed longer.

Buckside

We have other street names that remind us of things that no longer exist. There is, for instance, Buckside, that little lane from Church Road to the river. This used to give access to the eel bucks; these were baskets, rather like lobster pots in shape but longer, which were hung in the river from a wooden structure in mid-stream. This was cleared away in 1911, partly to improve navigation and partly because there were fewer

eels in the river. The eel bucks were made by Knight's of Star Road, from ozers that grew in the Berry Brook.

Only few will remember the eel bucks, but many will remember Howard's bakery at The Priory, the house which gave its name to Priory Avenue. The bakery is still there as Scott's, but the house, which had stood where now is the private car park off Hemdean Road, was demolished in 1966. It was a Victorian house, but a successor to a much older building. There never was a priory here, but this was a fashionable name for country houses 150-200 years ago, and the first house by this name is in 1818. Priory Avenue was laid out along the edge of its extensive grounds in 1900.

Mapledurham Parish Council

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 15th February, 1973. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting. Regarding the proposed secondary school development off Shepherd's Lane, a letter was received from Reading CBC stating that a request had been made by that Authority to the Secretary of State asking for the inclusion in subsequent major Building programmes for additional secondary schools, and that a school would certainly be needed in the north of the Reading Borough boundary, and the site off Shepherd's Lane is one which the Education Committee had in mind. Having regard to the strong local opposition to a school development in that area, the Parish Council are to ask the Chief Education Officer for Reading what alternative sites had been considered by his Authority for use as a secondary school in the northern part of the Reading Borough before they decided on a proposed development off Shepherd's Lane.

The Parish Council are also to inform Reading Education Committee that it does not consider there is any requirement for a secondary school in the Mapledurham area of S. Oxon, as there are adequate secondary school facilities provided at Chiltern Edge for these children. Furthermore, the Parish Council would very strongly resist any suggestion for a secondary school to be sited in the Parish that would cater for Reading children.

Among the planning applications that were considered, the Parish Council raised objections to a proposed development for a bungalow to be erected at 111 Upper Woodcote Road and for five detached bungalows in Blagrove Lane.

In common with many other Parish Councils, the Council agreed to register their strong opposition to the use of roads through country districts by monster lorries. These lorries, coming from abroad, are likely to use these roads as a result of our entry into the Common Market.

Concern was expressed that parking facilities in the village are unsatisfactory for the casual visitor. Although a sign erected by the County Council at Trench Green indicates that there is free parking, this is not believed to be the case, and the Parish Council are to make representations to Oxford asking for a clearer statement to be made by the County Council for the benefit of visitors.

The Council have again asked the Southern Electricity Board if they can place existing overhead electricity cables underground, but the Board have stated that, due to financial limitations, they are unable at present to fulfil this request.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE SCHEME OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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 Gren. 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 Road. Tel. 471328.

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

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
4. Assist in the home

Fill in your name and address and post this slip to Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close, Caversham. Telephone 472374.

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ORDERS DELIVERED.

Mapledurham W.I.

Mrs. Bramwell the President was in the chair at the February Meeting at Mapledurham W.I. Miss Stanley-Smith came from Oxford to speak about ghosts, and in particular local ghosts. Her most horrifying tale was told to her quite recently by a young Don at Oxford. He woke one night and saw the head of a very old man next to him on the pillow, furthermore a very DEAD old man. He heard afterwards that a very old Don who had once lived in that very room had died — so who knows — perhaps he returned for a while. Although it was a bright sunny afternoon many members had shivers down their spines.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

To be a real eccentric, one must not recognise oneself as being an odd character. The Englishman is generally very kind to eccentrics and they abound here and Berkshire has had more than its fair share. This is the claim made by Mr. F. B. Poole, a Lecturer in Heraldry, who went on to substantiate this fact. Mr. John Elwes is a fine example. He was a miser par excellence. His mother died of malnutrition, although she was able to leave her son a large fortune. John Elwes also had an uncle, who to economise lived on partridges (which he had on his lands) as this saved him spending money on other food. Before his nephew visited him he used to stop at the local inn and have a meal and change into old clothes and then go up to the big house as he hated partridges. Consequently he used only to pick at his meal with his uncle. This created a favourable impression as the uncle was greatly in favour of economy in eating and dress, he therefore left John Elwes the bulk of his £1m fortune when he died. John then bought a large chunk of London in the Haymarket area. He also had Denman House built

