

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE 250th ISSUE

Price 14p

September 1985

Roving around Caversham with Katy

I CAN honestly say I was in at the birth; as confinements go it was comparatively short, such was the enthusiasm for an ecumenical Caversham paper, one that would build bridges between churches and between churchgoers and non-churchgoers. At the time I doubt if any of us thought the "Bridge" would still be thriving more than 20 years later, far less that some of us would still be associated with it. Among those who sat round the table at those early meetings was Jim Pilgrim, still the Secretary/Treasurer, while Bernard Miller, one of the very first to join the happy band, is now Chairman of the Board.

As to what went on, I'm a bit vague. There was a minor hiccup at one time when Father O'Malley insisted that his board representatives should be properly elected, unlike Mr Coleman, then local Methodist minister, who

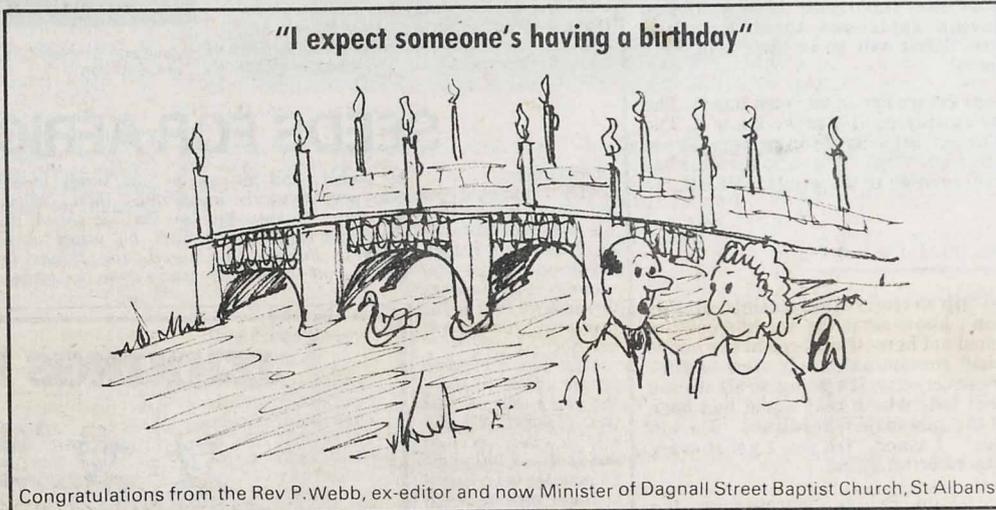
announced that he was just going to detail "a volunteer". Sometimes people got carried away in their enthusiasm and I've a lovely memory of our editor exhorting Mary Clift, assistant editor, not to lose her temper

Publication at last Eventually the first copy appeared in November 1964 and "Caversham Bridge" was launched. It was a couple of months before I was summoned to start my career as what was then termed "Rov-

which was with Peter Shock, who later became our youth affairs reporter. I recall interviewing Stan Eldon, then a world champion athlete, and his wife in their shop in Prospect Street, now occupied by the vets; he

had, fighting battles over local development, tracking down stories and discovering some of the many wonderful organisations in Caversham and the people who worked for them. Often our families got dragged into the hunt;

They have been the backbone of the paper, people like Mr Thorpe, a member of Gosbrook Road Methodist Church who, since the beginning, has continued to trudge round delivering the "Bridge", despite the weather and a fair amount of illness.



Congratulations from the Rev P. Webb, ex-editor and now Minister of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St Albans.

and bang on the table, blissfully unaware that he was doing the same — that rectory table could tell this story far better than I could. Under the table, of course, was the faithful hound — I can't recall his name — who sat patiently wondering what it was all about.

ing Reporter"; after that I'm afraid I appeared under many names. I got used to finding myself labelled "Protesting Ratepayer", "Angry Resident" and so on, but I did raise an eyebrow when I found an article of mine headed "Irate Parent" — somebody slipped up there. Eventually, of course, I finished up as "Katy", a name which, despite variations in spelling, will always be associated, for me at any rate, with Mary Clift who first started the "Katie Russell Chat Column".

At first I took the whole matter very seriously, even trying unsuccessfully to brush up my shorthand, and went to interviews armed with notebooks. Everyone was marvellous and joined in with gusto; I particularly remember a whole evening devoted to Scouting affairs with Skipper Knight and my second interview

became our Sports reporter, a job which, happily, he still does. I interviewed heads of schools, arriving and departing school caretakers, gardeners, clerics, health workers; came the occasion when I literally tramped from one end of Caversham to the other doing brief interviews with some of the many involved in the work of the "Bridge".

Round the Houses

There was a round of schools, old people's homes, and children's homes. One happy evening was spent at Treetops in St Peter's Hill, with Mr and Mrs Pick and their young charges, and bath time at St Benet's Children's Home at Emmer Green was great fun. Springfield St Luke so impressed me that I put my name down for a future vacancy then and there, while the Arthur Clarke Home pro-

names; enthusiastically I was referred from one to another, always with cups of tea appearing as soon as I arrived. On another occasion I simply wandered round Caversham Park Village, talking to people in their gardens about this new estate, then somewhat bereft of amenities. How I came to admire their community association for all it achieved.

As time went on we acquired a lively bunch of writers and reporters, including Paul Gorp — an early copy of the "Bridge" shows Paul junior as a ten-year-old Cub on a bob-a-job scheme, and I winced when I realised that young Paul, now with a couple of degrees to his name, has travelled practically all over the world as a zoologist. Mary Kift joined us later with her very popular articles on old Caversham, while others provided the occasional item. What fun we all

we weren't above using them unmercifully and when we allowed ourselves the odd celebration it wasn't surprising that Jim Pilgrim's wife and her happy band of Baptist ladies were dragged in to provide refreshments.

At times we got carried away with enthusiasm; I spent half my time appealing for people to come forward with news and I still blush when, stressing the importance of personal items, I proudly declaimed to a meeting that I knew one gentleman who was "thrilled to death" to see his wife's obituary in the paper.

Helpful People

Some people were particularly helpful in providing material, people like Elsie South, Barbara Dalton, some of our local shopkeepers and an occasional feed back from that galling bunch of people who delivered the "Bridge".

If I had more time

I'd like to write more about the many wonderful people I've met, many of whom, alas, are no longer with us, people like PC Jim Titcombe, a great favourite with local schoolchildren, Grace Dearlove, who has cared for so many children over the years, and the gallant team of workers who are helping the Elsons in their fight to restore young Jake, brain-damaged in an accident, back to a normal life. Names come flooding back and I feel sad I can't mention them all. I've handed out bricks occasionally, but more often bouquets; one New Year I even allowed myself to award Honours, for service to the community, for courage in adversity and sometimes for just being "very good neighbours". If I had my way I'd fill the "Bridge" with people like this.

There's much I don't like about Caversham, but far more I do. I've seen a lot of laughter and a lot of tears — Mary Clift who gave so much to the "Bridge" had already left the district when she died, but we felt her death keenly. We've known regret, as when we had to part with our editor a couple of years ago, and new hope when others turned up to take the place of those leaving. Oh yes, I've seen a lot — it's been great!

BISHOP TO 'LAUNCH' PAUL AT CAVERSHAM PARK SEPTEMBER 5

THE Bishop of Reading, The Right Revd Graham Foley, will officially present the Revd Paul Kenchington with his Licence to minister as assistant curate in the parish with pastoral responsibility for Caversham Park at a special service on Thursday, September 5 at 7.45pm. The service will be at CAVERSHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL in the hall used weekly by the Church as worship centre.

All members of the parish are warmly encouraged to share in this important and joyful occasion. Although Paul, Clare and Philip will have been with us for nearly two months when the Licence is presented (backdated!) it will be an opportunity for the wider church in the parish to meet, greet and pray for them as they settle into the parish family! And to meet our Bishop!

Caversham Park School is in Queensway (off Caversham Park Road) and after the formalities and the worship we will have a chance to share in fellowship with the Caversham Park "regulars" over a drink in the hall.

TALKING POINT

By Richard Kingsbury Rector of Caversham and Mapledurham

NUDE VICAR NOT IN DRUGS SHOCK SCANDAL

"IF NEWSPAPERS are useful in overthrowing tyrants, it is only to establish a tyranny of their own."

Could James Fenimore Cooper's words a century and a half ago apply to the Caversham Bridge, celebrating this month a notable achievement? Our editors are at least benign tyrants! They and their predecessors, back to the original creative twinkle in John Grimwade's eye, are to be thanked for 250 issues, bridging the communications gap between church and community and, indeed, between church and church. So — thank you ALL for 250 examples of caring, sharing tyranny in the name of Christ's Church in Caversham and Mapledurham.

The last thing our editors want this month is to wallow in self-congratulations. Having applauded them, past and present, what of the future? What will be in the Caversham Bridge 250 editions from now?

The greatest threats to our future are in our own hands. The probability of nuclear war destroying life as we know it. The probability of famine wiping out millions of young lives. These become probabilities the more we talk about them as "inevitable". The real tyrant lurking in the wings is FEAR.

Brighten our boredom?

A lady I know said to me: "Oh Rector, isn't it terrible, all this violence everywhere. I don't know what the world's coming to." She admitted that she had not herself suffered at the hands of violent men. So what had contaminated her view of life? "Well, look, it's in the papers every day. It's going on all around us." This was an intelligent lady whose real world had been sacrificed on the altar of the newspaper headlines. "Do you read the Caversham Bridge?" I asked. "Oh yes, I get it every month but it's — well — rather boring, I find."

A paper like the Caversham Bridge "accentuates the positive", reports on the many good, creative things going on, reflects life as it is. Ruthlessly, fearlessly, the Bridge probes and reports on little events of goodness, trivial acts of kindness, boring us with pictures of folk celebrating, with unshocking accounts of yawningly insignificant events that may have marginally affected up to twenty people for an evening.

Or lighten our darkness?

Our world is not riddled with violence. Is it therefore "boring"? The world is full of Cavershams. Ordinary folk doing — by national media standards — ordinary things. Newsworthy things! More than ever, we need papers like the Bridge to focus on little acts of ordinary goodness. "So shines a good deed in the naughty world!" — to which we say Amen! The world "out there" will only change by millions of worlds "in here" changing, by people like us changing the way we see life. The Bridge, please God, will go on reflecting our world of local doings in the hope that more people will change the way they talk about life. The darkness of helpless fear is lightened by all the "good deeds" reported in these pages.

This is our world. No nude vicars in drugs shock scandals. Just groups of ordinary people quietly, faithfully helping to celebrate love of God and love of neighbour, helping to overthrow the tyranny of the national banner headlines and affirming "THIS is our world and with God's help it will be our grandchildren's."

250 months from now. I'd like to think, the Bridge won't have changed much. In its quiet, ordinary way it is itself "a good deed in a naughty world" and I thank God for it!

Richard Kingsbury

The newspaper produced by members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mapledurham for the local community.

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All contributions for the October issue should be sent to Church House by noon on Wednesday, September 4. All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by Friday, August 30.



Postbag

FAREWELL

DEAR Editor,

When Rupert Brooke sailed from Liverpool for the Dardanelles in the First World War had no one to see him off. So he approached a young lad who was wandering near the quayside and gave him sixpence.

"Will you wave to me please as the ship moves off? It'll be nice for me to have someone to wave to, and I shan't feel so lonely."

