



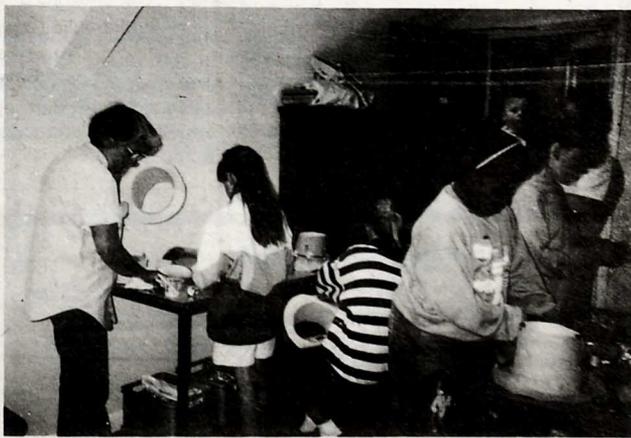
“COME TO THE CABBAGE PATCH” — and they did!!!

DURING THE SCHOOL HALF TERM WEEK Caversham Baptist Free Church was transformed into a “Cabbage Patch” for the children’s Holiday Club. For two hours each afternoon a small army of church members and friends welcomed 5 to 11 year olds from all parts of Caversham and from different schools. They included those who attended many other churches, and those who did not regularly attend a church or Sunday school. The theme was “Fairness in God’s World”, and the children joined in a time of music, games, craft, quizzes, drama and Bible stories. Scarecrows made by the children were to be found in the Cabbage Patch. The leader of the Club, Pauline Hay, hoped that the children would learn more about God and His love and care for them, and that they might learn to love and care for each other.

Nearly 120 children took part in the Club throughout the week, and on Friday evening they stayed to enjoy a picnic tea and welcome their parents who came to see the result of their activities and listen to their music. The Sunday Morning Service led by Rev. Philip Egglestone included contributions from the children, and brought together the theme of the Holiday Club. The packed congregation, including many parents, caught a glimpse of the excitement and enthusiasm evident during the week.



*Pictures
by
BERNARD
MILLER*

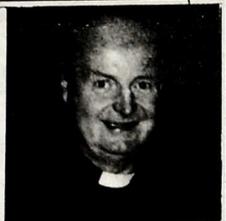


D/EX1758/26/7

TALKING POINT

By The Rev. Brian Skinner

Minister, Gosbrook Road Methodist Church



"THE FATAL FENCE"

A few years ago I saw an advertisement in a paper which ran like this: "Christian wants the help of another Christian in erecting fence". When whilst looking through old cuttings and such like when we moved house in January, and I came across the advert the thought came to me that a great deal of our trouble today is that we are far too good at erecting fences.

It is one of the evident and obvious tragedies of Christianity that we are far too fond of raising our divisions and erecting our fences between each other.

There are fences between the different Churches, so that to this day we cannot come together in common to sit at the table of our Lord. There are fences between the different theologies, and the hatred of theologians for each other has become a byword.

There are fences which divide those who have different views of scripture, so that the so-called fundamentalist banishes the so-called liberal or modernist from the circle of salvation, and the so-called liberal or modernist regards the fundamentalist as a wilfully ignorant obscurantist.

There are fences which divide those who put their faith in different kinds of evangelism, so that the suggestion of any kind of evangelistic campaign is just as likely to split a community as it is to unite it.

WHAT TO DO

It is quite clear that we can never properly face the powers of evil when we are split and disintegrated among ourselves. How then shall we overcome these fences?

1. No matter what a man believes we should try to estimate that man at his true worth. Surely if a man holds a different kind of theology from that which I myself hold, I can still appreciate that man's intellectual worth, his moral greatness, and his spiritual devotion. Lockhart in his Life of Sir Walter Scott tells how Thomas Campbell the poet and John Leyden had a quarrel and would not speak to each other. Lockhart himself went to Leyden and read to him Campbell's famous poem 'Hohenlindon'. When Leyden had heard it, he said: "Dash it, man, tell the fellow that I hate him; but, dash him, he has written the finest verses that have been published these fifty years." Lockhart duly delivered the message to Campbell, and Campbell said: "Tell Leyden that I detest him, but I know the value of his critical approbation." There is at least hope that the fences will come down,

if even when we differ from a man, we still appreciate his true worth.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

2. No matter what a man says that he believes we should try to judge the man by what he is himself. Surely even if I disagree with a man's beliefs and doctrines, I can still appreciate his personal qualities.