(now Denman College), where he lived a very careful life. As he wouldn't spend money on fuel he took to long walks to keep warm. On these walks he used to pick up any object, litter, etc. and take it home with him and keep. He specialised in dog's bones! When he died and people eventually missed him a search was made of his house. It was with great difficulty that an entrance was affected as dog's bones filled the rooms from floor to ceiling.

Another curious Berkshire character was Lord John Barrymore, otherwise known as Billingsgate Barrymore of Wargrave. He had an opera house built in Wargrave but when he was unsuccessful in attracting singers to perform there, he had the place pulled down again. He had many 'crazes'. He took up stag hunting and brought some negroes down to his estate to learn how to play the French Horn, as opposed to the normal hunting horn! He bought some stags from a friend but unfortunately one proved to be blind, another lame. A third just wasn't interested in the chase, so Barrymore lost interest in that project. He had many parties at his house and he and his friends used to amuse themselves during these visits at the expense of the locals, perpetrating such jokes as changing all the inn signs in the dead of night. He eventually died in a shooting accident at the age of 24.

The clergy were not free of eccentrics and the Reverend Morgan-Jones of Blewbury was a fine example. He also was a miser — early on in his career he worked out that he should be able to live on 2s. 6d. a week. One of his ways of achieving this aim was to visit (say on a

Monday) one of the many outlying farms in his parish and ask if they sold bacon. They would say "certainly and as we are just about to sit down to our meal won't you join us, and discuss the purchase." These discussions would last through lunch, dinner and supper. The priest would then return the following day to pick up the bacon, making sure his visit co-incided with mealtimes and would make a third visit at the end of the week to pay for the purchase. As there were so many farms in the Blewbury area the Rev. Morgan-Jones is not known to have over-stepped his budget. If there was any danger of him being put in a position of returning hospitality he wouldn't answer the door to callers and he was even believed to have refused shelter to John Wesley and his horse on a terrible night. They were forced to spend the night in the church, without any food or water for man or beast.

The Jubilee Club for Mapledurham Senior Citizens

Several new members have joined in the last few months and been able to take part in various enjoyable events including a party, a visit to the New Theatre, Oxford, and entertainment given by the club's old favourites, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, who are well known to many clubs in and around Reading.

Maplewood W.I.

Mrs. Betty Lewis, President, was in the chair. Mrs. D. Fletcher spoke of the A.C.W.W. Conference which she attended in Norway and she illustrated her very interesting talk with colour slides. Winners of the marmalade competition were 1. Miss Dormer, 2. Mrs. Turton, 3. Mrs. Lewis. Mrs. Smith was appointed delegate to the Spring Council Meeting. Social time was spent in discussing nominations for the new committee. Another competition was won by Mrs. Manning (1), Mrs. Duckworth (2) and Miss Dormer (3). Members agreed to support an evening function in aid of St. Peter's bells repairs.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Dr. M. Moore gave a most interesting talk and showed slides of plants and flowers to be found in Tierra del Fuego, on the most southern trip of South America. He explained how the plants adapted to the great variety of climatic conditions to be found there. Some parts were very wet and windy and other parts extremely dry and storms occurred without warning making research extremely difficult. The Indians who once lived there have now all died and new settlers have established some large sheep farms, this and the

finding of oil are creating great changes.

Mrs. F. P. Harvey, Emmer Green, was the winner of the Flashlight T.V. Snack competition.

Blagrove Women's Institute

The President, Mrs. Wright, presided over the February Meeting at the Memorial Hall, when members were entertained to a very interesting illustrated description by Mrs. E. Hill of Yateley, of her "Oberamgau Journey, 1970". The excellent colour slides showed the principal actors and scenes from this wonderful play, also views of the village.

Mrs. Sholl gave a vote of thanks.