I thought of that rather sad incident in the midst of the marvelous farewell which Caversham friends so kindly extended to Jane and myself at the conclusion of our time in the parish. One could have wished for a

more warm or generous

launch into new work than we received. Thank you for the bay tree, its spirit impregnated tub and the cheque which has been such a boon amidst the expenses of moving house. I think it says somewhere in Scripture that "the righteous shall flourish like a green bay tree". Our last bay tree, bless it, died on us. So if this one dies too I fear you'll draw your own conclusions as to the manner of life of its owners! At present it is flourishing in the Warwick air and will be carefully tended to keep it that way.

With love,
GRAHAM AND JANE
LYNCH-WATSON



— E. S. Archer
Jane and Graham Lynch-Watson at their farewell presentation

SEEDS FOR AFRICA

DEAR Editors,

May I, through your columns, thank most sincerely everyone who responded so magnificently to my appeal for sponsors to raise money for seeds for Africa. The response really was fantastic.

Well over a hundred people agreed to sponsor, and a total of £962 was pledged. Of this £937 has been received and sent — £500 to the Eritrean Relief Association to provide seeds for farmers in Eritrea, £387 to Christian Aid for seed projects in the Sudan and Tigray, and £50 to the Sudan Interior Mission for seeds in Niger. Two friends who accompanied me on the London to Brighton bike ride also raised money for seeds for Africa and well over £1,000 was raised in all.

The money sent should help Africans to harvest an additional two hundred tonnes this year — and enable many people to be more self-sufficient. Thank you!

Looking to the future — more and more people now recognise that famine in a world of plenty is a scandal. Surely we Christians must shout from the rooftops that the scandal must be ended. It seems to me that we have to take Jesus at his word when he said: "the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name".

Let us then pray in his name that the scandal

be ended. And let us also pray fervently in the name of Jesus the words that He taught us "give us this day our daily bread" — and by

"us" he surely means all people to have their all of us. Then I believe daily bread, and help we shall be shown the bring famine to an end.
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GONE WITH THE YEARS

By Mary Kift

THERE must be many people who have lived in Caversham all or most of their life and whose memories go back to the earliest years of this century, to a time when Caversham was still an Oxfordshire village and had not yet gone within the borough of Reading (1911). I have reminisced with several of them and enjoyed many happy hours reliving their past with them. Some, alas, are no longer with us now. Among those I visited I remember Miss Green, daughter of one of Caversham's first photographers; Mr Chamberlain, who was born at Emmer Green in 1893; Mr Hunt, who was carried as a small boy from Reading station to Emmer Green in his father's arms around 1888 when they arrived to take up their home on Caversham Grove estate. There was Mrs Letchford, who, at one hundred years of age, was able to tell me about her life as a girl of then, when she arrived in Caversham in 1889. I remember, also, my talks with Mr Freebody, Mrs Lowe and Miss Fisher. Each one of them told me much that was of great interest.

Horses everywhere

My own first impressions of Caversham are of a later decade the nineteen twenties. I remember how many horses there were pulling various carts and even the odd one towing a coal-carrying barge under Caversham Bridge. Mr Hatto, the bearded greengrocer, who had a smallholding in Kidmore Road, near the Grosvenor House brought round his vegetables in a horsedrawn conveyance. So did Mr Fielder the milkman, also from Kidmore Road. He wore steel

rimmed spectacles and leather gaiters, and the brass handles of his milk measures gleamed from a daily polish. The baker, too, arrived with a horse-drawn van. When not at school we were continually rushing out to pet and feed tit-bits to all of them and, dare I say it, my mother often went out armed with a special dust pan and brush to sweep up their offerings for her rosebed. All this happened in the rough farm track which once led to Toots Farm and is now Darell Road. Outside the Griffin you would often see a couple of brewers' drays, each drawn by a pair of huge beasts happily munching from their nosebags or dancing about in the gutter because they were fresh to the day's work and wanted to be off once more. There were other great horses in the stables beside Toots barn at the junction of Buxton Avenue and Highmoor Road. I can just remember looking in at them, but soon after these farm buildings were pulled down. A dear old black riding hack could be found and fondled in a little field along Woodcote Road just before reaching the Methodist Church — a bungalow and house now stand on the site of this little meadow. On our trips to The Bottom as we called Lower Caversham (for it was at the bottom of the hill) the one thing we hoped to see was a



Off to pick cherries at Stoke Row

piebald pony or horse, for then we could have a wish before we saw its tail! Where this idea came from I don't know. Perhaps it was thought up to keep us quiet!

Drovers and Cows, Sheep and their Shepherd

It wasn't all horses. Cows, too, came down Woodcote Road each week to the market in Reading. They were driven by two or three people, usually a man behind and a boy in front, who ran ahead and shut any garden gates that were open. There were never more than a dozen beasts but among them were always a few shaggy Highland cattle. If you met them when out walking you got into someone's front garden and made sure the gate was shut fast until

they had passed by.

I can remember sheep in the meadows off Chazey Road and in the fields which are now covered with the houses of Woodcote Way. A wonderful old shepherd looked after them — a real countryman with a thick, white, curly beard, rosy cheeks and twinkling eyes. He had a shepherd's hut with solid iron wheels which was moved from field to field. We often went to see him and took him the paper and a basket of goodies. His name was "Curly". Tall and he lived in 3 Chinney Cottage, Jacksons Lane.

Winter, Spring and Summer

Winter evenings saw the lamplighter come round to pull on the gas lamps. It also meant the appearance, just around tea time on a Saturday of the muffin man. He passed quickly along as darkness began to fall ringing his bell with one hand and holding a tray of muffins on his head with the other.

Summer was a different story. It was Eldorado ice creams from a pedal cart and what a heavy machine it was to get along. Our favourite was a creamy lime ice and our friend the ice cream man stopped with us for a rest and a cup of tea or glass of orangeade — but not iced as we had no refrigerator in those days. An ice cream was a real treat and only allowed in the hottest of weather.

Spring, too, has special memories, when we were turned out on to the lawn to beat the carpets; two or three hours of beating and

hot blistered hands at the end. On a fine day everyone was spring cleaning, and all around people were banging their carpets, and after all the dust was swept off these were dragged face down on clean parts of the lawn for any damp to bring up the colours; then back they went into the house to be put down, if possible, in a different position to lessen the chance of wearing thin in places like the doorway. There they stayed until the following spring, but each week, when the room was turned out, a great bowl of tea leaves, which had been saved all the week, was strewn on the carpet and then brushed off to keep down the dust and revive the colours.

Tobogganing

Several deep snowfalls sent us along to

the Grassy Slope, now Grass Hill, with a large black tin tray on which we careered down to the Warren, always hoping we would have a super run and just manage to stop on the river bank. A few years later we were given a real toboggan and we joined the gay crowds on the steep hillslopes of Bugs Bottom, also now a built-up area.

Summer Pastimes

Summer also gave us plenty of fun. Almost every Sunday evening we walked, even when quite small, either to Mapledurham Village and back or along past our sledging fields and out to Tokers Green.

A great treat was to take a picnic tea under the oak tree in the dip of Chazey Road. After summer storms there would be heaps of fine sand washed down the slopes to the bottom and we built many sandcastles. We were right in the country there. Wild roses were abundant and we gathered pounds of mushrooms in the Playing Fields and meadows that are no more.

On really rough days we took the kites, and if we couldn't get them to fly and it was dry enough we lay in the long grass and watched the clouds, each of us telling the other what we thought we could see. Ranges of mountains, calm

seas running between headlands and strange imaginative creatures all swept across the sky.

One day we were amazed to see a small biplane land in one of the fields — a great thrill.

Back on Grassy Slope in Summer we sailed home-made boats down a swift running streamlet which flowed three parts of the way down the hill to the river. This has not vanished, possibly having been piped underground.

The Town reaches out

Not all my memories are of a rural character. Reading was gradually reaching out into Caversham with all its amenities and the Heights bus service was one such instance. The buses were double deckers with open tops. We children liked to go upstairs — a great treat. A great laugh, too, when grandmother's hat was knocked off by a low branch on the Mount.

Coming home on the bus could be hair-raising. A large wooden mallet was kept under the stairs to put behind the back wheels if the bus stopped when changing gears on the steepest part of St Anne's Road! It just kept the bus from slipping back if there was trouble and gave everyone a chance to get out and walk! I only remember if happening once but for ages I was terrified that it would be repeated and we would go over the mallet and backwards into Buckside before we had time to get out.

Looking at Caversham now it is hard to believe that only sixty or so years ago all was so different.

M.K.

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Stan Eldon writes:

SPORT PAST AND PRESENT

IN THE twenty-one years since the first "Caversham Bridge" sport has seen many changes, indeed, looking back to what I wrote in the two hundredth edition in 1981 shows that even in such a short period, many things have changed.

Most major sports, with the exception of football and boxing, were still "amateur" and the era of big prize money was still a long way off for most sportsmen. Wimbledon had not yet reached the stage of drastic change and the tennis stars of that era were Maria Bueno and Margaret Smith whilst amongst the men Roy Emmerson and Fred Stolle were the big stars. Tennis rackets were still, in the main, conventional and made of wood although one or two companies were experimenting with metal made rackets. Since those days we have been through a host of tennis stars including Anne Jones, Billy Jean King, Borg and McEnroe and the modern tennis star like Boris Becker can become a millionaire overnight. The rackets have changed dramatically in shape, style and composition — and last but not least — in price. A top tennis racket was selling in 1964 for under £10 but today you can

spend up to £200 on a racket.

On the athletics scene the mile was not dominated by the British, as it has been over the last few years, but by the French and the Americans and perhaps surprisingly the world record for the mile was only 4 seconds slower than Steve Cram's current record. In the Tokyo Olympics of that year, Reading girl Ann Packer won an Olympic Gold medal in the 800 metres. Ann was a complete novice at the distance having previously been known as a sprinter and 400 metre runner. It was the sensation of those Olympics and the time that she did has still not been bettered by many female British athletes. Running was, however, still a very serious sport for the few and we had not moved into the era of jogging and mass participation in running events — they did not come for another ten to fifteen years. On the equipment front, a running vest or shorts sold for under £1 compared to today where the average is nearer £10. The most expensive running shoes were in the region of £5 and now they can be over £100. But of course the biggest change in athletics, apart from the jogging boom, has

been the change from a basically amateur sport to one with high financial rewards for at least a limited number of athletes.



Perhaps one of the saddest reflections of the past 21 years has been the rise and fall of what was once described as our national sport, football. We had the excitement and euphoria of victory in the 1966 World Cup which was unfortunately followed by both declining standards on and off the pitch culminating in the tragic events of the last season. With the decline of our national game even local football has suffered and there are not nearly so many youngsters kicking a ball around in the local parks. A "Match" football was in those days between £5 and £6 but today the equivalent ball will cost you £35.

Another sport to change dramatically is cricket, there was

still the distinction of gentlemen and players, in other words, amateur and professional. Sponsorship was almost non-existent and cricket clothing was most certainly confined to off-white or cream. There was no one-day cricket and games were either three day County Matches or five day Test Matches. Now all players in County Cricket are paid for using their talents. Cricket clothing, certainly under floodlights, can be any colour including bright yellow or sky blue. Advertising slogans are worn on cricket shirts even though it is done very discreetly, such as the Access logo on the collar of at least one cricket shirt. The cricket bat, although now costing ten times what it did in 1964, is still basically the same construction, ie, made of willow, but even that is changing and experiments have been carried out with bats made from other materials including aluminium.

