

THIRD BRIDGE - But Where?

In 1911, when Caversham was brought within the Borough of Reading, promises were made of improved communication, for at that time the only link was the old iron bridge joining Caversham Road with Bridge Street. These promises were honoured in the 1920s, when first of all Reading Bridge was built and joined to an extended George Street, and then Caversham Bridge was demolished and replaced in 1926 by the structure that we know today. The two new bridges gave excellent links across the river, and those who live in Caversham today should be grateful for the foresight shown half a century ago.

Anyone who travels into Reading in today's rush hour traffic will not need telling that times have changed. The leisured days of the 1920s, when horses and carts were still used for deliveries, cattle were driven along the streets to the market, and men and women cycled to their work in Reading in large numbers, have long passed. The number of vehicles on the roads has increased tenfold, and the population of Caversham and the surrounding area has vastly increased, but there are still only the two bridges within the borough, and the old bridges at Sonning to the east and Whitchurch to the west are hard put to cope with today's traffic.

UP OR DOWN STREAM?

For many years there has been talk of a third bridge. There were suggestions that a relief road should be constructed from Upper Woodcote Road, behind Blagrave Lane and over the river to Tilehurst. More recently the development of Caversham Park Village has led to the suggestion that a road should be built from Henley Road over the gravel workings to join the A4 at the roundabout near to Sutton's Trial Grounds. Both of these suggestions would take traffic away from the centre of Caversham, to the relief of those who live in the village.

The Caversham Centre Local Plan, unveiled by Council representatives at the public meeting in the spring and later exhibited in the Library, does indeed show a possible site for a third bridge and for link roads, but places this bridge between Reading and Caversham Bridges, and if it is built anyone hoping to use it will have to fight his way through the rush hour congestion in the centre of Caversham and, when over the river, join in the queues of vehicles leading to the two railway bridges. It is true that the siting of this bridge is said to be under discussion at the present time, and we are promised that alternatives will be considered, but it seems madness even to consider placing another bridge in the centre.

RE-THINKING

The improvements at the junctions leading to the existing bridges and the installation of traffic lights have helped with traffic flow temporarily, but plans must be made now if traffic in Caversham is not to seize up completely each morning and evening before another five years have passed, for it is certain that more houses will be built, increasing the population, and more cars will be on the road every year. The planners should scrap their proposals for a link from the bottom of Prospect Street to the Caversham Road/Vestern Road junction, and so release from "planning blight" the land between Church Street and the river. In place of this unfortunate scheme talks should be started at once with the Oxfordshire and Berkshire authorities to find a site for the much-needed third bridge which would not add to the congestion, but make it possible for through traffic to avoid the centre of Caversham.

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND 'ALMOST-NEARLY-NEW' SALE

The Reading branch of the Save the Children Fund will be holding an "Almost-Nearly-New" Sale on Saturday, 22nd September, in the hall of Saint Andrew's United Reform Church, London Road, Reading, from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. This is NOT a jumble sale and there will be a large selection of good second-hand clothes at reasonable bargain prices. Coffee will be served throughout the day. Admission 5p, returnable if any goods are bought.

It is hoped that the many friends of the Save the Children Fund in Caversham will support this sale.

If anyone has any "almost-nearly-new" clothes which are too good for a jumble sale (NOT shoes or hats, please), or any interesting bric-a-bac, the Save the Children Fund committee will be very grateful for them. Please ring either 474145 or 472686.

HOLIDAY MUM

Mrs. Anne Hawkins doesn't think of herself as being more virtuous than anybody else. She just happens to love children. But were it not for people like her, many children would never get a holiday.

This summer, for the third year running, at her caravan home at Harvey's for a lot of patience and a Nurseries she has provided willingness to give of herself all the time. But Anne wouldn't want to think of the poorer parts of London. They come, one at a time, for a period of two weeks each under a scheme organised by the Queen Alexandra Holiday Fund.

All the children Anne has looked after have been fascinated by living in a caravan and for one boy this year's visit was his third. "They are lovely kids," Anne says, and she always looks forward to having them.

Caring for these summer visitors, as well as her own

Children (left to right): Harvey (looked after while mother at work), Andrew (looked after while mother at work), Mark (son of Mrs. Hawkins), Tony (on holiday from London), Debbie (Mrs. Hawkins is holding — foster child), Dawn (friend's child — shopping), Jeannie (looked after while mother at work)



Mrs. Hawkins and some of "the family"

Walton Adams

The Editor's Column

Caversham Under Attack

In 1643 Caversham Heights was the scene of a skirmish between Roundhead and Cavalier. Now, 330 years later, another battle is being fought, but this time far more damage is likely to be done.

Everyone realises that more houses have to be built. Certainly the Christians in the community ought to be concerned that adequate housing is provided. But at the moment Caversham is threatened by an ever-increasing amount of piecemeal development: owners of small pieces of land are being approached with many tempting offers. So all round Caversham a tree here and a tree there is felled, and pleasing, if not spectacular landmarks disappear. The end result is likely to be a hotch-potch of indifferently designed housing with the centre of Caversham vainly endeavouring to cope with more cars. As I go round the parish I am hearing from many residents of how they have been approached to know if they would consider selling their house, or perhaps part of their garden. Mill Green, Hemdean Road, St. Peter's Hill, Kiln Road, Darell Road, Priest Hill, Grosvenor Road—these are just a few of the areas where attempts are being made.

AN OVERALL PLAN

We need an overall plan for the whole of Caversham. But first of all we need an unequivocal statement from the local authorities that a third bridge will not be built between Caversham and Reading Bridges. I have yet to hear any argument from any Caversham resident in favour of such a bridge—nor would a bridge so sited be of any help in Reading. Of course other bridges are needed, but they should be sited both up and down stream.

Many people who are all engaged in different forms of work in our community life met recently in Church House. Mr. C. Buck, chairman of the Residents' Association, spoke about the Caversham Development Plan, and it was obvious that those present were very critical of many aspects of this plan, which has been produced for the supposed benefit of local residents. The proposal to close the end of Hemdean Road to traffic was one aspect of the plan which was particularly criticised and it would create grave problems for the residents of Rectory Road, Priory Avenue, Priest Hill, Oxford Street and Chester Street.

The Residents' Association are doing an invaluable service to us all by being constant watchdogs. They deserve the support of all residents. This is no time for apathy or else Caversham will be destroyed in the next few years by planners and developers who may have the highest motives but who for the most part are not local residents. Consequently they have no awareness of the sense of community that is such a characteristic of our life but which is in danger of being another victim sacrificed to the god called Progress.

John Grimwade

Congratulations

The 'Caversham Bridge' wishes to congratulate many young readers who have this summer gained medals for swimming. No doubt many others have also done so and we would be pleased to publish further names.

John Soper of Hewett Avenue obtained his silver and gold survival test medals. Paul Warner, who lives a few doors from him, has gained honours in survival tests—this is the highest award given. The Thompson brothers, Michael and Alistair, of Upper Woodcote Road, have also gained their honours. Alistair, accompanied by Simon Latham, also won the open double canoe race at Reading's Sea Scout regatta.