Edwin Muir in his autobiography tells of his experience in Glasgow. He had stomach trouble; his life was a misery; he went to doctor after doctor, and their treatment was quite perfunctory and he was no better. At last he was recommended to a certain doctor, with the warning that the doctor was a 'free-thinker'. He went to him: "He treated me with the utmost courtesy ... His patients were mostly very poor people, whom, I feel sure, he never charged for his advice; he worked in the slums out of pure goodness; he was never discourteous; he treated me as a fashionable practitioner in the West End might treat a rich patient, and in the end charged me some ridiculously small fee, refused peremptorily to accept more... He was an excellent doctor and a delightful man, and in spite of his free-thinking, more like a Christian saint than any other being I have ever known."

If only we would stop sticking labels on people and take a man as he is and not as our private label says he is, the fences would come down.

MIDDLE WALL

3. We should try to believe that, no matter how wise we are and how convinced we are, we do not possess the whole truth. No man has the right to assume that he is right in everything and everybody else is wrong in everything.

On August 3rd 1650 Cromwell wrote a letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and in it he said: "I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken." This is not to plead that we should cease to be sure of things ourselves, but it is to plead that we should cease to believe that everyone else is wrong.

One of the greatest things that Paul ever said about Jesus Christ was written when he was thinking of the new unity of Gentile and of Jew in the Christian Church: "He hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2: 14). It is in destroying fences, not in erecting them, that true Christianity lies.

TREBLE FIRST



Alistair Walton, Paul Hooker and William Price receiving their award from District Scout Leader of Thameside Division, Dennis Golding.

Courtesy Reading Chronicle

A notable first has just been clocked up in Caversham when three scouts from 3rd Reading St. Peter's won the highest award ever to be received by Thameside District. This was the Scout's Challenge Award. Similar to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, they had to fend for themselves for three days and two nights just before Easter. Snow was falling and they camped in a blizzard but remained cheerful throughout and got on as planned, no doubt being prepared for all eventualities. Congratulations to them and to their Scoutmaster for the hard work and energy they all put into it to make a success of the occasion.

POSTBAG

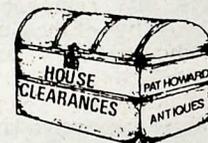


Dear Editors, couple of weekend Achilles Rangers, camps are planned by girls between the former Caversham together with some ages of fourteen and West District (R.S. barbecues, cycle rides nineteen may join. Achilles) Ranger and visits to a rock Please contact the Guides, will be climbing wall. Skipper for further celebrating their 50th meet on Friday evening and Sunday after- details at the address below. 1989. We are anxious to include as many year even during members as possible, School Holidays! New members are welcome at any time Skipper as soon as necessary to have

The Unit was originally formed as a Sea Ranger Crew and this tradition is maintained by our main summer activities of rowing and canoeing from our boathouse along The Warren. We have recently rowed to Marlow, collected litter from the towpath for the Berkshire Spring Clean and paddled to Henley in Canadian canoes. A

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All contributions for August issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday July 5.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by June 30.

The dates for September will be Wednesday 2 August and Friday 28 July.

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

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BEETLING ABOUT

Unleaded Petrol

By the time you read this, all the petrol stations in Caversham will be selling unleaded Petrol. I should like to think it was the power of the press! A few weeks ago I did exchange wry smiles with a chap who was queuing behind me for unleaded — all the other pumps were free but only dispensing unleaded petrol. Now this station gives you the choice at every pump, so they quickly got the message. Incidentally, I'm not long back from France where, if you can find it, unleaded petrol is 10p a litre dearer than leaded.

□ □

Gazebo

An evening's stroll by the Thames gave an excellent opportunity of seeing Caversham Court from across the river. What a pity that its smart landscaping should be marred by broken windows in the Gazebo. Surely it wouldn't be too expensive to fill the frames with something unbreakable but good looking? I'll happily make a donation.