For most sports the last two decades have seen an improvement in public participation and interest created largely by the considerable exposure of sport on the television and as I wrote in 1981, the really good news on the sporting scene is that more people are leaving their armchairs and taking up a sporting activity for themselves. Perhaps the bad news is that while the move to professionalism was inevitable and maybe desirable, it can throw up sportsmen, who though talented, have done nothing to enhance sport or sporting ideals and the prime example of this has to be John McEnroe. I think as sport moves on it should be careful to ensure that the large sums of money put into it by commercial sponsorship reaches not just the top super stars but also helps those just setting out on their sporting activity, thus creating a real equality of opportunity for any sportsmen or women.

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CAVERSHAM CARE CENTRE — CHURCH HOUSE

FOUR months old! So — what have we been doing? Well, business is growing, and a lot of interest has been shown! We feel we reach out to more people now, and the requests for help are very varied — requests to many other organisations — offers of help too. And give local information. The "Pop-In" centre is building up, and it has a cosy atmosphere, with nice people waiting with a friendly smile for anyone who needs a chat, a listening ear, a cup of coffee — or just a quiet half-hour relaxing with a magazine.

For more specialised help, we have on our files information about many organisations and a list is available in the office. If we can help, please call in to see us, or ring 483466. Office open Monday — Friday 9.30-11.30am Pop-In Centre open Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12 noon.

CAVERSHAM WEST BOYS CLUB

THE Summer months have been an exciting time for the boys' club. Firstly, Colin Edwards, the Club's senior member, was successful in becoming a member of the National Boys' Club, an organisation formed to give recognition to outstanding members in boys' clubs. Colin became the third Caversham West member to obtain this prized honour and like the previous successes had to attend a Candidates' Week in the Lake District.

During the week Colin had to undergo, in addition to the physical endurance tests, training sessions in a variety of subjects such as club problems, club administration, current affairs, programme planning, public speaking and self-confidence. These were all designed to enable the candidate's character to be shown in his response to unusual situations. The successful candidate will have earned his membership and the Club offers its congratulations to Colin, who will now move more towards the leadership side of the Club. Secondly, the Club had its annual summer holiday in Saltash,

Cornwall. Staying at the Saltash Boys' Club, it proved a good base to reach many parts of Cornwall and Devon. The party of ten spent time in Plymouth, Dartmouth and the fishing village of Looe. A visit was made to Tintagel Castle, with its connections with the Arthurian legend. Also, plenty of time was found for just lazing around on the local beaches. Most evenings were spent in the company of our hosts, the Saltash Boys' Club, making

full use of the facilities available. The two clubs mixed well together and an enjoyable holiday was had by all.

* * *

The new season starts in September for the Boys' Club with a jumble sale on September 14 at St John's Hall, and the members will be looking forward to the new indoor games challenge. Details from Malcolm Gray, 9 Queen Street, Caversham. Tel: 479560.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By WATCHDOG

Deja Vu

THE changes in Caversham since this newspaper was first launched on its course way back in 1964 are apparent enough to all but the most recent newcomers. You would have to have lived here for less than a year for instance not to have realised the difference the opening of Waitrose has made to the centre of Caversham. It is not only new shops. New houses have sprung up, bringing a great increase in population, a huge new school is now full to capacity, cars are everywhere and a large area of the centre is given over solely to parking. Yet in spite of this, old copies of this newspaper have a distinctly familiar flavour.

Way back in 1974, when this column first appeared in the recently refurbished Caversham Bridge, Watchdog was well launched into what was then already the continuing saga of a third river bridge. In the years before the soubriquet was thought up by the editor, the column had been barking away at less regular intervals when the paper had not yet established itself as a purely local one. Apart from a third bridge, all the familiar subjects

were there. Hemdean Valley was under threat from predatory developers; lorries, dubbed juggernauts when that word did not automatically mean lorry as it does now, got themselves stuck on St Peter's Hill; Berkshire was attempting to extend its boundaries into South Oxfordshire; historic buildings were being allowed to fall into disrepair and everywhere increasing traffic was bringing its attendant problems.

Public Participation

Still today these are the subjects that provide the main grist for these columns and look like doing so for years more to come. Yet there has been a difference, and that has been in approach. Around 1973 a new concept had emerged. It was called "Public Participation" and to us looking back from the mid-eighties it seems odd that it should have caused such a stir.

Council decisions had by tradition been made behind closed doors, and although Council meetings had always been open to the public by then it was usually too late to change them. The general idea was that the Council knew what was good for us. It was a case of "us" and "them" and between the two was an insurmountable

barrier. The early and mid-60's saw the rise of various civic and residents' associations, all wanting to have a say in decision making, and regarded for the most part with suspicion by the powers that be or else dismissed as mere irrelevancies.

By the seventies however a new spirit had crept in. The Councils actually started to seek public comments, prodded indeed by Central Government who had also seen the light. Council committees were opened to the public, in spite of misgivings by traditionalists, and for the first time all major proposals were put out for public consultation. This was a far cry from 1931 when Caversham Court was demolished without a peep of protest for a road to lead to a third bridge. Imagine the uproar if this happened now. Yet as late as the sixties the first the general public knew, for instance, of the widening of St Peter's Hill or the building of Auburn Court was when work had actually started, and even then the easiest way of finding out was to ask the workmen what they were doing.

Today it is taken for granted that opportunity should be provided for the public to comment on such plans. However, back in 1973 we find Zoilus in a neighbouring column giving the idea a cautious welcome but having reservations about how far it might undermine councillors' responsibilities and hold up reaching a decision. Nevertheless a few months later we find him in the vanguard of a rising tide of objections to Oxfordshire's designation of the A4074 as a primary lorry route. Councillors were coming to realise the importance of involving the public.

County sees the light

This enlightenment came to the Borough Council, newly formed from the remains of the old County Borough, which had lost many of its former functions to the County, earlier than it came to the counties. We find Berkshire County Council being casti-

gated for restricting the period for public comments on its County Structure Plan in 1974 to one month from its date of publication towards the end of July. Had they not heard of the great British tradition of holidaying in August? It was also suggested that they were being rather too acquiescent in accepting the diktat of the Department of the Environment that Berkshire was to be an area of major growth. The county has learned, and now all parties are united in opposing major growth. Oxfordshire also was severely rebuked for treating its borders with Caversham as some far flung post of empire where the natives were being troublesome. Now, although not exactly rushing to hear our views, Oxfordshire does respond to requests for information and occasionally ventures one of its representatives over the border to enter into the lions' den.

Coming right up to date Berkshire has just concluded a public participation exercise that could hardly have been bettered. For six months the Reading Highways Strategy has been out for consultation, with exhibitions, meetings, explanatory folders and channels for commenting widely available. As far as can be gathered at this stage public response has been remarkably good.

Some won: some lost

Pavement parking is another thing that raises the ire of this column. This seems to be a losing battle. In 1974 the Borough Council announced a campaign to ban lorries from parking on the pavement. It does not seem to have got far, and faces were rather red when a few years later one of their own vans nearly fell through the pavement of Caversham Bridge when it was nonchalantly driving across it. In 1975 the front page of this paper carried a message in large capitals: PAVEMENTS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS. DON'T BE ANTI-SOCIAL. DON'T PARK ON THE PAVEMENT. It fell on deaf ears. In 1985 not only do you park on the

pavement when there is no room elsewhere: you also park there when there is room elsewhere.

So some we win and some we lose, but the one great advance that has been made is in the field of public consultation, pressed for and granted, perhaps grudgingly at first, but now even welcomed. The "Caversham Bridge" has watched it all. What progress will it have to report in its 500th issue?

Keep Hemdean Bottom Green

The public inquiry into the proposal to develop the Shipnell's Farm site at Hemdean Bottom will be held in the Council Chamber of the Civic Offices from Tuesday October 15 to Friday October 18 and on Tuesday October 22. Look out for details of an evening session, probably October 22, which is dependent on the discretion of the Inspector.

Remember the public briefing meeting, arranged by Caversham and District Residents' Association and Emmer Green Residents' Association, on Monday September 9 at Caversham Primary School, Hemdean Road, at 8pm. Here is the address to which letters of objection should be sent.

The Inspector APP/Q0315/A/84/025324
Room 15/07 Tollgate House
Houlton Street
Bristol BS2 9DJ

The planning application No is 84/TP/758. Letters should arrive a fortnight before the Inquiry.

If you could usefully use a petition form, apply to either of the Associations' secretaries (Tel: 472300 or 474625). Car stickers, KEEP HEMDEAN BOTTOM GREEN, are also available.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

CHORAL CONCERT AT ST ANDREW'S

THE large audience who attended the concert on Saturday July 13 by the Ascension Singers and St Andrew's Choir, enjoyed some fine choral singing in a varied and attractive programme including works from the sixteenth to the present century. Further variety was added by the use of the combined choirs in the first and last items — Parry's "I was glad" and Vivaldi's "Gloria" — the remaining choral works being sung by the Ascension Singers. Tribute must be paid to the beautiful singing of the soloists, Jeanne Montague soprano, Shelley Montague contralto and Bob Norman bass and to Nicholas Sherwood for providing such a strong lead to the tenor section — so often the weakest in amateur choirs.

The choirs were conducted throughout by David Sidwell and accompanied at the organ by Andrew Bosley. The programme also included organ solos by Bach, Lang and Walton played respectively by David Sidwell, Andrew Bosley and Nicholas Sherwood. The concert was arranged to provide added funds for the various projects of the Missionary Committee but the performance was dedicated to the memory of Denis Slade, whose recent death had deprived the choir and St Andrew's of a highly valued and much-loved member.

ST MARGARET'S NEWS

WITH the Parish Hall almost a mile away up the hill from the church, the congregation at St Margaret's always wonder if it will be fine enough to have the refreshments out of doors in the Church yard on the evening of the Patronal Festival. Sometimes arranging for it outside is a real act of faith — as it was this year. Two heavy showers during the afternoon and a couple of distant rumbles of thunder made it all rather uncertain and right up to the last minute dark clouds swept by in quite a wind. However the Social Committee believed all would be well and the tables were set out beside the church door laden with refreshments and cups and saucers. If there was a shower then plastic sheets could cover everything. But all was well and Festal Evensong was enjoyed by a large congregation from St Margaret's together with many friends from the parish of Caversham. There was a wonderful "sermonette" from Sister Morag Michael of the Wantage Sisters, now working at Springfield St Luke. The Young People from the church joined the congregation after their own St Margaret's Party at the Forge for the last hymn in which they took a special part. Finally, the bells for the first time in many a long year pealed out over the village and surrounding countryside rung by St Margaret's own team of very enthusiastic and increasingly skilled ringers. Praise be to God for this and the fine evening and the fellowship together with all the friends from Caversham, three of whom came back in the middle of their holidays to be especially there.



The team from Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road who took part in the Wheelchair Marathon push on July 6. This was organised by the Reading Lions Club. The team from Gosbrook Road raised a good deal of money for charity, and won the award for the smartest team.