In contrast with the ability of so many of those at school today to swim well comes this entry from the Coroner's roll nearly six centuries ago:

"In 1392 on the day before Whit Sunday John Waleys was drowned at Caversham. Sir Gilbert Wace, coroner, held inquest on Tuesday. Waleys came from Reading and was between the Thames and the Rector of Caversham's garden (Caversham Court was at that time the Rectory). He purposed to cross a rivulet called Westbrook which flowed into the Thames, but his horse led him into the brook and then into the river, in which he was drowned. The verdict was that the horse caused his death. John Walsham found him and raised hue and cry and found sureties viz Robert Sandwey and John Kirkele."

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

St. Margaret's School has now closed. So many people have expressed regret that I want to acknowledge their kindness and pay tribute to others by means of this letter.

I am well aware that the children themselves, past and present, have contributed most to the life of the school: but as well, parents have constantly supported me with goodwill and practical help: the Trustees and Managers have maintained an active interest in our well-being; the Rev. John Stevinson (and his wife, Jo) have influenced our sense of community and guided our thinking; all staff, whether full or part-time, have given loyal co-operation and service both to myself and to the children in our care.

I am aware, too, of the kindness shown to us by the Heads and staff of local schools, by students, by our many overseas and home visitors, by the Jubilee Club, by the residents of Blagrove Farm and the Matron, by Oxfordshire School Advisers, by my own parents.

To these and all other friends of St. Margaret's School I say, very sincerely, "Thank you" — your good wishes and caring concern have made my work here both satisfying and enjoyable. The children and I have a prayer which begins "Dear God, bless our school . . ." He has seen fit to do so and I have been privileged to share the experience through these many friendly contacts. The present children and staff of St. Margaret's will transfer to new schools or duties of a challenging nature.

We mean to lay aside regrets and face the future with confidence.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth W. Hawthorne,
St. Margaret's School,
Mapledurham.

GET CRACKING

With every week that passes, the question of a third bridge over the Thames becomes more urgent. This is not simply because traffic is increasing nor because of the waste of time and money involved in long waits to cross the Thames. Neither is it just a question of preventing damage to old bridges and charming villages such as Sonning. It is also because it affects any plans for building in any part of Caversham and district.

In Mapledurham, the position of a new school is partly dependent on where the third bridge will be. In Caversham itself, Thameside Primary School finds itself unable to give the go-ahead for much-needed lavatories because the approach road to the bridge might encroach on the site.

This last is the most ridiculous of the lot. It is time that it was stated once and for all that wherever else the bridge goes, IT WILL NOT GO BETWEEN THE TWO PRESENT BRIDGES. The reasons are too obvious to state here.

But the best way of all to remove all this doubt would be for Berkshire County Council to put their skates on and as a matter of urgency to decide where the third bridge is going to be. There has been too much speculation and not enough action. The need for a bridge is beyond doubt. The approximate site is pretty obvious too.

M.C.

Cavershams Friendly Policeman

When Jim Titcombe died suddenly last month Caversham suffered a severe loss, and his place in our community will not easily be filled.

Coming to Caversham in 1968 under the new 'village policeman' scheme, Jim wasted no time in getting to know the district and the people under his care. He quickly became a very familiar figure as he patrolled the district on his motor-cycle. He had an amazing capacity for remembering all those he met and one could always be assured of a friendly greeting as he rode past.

Most important was the fact that he did so much to restore the image of a policeman as a friendly and helpful figure. His work in our schools and youth clubs gave our youngsters a new sense of security; he became part of their world and because of his work they will grow up with a much more encouraging attitude towards the police.

It would be impossible to enumerate all the ways in which Jim helped us. No job was too small and nobody too unimportant to be his concern. In losing P.C. Titcombe we have indeed lost a very good friend.

Jim's wife and family are assured of a very real place in our hearts in the coming months, and his daughter Anne, who recently joined the Thames Valley Police Force as a cadet, has every reason to be proud that she is following her father's profession.

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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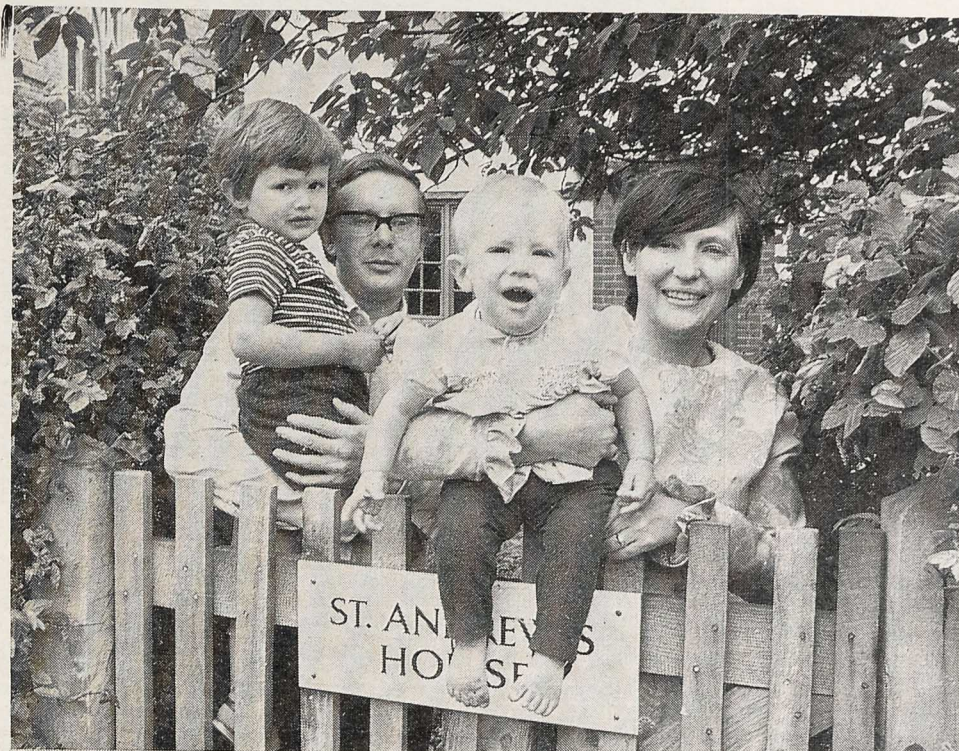
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Leaving St. Andrew's House



— Walton Adams

When Michael Atkinson leaves Caversham to become vicar of St. John's, North Woolwich, he will be going to a very similar parish to the one he worked in for six months when on the staff of Trinity Church, New York City, for both of these could be described as down town parishes. North Woolwich lies on the other side of the Thames from Woolwich and is in the diocese of Chelmsford and in the heart of London's dockland. The parish has a population of about 9,000. Michael will be fortunate in having something as yet unknown in Caversham—an almost new community centre which was built four years ago. The church and vicarage were also built at the same time. Michael and Elizabeth, with their two boys, Christopher and Timothy, leave Caversham at the end of August. The 'Caversham Bridge' wishes them well in their new home and we understand that visitors from Caversham will be very welcome at the Vicarage, North Woolwich, London, S.E.16.

With Katy in Caversham

So many readers have recently asked me why 'so-and-so' wasn't in "this month's copy" that it seems many must be unaware that the 'Bridge' unfortunately has to go to press some weeks before publication.

