

EIGHTY PLUS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAVERSHAM LIBRARY

The idea of building a Free Public Library in Caversham was first floated in the early years of this century, perhaps influenced by the fine new library across the river in Reading, which, being residents of Oxfordshire, Caversham people were unable to use. A Voluntary Committee was set up to promote the scheme and they started collecting the signatures of interested parties.

In November 1904 a deputation of this Committee presented a memorial, signed by 550 local electors, to a meeting of the Urban District Council, which rejected the proposal. The matter was again brought before the Council in August 1905 when it was more favourably received, and Caversham Urban District Council adopted the Library Acts in October 1905.

Rates Burden

Then, as now, public libraries were financed from the rates, but expenditure on libraries was limited to the product of a Penny Rate (ie one penny per pound of the rate already levied) and this extra rate would be charged as soon as the Library Acts were adopted by a Council. With this severe financial limitation, Councils had to make sure that the penny rate would produce a realistic sum to run a library service before adopting the Acts, and also take account of public opinion, as some rate-payers objected to paying the extra rate for a non-essential service. There would also be no money for capital projects like buildings.

The Caversham Voluntary Committee therefore had to work hard collecting not only the signatures of people who wished to have a library in Caversham, but also donations to help finance the scheme. Mr Andrew Carnegie, who did much to promote Public Libraries in Britain, agreed to give £2,500 for the erection of the building including furniture and fittings, and Mr William Bullivant Williams J P, Chairman of the Voluntary Committee, donated the site at a cost of £500. He also gave a subscription of £500, the clock above the main entrance and 1,000 volumes of general literature to the completed library. In all, nearly £300 was collected, and further amounts were promised for buying books. A competition for the design of the library was won by Mr W G Lewton, Architect, and R Bell and Sons of Caversham did the building. Work started in January 1907 and the Principal Stone was laid by Mr W B

Williams on 23 March 1907.

Grand Opening

The Library was formally opened on Wednesday 11 December 1907 by the Right Hon. Viscount Valentia, CB, MP for Oxford City and Chairman of the Oxford-

Library is of a commodious and pleasing character internally, and includes Magazine Rooms with tables for 28 readers, News Room with accommodation for 24 readers at tables and 20 at newspaper stands, Reference

World War, parts of the building were used as Classrooms by teachers and children evacuated from London. A registration centre in connection with Civil Defence Duties, the headquarters of "A" Group of the Civil

1958 and 1959, has stood the test of time remarkably well. Inside it is quite a different story as changing public demand has dictated many alterations in function and layout.

Children's needs

When the Library

was first reported to the Public Libraries Committee in January 1946. The original Reading Room was entirely refitted with shelves, furniture and a counter suitable for children's use, the stock was thoroughly overhauled and great-

talk given by a well known children's author; both Grace James in October 1949 and Kathleen Fidler in October 1950 attracted over 100 children. There were also Children's Book Weeks held annually at Caversham, West Branch and Reading Central Libraries in rotation when there were displays of new books, talks and demonstrations. Parties of school children visited during the day and events were also held during the evenings and were much enjoyed by the large audiences.

Alterations to suit.

The many alterations in layout which have taken place over the years have all been responses to changing public use. When the library was first opened the emphasis was on newspaper and magazine Reading Rooms with a small Lending Library, and use only warranted part-time opening. Full time opening hours were introduced in 1930, and an increased demand for lending service began to develop after the Second World War. The creation of the Junior Library in 1948 relieved congestion in the Adult Library for a while, but, by 1950, it was obvious that something more must be done. The large old-fashioned counter enclosure with entrance and exit gates was demolished and replaced by a smaller counter running along the wall between the Adult and Junior Libraries, so giving more space for Lending Library shelves.

But the demand for borrowing facilities continued to grow, so even more drastic solutions were tried. In 1963 the wall bet-



Grace James' visit in 1949. Are you there?

—Berks County Council

shire County Council, to much public acclaim, and a large crowd attended the ceremony. As reported in the Berkshire Chronicle of December 14 1907: — "Caversham may certainly be congratulated on this, its first public building, for the Free Library is architecturally and in other ways a credit to the place. The style of the building is Free Renaissance, and the superstructure is of red brick with stone dressings. The embellishments are of an artistic nature, and the carving of the stone figure of Time is a notable feature of the exterior. The

Room for 10 readers with shelves for 1,700 volumes, Lending Library with accommodation for 8,000 volumes, and Book Store for 5,400 volumes. Altogether there is accommodation for 15,000 books. The 'Open Access' principle has been adopted."

First Multi-purpose building

As the only public building in Caversham for a number of years, the Library has been used for various other purposes during its long history. In 1932, and again in November 1935, the Library became a local Polling Station, and, during the Second

Defence Wardens' Service, and a distribution centre for Ration Books were other guises assumed by the Library during the War, and the old Magazine Room was set aside as a store room for use by the Ministry of Food — traditionally it was full of sugar!

The use of the Caversham Library as an outstation for the registration of Births and Deaths was discontinued in 1956.

Outside the building is still the "Free Renaissance" structure opened by Viscount Valentia, and, apart from renovations to the stone and brick work carried out in

was opened, there was no separate accommodation for Children, but this was rectified in part in 1912 when the little-used Magazine Room became a Children's Reading Room, and the age at which children could borrow books was extended from 14 years to 12! This was one of the many small changes which occurred when the Library came under the control of Reading Libraries Committee after the boundary changes of 1911.

The Children had to wait until 1948 for a library of their own although the need for a separate department

ly enlarged, and a specialist Librarian engaged. The Junior Library was formally opened by the Mayor of Reading on 24 June 1949, and a regular series of weekly meetings for children arranged for the winter months. These activities ranged from story hours for younger readers and play readings performed by the play reading group to illustrated talks on topics of general interest and book talks for older children, not forgetting the ever popular stories and carols around a sumptuously-dressed Christmas Tree. An occasional treat was a

TALKING POINT

By Richard Kingsbury

Rector of Caversham & Mapledurham



BORN AGAIN — SMILING!

(It's a serious business, being a Christian..)

My point (to spare you reading on) is that we confuse at our peril being *serious* with being *solemn*.

My first sermon as incumbent in 1975 urged rediscovery of life's divine hilarity. 'See yourself through God's eyes. Nurture the child in you!' A grave parishioner admonished me afterwards. 'Life is NOT fun, vicar; as you'll soon discover, it's a very serious business being a Christian.' I watched her stump sadly up the churchyard path in the sunset. Who could have guessed down that path years later would come hundreds of grieving people, their lives blown apart by the violently distorted childhood fantasies of a crazed young man, one sunny afternoon in Hungerford. My memory of Michael Ryan, who killed and wounded many of my friends, is of a lonely, solemn face without ever a hint of a smile. Solemnity at its worst is blasphemy. Ryan proves it.

Bishop John Brown (Cyprus and The Gulf), is, as I write, beaver for release of political hostages in the middle east. We knew John as our previous Archdeacon, a man with an infectious laugh, always likely to do something cleverly daft in public but 100% serious in his urgent faith. His successor, David Griffiths (Lincoln man again!) is also, thank God, a bit of a divine loony, as was his predecessor, Raymond Birt, who is remembered as an ex-Caversham curate with a zany delight in life.

In the 'Caversham Bridge' there's always an echo of divine laughter under its surface, but we do sometimes seem a wee bit over-solemn. Does this reflect Caversham life?

In my 21 years as a clergyman, I've lost a lot of friends. I don't mean those I've unwittingly offended. I mean friends, old and, sadly young, who have died. Usually at the moment of death the face relaxes. 'He looks just like he did as a child.' Gone are the frown-creases. Welcome is the letting go, even sometimes with a hint of a quiet smile of serenity.