ST ANNE'S NEWS

WITH great sadness St Anne's learned of the death of Father O'Malley on July 3. So many aspects of the parish which are now taken for granted came about wholly or in part as the result of his indefatigable planning and organising: the Heights Chapel, the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, the extending of St Anne's School, the building of Hugh Faringdon School in Reading, and of St Martin's School in Caversham Park. But perhaps even more important to many will be personal memories: for those who were married and baptised by Father O'Malley, for instance, during his long term of office (from 1952 until he retired in 1981). To many, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, the familiar figure in the black beret had become something of a Caversham legend. The Requiem Mass was conducted by the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Maurice Couve de Murville, on July 8. The original purpose of the Archbishop's visit had been to administer a most vital sacrament in any parish's life — confirmation. Groups of children were confirmed during the course of three Sunday Masses on July 7, so that the whole day became one of celebration and festivity, involving not only the children, their sponsors and families but the entire community of the parish. Towards the end of the month (26th) came the feast of St Anne — another opportunity for the parish to become aware of itself as a natural and spiritual community, and perhaps to reflect a little on the way ahead together.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL

SUMMER is the Bible Week season, when Christians gather in their thousands on showground sites all over the country. They bring tents or caravans and some stay in nearby hotels and cottages. But what is it all for? Here is how one member of our fellowship describes her time at a Bible Week... "This year about seventy of us from Caversham Hill Chapel travelled to the South and West Bible Week at Shepton Mallet in Somerset. Our aim — to learn more about God and to try to be more Christlike through applying what we learn to our lives. We spent a week — mostly in the rain — in a beautiful setting, with a stream and rustling trees nearby, surrounded by hills and a pig farm. Well, actually a pig farm and silage tip, but we only noticed those when the wind changed! There were few complaints about the pig farm or the weather. God was teaching each of us so much, our hearts were full of more important things. While the adults chose a seminar in a cattleshed and learned more of the Gifts of the Spirit, or healing and deliverance, or studied the book of Haggai, the children were well cared for. The under twelves had an exciting time and they became members of the J Team. J stands for Jesus of course, and children learned new songs about Him. Many gave their lives to Jesus during the week, some were filled with the Holy Spirit and given a new language to pray in. Our children can teach us so much in their willingness to hear and obey God. The teenagers had a programme of their own, with teaching in the mornings and evening, abseiling and trampolining in the afternoons. I'm far too old to attend, but I'm told it well-satisfied their needs. In the afternoons we had plenty of time to explore the Mendip Hills and nearby towns of Wells and Glastonbury. Or you could just stay on site and wring out your sleeping bag or bail out the tent! About three thousand people met each evening to worship God. The Spirit of God moved on these occasions and many lives were transformed. We were reminded from the Scriptures that we can shout our praise to God or dance before Him, but there were times when he asked us to kneel in silence and listen to His Will for our lives. We learned so much. Bible weeks are not comfortable holiday weeks. They are exciting, emotional and hard work; but there is such delight and encouragement in seeing God at work amongst so many. If you would like details of next year's Bible Weeks, please contact our Pastor. Perhaps we'll see you there?"

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GETTING THE BRIDGE TO YOU

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Events and Features

GO!

Month 1
Day 1



Molly Casey



Winnie Darter



Stan Eldon



Mary Kift



George Robinson

Advertising



Peggy Maule

Photographers



Graham Aisbitt



Ben Archer

Typing Copy



Daphne Vincent

Editorial Meeting Month 1 Day 31



Margaret Bailly



Eric Chappell



John Mullaney



Nigel Wright

Month 2 Day 1 Lay-Out



Hector Purver

Month 2 Day 3

POST
for type-setting
and page make-up

Month 2 Day 10
PROOFS TO EDITORS

For correction and amendment

Month 2 Day 13
PROOFS RETURNED to POST

Month 2 Day 18
Printing and delivery


to Robin Kitcher,
Distribution Manager

Month 2 Day 19

Delivery to Area Distributors



Mrs Beckett



Eric Crutchley



Mr Cunningham



Mrs Hall



Peter Handy



Sam Hutson



Mrs Parkinson



Ian Pollard



Vic Smith

Month 2 Day 20

Delivery to Street Distributors — too many to list individually, but thank you all

Month 2 Day 26

BRIDGE ARRIVES

PAPER RE-CYCLED



Month 2 Day 31 — Back to GO again

Bi-monthly board meetings — Bernard Miller (Chairman) Margaret Bailly (Vice-chairman), Eric Chappell, Mary Kift, Peggy Maule, John Mullaney, Nigel Wright and those whose photographs have not yet appeared



Gwen Delaney



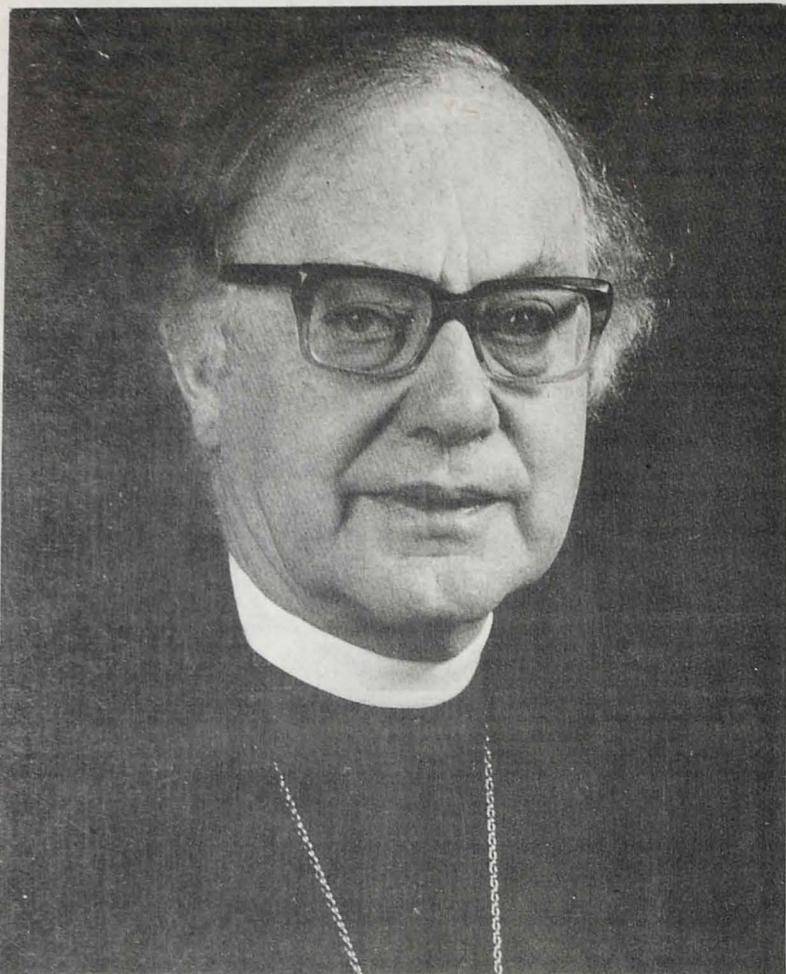
Richard Kingsbury



Jim Pilgrim (Secretary)

Photos by our own photographers

GREETINGS



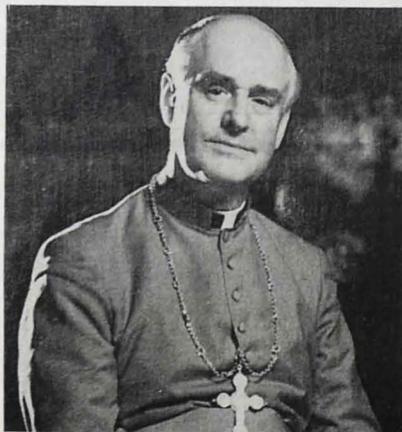
Message from the Archbishop of Canterbury to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Caversham Bridge Newspaper.

IT GIVES me great pleasure to send my greetings to the Caversham Bridge Newspaper and to the churches it represents for your 250th special edition.

It is often said that only that which is local is real. The ecumenical movement will achieve nothing unless the work of the theologians and gestures of Church Leaders are also matched by real engagement in the parishes. One of the good things which has emerged amid the confusion of the failure of the Covenanting Proposals themselves is precisely this renewed emphasis on local ecumenism. It is at the local level above all that Christians of the Anglican, Free Church and Roman Catholic traditions can come to know each other and trust each other. On the basis of such knowledge and trust emerges authentic doctrinal agreement and united proclamation of the Gospel.

I wish you well in Caversham and pray that your churches may come closer together "That the world may believe".

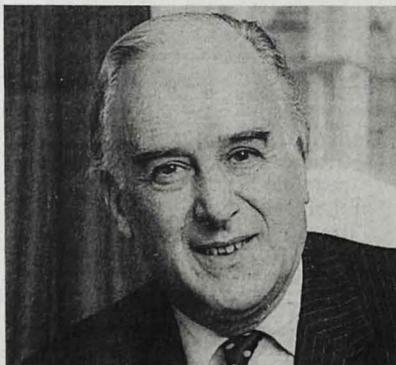
Robert Cantuar



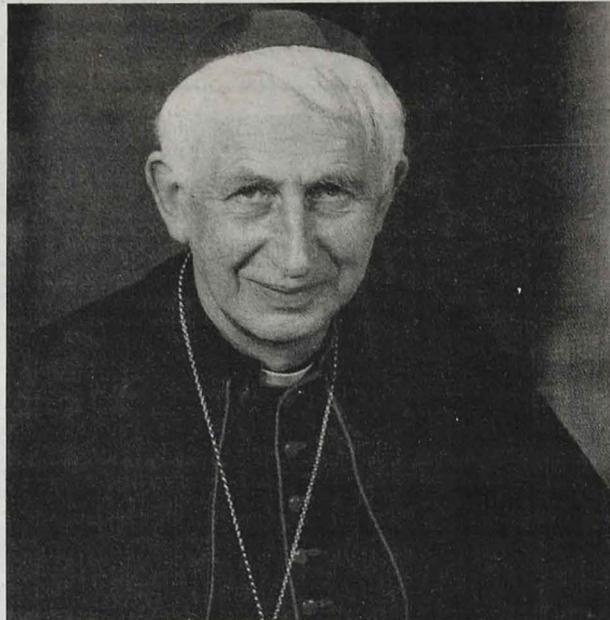
The Archbishop of Birmingham

MANY thanks for your the level of your pro-
letter enclosing a duction and hope that
copy of the Caversham you can continue the
Bridge newspaper. I good work.
congratulate you on With best wishes.

From Sir Gerard Vaughan MP for Reading East



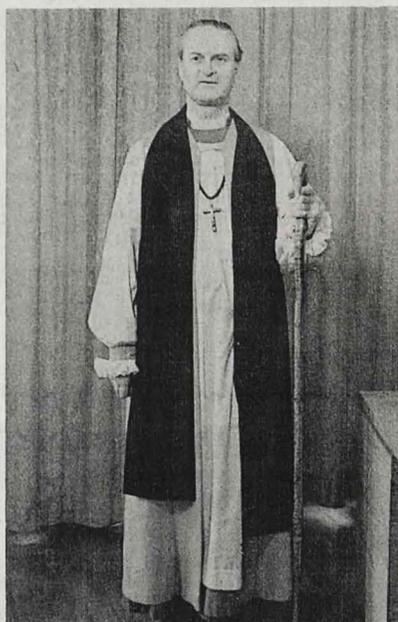
THE Caversham Bridge Newspaper is comparatively new to me and I have been much impressed by the original vision of an ecumenical broadsheet. It is at such grass roots that barriers separating the religions can be broken down, and in Caversham and Mapledurham it seems that this happened. I am very happy to add my congratulations on the 250th Edition.



From The Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Basil Hume

IT HAS come to my notice that the Caversham Bridge Newspaper is nearing its 250th edition. I would like to take this opportunity to send my congratulations on the success of this venture. It is a very real expression of how close Christians can grow together and co-operate on a local level. That is where true ecumenical progress can be made a reality.

With all best wishes.