Your Paper

There may, of course, be another reason for non-publication of a particular event — this, too, cannot be said often enough. We have no crystal ball in the office, so unless YOU tell us what is happening we often have no way of knowing. I warn you, next time someone asks why a certain item isn't in the paper, I shall ask quite bluntly "Did you let us know?" No item is too small or unimportant and apart from rape, arson and murder practically everything is of interest to us and to other readers. So please, please, if young John or Mary takes up an exciting job abroad or Aunt Fanny makes her first flight at the age of 90, do push a card into the office at Church House; no need for literary effusions — just the bare facts will do.

A pedestrian's life

Am I really the only

pedestrian left in Caversham? Some time ago I moaned about the traffic lights at Caversham Bridge being unhelpful to pedestrians. Now it seems the new ones in Gosbrook Road, though easing the traffic situation, have exactly the same fault. Public transport being what it is, I frequently used to walk into Reading from Lower Caversham. Now I am finding it such a hazardous journey that even 20 minutes or more waiting for a bus seems preferable.

Why be lonely?

By now many of you will be wondering how to occupy the winter evenings. I flatter myself I'm sympathetic towards most problems, but one I just can't understand, with few exceptions, is the complaint of 'being lonely'. For anyone who is not completely housebound, there is a wealth of things to do in Caversham, community as-

sociations, residents' associations, old people's clubs, choirs, drama groups, etc. And I've been asked to remind readers that evening classes, including such fascinating things as pottery and flower arranging, will soon be starting up. And what about taking language classes in preparation for next year's holidays? But do get to enrolment evenings early (details from the local library) for the crowds have to be seen to be believed.

Roads and pavements

Walking around the district recently I've been struck by the very shoddy state of our roads and pavements. Some of our pavements would put any town to shame and the resurfacing work recently carried out in the Westfield Road area is just about the messiest job I've ever seen. We can't, of course, blame the local authorities for all this — if lorries and cars don't stop parking on pavements I predict we shall

shortly have no kerbstones left intact.

Back to Egypt

A little girl who has won the hearts of so many Caversham shopkeepers recently will shortly be leaving us. Sara, with her mother, Nihad Selaiha, are returning to Egypt. Nihad, who has been working for some years at the B.B.C., will also be very much missed by her colleagues. Sara's father will follow later, but we hope none of them will forget Caversham, and we wish them well.

Whatever happened to them?

Whatever, I wonder, happens to our shopkeepers and assistants who suddenly disappear from our midst. People like Tony, who served so long in Davies' greengrocers, Mrs. Woodley, the people at the local fish and chip shop; over the years they become part of our lives. I do wish they wouldn't disappear without warning.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH 1923

We print this month some extracts from the parish magazine of 50 years ago.

The Rector hopes to be away for just over a fortnight between August 26th and the second Sunday in September. In addition to the task — and it is a heavy task — of winding up affairs in a former parish and getting into touch with affairs here, he has had very heavy calls on his time during June and July in examining over 1,400 candidates in various examinations of the Universities of Oxford and London. He hopes by sedulous attention to trout fishing and golf to be able to return a little fresher in mind for the autumn's work. He will also have to be away for a few days in the last week of September, as he has been asked to read a paper at the Cambridge Conference for the advancement of Religious Thought.

Communicants 335; Collections £41 5s. 7d. for past month.

ST. JOHN'S

The Infants Sunday School Treat was held on Wednesday, August 1st. The children assembled at the schools at 2 p.m. and marched to "The Birches", Henley Road, where they were soon happily playing in the Orchard. The afternoon was gloriously warm and sunny, which made the tea party in the shade of the trees doubly welcome and enjoyable. It was well that so many of the teachers were able to be

present, as with very small children it is so much better that those who know them personally should be there to play with them and wait upon them. It saved many tears and added to the children's pleasure. Our heartiest thanks are due to Mrs. Fisher for so willingly lending her grounds and for all the hard work she and Mrs. Fruin and the teachers put in to make everything a success. Also our thanks must again be expressed to Mr. Spice, who gave all the milk for this treat, as well as for the Seniors.

Communicants 292. Collections £16 12s. for past month.

ST. BARNABAS

We still lack men for the choir. Also a superintendent teacher for the Sunday afternoon school. If no-one volunteers this may therefore have to be discontinued. This will be regrettable, but the remedy lies with you. Matters cannot improve in Emmer Green until this lackadaisical atmosphere on the one hand and irresponsible criticism on the other give place to a more productive temper, the root of the matter.

Communicants 25. Collections £2 17s. 3d. for past month.

ST. ANDREW'S

We have to offer our sincere thanks to various friends who have kindly made presentations to the Church. A lady who prefers to remain nameless has given a set of four stools for use in the Sanctuary, these take the place of the chairs which had to be imported from the Vestry; while we have also received two very beautiful vestments — a white chasuble given by the children, and a green one which has been most carefully worked by Miss Jenkins.

Followers of the winter sport will be pleased to hear that the Caversham St. Andrew's Football Club had a very successful season in 1922-23. The Club has been promoted to the First Division of the Reading Football League, and through the courtesy of Mr. Edwards, of Latton Lodge, Conisboro' Avenue, a private ground has been secured for the coming season's play.

Communicants 249. Collections £25 15s. 10p. for past month.

* * *

It would be interesting to hear from any of our readers who attended the

St. Paul's Takes A Lead



The Haine family

— Walton Adams

The news that St. Paul's United Reformed Church in York Road has called the Revd. Stephen Haine to be minister there could have far-reaching effects not only for St. Paul's and Caversham, but also for the whole of the church's work in Reading. St. Paul's members have invited Stephen to combine his ministry at York Road with the role of co-ordinating the Reading Council of Churches developing Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM). Approximately fifty per cent of his time will be devoted to being the Reading Churches' first ecumenical industrial officer.

New Opportunities

ITEM, an attempt by local churches of all denominations to apply themselves sympathetically to the problems of industry and commerce in Reading, has been slowly finding its feet during the last two years under Stephen's leadership. It is a partnership of Christian lay people and industrial chaplains. Meeting on the first Tuesday evening of each month at St. Mary's Centre, ex-

plains Stephen, members are at present engaged in a study of the character of the employment pattern in Reading. Training of chaplains involved in local firms is also high on the list of ITEM priorities. A further role is to try to interpret the nature of work situations to the Council of Churches with a view to supporting Christians in their responsibilities in industry and commerce. Industrial Mission, of course, is not new in the country as a whole, but for perhaps the majority of Christians it is still relatively uncharted territory. Yet, as the Bishop of Oxford's Industrial Chaplain says, "If the church has nothing to say in industry, it has nothing at all to say".

Sheffield experience

For the last six years Stephen has been minister at Grange United Reformed Church in Southcote. Until last year's union between the Congregational and Presbyterian churches Grange was a Congregational church and St. Paul's, of course, was Presbyterian. Stephen will be the first minister in the Reading area to make the move, made possible by the

union, between churches of formerly different allegiances.

A graduate of Cambridge University, where he began his academic career by reading maths, but later switched to theology, he later spent fourteen months with the Sheffield Industrial Mission working as a fitters mate and slinger. Training for the ministry followed at Mansfield College, Oxford, where he took a further degree in theology.

Hives and Industry

Stephen will be moving to 41 Highmoor Road at the end of September with his wife Jennifer, whom he met at Cambridge, and their three children — Thomas, Jonathan and Judith. If there is time he hopes to keep up with his somewhat varied hobbies of wine-making, bee-keeping and playing the violin.