A blanket made by members, of knitted coloured wool squares, was to be given to a holiday home for elderly people. Nominations were received for the committee to be elected at the General Meeting in March.

A competition for homemade marmalade was won by 1. Mrs. Benham; 2. Miss Reynolds; 3. Mrs. Bartlett; Mrs. Marshall won the raffle prize.

Reading Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

About 100 members were present at St. Andrew's Hall, Caversham Heights on January 30th for the 11th birthday party of the Guild. The evening commenced with the Sainsbury Singers: their programme included songs from Gilbert and Sullivan and other light musicals. President Miss N. K. Brown who provided the wine for the evening, cut the cake which was made by Mrs. L. Grey and iced by Miss Goodyear. A buffet supper followed, organised by Mrs. H. M. Summers. The raffle followed also a prize for lucky ticket and chair. The Sainsbury Singers ended a most enjoyable evening. The speaker for the month was Mr. Peter Jones, B.A. who spoke on the Parliamentary system. He was a lecturer in politics at Aberdeen University and at Reading since 1970. He is also a member of the Reading Borough Council (since 1972). Miss M. Kimberley proposed a vote of thanks. After the break for tea anagrams provided a pleasant half hour. Mrs. D. Bennett has offered her garden for the Garden Party later this year.

Meetings take place on the third Thursday of every month at 2.15 p.m. at the Caversham Community Centre, School Lane, Caversham. Come along and spend an enjoyable afternoon.

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GUIDES' THINKING DAY

The joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, February 22nd, is celebrated each year by Guides and Brownies throughout the world as Thinking Day — the day on which they remember each other.

Caversham West District was no exception. This year packs and companies held a variety of activities including special ceremonies, parents' evenings, film and slide shows. One pack gave an international party for some of the children on its waiting list.

The week's events culminated in a special Thinking Day Service at Caversham Heights Methodist Church led by the Revd. T. R. Harris. Sally Briggs, a member of St. Peter's Guide Company, read the lesson. A Brownie and three Guides read their respective laws and the Assistant Division Commissioner, Mrs. Whittaker, led everyone in a renewal of the Guide and Brownie promise. Accompanying themselves on guitars, the Ranger Crew sang "When I needed a neighbour — were you there?" The collection was for the Thinking Day Fund which is used by Guide Headquarters to assist packs and companies in developing countries.

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BAPTISED

St. Peter's

Feb. 4th Charlotte Lacey
Timothy Lacey

St. John's

Feb. 18th Sarah Waite
Gary Austin
Feb. 25th Suzanne Blanksby

St. Andrew's

Dec. 3rd Andrew Blackburn
Feb. 4th Jonathan Hulme

St. Barnabas

Feb. 18th Simon Burn

MARRIED

St. Peter's

March 3rd David Patey and Jacqueline Ferguson

St. Margaret's

Feb. 24th Howard Edwards and Carol Pugh

FUNERALS

St. John's

Feb. 26th Reginald Illman

St. Andrew's

Feb. 16th Daphne Johnson

St. Barnabas'

Feb. 23rd Edith Fisher

St. Margaret's

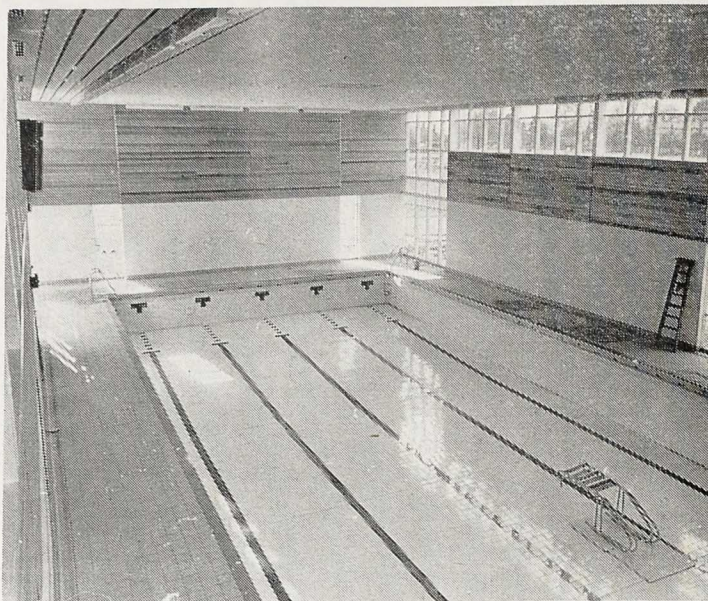
Feb. 9th William Millier
Feb. 14th May Pearce
Feb. 17th Annie Mills