From The Bishop of Oxford

I AM GLAD to salute all those concerned with the Caversham Bridge Newspaper on its 250th edition and to wish that it may long continue. I remember that soon after I came to the Oxford Diocese, the Newspaper won a diocesan competition, and ever since we stole Canon John Grimwade for the western part of the Diocese, it has maintained its high standards. I am particularly glad that it is an ecumenical production and serves the cause of friendship and common action between those of the various church traditions in Caversham.

May it flourish in the future as in the past!

Patrick Oxon

From Tony Durant MP for Reading West

I WRITE to congratulate the Caversham Bridge Newspaper on its 250th Edition. It has played a vital part in bringing together all the people of Caversham of whatever denomination.

I have taken the publication since I first came to live in Caversham some ten years ago. I have found it invaluable, firstly as the Member of Parliament for Caversham until the last Election, and since then for telling me everything of the goings on in the community.

Good luck for the future.



FROM THE GREAT



**From the Revd Norman P. Wright
President of the Baptist Union of Great
Britain and Ireland**

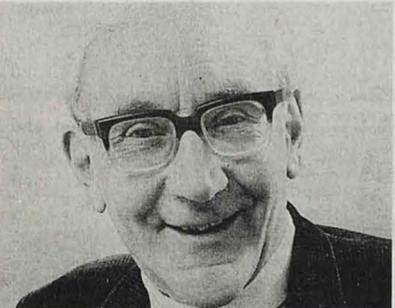
ON BEHALF of the Baptist Family in Great Britain and Ireland I send warmest Christian Greetings and congratulations to all who are involved in the production of "The Caversham Bridge" newspaper. To have reached the 250th edition is a notable achievement and it is obvious from the comments that I have received that the paper is eagerly awaited in the four thousand homes that receive it.

Through its ministry the paper has helped to bind together all the Christians in Caversham and provides news which enables the Churches to pray for each other and to encourage one another in their continuing Mission to proclaim the Gospel by work and deed through their local Churches.

I personally look forward to preaching at the Ecumenical Service at Caversham Baptist Church on Sunday January 26, 1986.

May the Lord's blessing be upon every member of the staff and every Christian who reads this message.

From the Revd Canon John Grimwade



THE Caversham Bridge appears with such regularity that I have almost forgotten some of the crises that we on the editorial board used to suffer almost monthly in the early years of the paper's life. Few readers will now remember how originally the Bridge was only part of a syndicated paper which was produced in Birmingham and printed in Blackburn. Proofs had to be sent by post and were often slow in arriving; this sometimes meant that the paper had not been printed in time for the transport firm's weekly delivery to Reading. But somehow or other after a lot of phone calls round England the paper eventually appeared. Then came the day when the syndicated pages were no longer available; we took over the front page and found a printer in Kingston. But there were still difficulties and Leonard Burn used often to drive there to collect the proofs. Our Kingston printer sold out to another firm in Surrey and after fresh crises we switched to

the Evening Post. How simple life became! No longer was there any need for blocks to be made for all the photographs and proofs could be received and returned within a matter of hours.

The paper seems now to run so smoothly and the ups and downs of those early years are only a distant memory. Each month I look forward to its arrival and send my best wishes to all the editorial board for the splendid piece of work they do, not forgetting the distributors who go out in all weathers. I wonder how many of them are still doing this after just over twenty years from the time of the first number.

Long may the Caversham Bridge continue in pursuit of its two original aims of acting as a bridge between the church and the community and as a bridge between the divided churches. I think it can claim real success in both these objects.

Congratulations to all concerned.

John Grimwade

**From the President of the Methodist Conference Christopher
Hughes Smith**

IT IS A very great joy to send a greeting to The Caversham Bridge. The name of Canon John Grimwade is remembered in the West Midlands, and it is good that his initiative in Caversham has developed so well.

These are days for establishing and growing friendships. The truth to which the Church bears witness is increasingly tested by the reality of contact between traditions. In a generation where divisive forces have such power — and sometimes I think that England, Wales and Scotland are held together only by the coastline — the reconciling power of Christ is important Gospel. The living Christ is active on both sides of divisions, and His holy Spirit of Love works at the erosion of barriers!

The Gospel is for all. I rejoice that The Caversham Bridge is for Caversham as a whole. There are various relationships that congregations of the faithful can have with their background culture and environment. Roughly, the life of Old Israel experienced the categories. The Church can be oppressed and enslaved; we can be pilgrims; we can be in charge; we can be exiled to a cultural time foreign to our nature; we can be facing the problems of repossessing our inheritance. Caversham will be different from other places, and the congregations in Caversham will not all be at the same stage or have the same relationship with their culture and environment. I hope, however, that there is in each case a realistic attempt at understanding your setting. The astonishing thing about Christ is that he was at his most powerful when his link with his environment was — crucifixion! Christ reigns from the Tree.

So I congratulate you and offer warm greetings on behalf of Methodist people throughout the land.

From The Mayor of Reading Councillor Brian A. Fowles

CONGRATULATIONS to the "Caversham Bridge" on the occasion of the publication of the 250th edition. Throughout the twenty years that this most exalted Christian Newspaper has been circulated throughout Caversham and Mapledurham it has maintained an extremely high editorial standard, and related the Christian "way of life" by example of what people in the Caversham district are doing within, and for, the community. The continuing contribution from the Clergy has also communicated the Christian message in an easily understood and personal manner.

Best wishes for the

**From Revd John S.
Stephens**



ANY means of communication does well to survive for twenty years and a church paper does particularly well especially when it maintains the high journalistic standards of "The Caversham Bridge". It therefore gives me special pleasure to send my congratulations and good wishes to mark the 250th edition. As Superintendent of the Methodist Circuit I have read your papers with real interest and wish you every success in the forthcoming years.

May God bless you as you prepare the next 250 issues.

John S. Stephens



next 250 issues but, in the meantime, if a very small constructive criticism may be allowed, it would be to suggest that those contributors using the "Bridge" to voice personal opinions of local Council actions and services should first check the

accuracy and validity of their comments from local representatives, and for the Editor to facilitate a reply from "the other side" at the time of publication. What may still be news one month after it is written, is certainly history after three months.

**From the Reverend
Peter Sear**

Congratulations! Much water has flowed past Caversham Bridge since October 1964 — 250 issues ago. In those exciting days of the mid-60s (do you remember mini-skirts and the Beatles?) the "Caversham Bridge" began as a local insert within a national Christian newspaper. The front page headline for October 1964 (announcing a national evangelistic campaign) proclaimed "C of E is in for a shake-up". Prophetic? Auspicious? (Incidentally, the same issue of "Caversham Bridge" also announced the preacher for the forthcoming Parish Dedication Festival, the (then) little-known lecturer from Queen's College — David Jenkins!)



Long may the "Caversham Bridge" continue to link the people of Caversham and the Churches of Caversham (and Emmer Green and Mapledurham too!) Thank you to those who had the insight, the inspiration, and the wisdom twenty-one years ago to set to work building this "Bridge" for God's Kingdom. Congratulations!

From The Bishop of Reading



THE "Caversham Bridge" is one of the best examples of a newspaper produced and edited by the Churches which is parochial in the best sense, for it embraces the life of the whole community, looking also beyond the local community to the wider world beyond. It has something for everyone and the journalistic standard is high. I always look forward to its arrival on my desk.

I send my congratulations on your achievement, and my good wishes for the future.

Graham Reading

**From the District Chairman,
Southampton Methodist District
Laurence Ashman**

IT IS A great pleasure to respond to the invitation of your editor to send a word of greeting to you as you celebrate the 250th edition of the Caversham Bridge Newspaper. This represents a most worthwhile achievement and I send my warmest congratulations and good wishes for the future.

A newspaper is an important means of communication and that is a vitally important activity. To enable news and information to be passed between the churches of your area, and between the churches and the community at large is a most commendable task. By this means people learn of what is happening in other churches, and the churches are able to share their interests with the whole neighbourhood.

I am glad that your newspaper is an ecumenical venture, for in these days when national schemes of unity seem to have foundered it is often at the local level that the churches are discovering how much they have in common and so are able to work together.

So in congratulating you on your 250th edition I would encourage you to continue this good work. May God bless you and use your newspaper in the work of His kingdom.

**From Bernard Miller, Chairman of the
Caversham Bridge Newspaper**

WHEN 21 years ago, soon after his appointment as Rector of Caversham, John Grimwade called together representatives from the local Churches and suggested publishing a community paper as an ecumenical venture, he initiated a project which has helped Christians to work together, informing and serving the community.

To reach 250 issues of the "Caversham Bridge" is a milestone of which we can be proud, but it has been possible through the help of many friends — street distributors,