He is very excited about the whole prospect of his new dual ministry and St. Paul's is to be congratulated in its bold step of opening up new possibilities in the life of Reading, by making available financial and manpower resources for a new venture in ministry.

St. John's Infants Sunday School Party which is mentioned, or played football for St. Andrew's Club.

Dr. Longford had not long been rector of Caversham at this time. The handsome velvet curtain that is referred to was replaced about four years ago by a red one, having, after nearly fifty years, become very faded and, like its predecessor, somewhat ugly. Two offers of help for the Sunday School at St. Barnabas were reported a month later, and the writer appeared in a happier frame of mind, though it appears the offers came from another part of the parish and he added "no-one in Emmer Green rose to the occasion".

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Farewell Mr. Turner



—Walton Adams

Caversham Primary School was the scene on two successive July nights of gatherings to say farewell to Mr. Turner on his retirement after 19 years as headmaster. On the first night more than 300 parents of past or present pupils were present and on the second night the school managers with many Reading head teachers and others closely connected with education in the borough were present. Mr. Thomas, Chief Education Officer, is seen making a presentation to Mr. Turner.

RATES

If you want to know how you will be paying your rates after next April and about possible alternative methods of assessing them, come to the public meeting organised by Caversham Residents' Association on Monday, 24th September, at Church House at 8 p.m., when the speaker will be Mr. Dennis Jones, Reading's Chief Rating Assistant.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 19th July, 1973. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed of the meeting which had recently been held between representatives of Oxfordshire C.C., the Parish Council and local organisations to discuss with the County Council the proposals for a school development in the parish, and with particular reference to the three planning applications that have al-

ready been made and have been considered by the Parish Council. Members of the Council expressed their disappointment that the meeting had not proved more useful, and it was felt that little had been achieved in obtaining any information that related to the County Council's intentions relating to its future proposals regarding the sites that have been suggested.

A proposal put forward by Mapledurham Area Residents' Association that two sites on the Mapledurham Playing Fields could be considered for the siting of a school has been rejected by the Council.

Arising out of the Playing Fields Committee's report, the Council were advised of an incident on the Playing Fields when a dog caused an injury to a passer-by. As a result of this incident, the owner of the dog has been instructed to conform with the Council's bye-laws and keep the dog away from the Playing Fields, otherwise the Council will take further action.

The Council have made a detailed survey of all the footpaths in the parish, and as a result it is preparing a programme to improve the signing of footpaths.

Final planning approval is now awaited from Oxford to enable the new Hall development to commence. It is hoped this will be achieved during the next few months.

NURSERY TEACHER MARRIES

One of Newbridge's nursery school's most popular members of staff was married at St. John's Church on August 11th. Angela Chatfield, originally from Bristol, has been at Newbridge since it first opened and during that time has won a special place in the hearts of many of the children and parents associated with the school. Some of the children turned up specially to see their "Miss Chatfield" on the day. Her husband, Terry Allen, lives in Basingstoke and works for the A.A. Unfortunately for Newbridge, Angela will no longer be able to teach at the school as she and Terry will be making their home in Basingstoke.

Obituary

James Eves

On going to press the sad news of the sudden death of Mr. James Eves, of Wrenfield Drive, at the age of 75, was received. Well known and much loved in the parish, Mr. Eves was a lay reader for 40 years and a member of St. Peter's choir for more than 30 years. A member of the Church Army in his younger days, he spent part of his ministry walking through the West Country, and for several months he worked in Canada with Prebendary Carlisle establishing the Church Army in that country.

Mr. Eves died very shortly after assisting at the parish communion at St. Peter's on August 5th.

AN APOLOGY

We are sorry that under the heading of "We record" last month we appear to have buried off many of those who were married in June. We do apologise for this mistake and wish a long life to all brides and bridegrooms concerned.

More Office Blocks

Caversham Residents' Association's primary concern is with Caversham, but it is also aware that its problems are bound up with those of the larger community of Reading. For that reason it was pleased to accept the Civic Society's invitation to sit on a joint action committee to try to preserve at least part of the Town Hall and threatened buildings in the Market Place.

Let us at least keep our Town Hall and Market Place, situated as they are at Reading's historic centre. The Civic Society rightly says that a use should be found for them.

Reading Town Hall may not be everyone's cup of tea, and indeed some members of the Residents' Association have been heard to say that the best thing to do would be to blow it up. But the general consensus of opinion seems to be in favour of preserving it. The Civic Society is particularly anxious to preserve the Small Town Hall (actually 18th century), the Council Chamber and the Clock Tower (the Hospice of St. John is listed so will be less easy to destroy), but feeling in the action committee was that it would be worth striving for much more of the building, particularly the large Assembly Hall, where the Father Willis organ is housed.

Waterhouse may not have been one of the world's greatest architects, nor Reading Town Hall one of his masterpieces, but he was responsible for much that is characteristic of

Well, in the first place, the Market could have a market in it, if that isn't a too revolutionary idea. And the Town Hall could house the new District Council offices. As it will have a much smaller range of responsibilities than the old Borough Council, this should not be an impossibility, particularly if the nearby Shire Hall buildings were also utilised. And then that super-efficient building off Castle Street could house the Council offices instead of the proposed £14 million building at Shinfield. As Reading ratepayers will become Berkshire ratepayers as from next April, far from giving something away they will be saving something.

Doesn't this make much more sense than erecting yet another office block on the Town Hall site and another out at Shinfield?

M.C.

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GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by ZOILUS

The second meeting of Reading District Council followed a similar pattern to the first one, being mainly concerned with formally passing the recommendations of the Steering Committee regarding the setting up of committees and the appointment of chief officers. The Policy Committee will be the most important body, approving or otherwise the plans of each of the four working committees — Environment, dealing with health, some highways and planning, licensing, etc.; Leisure, taking over most of the duties of the old Amenities Committee such as entertainments, recreation, parks and museums; Transport, running the bus service; and Housing, to plan the house building and land programme for the authority.

These matters were completed structure should be included with business-like like. dispatch, and apart from an inter-party squabble about the appointment of a representative on the County Education Committee, the framework of the new council was constructed without much dispute. But what sort of fabric will cover the framework will be for the members to decide in the coming months, and doubtless each of the political parties will have their own ideas on what the com-

For instance, Cllr. Jim Day, the Liberal Leader, is much concerned that the financial interests and status of all members should be above suspicion, and near the end of the meeting he introduced a resolution that a register should be kept showing the financial interests of each councillor, and that this register should be open for inspection by the public and press. Apart from a

few whippers by the Tories that income figures should remain private, the motion was agreed without challenge. But it has still to go through the normal committee procedure and come back to council before it becomes law.

Liberal revival

One significant difference between the District Council and the old Borough Council is that whereas the latter had only a handful of Liberals lurking almost out of sight under the public gallery, there is now a compact group of fourteen spread over the centre of the chamber, and it might be interesting to examine the impact this is likely to have on local affairs.

The Liberal revival started eleven years ago when Cllr. Day was returned for Tilehurst, and much of the credit for the eventual success of the campaign must go to him. In debate he is possibly the most attractive speaker in the assembly, his special expertise being a disarming candour and an efficient marshalling of the facts as he sees them, which makes even the most suspect of arguments acceptable. Who could disagree with such an eminently reasonable man? And there is no doubt that he has played a major part in organising the smooth running Liberal machine that has built up a strong position in three wards.