Martin Luther is reputed to have said 'If you're not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't want to go there.' I hear divine tittering each morning when I clap the clerical collar round the Kingsbury neck and shuffle out to see what God's been up to in the world. Can I catch a snatch of that laughter in our church life? Not as often as I'd like to.

Bishop Simon Burrows, asked his views on the forthcoming Conference of Anglican bishops, commented 'The thought of seven hundred bishops gathered in one place makes me want to giggle.' As Lambeth Conference started, 'The Gospel of Folly' (NOT Folly, Bishop of Reading, though — if you're reading this, Graham — I hope you've enjoyed the book) was published by Revd Patrick Forbes (Angel Press £4.95; ORDER NOW FROM CAVERSHAM BOOKSHOP!). I trained at Lincoln Theological College with P. Forbes, a complete nutcase, whose clownlike lunacy indicated a man on whom God had set his seal for priesthood. Forbes, whom I still see in small doses, is one of the happiest clergymen I've known. And he has been through life's mill. David Salt (ex-Checkendon), Vicar of Hungerford, is deeply respected by thousands nationwide — and should have been honoured in Her Majesty's Birthday List — for his utterly serious, occasionally whimsical, and never pompously solemn translation of divine Love. Hungerford's exuberant 'Rock Mass', developed in 1987 by the town's children, shows you have to be a bit nutty to be able to dance through disaster.

Film portrayals often show Jesus as an earnest young man. The sort you'd meet each day on the 8.05 am to Paddington. Yet as I stand imaginatively on the Galilee Lake shore, what's that I hear from that boatful bobbing up and down out there? Can it be laughter, guffaws even? And can that be because Jesus is trying to teach his earnest disciples to trust God and to take life so seriously that, in the end, you come up smiling at the divine irony of it all? Solemnity is blasphemous, God-denying. Yes, even and especially when life gets beyond a joke and you just have to let go and let God!

A DAY AT THE RIVERMEAD CENTRE

Regarded by some as an eyesore — a red ugly bloc on the landscape beside the River Thames, the Rivermead, whether we like its exterior or not is justifying its existence, not only for the hordes of young people, mothers with toddlers, a sprinkling of brave Dads, foreign visitors on exchange trips but now, for the over-fifties.

Proof of this was on the 16th September when the centre was open to all who had passed the half century milestone, at a modest cost of 25p. The response was terrific. Dubiously at first, we added our names to the lists of sports in which we wanted to participate, as the day wore on warming to the experience of using lazy muscles, focussing eyes on a distant target, joining in a tea dance to good, well remembered tunes and for some, sweltering in a sauna.

Starting off with bowls, I was soon fascinated by the expert way in which the instructor guided inexperienced players such as myself in sending jack and bowl along string lines radiating outwards from the mat. Swinging from the shoulder and remaining in a follow through position came with practice and of course there were the experts astounding us all with their prowess. With "No it's not a ball to fling, it is a bowl to glide" still ringing in my ears I moved on to Short Tennis never having encountered this sport before. A spongy ball is hit with stumpy black rackets over a short net on a court about the size of a Badminton court. It soon hotted up and we found ourselves skimming the net and placing the ball in true (well nearly) Wimbledon fashion. On then to cool off in the swimming pool where aerobics were being taught by a young sylph like instructress. "Lift the left leg, up, swing it back, turn" etc etc. On then to the exercise room and on to a bicycle — one of those wretched things that stops dead if you don't keep up the pace. Well I mused to cycling, but this was in a cheating mood, stopping before my two minutes was up. Shirked the other forms of torture in favour of a trampolining bounce. Gorgeous feeling floating skyward letting arms and legs take care of themselves as one tries to land back on the central star — no gambols or splits thank you!

Then after a light lunch on to join the archery novices. Six of us lined up to be told how to hold a bow, focus on a round metal circle on to a target ahead,

notch in the arrow — two feathers on one side and one on the other — pullback the string at shoulder height and wham! the flying arrow sped towards the target's coloured circles and we were then taught the correct method of retrieving by placing one hand so, and the words, "We take care of our Bosses" having quite a different meaning!

Many took advantage of the Jacuzzi and the Keep Fit classes, Badminton and Table Tennis, but there just wasn't enough time for everything. All agreed that the special day for the over fifties — some much older — was just what was needed, giving us confidence to undertake sports under expert tuition that we had never undertaken before. The water sparkled, laughter abounded and there was no criticism of our shortcomings. Eagerly we completed the questionnaires asking for more such days; in the meantime there are Sunset Clubs on Mondays and Fridays at a modest cost of £1.10 for mornings and only £1.50 for all day, and at a special afternoon exercise classes on Tuesday and Thursday at 2.15pm all activities are available, a marvellous way of putting the clock back.

E.M.F.

CAVERSHAM DIARY

- Sat. Nov. 5th St John's November Bazaar 2pm Caversham Hall.
- Tues. Nov. 8th St John's Rededication Service 8pm.
- Thurs. 10th-Sat 12th Nov. Caversham Players. "Dear Brutus" St Andrews' Hall.
- Mon. Nov. 14th Open afternoon 2.15pm Trench Green Hall Bring and Buy and produce stall.
- Sat. Nov. 19th Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall 2pm. Bazaar in aid of Royal Berks Hospital.
- Sat. Nov. 19th Reading Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild Autumn Fair 2pm Caversham Hall.
- Sat. Nov. 26th St Barnabas' Christmas Fair. 2.30pm St Barnabas Hall. Proceeds to Overseas Mission.
- Sat. Nov. 26th St Anne's Christmas Bazaar St Anne's Hall, Washington Road, 2pm.
- Sat. Dec. 3rd Sue Ryder Christmas Fair at Joyce Grove, Nettlebed.
- Tues. Dec. 6th St Anne's Hall, Washington Road 1.30-3.00 All ladies from local Churches invited to afternoon tea.

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 December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday November 2.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by October 28.

The dates for January will be Wed 30 November and Friday 25 November.

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

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

Printed by Thames Valley Newspapers Ltd, Tessa Road, Reading.

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Some time ago, having occasion to change a hospital appointment by phone, I had a slight altercation with the receptionist who insisted I give her the name of my specialist. Now, for reasons it would take too long to explain, this wasn't a simple question as I pointed out; she then insisted that I look on my appointments card for the specialist's name. I told her there wasn't one; eventually however she made an appointment for me. A few days later I showed her my 'card', pointing out that there was no doctor's name on it. However she wasn't beaten and, after some thought, said triumphantly: "Well, all your appointments are on a Thursday and everyone knows Thursdays are Mr So-and-so's day". Well I didn't!

I was reminded of this recently when attending a meeting organised by the local Leisure Com-

mittee to discuss the future of the Westfield Road recreation field. It was pure luck we got there at all since the notice simply said it would be held "in Caversham Court". With only three of us foregathered in Caversham Court at the appointed time, we began to think the meeting had been cancelled and it was quite by chance that somebody who obviously knew the ropes turned up and headed for the building in the corner, which turned out to be the back entrance to what many of us still refer to as the Toc H. This time I suggested to the lady in charge that the notice was confusing, only to be told that it was obvious we couldn't have a meeting in Caversham Court as it would be getting dark in an hour or so. Well, it hadn't occurred to the three of us. Why do people treat us as if we were mind-readers?

Peace and quiet

By the same token I nearly missed a very interesting day recently when one notice simply said the event would take place at St Anne's Church; fortunately I did a double check before setting out. Long before I felt any need for a retreat in the spiritual sense, and being at that time both at home and at work surrounded by people, I longed sometimes to get away for a few hours and be, as somebody said, 'just myself'.