MEADWAY SPORTS CENTRE NOW OPEN

THE FIRST AGGREGATE SPORTS FACILITY TO BE BUILT IN READING has now been opened. Known as the Meadway Sports Centre, it is situated adjacent to the Meadway Secondary School, on the Meadway at Tilehurst. It is an exciting project, which brings to all residents in Reading the opportunity to play a wide variety of sports and indeed to improve their performances in the games they already play. For a long time Reading has been behind other towns in the sports facilities that were available to the public at large, with scattered and inadequate sports grounds and little scope at all for the fast-growing indoor sports of Squash, Badminton and Table Tennis. The Meadway now puts this to right and is, in fact, the first of several sports complexes to be built around the town. The next to be finished should be in Northumberland Avenue adjoining Ashmead School, and it is to be hoped that similar facilities may one day be available on this side of the town, in or near Caversham.

JOINT VENTURE AND SHARED USE

The 'Centre' has been jointly financed by the Reading Corporation Amenities Committee and the local Education Auth-



— Reading Chronicle

ority, and to get the widest possible use from it the Meadway School will have full use of it during school hours and the whole community will be able to use it during evenings, weekends and school holidays. To ensure that all interested sections of the community are able to make use of the 'Centre', the time available will be shared by three distinct groups: (1) Individual and family bookings; (2) organised and instructional courses; and (3) for use of clubs and organisations on a regular basis.

ACTIVITIES AND COST

The facilities include a recreational hall, a 20m by 9m swimming pool, squash courts, all-weather pitches, table tennis tables, tennis and netball courts, archery bays, and, in order that you can put back the weight you may have taken off

with strenuous exercise, a licensed bar and cafeteria are included. During term time most of the facilities will be available from 18.30 to 23.00 hours, and from 09.00 to 23.00 hours at weekends and during the school holidays. It will also be possible to play squash by arrangement on school weekday mornings. The cost of using these wonderful facilities is very reasonable — swimming: adults 15p, and children 5p; badminton: 60p per court per hour; table tennis: 30p per table per hour; netball, volleyball, tennis and five-a-side courts: £2.40 per hour; golf, cricket and archery: £1.25 per net or bay; and squash: 60p for 45 minutes.

FIRST COURSES

The first 'Learn the Game' courses are being held during April, with adult courses for squash and badminton, and also special childrens courses for both these sports for youngsters from 9 years old. There are also a number of swimming courses for all ages (children from 5 years) for learning to swim, stroke improvement and survival awards.

Individuals can book up to 6 days in advance for all facilities and clubs will have to make block bookings well in advance of the appropriate seasons.

All bookings and enquiries can be made through Reading 23541 and for 5p you can visit and inspect the 'Centre' at any time.

Stan Eldon.

AMETHYST TOURS 1973

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

All are "One Centre" Tours. All are entirely free from Alcohol. SCOTLAND and BLACK FOREST Tours involve one overnight stop in each direction. AUSTRIAN Tour involves two overnight stops. SWISS Tour one transit Sunday, therefore three overnight stops. AMETHYST TOURS is a non-profit-making Company connected with the Temperance Movement. No Sunday travel — No night travel. Charges really are inclusive and cover Daily Excursions, Insurance, tips (excepting Coach Driver) etc. All you pay for are Tea, Coffee, Ice cream and other incidentals. AMETHYST TOURS are escorted throughout, usually by an experienced Husband and Wife team. All ages are catered for from 14-75. Those over 75 are welcome provided they are fit and can arrange their own Continental Health Insurance. AMETHYST TOURS are known for their hilarity and Christian Fellowship. Prices may be subject to slight variation. Full information is available from Headquarters.