Liberal Problems

However, this year's Liberal advance may have brought them problems. As a minority party of half a dozen they were in a privileged position. For years they were not within hailing distance of control, so a certain eccentricity of policy was permissible, but the present situation is very different. Two by-elections going their way would make the Liberals the controlling party, and some may wonder whether they are ready to meet the challenge. The municipal grapevine suggests that at the moment they are gangling up with the Specialists on most issues, but past evidence shows that they are just as likely to side with the Tories if the whim should so take them. For a minority group this sort

of thing may be a fascinating tactical exercise, but in a party that should be preparing for the ultimate responsibility of power, this leaning to instant politics could cause misgivings. The day when the Liberals could proudly proclaim that there was no party whip

and every member could speak for himself must be past, for it is a hard fact of present-day local government that the responsibility of power can only go to those who are ready to sacrifice the inspired individual to the efficient party machine. A crying shame, no doubt. It will be interesting to see if Liberal ingenuity can overcome what must be an annoying obstacle to their hopes of forming an acceptable alternative administration.

British Legion Service



— Walton Adams

A special service was held on July 15th in St. John's Church for the Dedication of the new standard of the Women's Section of the British Legion. The preacher was the Rev. Peter Atkinson.

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At the Wheel



— Walton Adams

WHAT DOES THE here, a casserole there. SIMPLE WORD "POT" CONVEY TO YOU?

Years of Practice

Perhaps the first picture that comes to mind is the everyday tea or coffee pot—or simply that well-worn receptacle for all those odds and ends—or perhaps more decoratively a flower pot. And there no doubt the list would end. And, up to a point, you would be quite correct. But if you venture this list to Miss Ann Wrightson, who is a potter, you would be told very charmingly but firmly that although a potter is indeed someone who makes pots, to the initiated, or rather to those in the know, a 'pot' can mean anything from a wall plaque to a casserole.

When I called on Ann at her home in Tilehurst she was sitting in her kitchen surrounded by samples of her handiwork—a plaque

"How long," I asked, "does it take to complete one object? Two days?" "Two weeks," said Ann, and she then very patiently explained to me the process of making a pot. Ann gets

by
MAEVE MURPHY
O'CONNOR

her clay from Stoke-on-Trent. The first thing to be done is to get the clay malleable: this is followed by the wedging process—that is a kneading or throwing of the clay by hand to get it free from lumps; this

is a long, painstaking process requiring much patience and a tough fist. Then to the wheel, where many a would-be potter runs into difficulties, but where the real potter comes to the fore. Throwing a pot successfully is not a skill that is quickly acquired, but needs years of practice. After a short drying period comes the decorative process. Then, when the object has dried completely, it is glazed and put in the kiln for firing. Finally there is the painting of it with coloured metal oxides which can be done by several methods, the conventional brush or by scratching with a sharp-edged tool.

Began with a Book

Ann has lived in Reading for 15 years and until she came to her workshop at 11a Washington Road early last year had worked in Tilehurst. A Londoner by birth, she spent three years at the Central School of Art learning the potting craft. This is a wholly practical course involving no theory. She then spent two years at a pottery factory in Wiltshire and now describes herself as a one-man band. Her interest in pottery was started by a book on the subject. The tools for the trade are not expensive—a wheel, a kiln, and plenty of shelving. It is clear that Ann pots for the sheer love of it. One has no need to ask her if she enjoys herself. Watch her eye alight on a favourite article and her face lights up.

I asked her what other interests she has and I gather that she enjoys the theatre, concert hall and cinema. But none of these replace her love of potting and you will be welcome to her showroom in Washington Road to see her at work. And perhaps this will stir you to want to have a go yourself.

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Talking Point

Unisex and the Church?

"WOMEN HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO DISCOVER WHETHER THEY WOULD ENJOY WORKING IN A STEEL MILL". ("LIBERATED" WOMAN SPEAKER ON A RECENT TV PROGRAMME).

One wonders how many feminine readers share similar frustration at being denied the fulfilment of work at the steel mill. And while we're on the subject, "How many of you women are longing to get back down the mines again?" Everyone knows that it was a Parliament composed of male chauvinist pigs which passed Factory Acts and other restrictive legislation governing the hours and conditions of women's employment! Let's get back to the good old days!

by
LAURENCE
STEVENS

Such arguments trivialise the very real case for greater freedom and equality for women. There is a growing demand in modern society for the individual to have the right to be himself, to develop his own life-style untrammelled by unnecessary restrictions from society upon that freedom, and women are not immune from these pressures. Then too there are obvious social injustices. Take the case of equal pay, for example. We would regard it as most blatant discrimination in other fields for one person doing an identical job to be paid less than another, yet in the private sector of employment women are regularly paid 70 to 90 per cent of the men's rate for the same job. (In heavy manual jobs there is an obvious reason for a dissimilarity because of men's greater physical strength). Then there is still discrimination in employment, even in some sections of the church, which cannot make up its mind about the ordination of women.

against divorce must be seen in its context as championing the rights of women against arbitrary dismissal and removal of security.

Even St. Paul, who was not perhaps at his best and most timeless on the subject of women, observes that "in Christ" all differences of sex, race and status are abolished. 'There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3.28). And in the Old Testament, notwithstanding Milton's "He for God only, she for God in him", the first account of creation in Genesis, Chapter 1, can be seen as recognising the equal but complementary role of man and woman in the human race. "So God created man in His image . . . male and female He created them".

Yet the equality of the sexes is a basic Christian understanding. Our Lord's non-discriminatory attitude towards women was in stark contrast to that of his time, when women were regarded as chattels, and a wife could be disposed of by instant divorce for the smallest misdemeanour, such as burning her husband's meal! His teaching

Yet to concentrate on equality and forget the inherent differences can lead to superficial questions like "Can women do this as well as men?" The answer is often an undoubted yes. I myself see no reason why women should not be ordained to the ministry, but then Baptists have ordained women ministers for over

30 years anyway.

But more important is the question posed by Margaret Mead. "How are men and women to think of their maleness and femaleness in this 20th century, in which so many of our old ideas must be made new? . . . We can build a whole society only by using both the gifts special to each and those shared by both sexes—by using the gifts of the whole humanity." Yes! And that surely is a lesson for the Church to learn as well.

Increasingly it is being seen that the ministry must be the ministry of the whole Church, and that God has given special gifts and functions within that total ministry which are best expressed within a ministerial 'team'. Distinctions of status must become less important, and the variety of ministry must be seen as giving a new wholeness. One obvious conclusion of this is that we should allow men and women to perform similar and complementary roles within a ministerial team. After all, it isn't a 'unisex' ministry that we want, any more than a 'unisex' world, but one where, as Dr. Fred Wilson has written, "on equal terms men and women make their equal contributions in some areas, the same contribution in other areas, and a joint contribution most frequently."

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PATRONAL FESTIVAL AT MAPLEDURHAM

Once again St. Margaret's Day was marked by a wet evening, but this did not prevent a large congregation crowding the church when many Caversham friends joined with the congregation of St. Margaret's for the Parish Communion, at which the celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Reading. The theme of the service was thanksgiving for St. Margaret's school and all it had contributed to the life of the parish during the last one hundred and forty three years. The school had finally closed four hours before the service began. After the service Mr. Eyston and Lady Anne kindly allowed the use of part of Mapledurham House, where excellent refreshments were served.

BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

The "get-away" feeling has been much in evidence lately. In addition to Brownie camp at Windsor, Guides at Oxwich, and Scouts at Youlbury, a group of 45 recently attended a performance of the musical "Godspell" in London, and another successful idea was a joint men's and wives group picnic. It was a fine evening when they set out in cars to Watlington Hill, where after a suitably appetising stroll, they partook of hot dogs, sausage rolls and strawberry flan.

The Church Outing by coach to Bristol was blessed with a beautifully sunny day, and many visited the zoo, picnicked on the downs and watched the 600th Charter Procession in the city centre. One intrepid explorer even got as far as Weston-super-Mare. A good time was had by all, many thanks to the organisers of all these events.

ST. PETER'S PARAGRAPHS

Return of the bells. It is expected that the last stage of the work on the bells will start on September 3rd when work to the framework in the tower will start and the bells will themselves be brought back from Loughborough. The re-dedication of the bells will take place on Sunday, October 7th, the Dedication Festival, and will be rung for the first time for over a year at the Parish Communion that day.

Returning from Sidmouth. Their many Caversham friends will be delighted to learn that Mr. and Mrs. John Scriven, who moved away to Sidmouth five years ago, will be returning to live in Caversham in September. John Scriven formerly served as district warden and Irene will be able once again to adorn St. Peter's

with the flower arrangements which have given so much delight to many people in the past.

Children's Holiday Competition. Send your postcard marked "Holiday Competition" to the Rectory by Tuesday, September 4th, saying what you most enjoyed on your holiday — and why. Age limit 15 years. Prizes for the most interesting card will be given at the Parish Communion on September 9th.

Portable microphone. A most useful gift of a portable microphone has been given to St. Peter's, and this will greatly increase the audibility of readers and make it easier for them to be heard throughout the church.

Anglican Parish News

Curate to Archdeacon. Three years ago the Rev. Derek Eastman, who from 1951 to 1956 was priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's, became archdeacon of Buckingham. The year he left Caversham the Rev. Raymond Birt, who was ordained at the age of forty-five, came here as deacon. He now becomes archdeacon of Berkshire, so two of the three archdeacons in the diocese are former members of the staff of Caversham. His many friends in Caversham will wish, through the 'Bridge', to send the new archdeacon their congratulations, and will also be glad to know that he will be the preacher at the dedication festival evensong on Sunday, October 7th, at 6.30 p.m.

Chelsea to Chieveley. While one former curate becomes archdeacon another one, who has been chaplain of St. Mark and St. John College in Chelsea, moves back to the diocese of Oxford. The Rev. Colin Scott-Dempster will be instituted to the living of Chieveley on Friday, September 7th, at 7.30 p.m. and he would be delighted to see friends from Caversham at that service.

Sussex to Caversham. Caversham will be welcoming a new member of staff in September when the Rev. Brian Gardiner moves from Sussex to be priest-in-charge of St. Andrew's. Mr. Gardiner trained for the ministry at Chichester Theological College and after a curacy at Leighton Buzzard from 1960 until 1963 moved to the diocese of Chichester. It is hoped that he will begin his ministry here by celebrating the Family Eucharist at St. Andrew's on Sunday, September 16th, at 9.15 a.m. and with his wife and five children will be assured of the warm welcome which has meant so much to clergy and laity alike when moving to Caversham.

Holy Communion, Series Three. At the July meeting of the Parochial Church Council it was decided that this order of service should be used weekly throughout the parish on Sundays at 9.15 a.m. for a further experimental period from September 9th until the end of the year. It will not be used at other Sunday services or at said celebrations of Holy Communion on weekdays during this period.

Congratulations . . . to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Butler who on Monday, August 6th, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Their many friends throughout the parish, and their neighbours in Kidmore Road, will wish them many more years of health and happiness in the parish. And the 'Bridge' is glad also to record the silver wedding anniversary of St. Peter's Cubs Akela, Mrs. Chapman and her husband, on July 31st.

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Obituary

Clara Joan Cochran

Mrs. Clara Cochran, who died in the Methodist Home for the Aged at Shirley at the age of 86 on May 24th, was the widow of the Rev. J. Oswald Cochran, a former minister of the Methodist Churches of Caversham. She was the daughter of the Rev. Philip Hawkes and was born in Leyland, Lancs. She became a Wesley deaconess and married while working in the Manchester and Salford Mission. There was a wonderful partnership of service, both for twenty-two years in India and in this country, and many lives are the richer for their inspiration. She was always the perfect hostess and their house was always open to all who needed them: in India, especially, it became a home from home for very many people, a very special place where one could be at peace and with God. They supported one another in a completely selfless manner, sometimes doing very arduous work, and she continued to do fine work for overseas missions as long as her health allowed. She had a glowing faith, was loved by all who knew her, and will be greatly missed by very many people.

SCOUT NEWS

The 89th Reading (Milestone Wood) Scout Group annual ree was held at Emmer Green Primary School and attracted an estimated 600 people. There were many attractions, including some 20 stalls. The Cubs and Scouts gave a number of attractive displays. The fete produced a record profit of £260. A major competition result was the 'Stop Watch' competition, which was won by Mr. Rance, of Henley.

During the past year the 89th has increased its Cub and Scout membership by half to a total of 150. The most recent addition has been the formation of the "Knight Troop" in recognition of former Skipper Knight, a founder member. This summer two camps were held. The older Cubs were at Youlbury National Scout Camp near Oxford during the period 13th/15th July. The Scout Camp took place at Ampleforth College, East Gilling, near York, during the period 20th/28th July.

During August the two Scout huts at Kiln Road are being replaced by modern accommodation to meet the expanding needs of the 89th.

The Group Scout Leader of the 89th is Dennis Smith and if any reader wishes to keep up-to-date on events in the 89th, a News Bulletin is regularly issued. It is available free of charge and regular copies are available on request to the Secretary — telephone Reading 476291.

Two important events in the autumn calendar of the 89th: a Jumble Sale on the 6th October, and Parents' Evening on 24th November. Both will be held at Emmer Green Primary school.

CAVERSHAM PARK

HOUSE COMMUNIONS IN SEPTEMBER

September 12th — 18 Holyrood Close.

September 26th — 4 Redberry Close.

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Heading for the North



— Walton Adams

For over 20 years Desmond and Joy Saunders have lived at 41 Blenheim Road. On August 5th they left with their two sons, Julian and Tim, and many people in Blenheim Road and throughout Caversham were indeed sorry to see such a happy and friendly family depart.

Wardens of a Guest House

Desmond and Joy Saunders are to become wardens of Lattendales, a Friends' Fellowship of Healing guest house at Greystoke, near Penrith. Here they hope to provide a place for people to have a peaceful, relaxed stay, either joining in activities with other guests or having a quiet time on their own. Although Lattendales is a Quaker-run house it is open to anyone who wishes to stay there.

Not only Drama

Desmond has been teaching drama at Highdown School since it first opened, and previously he held a similar post at the Grove School since 1963. His interest in drama is lifelong. A member of the Progress Theatre, he was also a founder member of St. Laurence's Players. But drama is not his only interest as he was previously an architect for 12 years. Joy has been chairman of St. Peter's Wives and treasurer of St. Peter's Scouts Sup-

porters' Association. Before her marriage she was on the staff of Caversham Library. Both their sons have many friends here whom they will miss. Julian has been a server at St. Peter's and Tim a member of St. Peter's Cubs.