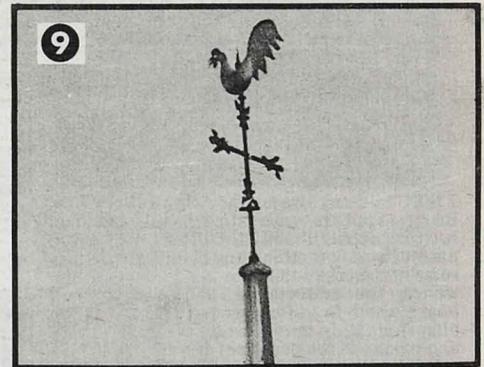
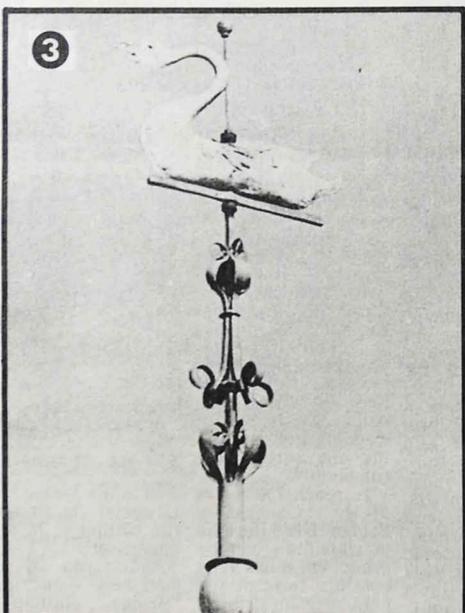
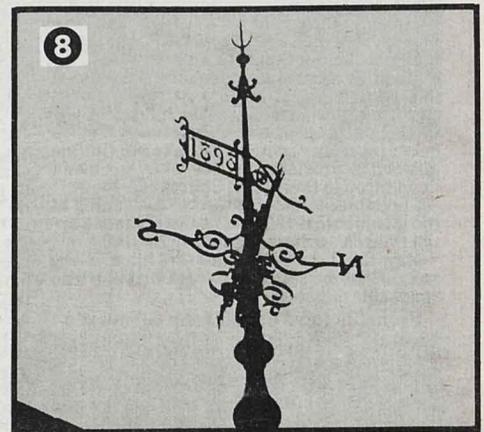
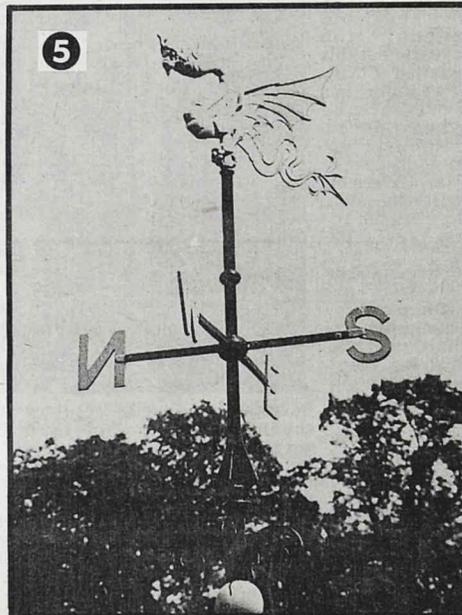
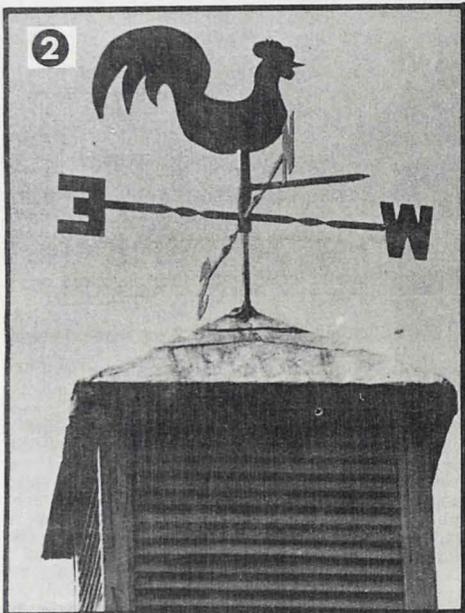
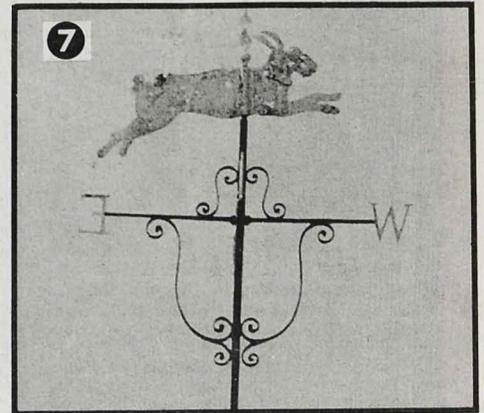
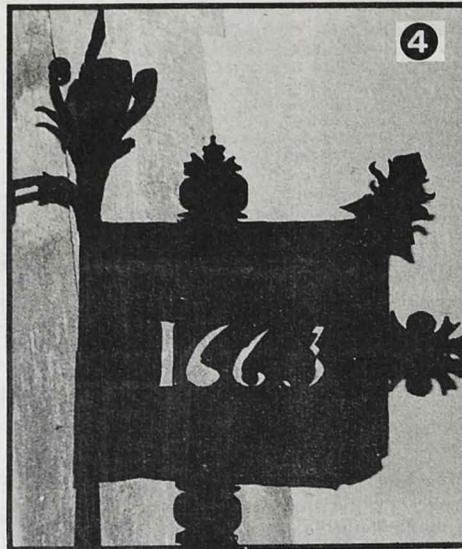
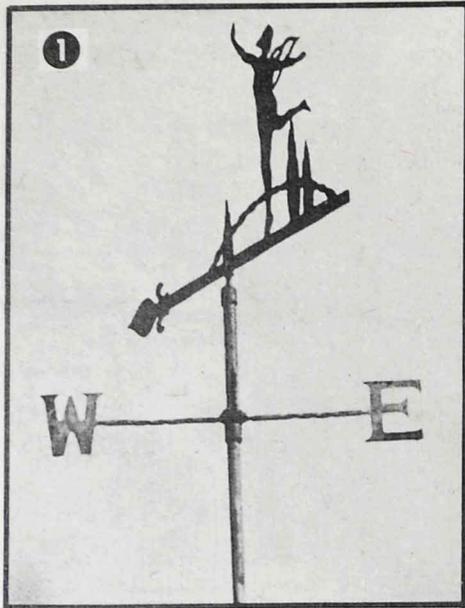
correspondents, the Editorial Board and the support of our advertisers.

Thank you all for your help — may the "Bridge" continue to prosper.

COMPETITION

Keeping a weather eye on Caversham?

All photos: N. Wright



Identify these weather vanes. £15 worth of book tokens will be awarded to three winners. (The decision of the board will be final.)

Completed entries must be on this form, to be sent or delivered to "Weather Vanes", Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham, or to "Weather Vanes", Caversham Bookshop, 18 Prospect Street, Caversham by September 30.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

News from the Heights Something to be festive about!

MEN — and women — according to Shakespeare, experience seven ages, but the lucky youngsters who grow up in Caversham Heights Methodist Church pass through no less than six ages before their twenty-first birthdays! At the Junior Church Festival on July 7 a packed congregation saw them dramatically demonstrated.

The service opened with the baptism of Susan Alice McCauley and Lucy Gabrielle Capek, who were processed around the church in the arms of the Reverend Ralph Rogerson and Mrs Patricia Postles to the particular delight of the toddlers, who enthusiastically welcomed new recruits to their generation. Patricia Postles is the Cradle Roll Secretary, and she next commissioned a team of very young ladies to present posies to the parents of all Cradle Roll babies who were present.

But the Cradle Roll and creche age is a brief one: before long the young things are in the Primary Department, telling their news of the week to Brenda Coates and singing "We are the church" with evident conviction. Then at the age of eight, they progress to the Junior Department where, as Chris White showed in a "Bible Chase", they gain familiarity with the book which gives,

as William Cowper put it, "a light to every age". They also learn to take part in the outreach of the church through the Junior Missionary Society which, according to its secretary Olive Morgan, has already raised over £300 this year.

The fifth age lasts from eleven to fourteen, and then there is emphasis on self-awareness and self-expression. Jackie Chase set each of her Seniors the task of completing in their own way the sentence "Do I have to . . .", and used their disclosures of reluctance to get them thinking about problems of personal responsibility.

After Junior Church there is life in the "Squash" declared its joint leader, Chris Garforth. And indeed there is, to judge by all the activity, from Third World Projects to all night hikes, related by Sally Pearce, and the vigour with which the Squash members and their guests from Bristol's Yatton church led the congregation in "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God".

The Junior Church Festival gave members of the Heights Church an exhilarating picture of young people seeking the Kingdom of God, and they left the service with ample reason for feeling festive.

E.M.A.

ST JOHN'S NOTES

ST JOHN'S have been contributing to the Voluntary Service Overseas organisation for several years. Recently they held a reception to introduce their new Director, Neil MacIntosh, and Nancy Wheeler went as St John's representative. Here is her report:

"Neil spoke of the huge demand that is voiced in the underdeveloped countries for volunteers. In his tour of East Africa, at his first meeting with local people he was asked to send forty-three!

Nowadays, rather than young people, it is people with experience in their professions who are needed — like our present volunteer, Keith Varnham. They can help people with their immediate problems, while guiding them to eventual independence from outside help. Volunteers are often under great

pressure, and a great deal is asked from them. Other countries send out salaried workers — but our people have to exist on a small allowance for absolutely basic necessities.

All ages volunteer. In Bangladesh a girl in her twenties found she had to organise a hospital for mentally ill children. She made it into a fully workable organisation. A sixty-seven-year-old volunteer in Bangkok is working in a difficult situation in a trying climate.

Inevitably costs rise. Now the cost of sponsoring a volunteer has risen very steeply from £350 to £500 a year. Will St John's be able to continue their support? Can it share the cost with another church? Must this stop them supporting those who take Christ's love and care to those in need, now "Christ has no hands but ours?"

OUT OF the great personal tragedy which is Uganda today comes the sound of enduring hope and the voices of thirty-two tiny ambassadors. Each of the children is no stranger to fear or sorrow, having witnessed from birth widespread violence delivered in countless death blows upon the population of a land once called the pearl of Africa. From this war-torn and famine stricken East African nation "Ambassadors of Aid" and "Salt and Light International" are bringing a Choir of Children ranging in age from 6-13 years to sing at Caversham Baptist Free Church on Thursday, September 19 at 7.30pm to focus compassionate attention on their homeland. These children have appeared on Television and have been heard on Radio 4 — now "Caversham Bridge" readers and others in Reading and District are to have the opportunity of not only hearing them but of seeing them in the flesh. There is no charge for admission but a retiring collection will be taken at the close of their performance — make this a firm date, it will be a treat in store.

A short distance from Uganda's capital city, Kampala, is the town of Luwero, the scene of much bloodshed and the one time home of destitute and orphan children. At Luwero the "Ambassadors of Aid" are seeking to establish an orphanage for these children and to set-up family-type "Parenting Centres" in the district. If you are unable to come to the performance and wish to give support to this project then contributions, clearly marked "Ambassadors of Aid" may be sent to:

The Secretary
Caversham Christian
News Ltd
c/o 64, Highmoor Road
Caversham, Reading
RG4 7BG

not later than Tuesday preceding the performance.

**O for a thousand
tongues**

It may not be quite what Charles Wesley had in mind when he

Baptist News THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

This event is held biennially under the auspices of the London Emmanuel Choir. The organisation behind the staging of such a performance is "mind-boggling". A special song-book has been produced and rehearsals are being held from Glasgow to Guernsey, from Helston to Hull and at many stations between with a final get-together in London.

THE "CEE-AITCH-ESS"!

IT IS EASIER to define the Caversham Heights Society, now more than ten years old and a well-established feature of the neighbourhood, by what it does than what it is. It meets every fortnight during the winter months for a programme of lectures, offers each year four or five visits to local stately homes, gardens, theatres, museums or art galleries, and arranges an annual three-day mini-holiday to enable members to explore more distant places of interest.

It came into being when Martyn Allies, a member of Caversham Heights Methodist Church, pointed out that attendances at the church's Wesley Guild were too small to justify guest speakers, and suggested that it should be replaced by a new evening meeting which, as a form of service to the neighbourhood, would be open to any Caversham resident. Today the Society is strongly ecumenical, St Andrew's, St Peter's, the Baptist and Catholic churches being represented in its membership.



A cardinal principle of the Wesley Guild was that it should offer a balanced programme of social, religious, educational and general interest topics, and the Society's committee has endeavoured to preserve this pattern and provide a varied programme covering the arts, music, religion, science, travel, social problems and the world of nature. Amongst the speakers over the years have been Martin Lisemore, producer of The Pallisers; Rabbi Rosen, Headmaster of Carmel College; Alan Richards, Governor of Reading Prison; Sir Ieuan Maddock, Chief Scientist of the Department of Trade and Industry, and Squadron Leader Richard Duckett, leader of the Red Arrows.

The first mini-holiday took place in 1978, when a party stayed at the Methodist Guest House in Derbyshire. Since then the "minis" have enabled members to take a closer look at places of interest in Shropshire, South Wales, Suffolk, Kent and Sussex, Lincolnshire and Devon. In July of this year a party of fifty members of the Society spent three days at Worcester, and in addition to the porcelain works visited Elgar's birthplace, the cider museum in Hereford and Hagley Hall, the magnificent home of Viscount Cobham.

The Society meets in the hall of the Heights Methodist Church and such is its popularity that the hall is invariably full and there is, in consequence a long waiting list for membership.

E.M.A.

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BIRTHDAYS are tricky sorts of anniversaries. To children they are red letter days, longed for as a time to be king for a day, showered with presents and good wishes as though to be a year older was an achievement to be marked by congratulations and public rejoicing. And the eighteenth birthday brings the doubtful benefit of being allowed to buy a drink in the local, get married or fight for one's country if so required, then at twenty-one you "come of age" and are expected to put away childish things and don the garb of maturity. After that it's all downhill. Sophie Tucker used to assure us that "life begins at forty" but in these days when ageism has joined racism and sexism as one of the conditions to be avoided at all costs the man who looks forward to his sixtieth birthday is regarded as a tully paid up member of the old fogies' club. I exclude women from these somewhat jaundiced reflections as it is well known that they proceed gracefully from the state of teenage raver to that of silver haired matriarch with scarcely the flicker of a false eyelid.