□ □

Christian Aid

I had a new round this year, having been pipped on my home

ground, but it made an interesting change. 70% of the people I called on had the envelope all ready filled for me. In the whole road there were 3 defaulters. Two told me that they had read in the "Times" that Christian Aid funds bought arms and they therefore didn't want to support such an organisation. I read the Old Thunderer myself and I hadn't seen it and they couldn't produce chapter and verse but it certainly sounded unlikely. My last refusal came from a charming young couple, two tiny children, two car house. They thought that Christian Aid was a political organisation. They didn't think Christians should be political. Odd, isn't it? I did collecting on my bicycle, the seat is still hard.

My neighbour, calling to collect from his street, was amused to be given three envelopes. In response to his raised eyebrows he was told that for the last two years no-one had been to collect them.

□ □

Cycle Path

Another neighbour tackled me about cycle paths. I've seen them in Reading, but none in Caversham. I for one would certainly feel safer if I had

my own path marked out, but most Caversham streets are presumably too narrow.

□ □

Paul King

Did you read in the National press about Paul King, Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford, who has decided to join the Roman Catholic Church? I have known Paul since we played tennis together in our younger days and have followed his career with interest and I know this decision was not taken lightly. I have to take my hat off to the C of E. They have taken it all in such a gentlemanly manner, giving him blessing and good wishes for the future and even his house for the next three months. What a contrast with the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland's brethren. We'd welcome the Lord Chancellor at any of our Caversham churches, I'm sure.

□ □

Who Wants the Petty Cash?

A local shop was broken into recently. There was a deal of mess in the office —

happily the shop was untouched. The SCF tin had been forced open and all the coins scattered on the floor. Presumably any £1 coins had disappeared but can you believe that modern day thieves aren't interested in the small change?

□ □

Mapledurham Glass Exhibition

The Oxford branch of the Guild of Glass Engravers (patron, H.M. the Queen Mother), is holding its annual exhibition of hand engraved crystal at Mapledurham House during times when the house is open. (Advert on Page 8). Some 60-70 pieces of work will be on display, most of which is for sale. There will be a wide range of exhibits from specialists in this field and will be a good opportunity for buyers, as the glass is generally not available in the shops. So if you are planning a summer visit to the house, this will be an added bonus. The exhibition runs from Saturday 8th July to Sunday 6th August.

□ □

The Grimwades

Canon John Grimwade's last Sunday at Stonesfield was on June 18th, and we shall be featuring this service and more in our next edition. John and Anne's new address from 21st June will be 88 Alexander Drive, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1UJ

ART EXHIBITION IN CAVERSHAM

An interesting exhibition of considerable variety was held at Church House, Caversham on May 20th when some 160 works of art were on display executed by members who attend Mr. Ted Burnell's private Art classes held at St. Mary's Church House, the Butts, Reading.

Water colours, acrylics, pen and ink drawings and etchings indicated the skill and versatility of members. Among the former were Trisha Blewett's "Farm in Snow" in which she admirably captured the chill atmosphere, her

"Roses" and West Country scenes, and "Waitrose Mackerel" showed good handling of colour. Drawings by Mrs Griffins concentrated on head of the Young Constable and other notables. "Gathering Poppies" by Evelyn Thomas had both accuracy and impact as did her St Mary's Butts. Dorothy Willicombe excels in portraying turbulent seas to support well drawn ships, and K. Jeffrey showed versatility in a landscape in oils of the River Tweed as well as in a still life of nuts in more subdued tones. P.A. Earl's "Boat at Goring and Streatley"

had the wide expanse of the river Thames bordered by fresh green foliage of trees.

Pastels by Alice Holmes were expertly handled in her pictures of roses and other flowers, pastels too were used by Eve Thomas who over twelve years, has expressed her love of animals in a number of pictures of cats, donkeys, dogs. She finds this the best medium for illustrating the softness of fur and feathers of birds. Also on display were examples of her copper craft, pictures of a cat's head, birds and flowers all expertly

detailed.

Ted Burnell's own works consisted of pen and ink drawings, one of "Wapping Steps" intricately portrayed, and of several oils including a realistic Hambeldon Mill and of lightning striking across harvest fields in an atmospheric painting. Mr Burnell who now lives in Caversham is also holding classes at Church House, Caversham on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Contact Mrs C. Jeffrey 693709. Mr Burnell charges no fees for himself, merely for use of room and facilities.