WEST HIGHLANDS — INNELAN, ARGYLLSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leader: Mr. E. J. S. Beckley, J.P.

Dates — Friday, June 15th to Saturday, June 23rd. Overnight at CARLISLE. Excursions to Inverary, Oban. Inclusive price £49.

EAST HIGHLANDS — BLAIRGOWRIE, PERTSHIRE — 9 DAYS. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Walters.

Dates — Friday, June 22nd to Saturday, June 30th. Overnight at CARLISLE. Excursions to Balmoral, Deeside, Glencoe, Blair Atholl. Inclusive price £54.

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

Dates — Friday, August 31st to Saturday, September 8th. Overnight at CARLISLE. Excursions to Balmoral, Glencoe, Pitlochry, Queens View. Inclusive price £52.50.

NORTH WALES & LAKE DISTRICT (2 Centres) LLANDUDNO & GRANGE — 8 DAYS.

Dates — Saturday, June 9th to Saturday, June 16th. Excursions to Snowdon, Caernarvon, Betws-y-Coed, Anglesey, Keswick, Kirkstone Pass, Ullswater, Windermere etc. Inclusive price £39.50.

SWISS ALPS, HASLIBERG AREA — 13 DAYS. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morrow.

Dates — Thursday, June 7th to Tuesday, June 19th. Overnight at AACHEN and HEIDELBERG. Excursions to Interlaaken, Jungfrau, 3 Passes, Lucerne etc. etc. Inclusive price £75.

AUSTRIAN ALPS — KLEINES WALSBERTAL — 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. Excursions to Baden-Baden, Heidelberg etc. — Centre at Baiersbrunn. Inclusive price £59.50.

HOLLAND — 8 DAYS. Leader: Fred Jackman.

Dates — Saturday, May 12th to Saturday, May 19th. Excursions to Rotterdam Gouda and Hague etc., includes visits to Bulb Fields. Inclusive price £52.50.

PETER SHOCK'S COLUMN

THE ARM OF THE LAW was raised to me on entering Marlow on one of my recent Sunday afternoon cycling trips. I had just descended the steep Marlow Hill at an exhilarating speed, whereupon the ominous attention of a police constable invoked me to check my cyclometer speedo reading. Howbeit, all was well! Beneath that helmet was a familiar profile — that of Robin Gardner, of Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham. An ex-Children Edge boy, who became interested in youth work and an expert violinist with the Reading Youth Orchestra, he now finds his vocation in the service to the community as a whole in Her Majesty's police force.

MOST YOUNG FOLK

MOST YOUNG FOLK may have only vague reminiscences of spending a draughty half-hour in mid-winter on a remote railway station. Many such institutions have long vanished beneath the cruel axes of Dr. Beeching and his successors. To stay for three days at such a wayside antiquity would seem an insufferable endurance. But not for the ten young Emmer Green boys I led on an adventure expedition to Kerne Bridge in the Forest of Dean, in the February half-term holiday. Over thirteen years ago the last train puffed out of the station. The Gloucestershire Association of Boys' Clubs took over the station building and converted it into an exciting and imaginative Adventure Centre. The old waiting-room has become a lounge (retaining the typical coal-fire), the ticket-office transformed into a dining room, and the Parcels Bay now forms the kitchen, toilet and showers. The sleeping quarters are contained in an old railway coach and consists of twelve bunks. At the bottom of the adjacent meadow there meanders the River Wye; then beyond rise the wooded slopes towards Symonds Yat Rock. The boys, all aged between 9 and 11, played 5-a-side football on the old railway track which once formed part of the branch line between Ross and Monmouth. A visit was made to Monmouth Museum and Tintern Abbey. At Chepstow Castle there was great fun as the boys re-enacted the great battle of 1648 between the Royalists and the army of Cromwell. Michael Molineaux, a senior member of West Caversham Boys' Club, also accompanied the party and assisted in the adjudication of the individual merit awards.