But enough about the

problem of the passing years, let me dettly remove my tongue from my cheek and admit that such morbid musings have little to do with an occasion well worth celebrating. This month's issue of the "Caversham Bridge" is not only the two hundred and fiftieth number, it marks the twenty-first birthday of a periodical that has grown from a four page insert in the "National Christian News" to a twelve page parish newspaper in its own right.



"The Bridge" was a child of the swinging sixties and in its first anniversary issue in 1965 the Rev John Grimwade — founder and editor for eighteen years — wrote "a few pessimists thought this newspaper would never survive. Not only have we survived but we start our second year knowing that the 'Caversham Bridge' is read with interest by all

who have any concern for our common life in Caversham. The 'Bridge' has come to stay". He was twenty times right and the paper's place as the "Voice of Caversham" and one of the most professionally produced church newspapers in the country is due in equal parts to John's guiding hand, the skill of the assistant editors and the dedication of contributors and distributors drawn from all the churches of the parish as is proper for a very ecumenical paper.

It is fascinating to look back at that first anniversary issue and see what sort of things we were getting excited about in Caversham in 1965, and we find that some things haven't changed very much. One of the lead stories was about the iniquities of the builders of a new estate at the end of Hemdean Road who had fenced off the woods above the houses and deprived children and walkers of a valued local amenity. Perhaps because of our efforts



On the front of the October issue in 1965 was an article deploring the state of British football and saying that the game would die if changes were not made. But it was not misconduct by highly paid play-

A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

by Zoilus

that access has been restored but Bugs Bottom (as that area has always been known) is still very much in the news with united opposition to a proposal to build hundreds of houses in the valley. And we are still tulinating about traffic in the village. Twenty years ago an article by the late Joe Bristow set out the case for two new bridges over the Thames to solve the problem. This year we have had a public consultation about the siting of one bridge and told it may be built within the next ten years. The mills of God are not the only things that grind exceedingly slow.

ers or murderous behaviour by thugs in the crowd that were blamed. It was the "amateur" attitude of club directors that raised the ire of the sports writer who seemed to be advocating a much harder professional "win at all costs" attitude. Oh dear — was this a fore-runner of the pressure campaign that has led us to today's pretty pass, where the demise of league football is becoming an actual possibility. Incidentally, the attendance at Reading's first match of the 1965 season was over eleven thousand!

In the sixties we were told we had never had it so good, and without being too nostalgic, it's easy to look back and see some truth in that claim. Locally, there were only three hundred and eighty two registered unemployed and seventeen hundred and sixty-six vacancies to be filled — the employment problem was labour shortage with three jobs to every man. Wages

were lower of course, and so were prices. Most folk could afford the ordinary luxuries of life because you could buy a suit for £13, go to a dance at the Rank for 4/6d old money, get a return ticket to Paddington for 10/-, or even buy a terrace house in Caversham for £3,000 and a grand four bedroom house in the best part of Emmer Green or Caversham Heights for £9,000. Cigarettes were still socially acceptable and you could get twenty for fifty pence, and you could buy a new Mini (just out) for £550.



On your black and white television set you could watch the new favourite "Dr Findlay's Casebook" or the pop novelty "Ready Steady Go" if you were getting a bit fed up with the old standby of "Coronation Street" or "Come Dancing". Or it wouldn't break the bank to go

across to the Glendale and see John Mills in the "Colditz Story".

In 1965 the Reading Show attained its Silver Jubilee, the August Bank Holiday was changed from the beginning to the end of the month and the anniversary edition of the "Bridge" was able to welcome the arrival of a friendly big brother with the first issue of the "Evening Post", later to become our printers and an important part of Reading life. The Anniversary Issue also, though I shouldn't say so really, marked the first offering from a certain George Robinson who was later to earn some notoriety as a regular contributor under the alias of Zoilus. And having blown my cover after twenty years, it's time to surface back in 1985.

Yes, in 1985 you have got to be a survivor and that is what "Caversham Bridge" has been, from year one on. But also it has been an innovator, kept up with the times, supported most of the right causes and above all, been a standard bearer for Christianity in at least four thousand Caversham homes where it can truly be said to be the Voice of Caversham. G.R.

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CARRY ON LEARNING — ADULT EDUCATION IN CAVERSHAM

IN 1973 an article appeared in "Caversham Bridge" entitled "The End of an Era". It was written by Mr Charles Welfare, the Head of Caversham Adult Centre at that time.

In 1966 Reading Borough Council had approved plans in principle for the long-term development of the centre of Caversham. Between 1966 and 1973 some changes did take place and new plans in 1973 included a new Health Centre, a new library and a new Adult Education centre on the site of the former Parish School and adjacent land in School Lane. Needless to say, nothing came of these plans partly due to local government reorganisation in 1974.

At the time of writing, Mr Welfare had every reason to believe that St Peter's Parish School, which had been built in 1863, was about to be demolished. Little did he know that in 1985, more than one thousand adults would still be attending day and evening classes in the Caversham area, many of them in the same old Parish School building.

Sadly, for Charlie Welfare, 1973 did mark the end of an era; he died quite suddenly not long after writing the article.

The present Adult Centre belongs to Reading Adult College — part of Berkshire County Council's Further Education Service. The college, which has day and evening centres throughout the town, offers more than seven hundred courses, clubs and activities covering one hundred and eighty subjects and topics. It has about thirteen thousand members.

With the new Waitrose and Archway developments, the Adult Centre seems to have "moved" right into the middle of Caversham. Those who use the Waitrose car park cannot fail to notice the old school building with its new extension on the other side of Archway Road. Thanks to the co-operation of Berkshire County Council and the new John Lewis Partnership, the centre now has a splendid new entrance hall and classroom which enhance greatly the facilities in the old school.

In 1981 a second centre, the Arthur Legge Community Arts Centre, was established in the former Schools Meals Canteen on the corner of Wolsey and Gosbrook Roads. Here "community atmosphere" of Mr Welfare's day has been maintained; various organisations meet regularly in this building such as the Caversham Community Association, the Luncheon Clubs for the Elderly and the Reading Guild of Artists.

Mr Welfare traced the history of Adult Education in Caversham back to 1961 when the WEA (Workers Educational Association) decided to try one class in English Literature at the Library. By 1972 several hundred students were enrolled on courses throughout Caversham and Emmer Green, many of them in evening classes in local schools. This development has continued in the 1980's and there are still day and evening courses at Collier Centre (E. P. Collier School) and evening classes at Highdown, Emmer Green Primary and Primary schools.

Many local people are familiar with the activi-

ties in our centres. There is a wide choice of courses and clubs from art to pottery, languages to photography — to name just a few. There are also some family activities on Saturdays and in school holidays.

Some of my colleagues and I worked with Charlie Welfare at Caversham Centre. The organisation has grown enormously in size and scope since those days but the atmosphere is still the same — people are friendly, appreciative and keen to learn — the community spirit is as apparent today as it was twenty years ago.

★ ★ ★

The Caversham and Arthur Legge Centres are holding an OPEN DAY on Wednesday, September 4, 1.30-4.00 and 6.00-8.00pm. A warm invitation is extended to everyone to come and look round. These centres will also be open on Thursday, September 5 and Friday, September 6, from 10.00-4.00pm. If these dates are not convenient, please call in at any time for information.

Mrs M. Fantham
Head of Caversham Centre and North Area
Organiser for Reading Adult College.

WANTED — AND GOT — A SEWING MACHINE

A FEW weeks ago the young people from St Margaret's wrote to Gillian Rose the nursing sister in Bangladesh, whom the church supports, and asked her if there was anything special that she needed for her hospital and clinic

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Photo — E. S. Archer

On August 1 John and Daisy Shipway of 2 North Street, Caversham celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

They were married on August 1, 1925 at Caversham Methodist Church in Gosbrook Road, by the late Reverend Jones. They had first met each other walking in Caversham Road one morning when Daisy was on her way to work at Huntley and Palmers, where she remained during the three years of their engagement, earning £1 a week plus a one pound box of biscuits!

John was born in Cambridge Street, Reading, and served in the Navy during World War 1 in the

boys' service. During this time his parents moved to 2 North Street where John came to live with them when he was invalided out. Later on, it became John and Daisy's home for the sixty years of their marriage.

John was unemployed at the time he first met Daisy, but later worked for a number of employers, finally retiring at the age of sixty-six after thirteen years at the Battery Department of British Rail in Caversham Road.

They have no children, but now in their early eighties they remain a happy and devoted couple. We send them our best wishes and congratulations.

near Khulna. She replied saying she would love a sewing machine. So with this in mind the junior members of the church at Mapledurham decided to hold a Fun Afternoon on Saturday, July 6 in the hopes of raising one hundred pounds to purchase the requested equipment. Their hopes were realised, for when all the expenses were deducted they were left with exactly one hundred and five pounds, sixty-five pence! It is great credit to them and their parents too, for they entered into the spirit of the occasion with as much enthusiasm as their off-spring and gave the young a great deal of encouragement. Side-shows, a cake stall, bric-a-brac, a raffle, a pet show, strawberry and cream teas and other fun made the lovely July afternoon a great success and Gillian got her sewing machine. Well done young people from St Margaret's, the church is very grateful to you for your part in the Church life — Keep it up.

Advance date for your diary: Jumble Sale for Gillian Rose

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Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THE ladies of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild were given much food for thought at their July meeting, when Mrs Penny Huntley came to talk about the work of the NSPCC. She showed a film and then hosted a question and answer session, and members were very reassured by the obvious caring and positive results of this Organisation. There will be no meeting in August, the next meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 10 at 7.15pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, when someone from the Reading Library services will speak. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

Chazey WI

AT THEIR July meeting the members of Chazey WI heard an interesting account of the AGM at the Albert Hall by Mrs Mary Lewis. After the business of the meeting the guest speaker, Mrs Marion Body, was welcomed to speak on "A Woman's Place". Mrs Body, a very busy person, breeds longhorn cattle, has a pack of bloodhounds and is very interested in and concerned about, the Third World. Not an extreme feminist, she has a firm conviction that the home and family are something very special and a refuge from life's pressures. Whether a woman follows a career at the same time as bringing up her family, or when the family is grown up, is very much an individual decision. Mrs Body then looked back over the years to discover some of the women who had left their mark.

Was Lydia, the seller of purple from the Acts of the Apostles a forerunner to Laura Ashley?

Elizabeth I was a remarkable woman, and along with her are remembered the two Marys, Lady Jane Grey, Queen Anne, Bess of Hardwick and Victoria. Great novelists include Mary Wollstonecraft, writer of Frankenstein and second wife of Shelley, Jane Austen who had to write in secret, George Elliott who used a pseudonym as did the Bronte sisters and the mother of Anthony Trollope also write novels.

Among the great reformers are Elizabeth Fry, the prison reformer, Florence Nightingale, a selfless national heroine who reorganised the whole of the nursing service, Josephine Butler who campaigned for women to have the vote and for them to be educated and to keep the money they earned, and also helped prostitutes in Liverpool, and Mrs Bancroft cleaned up the theatres.

One has to admire the courage of the suffragettes who paved the way for people like Nancy Astor who set the seal for women MPs, Joan Davidson, Joan Vickers, Pat Hornsby Smith, Bessie Braddock, Barbara Castle, Edith Somerskill and Margaret Thatcher, whose own story is quite amazing.

A vote of thanks was given by Mrs Ann Hunt.