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A TASTE OF CAPTIVITY

By
**JOHN
MADELEY**

o'clock, to check I presume that I had not hoofed it through the window, and appeared surprised to see me in the chairs.

port terminal to the Johannesburg check-in desk. I wondered if he knew what he was doing. The ticket desk people said there was a seat on the flight — but that the ticket I held was not valid and I would have to pay the full fare, about £70. It seemed a small price to pay for freedom. Then of course there was the airport exit tax — another £7, even though I had not officially entered the country.

"Up" before dawn, I thought about my chances of getting away that day. There were 2 flights to Swaziland that morning but both planes were 7-seaters. A 33-seater was due to leave in the late afternoon.

From my experience of African internal airlines I suspected I would never get on the 7-seaters and could not bank on the larger one either. Another day, or even several days at the airport, was a real possibility. But I had spotted on the departure board, a 7.00 am flight to Johannesburg — where I needed to be for the next leg of my journey to Zimbabwe. Would they let me on that I wondered?

Called for at 5.50 by another official, I was ready. To my astonishment, without a word from me, I was marched through the long air-

It was all a fairly mild form of captivity. The officials ripped me off a little but were generally pleasant — especially the last one. But the experience helped to concentrate my thoughts on those who suffer long periods of captivity and who, sadly, are forgotten by many of us. The least we can do for them, it seemed to me, is never to forget but to re-double our efforts on their behalf. *This article first appeared in the "Church Times".*

"If you only want to stay for three days you will be able to pick up a Visa when you arrive at Maputo airport" an official of a Mozambican airline said to me in neighbouring Swaziland. It turned out to be disastrously wrong information.

I was in Southern Africa to look at and publicise projects that are helping poorer farmers to grow more food. And I was keen to see a project that the Christian Council of Mozambique is supporting to rehabilitate agriculture in the wake of the destruction caused by South African backed forces.

Christian Aid is giving financial help to this project — and I knew that one of its staff from London would be in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, the very three days I wanted to be there. A happy coincidence it seemed.

A letter written to CCM beforehand, to ask if they could arrange a visa for me, did not arrive. But on a bright Tuesday morning in late April I travelled hopefully from Swaziland on a tiny plane, confident they would let me in. Arriving in Maputo just after mid-day, I asked for a visa, mentioned the CCM connection and was told to wait.

have a room you can use; come with me". The CCM worker shook his head, offered apologies and I was left with feelings of utter desolation and powerlessness.

The official led the way up some stairs to the first floor of the airport building, through a small almost bare sitting room down a short corridor and unlocked the door of my "room". This was basically a cell with a bed, thin foam mattress and not much else.

The foam was noticeably filthy, about the thickness of a car cleaning sponge but too dirty for car cleaning. A loo, wash-basin and shower stood in a walled off corner but the loo did not flush and gave forth the most indescribable stench. The door of the cell could not be closed from the inside. On the outside were 2 heavy locks. Would they lock me in, I wondered?

I decided that sleeping on the foam was out and that if necessary I would sleep on my coat on the marginally cleaner floor.

"The duty free shop is just closing", said the customs official, in broken English; "I would like a beer". A beer seemed a small price to pay to keep on the right side of a man who had suddenly come to have power over me. As we sipped our cans of warm beer he said, "one of my colleagues will come for you at 7 and take you to the airport restaurant for a meal". Things are maybe not too bad, I thought. "Meals here are expensive but pay him afterwards", he added.

I waited — I waited. The Customs official occasionally re-appeared but as he spoke little English and I spoke no Portuguese, communication was difficult. I had no idea what, if anything, was happening. At 3 o'clock I rang the CCM to ask if they could help. Just before 5 a CCM worker came to the airport and talked with the customs official.

The outcome was that airport staff had no authority to grant me a visa — which in any case took 15 days to arrange. I would have to go back Swaziland on the first available plane. The snag was it was 5.00 p.m and there were no more planes to anywhere from Maputo that day.