☐ ☐ ☐

This event, called simply 'Oasis', couldn't have been more aptly named. I for one was extremely grateful to the local 'prayer group' for organising such a day, a day when — except for meal breaks — we could do exactly as we liked. In the newly renovated parish rooms there was a room

where one could pray if one felt like it, another for reading or just simply being quiet and another room where small groups could get together for discussion. Members of the organising group made themselves available for any special needs but on the whole the emphasis was on being oneself. It was quiet and peaceful, but still very friendly and caring. I wonder why groups like this always seem able to express love in a way that is often missing from church congregations with all their rushing around giving each other 'the hand of peace'; and I'm afraid to say such 'caring' often disappears at the church door.

Anyway, I congratulate the organisers of this 'Oasis' and hope there will be more such events. I should add, lest anyone gets the wrong impression, that nobody asks what church

you belong to or, indeed, whether you belong to any. I should, of course, thank the organisers for all the work they put in; lunches like that, all laid out on separate trays in case one felt the need to 'retire' and eat in peace, don't just appear without a lot of effort.

☐ ☐ ☐

Flower Festivals

I was delighted to receive a phone call the other day from a lady who had seen my appeal for more information about future flower festivals. She is going to try and arrange for somebody to let us have details of such events scheduled to take place near enough for Caversham people to attend.

As an afterthought, could I appeal to readers who have cars to remember their less fortunate neighbours, particularly older people, who would give a lot to be invited to come along on such an outing. As a non-driver myself, I'm eternally grateful to my family for seeing I don't miss out on anything just because I can't

get there on public transport.

☐ ☐ ☐

Information please

She didn't live in Caversham, the lady who in her will provided cash for the lovely 'water feature' in Caversham Court. But she must have visited it often and enjoyed it very much. Recently I had a call from somebody asking if I could give any information about the lady — Doreen Niker I think the name was. Alas I couldn't help but if somebody can fill in the gaps I'd be very happy to pass on such information for Doreen deserves more than a passing reference in a Caversham paper.

☐ ☐ ☐

Everything you to know

I recently picked up a leaflet from my doctor's surgery — and for all I know other surgeries may produce the same thing. I hope so, for it gives you everything you need to know about the practice, beginning with times of appointments, what to do in an emergency and so

on, and containing useful information about preventive medicine and other services available, and matters such as immunisations and travel advice which the nursing sisters can deal with. It even includes a map of the locality.

Such information is, perhaps, more important for those who don't regularly visit their doctors and could save a lot of worry.

☐ ☐ ☐

Residents' Association

And talking of being prepared, I wonder more people don't join the local Residents' Association; they have a good membership but could do with more, not for the money (at 50p subscription per household, nobody gets rich) but because it strengthens the hands of the organisation. It's a wise investment and joining now might prevent a problem when you wake up to find 'they' are proposing something you object to near your house — you simply ring a committee member who will help you handle it.

ST ANDREW'S PLAYGROUP

St Andrew's Playgroup celebrated its twentieth anniversary recently. The celebrations took the form of an open playgroup meeting where parents and visitors could see the activities available for children and take part in anything that appealed to them.

The playgroup showed a wide range of things to do including painting,

glueing and playing in the Wendy House, then after a drink and a biscuit the children could go outside and play on the bikes or in the sand or the water.

Some of the visitors had links with the history of the playgroup from the lady who started having the meetings in her garden to one of the first group of children that met in

the church hall; this lady arrived with a baby of her own.

Each playgroup session has a qualified playgroup leader and two helpers and many of the helpers from the past twenty years came to share in the celebrations.

The highlight of the morning was the twentieth birthday cake complete with twenty candles, and after singing Happy Birthday to

the children blew out the candles with great gusto.

The morning was organised by the playgroup committee, made up of the playgroup leader, all the daily helpers and some of the mothers. The playgroup is situated in Albert Road and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.15am to noon.

From page 1

ween the Lending Library and the Reading Room was demolished and the whole area devoted to the Lending department, with the newspapers and magazines being transferred to the old Reference Room, though even this room had been invaded by lending Library shelves ten years later.

The wall between

the Adult and Junior Libraries was taken down in 1981, the counter removed to its present position, and the building rearranged much as it is today, though the final design was not completed until the whole library was fitted with metal shelving in 1986. We now have a spacious open-plan library with Adult Fiction and Cassettes displayed in the original Reading

Room. Adult non-fiction with newspapers, magazines and a small reference collection in the old Lending Library and Magazine Room, and an attractive Children's Library in the former Reference Room.

The original architectural design of the building, with load-bearing pillars joined by lighter screen walls, has

made all these structural alterations possible. The Caversham Free Public Library has proved to be flexible and responsive to public demand during the first eighty years of its history, and Mr W B Williams, its great local benefactor and all the members of the Voluntary Committee would be proud could they see the institution they created over 80 years ago.

S.J.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT By Watchdog

Bigger and better roads

Reading continues to change either rapidly, as when roads and bridges get ripped up and widened or more slowly, as housing either disappears or appears. Caversham and Vastern Roads, at present in upheaval and never the same from one week to the next, will soon be almost unrecognisable to those who knew them only a year or two ago. Eventually this very expensive road construction is meant to speed up the flow of traffic, so as we thread our way amongst ice cream cones and huge pieces of machinery we had better reserve judgement until the end result emerges.

It is not only the road themselves that are changing. Beside them we have a series of new developments. Office blocks on the south side of the Caversham Road railway bridge give way to such things as the bright primary colours of the Post Office sorting buildings, the large site awaiting development revealed by the demolition of buildings which had always seemed to be part of the permanent scene and along Vastern Road the somewhat off-putting multi-storey car park. On the Vastern Road-Caversham Road roundabout itself we are promised another restaurant which beckons us with future delights of being able to eat outside, where we can watch the traffic speeding past or piling up, depending on the success or otherwise of the new roads, while we savour the fume-filled air as we eat our lead-seasoned meal.

Disappearing Gardens

In Caversham itself, major change is also

likely to occur at any time with Bugs Bottom (now over a year with the developers held at bay) and Balmore and Springfield St Luke all in the melting pot. Meanwhile slower, more insidious changes, are occurring.

We have for a long time been aware of how parts of large gardens have been used to squeeze in extra houses. This practice has now extended to buying up good and serviceable large or largish houses, often quite new, demolishing them and then putting in their place either flats or a collection of one or two bedroom houses. Under existing planning regulations there is little that local planning committees can do, for this is a trend not confined to Caversham, but as the custom extends slowly, the whole character of an area can change.

Caversham is particularly susceptible to this, and already applications of this nature have been submitted. It could mean the end of the spaciousness that has been the characteristic image of many parts of Caversham for so long, and attracted many of its present residents to come and live here.

Ugly and unwanted

The foregoing is only one of several disturbing features of planning procedures. For one thing, planning committees can no longer take appearance into account as a reason for refusing consent. We could be in for many more Apex Plazas and such like monstrosities. Another cause for concern is the blurring of the distinction between light industry and offices. It would be possible to change a small workshop, perhaps tucked away behind someone's house, something that is rather commoner in West Reading than in Caversham but not unknown here, into offices without requiring planning permission for change of use. None of this is going to improve the appearance or convenience of our towns.

War in the Woods

It is not actually an army recruitment leaflet but a seductive blonde, wearing becoming protective goggles and carrying what appears to be a pistol, graces its front

cover, whilst inside, groups of armed commandos, clad in combat gear, move in on their target, who in this instance seems to be a black man. Sundry glamour pussies perform supportive duties on the periphery. A further perusal of the leaflet reveals that this somewhat distasteful exercise is taking place in Chazey Woods on the Mapledurham Estate.