Away from it all

One interest they all share in common is a love of music, and they are also enthusiastic about all forms of art and craft work. They are looking forward to having a craft room in their new home so that guests can model with clay, paint, and enjoy "doing their own things" without the watchful eye of an instructor. They are also looking forward to concerts with the record player. Lattendales certainly sounds an attractive place in which to spend a few days away from the strains of modern living, and Desmond and Joy will welcome visitors from Caversham. They can be sure of a restful holiday in a lovely countryside.

STREET NAMES OF CAVERSHAM

By F. MALPAS

Many streets in Caversham are named after people, and what more natural than that some should be named after lords of the manor?

Caversham was granted by William the Conqueror to a distant relative of his, Walter Giffard. Walter's son was made Earl of Buckingham, so we have **Buckingham Drive** (and **Giffard House** on Star Road).

A little later Caversham was held by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke. The greatest man in the country, he became Regent of England in 1216 on the death of King John. Three years later he chose to spend the last few months before his own death at his manor house in Caversham. We do not know where this was, but we have **Pembroke Place**, off Chiltern Road (and **Pembroke House** on Star Road) to remind us of him.

We then skip four centuries to come to William Knollys, Earl of Banbury. His manor house was grand enough to entertain Queen Elizabeth in 1601 and Anne of Denmark, queen of James I, in 1613. This house was in the present Caversham Park. **Banbury Gardens**, also off Chiltern Road, keeps his name alive for us.

In 1681 the manor was bought by John Fitzgerald, 18th Earl of Kildare. Although he came from one of the greatest families in the history of Ireland his life at Caversham was uneventful, and he died there in 1707, aged only 46. **Kildare Gardens** is another cul-de-sac off Chiltern Road.

The Marsacks were very colourful characters. Major Charles Marsack bought

Caversham Park in 1784; he had made a fortune in India and was widely believed to be an illegitimate son of George II. His son, a lieutenant-colonel in the Grenadier Guards, was forced by extravagance and gambling debts to leave the country only a few years after inheriting in 1820. **Marsack Street** crosses Briant's Avenue.

From 1883 there lived at Caversham Park William Crawshaw, the 'Iron King'. His ironworks at Merthyr Tydfil earned him this title; when he died in 1867 he left £2,000,000. He built the present mansion after a great fire in 1950, and the family lived there till 1920. Their name remains in **Crawshaw Drive**, Emmer Green.

WEDDING



— Walton Adams

Miss Delphine Palmer and Mr. Christopher Beecham were married at St. Peter's Church on July 28th.

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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).

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

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.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

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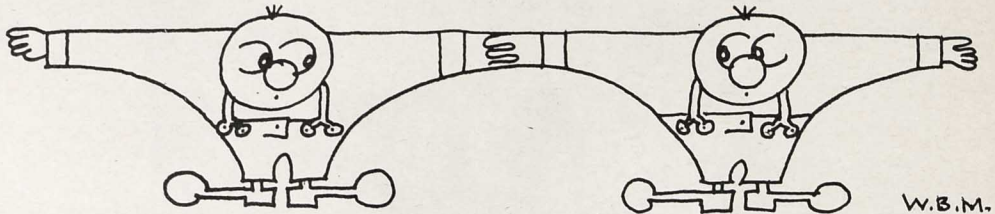
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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild

Last month the Guild had a really enjoyable evening: 'Gardeners' Question Time' presented by Mr. Bernard Tattersfield, Lecturer in Horticulture at Culham College. Basing his talk on questions sent in prior to the meeting and being quite prepared to diverge along other paths on the way, Mr. Tattersfield quite won all over with his charm and wit. The speaker actually encouraged his audience so inclined by saying that a garden could easily be beautiful while they lay back in their hammocks admiring the scenery. Towards this aim he showed plants to put under hedges and large shrubs which will cover the ground and not let weeds take seed. He also encouraged them to make a show of their hedges by putting in such things as honeysuckle and ornamental blackberry which will climb round the branches and colour the hedges with their flowers. Any plant that can be found in a parish hedge is especially good for this function.

On a completely different plane Mr. Tattersfield answered the question 'What is a white cotton wool substance on my fruit tree?' This evidently was a question close to the speaker's heart. The white cotton wool covers a pest which can decimate an orchard and should be exterminated with great speed and glee. The method recommended is to take an old paint brush and paint the tree with metholated spirits. This alcohol kills them, and that can't be such a bad way to go!

He regaled members on many other subjects and gave such hints as always to plant hardwood cuttings at least 9in. deep to prevent the young plant being blown over and to ensure really deep rooting; to Springbok the lawn every autumn, a small area at a

time (when needed to let off steam was recommended) in order to aerate the grass efficiently; do not keep grass cuttings for humous if recently sprayed with weedkiller as the result could well be harmful to plants so fertilised.

Altogether the evening was a great success and many Caversham gardens will have gained lasting benefit from Mr. Tattersfield's visit.

Maplewood Women's Institute

Mrs. Barbara Justham was warmly welcomed by members when she came to speak a second time on her experience when a singer for fifteen years with the Covent Garden opera company. Two very successful tea parties have been held in the gardens of members, one at Mrs. Matthew's in Richmond Road and the other at Mrs. Townsend's in Albert Road, and a profit of £28 was made in aid of institute funds. A third is to be held in the president's garden.

Blagrove Women's Institute

The July meeting was held in "The Mapledurham Memorial Hall". A report on the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting was given by our delegate, Mrs. Waite. This was followed by an interesting talk entitled "Countrywise", given by Mrs. Lewis. The competition for a flower arrangement was won by (1) Mrs. Price, (2) Mrs. Mesant, (3) Mrs. Sholl. The raffle prize was won by Mrs. Lewis.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Mrs. Ridley gave a most interesting and sometimes amusing talk on the folklore of plants and trees. She explained the origins of the beliefs connected with some of our most common garden plants and herbs.

Some were believed to help ward off evil spirits and some had medicinal qualities. Other interesting facts were that ground ivy was used to flavour ale before hops were used, and nettles were spun into a coarse cloth. Trees also had their own individual powers, such as the rowan for luck and the willow was always connected with sadness.

A large number of members enjoyed an outing to Bath. New members are always welcome. Contact the Secretary, Mrs. J. Smith, on Reading 473998. Guild meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs. Mitchell presided at the July meeting and welcomed a new member. The speaker was Mrs. G. Raikes, who, in addition to designing costumes and scenery, has spent many years in theatre research and play production, and is a qualified drama instructor and public speaker. In an amusing and interesting talk Mrs. Raikes explained the relationship between the design of hats and houses through the years. Mrs. N. K. Brown proposed the vote of thanks. After a refreshment break Mrs. Tipples, an ex-president of the Bakers' Association, judged the heat to find the top Guild Cocoa Cook. The winner was Mrs. E. Kearney.

Jubilee Club

Summer meetings have included a film show by British Rail when members saw two excellent films about London and Scotland, and a garden party at the home of Mrs. Skinner at Cane End, where her W.I. friends helped with splendid refreshments and gave everyone a very happy afternoon. On another summer afternoon children from Mapledurham school paid a visit to sing songs. In August a visit was paid to Lilley Farm, where Mrs. Beacroft made all the members very welcome.