"You have not officially entered the country and will have to stay at the airport," said the official, "we

companion handed a voucher to the waiter. "Shall I pay you now?" I asked. "No, no, later" was the reply. The meal was effectively on the airport and what I paid would be pocketed by the officials. I had not eaten since breakfast but the meal was as bad in its own way as the mattress. Back in my "room" I forked out, again thinking that it might help my chances of the door not being locked.

To my relief the official left without turning the key. I decided that given the chance I would sleep in the sitting room which had 3 easy chairs which could be pushed together. I contemplated the situation. My "back up" services were good. I had a radio, on which I get the BBC World Service, a tape recorder and tape about Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a copy of John Habgood's "Confessions of a Conservative Liberal", a candle and matches.

Teilhard I once more failed to understand but Habgood's lovely book was superb reading. I lit the candle, and placed it by the open window for a period of prayer. With luck I should only be there one night. I thought more deeply than I have ever done about Terry Waite and the other hostages. So many nights already in captivity. How many more nights would it be, I wondered?

My "jailer" returned and spotted the radio. "That's nice, I could just do with one like that — do you have another?". I did not have another and decided this was the sticking point. I would, if necessary, prefer to be locked in rather than part with my contact with the outside world. I hurriedly changed the subject. "What time will you call me in the morning", I asked. "Early" he said.

The official did not lock the door and I slept on the chairs, reasonably well in the circumstances. He came in about 3

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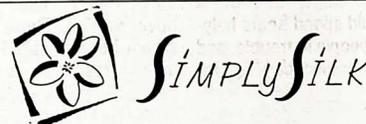
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RALPH ROGERSON

by the Rev. JOHN STEVENS



The sudden death of Ralph Rogerson has brought sorrow to a very wide circle of church people. Ralph, Methodist to the core, belonged to the whole church, indeed he was a minister who belonged to everybody. Nobody who needed Ralph's help ever went away empty handed. He would spend hours helping people in trouble, and his genuine concern for their well being was always evident. He was a warm hearted man whose hearty laughter cheered the bleakest of occasions, but it was a warmth that could be mixed with tears and I have known him to be heart broken over the sorrows of others.

He was a true Methodist preacher, passionate in style, fearless in proclamation, punctuated by a simple but

profound theological understanding of the Christian faith. His Christian conviction was such that no situation presented too great a challenge. When he left Caversham to go to rural Whitchurch in the Andover circuit many of us wondered how Ralph would fare. We need not have worried. Those to whom he was called to minister responded to his thoughtful preaching and wise guidance so that they too, after only a limited experience of his ministerial gifts felt that they had lost a friend.

Ralph was a great socialiser. No party could fail if Ralph were present, and his incisive wit and humour livened many an

evening. But he brought informed conversation to many an evening as well. He had a well stocked mind and his studies through the Open University brought him academic success late in his ministry. However he never allowed this to come between him and his main task which was always the care of his people.

Perhaps most of all Ralph will be remembered for his social concern. He had a clear and genuine desire to see a just society emerge and he never hid his convictions. These did not always win the approval of others, but his genuine and sincerely held beliefs never lost him friends either. In worship, and in general conversation he stated clearly what he thought, and if sometimes he seemed to over-react it was only because of his passionate concern that truth and righteousness should prevail.

The church militant on earth is the poorer for his passing. The church triumphant is heaven richer. If in heaven he finds there are no church councils and no Synods he will not be unhappy, but if the communion of the saints is represented by the life of Ralph Rogerson

as it surely is, the gates of heaven will ring with happy peals of laughter.

God bless you Ralph. When we disagreed with you, you were still good to know. When we shared your concerns you were a tower of strength. With Elsie, Andrew and Debbie, will be our love, and for Ralph our admiration.

Les Cooper also writes: It is hard to accept that Ralph has died. He always seemed to be life itself. I can still hear him saying "Hullo pal", and I find it hard to believe he is no longer around for another discussion of Mrs Thatcher's shortcomings.

I remember so well our first meeting, Ralph, his face full of smile and his personality radiating a warmth that never left him. From the first he made me feel as though I was a personal friend, that everything I did mattered and everything I said important to him.

As I got to know him better I discovered that Ralph was a great morale booster and encourager. It was he who persuaded me to take an Open University Degree, "Of course, you can do it, chum" he had said "it'll be easy for you."