Apart from the fact that this could be said to be glorifying war, or, rather nearer the mark, trivialising it with the suggestion that it is nothing but a game from which you return tired and a bit muddy, is this a suitable pursuit to engage in the tranquil surroundings of an Oxfordshire woodland? Will it attract types who have no regard for the countryside? Will their be noise, masses of car parks, drunken revelry and damage to the environment? The organisers say there are no grounds for fear on these counts. They say numbers will be limited to around thirty, that a charge of £20 per person will effectively keep out street-type robbers, that cars will be parked on private roads only, no noise ammunition will be used, alcohol and fireworks are not allowed, all damage must be made good and the action will be confined to a fenced off private part of the woods through which no public footpath runs. It could indeed have been much worse. A pheasant shoot, a traditional country sport, is both noisier and bloodier.

It is further claimed that it is used by large companies to foster team spirit and test qualities of leadership, and that it is not really a war game but something called a paint ball game. In point of fact, whenever the publicity leaflets are sent to, they usually end up on the social club noticeboard, and even if it is no more than an innocent paint ball game, all the pictures lay emphasis on its being a war game.

Country estates must pay their way and with the reduction in arable acreage that has been required and the directive to diversify, more and more activities of this nature are likely to make their appearances as estates try to make up for lost income. In fact there is an application currently with South Oxford-

shire District Council to permit a paint ball game in Great Bottom Wood between Highmoor and Peppard.

Perhaps it is nothing but an innocent game, something like cops and robbers or cowboys and indjuns. Yet somehow it is not the kind of thing one would want to come upon in the course of a walk in a peaceful Chiltern beechwood.

Disappearing Noticeboard

As soon as the community noticeboard at St Martin's Precinct disappeared back in the summer, notices were pinned to the trees again. It was assumed that the

Borough Council were just giving it an overhaul, but as time passed and it didn't reappear, inquiries revealed that it was not the Borough Council who was the guilty party, but St Martin's Property Corporation, a body familiar to regular readers of this column for its cavalier attitude to the local community. They claim they are going to refurbish the Precinct (of which there is no sign to date) and considered the noticeboard to look untidy. This takes some beating when one considers the state of the bed round their dead

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

QUEEN ELIZABETH ACTUALLY DID SLEEP HERE — 4 TIMES IN FACT! A Day's Outing to Loseley Park

A party of fifty of us left Caversham on a damp Saturday, September 24th by coach bound for Loseley Park in Surrey. Our first glimpse of this gracious old mansion well bedded down in its fourteen hundred acres of rolling parkland, was impressive, but we were soon whisked away by tractor trailer to inspect the farm area. Firstly we saw healthy piglets — some spotted, clustered round fat contented sows housed in clean, airy quarters, then on to see outdoor aviaries where frilly toed bantams, peacocks and little scurrying hens jostled each other for grain.

Completely unperturbed by so many spectators were doe-eyed calves, part of the famous Loseley Hersey herd founded in 1916 by the present owner's father and which today is one of the largest in the U.K.

Back within the vicinity of the House we were conducted along a grassy path with remains of an ancient moat on one side, saw a famous age-old mulberry tree and learned of the organic farming and vegetable growing. Picard's Farm in the grounds supplies stone ground flour obtainable in the Tithe Barn where we had lunch under aged timbers some of which were three hundred years old.

After lunch we were taken on a conducted tour of the House where, despite priceless treasures of historic interest, a homely atmosphere is maintained, original carpets and furniture still being used by Mr James More Molyneux, his wife, their son and his family of four. Under a lofty ceiling in the Great Hall hangs a portrait of the boy King Edward

on a day out thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

E.M.F.

Viewing solid four poster beds in two bedrooms we were told that Queen Elizabeth preferred the smaller one; the larger was occupied later by James I earning it the title, The King's Room. Fine Oudenard tapestries dating back to 1650

Fi Radford has added the following post script to Edna Fitz-Eustace's article. About two years ago James set up the Loseley Christian



D. Bennet

The House makes a lovely background for some of the party.

VI wearing the Great Collar of Henry VIII, full length portraits of King James I and his Queen and an enormous painting of Sir More Molyneux, his wife Cassandra and eight of their eleven children. Unblemished by the passage of time is a Grinling Gibbons carving running the length of the Minstrel Gallery and walnut chairs with barley sugar turned frames of Charles II's era.

line the walls and a well preserved bed-cover dates back to the time of William and Mary.

☐ ☐
☐ ☐

The present owner, James More Molyneux inherited Loseley in 1946 and with his wife took on the enormous task of paying off death duties and accepting the challenge to keep the property in the family and make Loseley self-supporting. The family history dates back to Henry VII's reign when Sir Christopher More was Exchequer official and then became King's Remembrancer to Henry VIII. He bought Loseley Manor in 1508 and his son, Sir William More began building the present house in 1549. He it was who ensured his Sovereign's comfort by ordering straw to be strewn on the drive to avoid jolting the Royal personage — just one of the fascinating details to be learned on a visit to this historic mansion

Trust the objective of which is to bring the healing power of Jesus to the sick and in particular those suffering from cancer. From materials, many of which were already to be found around the house, he created a Pilgrimage of Christian Pictures up the main staircase leading to a simple chapel. These pictures depict the main events in the life of Christ but they finish in 1987 with pictures and testimonials to show that Christ is alive and healing his people today. The dramatic turning point in the Pilgrimage is a large and striking portrait of the Living Christ painted reluctantly by the Jewish artist Berthe Hess in 1974 following a vision. It was in the small chapel where healing services are regularly performed that we concluded our visit to Loseley with prayers and we are continuing to pray and to praise God for James More Molyneux and the work of the Loseley Christian Trust. NB. For enquiries about the Loseley Christian Trust phone (0483) 571881 Ext. 127.

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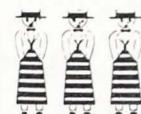
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ROUND THE CHURCHES

FAREWELL PETER MULLINS!

About 11pm, Peter Mullins staggered to his car, laden with gifts, after farewell ceremonies at St Peter's. A sophisticated slide-projector, a cheque from the parish, a framed original cartoon of himself (artist: Doug Smith) from his many young friends who also helped provide a complete Peter Rabbit breakfast set, a model Citroen 2CV, books, a pair of designer jeans with clashing tie for his Dublin coffee-bar life in 1989 from clergy colleagues with a bit of help from St Peter's choir-master, plus gifts from many others all expressed Peter's popularity and our gratitude for his four years' loving ministry here.

About 250 attended Sung Eucharist before the presentations. Peter provided and preached the kind of model sermon of pointed clarity, which as Ken Benett's vote of thanks stressed, is one of Peter's many vital gifts to a muddled C of E. A feature of the service was strong participation from all



John Stratford, District Warden, making a presentation to Peter.

six Anglican churches in the parish. 'One of the best parish occasions I've been to' said one of our fourteen churchwardens. The evening reflected this breadth of Peter's ministry and the whole parish's gratitude, though he will be most sorely missed at St Peter's and St Margaret's.

As glasses were raised in a toast to Peter, tears were seen in the eyes of many. A delightful touch came when Peter's father, standing with his family by Caver-

sham's favourite son, drank to the health of Caversham, which for four years Peter made HIS family and which has taken to heart this fine young priest.

Leaning on a broom in a deserted St Peter's near midnight, surveying the mess of wrapping paper and ribbons, the Rector felt specially poignant at a Mullins-less future. 'Well done, Peter, good and faithful servant', he murmured as he shuffled home to readjust on the loss of his dearest colleague.



Not to be left out — Cherubim children making their own farewells to Peter.