GLEITZEIT - OR WORK WHEN YOU LIKE (WITHIN REASON)

by PETER WHITBY

If you work in a large office or in a town centre you will soon be hearing about 'flexible working hours'. You may even be one of the 35,000 people in 200 firms here who are already enjoying them, like the million employees of 2,000 companies in Germany, where the idea began in 1968.

Under an FWH scheme the working day is divided into five parts. Two periods (say 10.00 to 12.00 and 14.00 to 16.00) are called 'core time' and in these all employees must be at work. Three other periods (say 07.00 to 10.00, 12.00 to 14.00 and 16.00 to 20.00) are called 'flexible time' ('gleitzeit' or 'glide-time' in German), and in these employees may arrive and leave as they wish.

Conditions

The only conditions are: A lunch break of at least 30 minutes must be taken to comply with the law.

Each employee must complete an agreed number of hours' work (say 38 a week or 150 a month) in an agreed period.

The period (usually a month) during which contractual hours must be completed and for which each employee's time 'in' and 'out' is balanced is called the 'settlement' or 'accounting period'. Usually a scheme allows staff to 'bank' a small number of hours (say 10) by working longer in 'flexible time' and then 'draw' these hours as half-days off in the following 'accounting period'. Similarly staff may 'borrow' say 10 hours by finishing a period 10 hours' work short and 'repay' them in the following period by staying late or coming in very early in 'flexible time'.

The system involves detailed records of starting, finishing times and total hours at work for each employee. This is done by using record-books, time-clocks and cards or electronic recorders, depending on how closely manage-

overtime when the work arrives.

The facility of FWH is a valuable attraction in competing for good quality staff.

More Choice

Reading Corporation has known for some time that if FWH were widely adopted by the town's major employers it would significantly ease pressure on public transport and traffic congestion at the conventional 'peaks'. The Corporation and Berkshire County Council ran two successful pilot schemes for groups of their own staff for six months, then launched a publicity campaign for FWH in June. This resulted in a crowded and lively meeting at the Town Hall, when influential representatives of the management and staffs of prominent employers in or coming to Reading gave FWH an enthusiastic reception. John Stevinson was there on behalf of the Mission to Industry and he shares my belief that the promotion of FWH deserves Christian support. Here for once is a new management technique that improves efficiency (otherwise it would not have caught on in Germany), but at the same time personalises work, encourages trust between management and staff and gives people a useful choice of how they will divide their time between their work and their home.

ment wish to control time-keeping.

Everyone who has gone on to FWH has liked it, and staff fight hard to keep schemes which have been put in for trial periods.

More Control

Most employees say they like the system because:

They can adjust their working day to their personal life and energy cycle. They can travel to and from work when there are seats in the buses and space in the traffic.

They have more control over their work pattern and pace and fewer arguments about overtime.

The 'flexible times' are freer from distractions, as phone calls, visits and meetings are concentrated into core-time.

Communications are more careful and complete, as people can no longer rely on last-minute phone calls or copies.

Adjusting

Management like it because:

They have a happier, more responsible and so a more efficient and productive staff.

When work fluctuates, the staff adjust their attendance instead of being reluctantly idle then working

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PUTTING THE CLOCK BACK

The attitude and actions of some of the world's leading tennis players in boycotting this year's Wimbledon Championships could not have come at a worse time. Over the last ten years many of sports governing bodies have, with gentle persuasion, adopted a much fairer and more sensible attitude towards amateurism and professionalism, and indeed, as with the cricket and tennis, have allowed all players to play together whether they are paid participants or not. It is indeed very unfortunate that the sport that has led the field in changes should now be held to ransom by the players it has helped, and the actions of the players could well have effect even further afield.

Many sports, such as athletics and swimming, have moved much more slowly towards change and have

by STAN ELDON
but what is the attitude of the Sports Administrators going to be after seeing what has happened in tennis?

Cutting off the hand that feeds

Tennis players, and indeed all sportsmen, should be careful that they do not over-estimate their own value. Ten to fifteen years ago in Sweden athletics was drawing huge crowds and although the sport was amateur leading overseas and Swedish athletes could get £100 appearance money from the promoters of the many sports meetings held in that country. Unfortunately the athletes became greedy and started demanding larger cuts from the gate receipts, with the result that the organisers could not afford to get as many top athletes together. With less spectacular and interesting meetings the public started to stay away and within a very short time most of the meetings ceased to exist, and therefore no more perks for the athletes.

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

To counterbalance the number of young Caversham folk who have been speeding off to seek fresh pastures in the holidays, there seems to have been no deficiency in the inflow of youthful visitors from overseas.

Among the first of the batch was David Sommer and his party of twelve boy cyclists from Chesterland, Ohio, U.S.A. On the morning of Tuesday, July 3rd, I received a phone call from David saying they were at Arundel and anticipated reaching Caversham by evening. Could I fix up some accommodation? This request required quick action. As the call-box meter was rapidly swallowing up his two-penny pieces, I suggested he should meet me at Christchurch Meadows at 7 p.m. They duly arrived on their gleaming machines, each with a conspicuous orange pennant fluttering from a mast at the rear. What a spectacle as they sped over

by PETER SHOCK
Reading Bridge! Poor Mr. Seymour, groundsman at Christchurch Meadows, feared an invasion was imminent. However, after a brief and friendly encounter, together with the grateful assistance of Mr. Martyn-Johns of Greenedene Farm, Mapledurham, we were able to organise some simple accommodation for their overnight stay.

Then on Saturday, 23rd July, Herr Gerhard Brandhofer arrived with his party of students from Innsbruck, Austria. These visitors had journeyed more sedately in six cars, and as I had been informed previously of their week-end stay their accommodation with local families had already been arranged. One member accompanying the party was a priest, Father Ernst Jaeger, who accepted an invitation to celebrate Mass at St. Anne's Church on the Sunday evening. Afterwards the

group met at the 'H' Centre at Caversham Court for a farewell gathering, before returning home to Austria next morning.

Two French organisations have also been staying in the district. One of these, arranged by Mr. Lock of St. Andrew's Road, Caversham, a teacher at Alfred Sutton Boys' School, consists mainly of boys from Brittany and the Basque regions, and this is the tenth successive year they have paid us a visit. Another French group travelled in from Le Havre on 2nd August, and Mrs. Collins of St. Margaret's, Upper Warren Avenue, Caversham, has been responsible for the local arrangements.

May I remind all youth leaders that if they have not received the Berkshire County Events and Competitions application form, or have not yet sent it in, they must act at once in order to compete in the October 1793 to August 1974 events. Apply County Youth Office, Shire Hall, Reading.

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John Lloyd and Sally Wilder.

June 30 John Yeo and Marilyn Lambden.

July 21 Ian Savin and Anne Coppendale.

July 28 Edward Jones and Valerie Langman.

Christopher Beecham and Delphine Palmer

Aug. 3 Edgar Hayward and Rosamond Casey.

Aug. 4 Keith Briant and Janice Austin.

St. John's

June 2 Peter Halliday and Irene King.

St. Andrew's

June 16 Raymond Smith and Susan Kirby.

July 14 Robert Stone and Susan Jensen.

July 21 Paul Marshall and Ann Ballard.

St. Barnabas

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