But, Ralph was no plaster saint; he was too human for that. His opinions were too forceful,

his sense of outrage too strong, his allegiances too deep, to ever allow him to be meek and mild.

The Ralph I shall remember is the one who watched Widnes on TV as though he were sitting on the touchline. Moaning and groaning when things went wrong for his team, cheering when they scored. Or the Ralph who threw his cards on the floor with a great shout of "oh..no!!" as Elsie and my wife scooped up the discard pile in the game of Caanasta. How he loved his games. "We've still got time for another game," he would say...at 2 O'clock in the morning. How I would love to be able to play a game with him again. And there was Ralph who got so excited during Election night he didn't hear a word the TV commentators said and kept asking what was happening. And Ralph the Christian, the Minister? For me he personified all that is true about Christianity, a real regard for God and for others. There was no false piety, no hollow sanctimonious words. Ralph was a man who believed.

He thought the best of everyone and I am sure Ralph will understand if I say that for me he will always be like the Cheshire Cat in "Alice in Wonderland", he has gone but his smile remains.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

A UNIQUE OCCASION FOR ST. ANDREW'S



Photo - Norman Kent

A great deal of cloak and dagger activity had been going on in the Parish of St Andrew's for some weeks, and all was revealed on Sunday June 4th when a special Evensong took place, led by the Reader, Bill Vincent, and, in which Rosemary, Tim and Theresa Carpenter took part. The sermon revealed that it was the Carpenters' Pearl Wedding Anniversary in a few days, and that there would be a party in the Hall after the Service.

The large congregation were greeted on their arrival in the Hall with

a glass of wine or fruit juice, and the sight of a long table full of cocktail dainties.

After a speech by Warden David Cooper and a reply from the Vicar, the other Warden, Molly Sidwell, presented the anniversary pair with a magnificent garden seat, a beautiful basket of flowers for Rosemary Carpenter and a cheque. The party then got into full swing and rounded off a very special occasion to mark the first ever Pearl Wedding Anniversary of a Vicar at St Andrew's!

DORIS AND LEWIS HOBDAY

It is many years ago since Doris and Lewis Hobday left their home in Upper Woodcote Road to live on the South Coast near Bognor Regis. Both played a very active part in the life of the parish during their long residence there and a number of people will still remember them and all they did for the community, and be saddened to hear that this devoted couple have both died within a few weeks of each other this May.

Mrs Hobday was a founder member of the original Mapledurham W.I. and its president for a number of years. Dur-

ing the last War she helped run the clinic in Rokeby Drive. She was also the Mapledurham representative for the Sir Rickman Godley Trust and also representative for the local Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

Mr Hobday was deeply involved with the Mapledurham Royal British Legion and during the War was billeting officer for the parish. His interests were the Not Forgotten Association and the British War Disabled for whom he worked untiringly and in recognition of this received the award of the Order of the

British Empire.

Both were regular worshippers at St Margaret's where once again they were much involved with the work of their church. Mr Hobday was Churchwarden for many years until he left the district. It was Doris and Lewis Hobday who donated the velvet curtains and the carpet that beautify the altar surrounds.

To their daughter and her family we extend our deepest sympathy.

"Those who die in Grace go no further from us than God, and God in very near".

GOSBROOK ROAD REVIEW

The months roll by and over half of 1989 has disappeared. We have all shared some beautiful weather here in Caversham, and also shared in a beautiful service, when on Sunday May 14th for Pentecost we all gathered at the Baptist Church for a united service. As I have said before in this column, these services are always uplifting, and this one was no exception. Philip Egglestone's excellent sermon certainly gave us all food for thought.

It was with much regret that we heard of the death of our very good friend Ralph Rogerson, and it was especially heart-warming to see so many folk from other denominations at the funeral. (Tributes on other pages).

News from Gosbrook Road, this last month seems to

have been an 'Ambassadors' month, the band are out on the road again for their various fete engagements, and competitions. They have entertained at Pangbourne Donkey Derby and the Reading Hospital Fete, and been to various competitions with very good results.

British Youth Band Assn at Nuneaton 1st Overall with General Musical Effect and Percussion Trophies.