Caversham WI

AT THE July meeting of the Institute, David John from Woodley, a sculptor by profession, talked on the various aspects of Peace Education. Speaking of his recent visit to the Soviet Union as a member of Pax Christi, he described how the group attended various churches and synagogues and spoke of the very warm welcome they received. People, he said, were in pursuit of peace throughout the world and many were suffering in its cause.

Realising that Peace meant so many different things to different people he organised a reading by members of various poems which had been sent in on the subject. Instead of judging them as a competition, David asked that the poems should be compiled in some form and that a copy should be sent to him. It was agreed that this should be done.

Caversham Darby & Joan Club

MR KENT'S talk about The Save the Children Fund on July 3 was very interesting and informative. A collection was taken and a number of items sold in aid of the fund.

The club's outing to Southsea on July 10 was a great success. Fortunately it was a sunny and reasonably warm day and after coffee at Fernham Hall, Fareham we arrived at South Parade Pier and dispersed in various directions. Some to the beautiful gardens on the pier, others to the marvellous D Day and Mary Rose Exhibitions. An excellent high tea was served at the Pier

Restaurant and a stop for light refreshment at Hook completed a very good day out for the 43 Club members.

The Summer Term closed with a party on July 24th where a record 50 members enjoyed a buffet tea and danced and sang to the superb piano playing of our old friend Mrs Burden.

The Autumn Session begins Wednesday September 4 and will include a talk on Old Reading, Bingo (first Wednesday of each month) June and her girls (dancing team) and a visit to the Theatre.

Birthday lunch for National Council of Women in the House of Lords

MRS JOAN Belcher, National Vice-President, represented the Kennet Branch of the National Council of Women at a luncheon party held on Wednesday July 24 in the House of Lords to celebrate NCW's nintieth birthday.

President, Mrs Mary Mayne, introduced the speaker, Baroness Robson, a Liberal Life Peeress, who gave a talk on the role of women in society and praised NCW's work striving as it does not only to assert women's rights, but to enable women to play a full part in improving the quality of life for all.

The National Council of Women is a voluntary organisation of responsible women who believe that well-informed pressure is the best way of bringing about reform. It is non-party-political, non-denominational and a financially self-supporting body concerned with all areas of public affairs and well-known in Government circles.

NCW works through its branches, special committees and over eighty affiliated societies. The Kennet branch meets in members' homes, mainly in Caversham, on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm. Please contact Mrs M. Dimmick, 8 Harlech Avenue, Caversham Park, for further details.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE speaker at the July meeting was from our near neighbour "Waitrose". He said how pleased he was to be able to tell us a little about our local shop. It was a member of the John Lewis Partnership, a trading organisation with profits shared by the employees. The three precepts they worked by were value, assortment, and service. They opened their first supermarket in 1955, and the main centre is Bracknell, Berks.

Several questions were asked about loss of trolleys, price checks,

etc. He was warmly thanked for a most interesting afternoon. A coffee morning in aid of "Operation Dhaka" was held in Mrs Shipcott's house. This fund is gradually mounting. The next Guild meeting will be in September.

A pleasant evening was spent the following week when the members went by coach to Abingdon where a stop was made, for a meal and drink, before the journey home.

The Beetle drive on July 22 was won by Olive Howard. Anne Bunce was in charge of a book stall, the books donated by members and sold to help with the club funds.

At the Gypsy evening the next week the members were asked to wear traditional gypsy attire. A prize was given to Hildegard Watts for the best costume; Evelyn Wallis received second prize. A musical entertainment was given by the club's drama group in a lighthearted mood with songs and sketches. The show ended with an amusing skit on a wedding day reunion. Thanks were expressed to May Plant, the producer, the cast and Nancy Nelhams — the accompanist at the piano.

An outing was made during the month to see Michael Parkinson's "All Star Secrets" show at the ATV Studios.

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ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Ladies Club

AT THE July meeting the speaker was Mr Spurgeon of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It started in 1889 and received the Royal Charter in 1904. It now has a million members. They have 90 reserves for particular species of birds, and Minsmere on the Suffolk coast was created for the Avocet.

He also showed some beautiful slides. So enthusiastic and interesting was he that he was able to enrol several members into the RSPB. The next meeting will be in September and is the Harvest Home.

Maplewood WI

A DAY'S outing to the Wakes Museum at Selborne was preceded at the July meeting by an illustrated talk given by the Curator, Dr June Chatfield. The Wakes Museum was endowed as a perpetual memorial to Gilbert White the eighteenth century clergyman-naturalist and author of "The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne", who lived most of his life in the house. Inspired by Dr Chatfield's descriptions and slides, a party of members joined with Rosehill WI, to visit this very interesting old house which also

accommodates the "Oates Memorial Library and Museum". Unfortunately it was too wet for a walk to Selborne Common and the Hanger Woods to be enjoyed so the party rounded off the day with a visit to Jane Austen's house at Chawton near Alton.

Two Coffee mornings have been held recently, one in support of the "Women in the Community" project to help women in the Maldives, and one for Institute funds.

The flowers of the month competition was won by Mrs D. St Alphonse and Mrs M. Idenden came first in the competition Painting or drawing of a flower.

The Leisure Time Club (for 60+)

ON JUNE 10 Mrs Nash brought her choir to entertain, on June 17 the Club had Mr Terry and Freda to sing, in July they had an enjoyable afternoon of slides of Switzerland. Before closing for the Summer on July 22 thirty-five members went by coach for a day at Swanage. A lovely day was had by all.

The Club opens for the autumn on Monday September 9. Meetings are held in St Barnabas Church Hall at 2pm every Monday (except

the first Monday in the month). The programme includes concert parties, slides, talks, Bingo, etc. If you would like to come or would like to know more about the Club please ring Sylvia on Reading 475260. The organisers are always looking for people to entertain, give talks, show slides (there is a projector) or demonstrate. Also if you have any spare time on a Monday afternoon your help would be welcomed if only to make tea or help with transport.

St Peter's Wives Group

THE two events planned for the Wives' Group for July were both well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned.

At the beginning of July the Group revived the Summer walk and members and families made a round trip along the Kennel, returning by the River, crossing at the Lock.

The Group would like to express its thanks to Mr Leslie Cropp, who spent a July evening with the members in St Peter's Church, outlining the history of the Church. He shared his obvious love of the Church with the Group and pointed out many interesting features.

On October 8 members will be making an evening visit to the Mayor's Parlour and on October 12 will be holding an Autumn Fayre in Church House.

Any reader wishing to know further details of the Group and its activities should ring Jean Pugh, the Group's Chairman, on Reading 472949.

Caversham Heights TG

Meaty Topics

THE leisure afternoons for both July and August were held at Mrs Davidge's.

It was unfortunate if the meeting at St Andrew's Hall in July of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was missed, as members there were lucky enough to hear the last of the 90 talks that Mr Jennings has given in this area. He described how he and his family have maintained their standard of personal service in their

butcher's shops. In a cheerful way he distilled much of his knowledge about cuts of meat and ways of cooking them, saying also what to ask the butcher to do.

At Social Studies at the end of July in Highmoor Hall two representatives from the Trustee Savings Bank, the manager Mr Rhodes and Mr Moss Holland the business development manager for the whole area, came along to throw light on its origins and its methods of working.

Mr Rhodes described how charge cards, launched in 1978, are a convenient method of paying without money immediately. Many branches with local trustees flourished in Scotland in the last century and Reading Trustee Savings Bank started in the 1820's. Amalgamations continued and there are now 4 regions, one board will be disbanded next year. There are subsidiary services such as

home insurance and safe custody of anything in a deed box or sealed envelope. Mr Moss Holland talked about loans, the Premium Deposit Account, and ways of investing so that capital can grow. The Bank will become a public limited company and issue shares next February.

Rosehill WI

MISS Vincent welcomed members to the July meeting. The speaker was Mrs Sheila Manners from Oxfam. Her talk was very interesting — with a quiz of nine questions, which she then commented on, giving a general history of Oxfam and its work. Their motto is "Go anywhere, any time, wherever help is needed."

The competition "Thought for the Day" was won by Mrs Burt. Articles were brought by members for sale in the Oxfam shop.

THE LINK GROUP

THE Link Group held a social evening on July 8 at the home of Mr and Mrs Bennett, when members met their new Chairman Mrs Pat Jenkins and new Secretary, Mrs Margaret Dart, and welcomed friends of the Group.

During July members have continued to help in the office at the Care Centre and also in the "Pop-in" Centre. The fort-

nightly tea parties for the elderly and house-bound will be resumed from September 5 after a short break in August.

Members of the group plan to take a party of mentally handicapped children on an outing on September 21, probably to the Child Beale Wildlife Trust. A notice about this will be circulated later.

Can the developing world feed itself?

A SHORT evening course is being run by the Sonning Common branch of the WEA in response to the village's "Hungry for Change" Oxfam campaign. The distinguished journalist John Madeley has agreed to lead the course which will examine the food problems of the Third World. He will ask why, in a world where food supplies are plentiful and we could feed everyone, have we been faced with the realities of famine in Africa. Could the continent experience a "Green Revolution"? What should be the role of the peasant farmer? Details: "Can the developing world feed itself?" Lecturer, John Madeley. Wednesday,

October 3, 7.30 to 9.30pm for four weeks at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common. Fee £6 (OAP £5). For further information, please ring Mrs Anne Phillips, Tel: 722330 after 6pm.

Antiques appreciation

THOSE who are interested in antiques may like to join the Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society, formed some fifteen years ago. They meet usually on the first Wednesday of the month, from October to May (excluding January), from 7.30 to 9.30pm to listen to a first class lecture, often illustrated, on different subjects appertaining to antiques. For example,

local Stately Homes, Stained Glass, Spanish Painting and Jewellery are some of the subjects to be covered this coming season.

Membership is £5 per annum and if you would like further details please write to the Membership Secretary, C.E.A.A.S., c/o Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, near Reading, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

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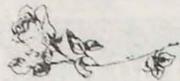
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11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
11.00am Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only)
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

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Note from Editors

Because of the splendid amount of material received for this edition, we have had to defer some of the normal as well as the special articles for future publication. We are most grateful to all who have contributed.

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QUAKER SIGNPOSTS
— Reflections on the Advices and Queries

Reading Elders have arranged a series of four talks on the theme: "Quaker Signposts — Reflections on the Advices and Queries." There will be held at Reading Meeting House (2 Church Street, off London Street) on successive Tuesdays (19.45-21.45) in September and October 1985. The last part of each meeting will be spent informally over tea and biscuits. There will be a registration fee of £1 for the series of four meetings to meet speakers' expenses.

Sept 17 — OUR CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION. Alastair Heron.
Sept 24 — WORSHIP. Barbara Bowman.
Oct 1 — FAMILY LIFE. Pleasaunce and John Holton.
Oct 8 — QUAKERS IN THE COMMUNITY. Eric Turner.

Registration forms from Duncan Brodie, 3 Cedar Wood Crescent, Caversham, Reading RG4 8NW.

Congratulations — Ruby Wedding

HEARTY congratulations to Daphne and Bill Vincent on their first 40 years of marriage! Daphne has been indefatigable in typing all the Bridge copy, as well as her other duties as parish secretary. Her husband Bill has been churchwarden for many years until 1985.

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18 — 1 Kelso Mews (Diana Etherington)
25 — 6 Jordan Close (Liz Beckett)

They are both members of St Andrew's, which is producing a special crop of Diamond weddings — see the next issue! However, to the Vincents — all the very best!

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