LICENSING OF NEW PRIEST AT ST ANDREW'S

St Andrew's Church was practically bursting at the seams on 19th September as nearly three hundred people piled in to take part in a most joyous and welcoming service to license the new priest, Bill Carpenter. In addition to members of St Andrew's, and those from other parts of the parish, there was a large contingent from Bill's former parish as well as clergy and lay readers, including those from other denominations.

The Eucharist was presided over by the Bishop of Reading who spoke movingly about the serving priest. The choir and organist, Ian May and Assistant organist, Philip Aspden, performed magnificently. The music for the responsorial psalm was composed by Ian May and the anthem,



Left to right: Mrs Jenny Jellyman, K. Bennett, the Bishop of Reading, the Rector, the Revd Bill Carpenter, the Bishop's Chaplain, A. Martyn-Johns, Mrs M. Sidwell.

Ave Verum by Mozart, was sung with great feeling by the choir. The whole proceedings were round-

ed off by a wonderful reception in the Hall which everybody enjoyed and seemed loath to leave, and at

which the Carpenter family was warmly welcomed by the Rector, Richard Kingsbury.

SCF QUIZ AID III RESULTS

Just over \$600 after prizes was raised for SCF by this year's Quiz Aid compiled and organised by Lindsay Mullaney of Caversham Bookshop.

The prizewinners are as follows:

1st prize: £15 Book Token to Mrs Helen Exley of Reading with a score of 96½.

Joint 2nd prize: \$10 Book Tokens each to Miss M. P. Jones of Bedford, score 95; Mrs J Low of Reading, score 95.

Two random consolation prizes go to Mrs E South of Caversham and Mrs Y McLennan of Eastbourne who will receive a \$2 Book Token each.

Copies of the answers are available from Caversham Bookshop.

CORRECTION

In the Obituary of Reg Brind in last month's issue, the first section was written by Wilf Woolley (to whom thanks and apologies for omitting his name).

ST JOHN'S

Former members of the 22nd Reading Scouts had a reunion on Sunday afternoon September 22nd at St John's Church as part of the Church's Centenary celebrations.

Over fifty former members of the Group, some with their families were present at a short Service which was followed by tea. A retiring collection in aid of Scout Fellowship Holiday Homes providing caravans and chalets for handicapped people raised \$21.70.

He succeeds the Rev Laurence Ashman who died suddenly just before Christmas. Mr Ashman had visited Caversham on a number of occasions. He was to have signed the covenant document on behalf of the Methodist Church at Caversham Park Church in January.

After his death this had to be done by local Ministers instead. Work had already begun to designate his successor for September 1989, but the appointment has now been brought forward a year.

The District is the nearest thing to Methodism to what in some other denominations is a Diocese. The Chairman of the District is a full time appointment and he or she performs many

of the functions performed in an episcopal church by a Bishop. In Methodism (as in most Free Churches) many of other such functions are performed by the local Ministers themselves.

The Reading and Silchester Circuit, of which both Caversham's Methodist Churches are part, is the northern outpost of the Southampton District. It is there that Mr Collinson, his wife and two daughters will live.

In 1986 the Epworth Press published two paperbacks by the

new Chairman. One is called 'The Opening Door'. It is about the christian experience of those for whom God does not come like a bolt from the blue. It is about the gradual awareness of God in ordinary things.

The other is called 'Facing Illness' and is edited jointly by Dr David Matthews, a medical don at Oxford and a member of the Wesley Memorial congregation. Is the result of meetings which they organised over a year with those engaged in medicine who wanted to think about this as a Christian issue.



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ROUND THE CHURCHES

FAREWELL TO PETER



Peter and some members of St Margaret's congregation.

The congregation of St Margaret's recently showed their appreciation for the four years that Peter Mullins has spent among them.

First on the evening of August 30th when Edna and Alf Martyn-Johns' house was the setting for an outside family party, the family of St Margaret's gathered together to wish Peter every happiness as he leaves for an eight months' course in Dublin and to thank him most sincerely for all his pastoral care of the last four years. Almost all the congregation turned up for this very

special occasion and the farm house was filled with laughter and chatter. Our thanks to Edna and Alf for making such a happy evening possible.

Then on Sunday, September 4th at the Children's Family Eucharist the church was packed for Peter's memorable farewell service. The theme was taken from Pilgrim's Progress (John Bunyan died three hundred years ago this year).

The congregation will remember with gratitude the years they have journeyed together with Peter at

St Margaret's, and they give thanks for that church life shared together. Now comes the parting of the ways. Members hope the attractive oil painting of their church, which was presented to Peter, will remind him in the days ahead of the time he spent with them in Mapledurham.

The congregation was delighted to welcome Gwyneth and Mat Matthews at this service. They were regular worshippers at St Margaret's until they left Mapledurham twelve years ago. It was good to have them there once again.

ST MARGARET'S HARVEST SUPPER

Sadly there were only about fifty people at the Harvest Home rejoicing this year. Usually there are quite a few more, but it was a wonderful Harvest Supper all the same. Mike Dunn must have spent ages on Saturday morning decorating the parish hall with Alf's corn on the cob and balloons for he made it look most attractive and Liz Nealon arranged delightful table

posies. After a truly splendid meal the party enjoyed a beetle drive which caused a lot of merriment and may have increased some people's blood pressure! Then local talent took over for a short performance. A few harvest hymns and Mike Dunn's lesson from Genesis Chapters 1-3 (Geordie style) ended an extremely happy evening.

ST ANDREW'S GARDEN OF REST

The Church, the Garden and the Hall have now become one, and belong to one another.

Recent visitors to St Andrew's Hall cannot help but notice, now that the air-raid shelter has been swept away, that the light has been let in, and the most beautiful view of the church has been revealed. Everything is now in its proper place, the church, the Garden and the Hall have

become one and belong to one another.

Thanks to Brian Williams and his helpers are due for demolishing the air-raid shelter with the minimum of inconvenience, as also are thanks to all the donors to the 'Garden of Rest' Fund, and for their letters of support, love and gratitude for what is being done to the Garden. Over £1,500 has been contributed by those with an emotional attachment to the Garden, a wonderful expression of love.

The District Committee is grateful to the members of St Andrew's whose hard work and involvement in the Fete on 25th June resulted in the raising of £2,000, and to the friends who supported it and made it such a success.

The collaboration which has marked this project has knit

ST ANDREW'S HARVEST SUPPER

St Andrew's met again just five days after the great gathering for the licensing of the Revd Bill Carpenter to welcome him and his family to their very happy Harvest Supper on September 24th. One hundred and twenty people sat down for a splendid supper organised by Mrs Molly Sidwell and a band of helpers. After cold meat, baked potatoes and a variety of salads, a bewildering choice of puddings, cheese and biscuits and coffee accompanied by wine or soft drinks, the party settled down to be entertained and amused.

The choir and

church school played a large part in the concert which was ably compered by John Gazzard. An amusing song by the two 'Jos' Hodson and Jordan, accompanied by Philip Aspden was encored.

The choir were again in evidence giving an account of their holiday in the Lake District, and the church school teachers gave the school a 'Commercial Break' to the tune of Widdecombe Fair. Musical items followed with duets by Philip and James Aspden rounded off a most successful evening with two monologues

together the whole of St Andrew's and members of the other churches in Caversham in their common effort to make the Garden a place worthy of the loved ones whose ashes are interred there. The agreement of the Diocesan Advisory Committee

to the completion and creation of the landscaping is now awaited. Meantime, a personal 'thankyou' to Richard Kingsbury for his encouragement, support, love and prayers that have made it all possible.

V. Smith

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL PLANTS OUT

The Caversham Hill Chapel congregation is bursting at the seams! With some two hundred regularly attending and steadily increasing, it has become very obvious that something must be done as the existing facilities at the Chapel have virtually reached their limit of coping despite the construction of a new worship hall and additional meeting rooms.

A Planting Out

operation now had to be seriously considered, and over a period of some eighteen months the church as a whole began preparing for the creation of a new congregation having sought God's direction on this matter.

Division 'D' Day was set for Sunday 16th October and the new group, called Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship, will begin meeting at the

Mapledurham Playing Fields Pavilion at 10.45pm each Sunday morning.

The core of this new group is the existing sixty or so adults and children who are currently attending the Caversham Hill Chapel and who live in the Heights area. Caversham Heights Christian Fellowship will be organised under the auspice of

the existing Caversham Hill Chapel Eldership and the principal preaching will be by the Pastor, Chris Justice, and his assistant recently commissioned Mike Holmes.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to join this new group of Christians in praise and worship of the living God.

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

Autumn days draw near and Harvest time is upon us once again. At Caversham Methodist Church the Harvest Festival was celebrated, and during the morning service two new projects got underway. Mrs Anne Tanner (of The Sunday Club) led the children's address with a giant 'word-search' based on the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter.' The children had to find the words on their individual puzzles and then mark them off on the board at

the front of the church. Also during the service The Sunshine Girls Singing Group took part in the service by singing 'One more step along the world'. They were joined by other girls from the congregation. And so the launch of the two projects had begun. The Sunday Club (where more word-searches and puzzles, along with friendship and fun can be found) is for all children and meets at 11a.m. to

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST NEWS

September was a busy time for the fellowship as people returned from their holidays, and church activities resumed after the August break. This autumn the five housegroups will be meeting fortnightly to study the first Epistle of John. These studies should encourage deeper understanding of the basics of our faith and lead to the strengthening of fellowship together.

The Church Family outing took place on Saturday 10th September, when friends and members of the fellowship visited Woburn Abbey, ancestral home of the Dukes of Bedford. During this month members were also pleased to see on return home on furlough two friends who are on missionary service, Sally Ann Ousley and Sue Sanders. Sally Ann has since returned to Bangladesh where she

works for Heed Handicrafts, part of Tear Fund's Overseas operations. Thoughts and prayers go out to Sally Ann as she seeks to live and work amidst the appalling devastation caused by the floods.

The fellowship also welcomed Sue on a short visit from Monaco at the end of September, asking members to remember the work of Transworld as it broadcasts Christian programmes to vast areas of the world, including remote parts of China and Russia.

On Saturday 24th September members of the church music group, the 'Gospel Singers' went to the Royal Albert Hall to take part in the one thousand voice choir. On Sunday morning, 25th September, during the morning service, two young women from the congregation were baptised, and we pray for God's blessing on their new life.

ODM — RIP

The decision has been taken. The Oxford Diocesan Magazine will cease at the end of 1988. Caversham Bridge sends its condolences to the ODM, especially to Jonathan Meyrick, its hard-working and imaginative acting editor, on the demise of a publication widely admired for its professionalism. The Oxford Diocesan Synod has decided that 'it wants a newspaper'. We predict that not many years will pass before the ODM emerges Phoenix-like from its ashes. We hope so! Meanwhile we thank the ODM for years of stimulating reading as we brace ourselves, at least the Anglicans do, for a fascinatingly trendy C of E tabloid. We fear the worst and thank God for the best over past years!



Dr Hilary Jewiss, older daughter of Dr Owen and Mrs Daphne Jewiss, was married by the Revd Peter Mullins to Dr Larry Forrest, son of Mr Fred and Mrs Grace Forrest of Walkford, Christchurch, Dorset, at St Barnabas Church on 20th August. Like her sister, Philippa, whose wedding

photograph we published last month, Hilary formerly helped with the Sunday School at St Barnabas and was much involved locally with the Girl Guide Movement. Hilary teaches chemistry at Wheatley Park School near Oxford, where they now live. Larry is a laser physicist.

Apologies to the various organisations wanting advertising space for their fairs etc. As we have had so much material this month we have not been able to spare the space. BUT all are mentioned in the Caversham Diary on Page 2.

From Page 7

12 noon each Sunday and The Sunshine Girls Singing Group meets on Mondays at 3.45pm to 5.15pm and is for 6 to 9 year olds. The Sunshine Girls first outing was The Caversham Baptist Free Church for their Harvest Supper, where they gave a 15 minute programme and sang for their supper of sausages and beans, apple pie and custard, all very much appreciated... (so was the singing!)

The new house group 'The All Hallows Fellowship' has had two good meetings based on 'The Re-Shaping of Methodist Chapels', the next meeting is on November 1st at 24 Carlton Road. The Bible Study Group continues to meet every other Monday and the Prayer Group con-



Gary Farrell and Carol Anderton.

tinues to meet every other Monday and the Prayer Group meets on Saturdays at the Church at 8.15a.m.

Five ladies from Gosbrook Road have joined the Circuit Choir which is currently rehearsing 'I AM' by Helen & Jeremy Rawson, and will be performed at Wesley Church, Queens Road in the Spring.

A very happy occasion took place on Sept. 24th when Mr Gary Farrell was married to Miss Carol Anderton. Gary was a Sunday School scholar and served in the Boy's Brigade for many years going through from a small boy to young adult. Carol's

Mum & Dad are also part of the church family, so it was a real 'Family' affair. Carol was given away by her father Roy, she wore a beautiful silk dress, the hem scalloped with lace, the bodice and short puffed sleeves were also trimmed with a wide edging of lace. Carol looked very beautiful with her hair crowned with peach roses and a ¾ length veil. The bridesmaids wore peach dresses and all had bouquets of peach and white flowers. The bridesmaids were Mrs Sue O'Brien, Misses Mandy and Nicola Farrell. Gary & Sue will be living in Swindon.

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DIAL BERKSHIRE

Disablement and Information

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There is no shortage of information on disability — the problem lies in finding it. There are many sources of information and DIAL Berkshire will be able to provide callers with the relevant advice.

Existing advice-giving organisations are over stretched already and are unable to offer a comprehensive advice service on disablement that a DIAL can offer. In addition they are not always able to maintain a telephone service and it is often not possible for a

disabled person to call in person at the office.

What is DIAL?

It is a free, impartial and confidential service of information and, in some cases, practical help provided by people with direct personal experience of disability. The local affiliated DIAL operates to standards laid down by DIAL UK with trained competent operators.

Who can use it?

Anyone with a query or problem connected with any aspect of disability, for instance:

- * disabled people, their families and friends and other 'carers'.
- * Professionals — doctors, social workers, architects etc.
- * Students and researchers

How is it available?

By telephone or letter. Both approaches are dealt with directly wherever possible or appropriate and backed up by documentary

information if you require.

What information is available?

A library of relevant books and magazines is maintained as well as a file of leaflets. The latter are supplemented by fortnightly updates from DIAL UK.

What kind of enquiry can be answered?

Examples of the kind of questions which commonly arise usually fall into the following categories:

- * Income and benefits
- * Helpful equipment and appliances
- * Leisure activities and holidays
- * Access and mobility
- * Welfare rights
- * Housing, accommodation and care
- * Education and employment
- * Rehabilitation and training
- * Voluntary organisations and their work
- * Local welfare services
- * Legislation, reports and other literature
- * Personal relationships

* Information about specific impairments
Some questions may fall outside the competence of DIAL to answer and in such cases an appropriate referral can be arranged.

DIAL organisation

The first DIAL was set up early in 1977 while the National Association of DIAL UK was formed in 1981 and is based in Derby. Their function is to work closely with other national organisations concerned with disability, both voluntary and statutory; uniting, supporting and representing the individual DIAL groups as well as providing up-to-date information and guidance on the overall standards expected from a DIAL branch. There are over eighty affiliated groups but each DIAL remains an autonomous local self-help group.

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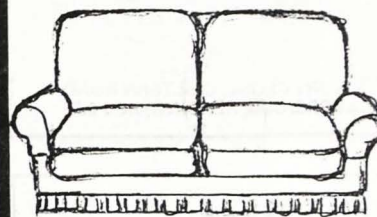
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This was evident relative to the tragedies at Hungerford — Zeebrugge — and at this very moment in response to flood disaster in the Sudan.

However, each day — possibly in thousands of homes throughout Britain — there are personal tragedies and family disasters.

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If they happen to be left all alone — they need help in coping.

If they have close family, then they also will need help and guidance. Mainly in caring and supporting their loved one, sometimes for a very long period — perhaps for many years.

Or, it might be that they have to care for a loved one who has been diagnosed as terminally ill — and needs help in coming to terms with the reality of it.

Or, perhaps, after a life-time of sharing, one of the partners passes on, leaving the other to cope alone. Not easy — as in most cases their lives had been so interwoven — they were so dependent upon each other.

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The Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association

The Reading and District Gardeners' Association is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary this year. The actual date of the centenary on December 6th will be commemorated with a special lecture to be given by Mrs Roy Lancaster, famous for his appearance on T.V. but also as an explorer, plant-collector and real enthusiast; members of the public will be able to obtain tickets and details will be available at a later date.

Celebrations began with a memorable mid-summer evening garden party held in the lovely, well-known garden of the President, Mrs R.R. Merton at Burghfield, followed shortly afterwards, in July by a weekend away. It is the first time the Association has had an excursion over a few days and it was a great success, hopefully to be repeated in future. Members went to Norfolk, stayed in the University of East Anglia in Norwich and packed a lot of visits to superb private and public gardens in the area. In September a special visit was paid to the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley when members were met by one of the staff there to be told about the work of the establishment before being shown around.

The autumn session began on October 5th with a talk on the University of Liverpool's Botanic Garden at Ness by Dr Hugh McAlister, followed on October 19th by a talk on "Planning a Small Garden" given by Mrs Mary Spiller who teaches horticulture and is in charge of the Waterperry Gardens near Oxford.

Chazey WI

Meetings: First Tuesday in the Month, 8pm Mapledurham Pavilion.

After the summer break Chazey returned to a busy autumn programme with Mrs Pauline Bannen giving an inspiring Flower Arranging Demonstra-

tion. She was full of very helpful hints to improve all members' own efforts at floral displays.

In July a very successful Strawberry Supper was held at Patricia Stringer's house when £100 was raised for the Denman Appeal.

In August members and partners enjoyed a very pleasant walk to Blake's Lock and an extremely interesting visit round the museum. This is well worth a visit. Afterwards a walk along the Kennett was rewarded by refreshments on the way.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming visit to Courages Brewery, scrabble and darts evenings, and the fund raising Jumble Sale on Saturday, 8th October, at the Collier Centre, York Road at 2pm.

Congratulations to Marion Ball and Liz Holland for being runners up in the Berkshire Tennis Cup.

Caversham Community Association

Meeting: Every Monday 7.30pm Arthur Legge Centre.

On the 5th September the visiting speaker was Mrs Mildred Cookson, the miller from Mapledurham Water Mill. Mrs Cookson commenced by tracing the evolution of the various types of mills used for grinding the corn in different parts of the country and brought some interesting photographic slides to show the members. Mapledurham Mill was mentioned in the Domesday Survey and flourished through the centuries. About 1900 the Canadian prairies produced hard wheat and this flooded into England. Mills were built at the quayside and white flour was produced. It was disaster for many small mills, some closed down, other produces animal food. Mapledurham had a dressing machine which made creamy white flour. Animal food was also produced until 1940 when the water wheel fell away, although the roof and machinery were all right. It was not until a film company used the mill in one of their produc-

tions in 1976 that the owner decided to use the money he received to restore the mill. However, he found that the mill pond's foundations had gone and needed to be underpinned and had to use his own money to complete the restoration. It is now possible to buy, locally, whole-meal flour, semolina and bran produced at the mill by Mrs Cookson. There was also some available for purchase at the end of the talk. Mrs Maida Feast, the Chairman, thanked Mrs Cookson for an interesting evening. The members were now aware how the local mill worked and all the labour involved in producing the flour on the old mill stones. As it was the first Monday in the month there was a Nearly New stall, supervised by Evelyn Cook.

The Arts and Crafts evening on the 12th September kept the judges busy. Mrs Joyce Feeney came to judge the cookery section, Stephen Waite the photography, Cheryl Pilgrim the flower arranging and Dorothy Maskell the sewing and knitwear.

First prizewinners were as follows: -
COOKERY: Bread - Margaret Cameron; Sausage Rolls - Gladys Weal; Decorated Sponge - Jackie Summers; Fruit Scones - Betty Petherbridge.
KNITTING: Adult Garment - Vicki Scheel; Child's Garment - Joan Henwood; Crochet - May Plant; Soft toy - Joyce Roddie.
PHOTOGRAPHY: View - May Plant; Portrait - Margaret Payne; Humorous - Ivy Masterman; Animal - Freda Haines.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: General - Muriel Waite; Jam-jar - Marjorie Absalom; Basket - Margaret Cameron; Miniature - Beryl Latham.

The Joe Rampton Cup for the best arrangement in a jam-jar was given to Marjorie Absalom and the Muriel Rampton Bowl was awarded to Beryl Latham for her flower arrangement. The judges announced the prize winners giving the reasons for their choice.

There was a whistdrive the following week. This was well supported and the player with the highest points was Gladys Lambourne who won first prize, Ivy Masterman receiving the consolation prize.

Harvest Festival was celebrated on 26th September when members came bringing their gifts. Revd Dennis Weller from the Baptist Church was invited to give the address and to join the members at the Harvest Supper. The well-loved harvest hymns were sung before and after the supper, which the committee and members had pre-

pared. Everyone enjoyed the sandwiches, homemade scones, apple pie and cream, and appreciated all the work involved in readiness for the meal.

Caversham Heights TG

Meeting: Third Thursday 7.30pm St Andrew's Hall.

Dolls, what memories we have: long dolls, short dolls, china dolls, wooden dolls, dolls with hair, dolls going bald. Well, what a subject for the talk given by Mrs Susan Rixon at Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild's September meeting in St Andrew's Hall in Albert Road. In ancient Egypt the Pharaohs had dolls, and it seems a far cry from these or the solid wooden ones belonging to rich children in England in the 18th century to the plastic eccentricities which form some of chil-

dren's play things today. There have of course been likeable, cuddlesome dolls around since the end of the last century, but surely a very strange one was the German boy doll resembling Kaiser Wilhelm II, which was in Mrs Rixon's collection.

The theme of the day spent by members of guilds and other organisations at Berkshire College of Agriculture at Burchetts Green was Papua New Guinea. Much of the interior of the island is covered in mist by day, so light is a problem as far as taking photographs is concerned. Nevertheless the account given of a fairly long stay there and glimpses of village life provided by Mr R Rampton, dressed in native costume, interested everyone present.

At social studies later in the month more was learnt about the progress of the Macmillan Fund for Cancer Relief and the work done by the Macmillan nurses.

Turn to page 11



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the CLUBS

From Page 10

As the occurrence of the illness is far from negligible, continued research into causes and preventive measures against its onset must have the highest priority.

Rosehill WI

Meetings: First Wednesday in the month, 2.15pm in St Barnabas' Church Hall.

The first meeting after the August break was on the 7th September when Mrs Weller welcomed three visitors and members. The garden party at Mrs Dick's home in August and the ploughman's lunch at Mrs Weller's were well attended and enjoyed.

Autumn activities, scrabble, crafts, rambling and play reading, will continue this month and dates were given.

The speaker was Mr Gander from the Caversham Fire Brigade. He told all about training, hours of duty, and the enormous number of various jobs they have to tackle. Members watched videos of the frightening fires the Brigade tackle, so with leaflets to read when they got home they should be more careful and better prepared in future.

The competition for a poster for the forthcoming jumble sale was won by Mrs Dick, Mrs Martin second and Mrs Ellingham third.

The October meeting was held on the 5th and members met at 1pm for a Harvest Lunch. Delicious food was provided by the Committee and members. The afternoon meeting carried on as usual; activities were planned with scrabble starting this month.

Mrs Pam Ridley, a fellow member, then started her talk "Around the world in eighty days". The Institute have heard her before so they knew it would be interesting, and so it was, with her and her husband travelling to Singapore with Quantas Airlines, thence to Perth in Australia, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Ayres

Rock, Cairns. Back to Sydney en route to New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Pearl Harbour, California, Palm Springs, and home from Chicago.

There was a table exhibiting "Household equipment of the past" which was well presented with some articles causing puzzlement!

Emmer Green TG

Meetings: Second Tuesday, 7.30pm in St Barnabas Hall.

During August the Emmer Green Townswomen's guild enjoyed a garden party at the home of Mrs E. Weaver. The weather was lovely and members were able to eat supper in the colourful summer garden.

The History of Dolls was the subject of the guest speaker, Mrs S. Rixon, at the Guild September meeting. Mrs Rixon had brought along part of her collection of dolls which dated back to the beginning of the century. The variety of dolls was breathtaking and included those made of china, plaster, papier-mâché and even little wooden dutch dolls. Some of the most beautiful dolls were made in Germany but during the wars many countries tried to improve their own toys and give them more play value. Mrs Rixon gave a brief history of each of her dolls and described their composition, age and country of origin which quite delighted her audience.

Caversham Ladies Club

Meetings: Second Thursday 2pm at the Baptist Centre.

Mrs Harwood welcomed members and two new members to the September meeting which was the Annual Harvest Home; she thanked everyone who had so generously given vegetables, fruit, preserves, groceries, flowers and many other goods which made this occasion a really happy and worthwhile one. After the July minutes were read and other business carried out, Mrs Brenda Strong stepped in to carry out her usual auction of the produce; as always she carried out this service in a very amusing manner. All the produce was cleared and raised £33.02, Brenda being warmly thanked by Mrs Harwood and applauded by members who had enjoyed all the fun-

ny remarks which had been put in to make the occasion happy.

Tea was then served by Mrs Houghton, Mrs Fostick and Mrs Raven, who were also duly thanked. Before the close of the meeting members were reminded that the October meeting would be the Annual Autumn Fayre and were asked to bring various gifts for the stalls. They were also reminded of the coach outing to Southsea on Thursday 15th September, details of picking up points etc being given. The meeting closed at 4pm after a very happy afternoon.

Blagrove WI

Meetings: first Tuesday, 2.30pm Mapledurham Pavilion.

On one of the hottest afternoons of the summer on the 6th September twenty six members met at Mapledurham Playing Fields Hall for a talk by a member of the Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, a "Hot" subject for a "Hot" day. While we all tend to take for granted the services that are always on hand when needed, it was good to see behind the scenes and hear what painstaking preparation goes on to ensure that we all sleep easy in our beds. Apparently there is a waiting list of youngsters wanting to enter this service which still has a glamorous image despite the hard work and less than deserved pay structure.

The competition for a single rose as won by Mrs Housden, 2nd Mrs Ford with Mrs Aldiss and Mrs Hunter joint third.

Maplewood WI

Meetings: Third Tuesday, 2.15pm Mapledurham Pavilion.

At the September meeting of Maplewood, members were given an insight into the work of the Reading Emergency Accommodation Project at The Keep with a talk by two of its workers. REAP runs an eleven bed emergency hostel offering temporary accommodation for single homeless people in Reading. It also runs a Drop-in facility four evenings a week. A collection of hand made gloves, socks and hats was donated by members.

On one of the few sunny afternoons in August about twenty members enjoyed a cream tea in the delightful setting of the riverside garden of a member, Mrs Eileen Byner.

The flower of the month competition

was won by Mrs Winifred Simmonds with a dark red begonia.

Jubilee Club Mapledurham

Meetings: 2nd Monday 2.15pm Trench Green Hall.

Once more a year in the life of the Jubilee Club draws to its close. It has been another happy twelve months with membership now around the fifty mark and monthly meetings offering a variety of activities. A trip to the pantomime at Windsor launched the Club into 1988. Subjects for talks have varied widely from swans to collecting button hooks and Mildred Cookson gave members a most interesting afternoon telling about Mapledurham Mill.

Summer, always a time for going out, saw the Club at Blenheim Palace, Basildon Park and having a garden party at St Margaret's House. Each time they were blessed with glorious weather. The most popular trip was a mystery tour with a cream tea in the orchard of a farm house under the shadow of the White Horse at Uffington. What could have been better on a hot summer afternoon than tea outside in such a superb setting? Many did not realise what glorious countryside could be found between Lambourne and Wantage and thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Soon it will be time for the Open Afternoon on Monday, November 14th at 2.15pm, when a small bring and buy is held with produce stalls to raise funds for the Club. Anyone who is interested will be most welcome to come along — and do have tea with the members!

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 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)
 6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday only)

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8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
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Residents Viewpoint cont.

From Page 4

oak tree. Apart latterly from some trouble with semi commercial organisations, the notice board had always been kept tidy with various individuals and bodies making themselves responsible for removing out of date notices. Interestingly, it has never been the object of obscene graffiti. It even attracts people to visit the precinct where they might spend some money as they come to put up their notices or to see what is going on.



St Martin's were obstructive when they were first approached about having a notice board in their forecourt, and demanded rent for the space it would occupy. It was only when Caversham Residents' Association comiserated with them on the dire financial straits into which they must have sunk and offered to pay the rent out of their subscription income, that they relented, declaring that a good relationship with local people

was one of the objects closest to their collective heart. They have been reminded of this, and it is hoped that the notice board will reappear. It is the best place in Caversham for it, and though the Borough Council is willing to place it elsewhere, no other place has the same advantages. If anyone else would like to write, the address is: St Martin's Property Corporation, Adelaide House, London Bridge, London EC4R 9DT.

Come out to Play

Throughout the summer, such as it was, the new children's playground at Christchurch Meadow, Albert Road and the Rivermead Centre have been enjoyed by large numbers of children and their parents. Accompanying a three year old there during the long days of summer, I was impressed by the sheer imagination and inventiveness of the apparatus, and by its safety. It would have been difficult for even this particular three year old to hurt himself, and when occasionally he was lost to sight amongst a crowd of bigger kids,

there was no need to worry as there was nowhere he could come to harm.

Nevertheless there have been accidents though infinitesimally few in relation to the numbers visiting the playgrounds. 100% safety, particularly where children are concerned, is virtually impossible to achieve. Council staff are always careful to remove or repair damaged apparatus, the damage usually being caused by mindless hooligans whose brawn exceeds their brain power. The accidents that have occurred have been the kind that could well happen within the child's own home.



Demands have been made for a full time attendant, but even a full time attendant can only be in one place at a time. It would also immediately put up the running costs of the play areas resulting in the distinct possibility of fewer being opened and closures of

others. This would bring great disappointment to the hundreds of children who have gained such enormous enjoyment from these provisions.

Fortunately the playgrounds are so popular that if an accident does occur, it is immediately noticed and the necessary measures taken. My young visitor gave the apparatus a pretty good testing and found nothing wrong with it. He just can't wait to return to this wonderful place and sample its joys again.

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