British Youth Band Assn. at Watford 1st overall with 7 Individual Trophies

Drum Corps U.K. at Basildon 2nd overall plus a Colour Guard win

Congratulations for an excellent start to the Summer season.

The Sunshine girls have had a busy time over the past few weeks, entertaining at the church tea and taking part in the Sunday Club celebration. They have also had their own Beetle drive, and been on a visit to the Hexagon to see 'The Hobbit'. Any

girls between the ages to 5 and 10 would be welcome to join us on Monday at 3.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. The Sunday Club held an excellent service for their Sunday Club Celebration. Ann Tanner is to be congratulated for her leadership and guidance.

The children told the story of Noah in words and music, and also costume. The Animals really did come down the aisle 2 x 2 and there was a raven and a dove flying around the congregation. Special mention must be made of Katie Graham as 'the voice of God', who shows a maturity way beyond her years. Well done everyone.

The Women's fellowship have enjoyed several outings to Burghfield Common, and Exbury Gardens when they joined Caversham Heights ladies for a very good day out. They also joined St. John's Mother's Union for their Flower Service and once again found the pleasure of uniting with other Christians.

TO ALL DISTRIBUTORS

We are keen to find more readers of this newspaper. Circulation ought to be rising. We do enjoy giving charitable donations from our profits - but we must make a profit first before we can do this.

If you know of new houses or groups of houses being built on your road, could you please try and find someone nearby who could take on the new area? Please talk to your own area distributor about this. And if people move away, please try to encourage the new people to take their place.

The Board of Directors would be so grateful for your co-operation.

ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN TOP TEN HYMNS

The new Vicar, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle, wanted to know which hymns were most popular in his new church. "We want our worship to be real and enjoyable" he said.

Sixty-one families or individuals returned lists of their favourite TOP TEN HYMNS. The hymns that occurred most often in these lists make up the St Barnabas Top Ten. Number one was THINE BE THE GLORY. Forty per cent of people put this hymn somewhere in their list. GUIDE ME O THOU GREAT REDEEMER was not far behind. Six of the hymns came from Ancient and Modern. The other four came from HUNDRED HYMNS FOR TODAY.

In all over two hundred hymns were chosen by someone to be in their Top Ten Hymns. Over half of

these were only chosen by one person. Some of less well known hymns chosen included Through Midnight's Gloom to Macedon. "I've never heard of it before" said the Vicar, "but we might try it one day". The Welsh hymn Ar Ian Iordonen Ddofn was also chosen by one person. The Vicar feels it less likely that he will be teaching the congregation Welsh.

1. Thine be the Glory
2. Guide me O thou Great...
3. Dear Lord and Father of...
4. Lord Jesus Christ you have...
5. I danced in the Morning...
6. = Praise my soul the king of...
6. = Tell out my soul
8. = Abide with me
8. = My Song is love unknown
8. = Just as I am

St Andrew's Fellowship

The Fellowship met in May for an eagerly anticipated return visit by Mrs Meryl Beek who gave a slide talk intriguingly entitled "The Roots of Heaven". These, in her eyes, were encapsulated in the Lake District. Her account of her holiday there kept the members enthralled. Beautiful views of the dales, fells and

lakes made her journey on foot, accompanied by her husband, round the South West corner of this most beautiful part of England, come alive for the audience. She was pleased with questions after her talk, and her promise to return later with slides of her most recent trip, was greeted with pleasure.

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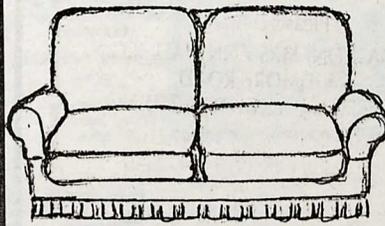
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ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

DESIGN COMPETITION

The new Parish of Emmer Green is offering a prize for the best symbol or design to go on their headed note paper, notice board, newsletters and other publications. "We want a small symbol or design that helps people recognize our publications", said Nigel Hardcastle, the first Vicar of Emmer Green. "Anyone can enter".

"Becoming a new parish has caused us a few minor problems. We need to get some headed notepaper, and the notice board is a mess. First the Church Wardens painted out the bit about the old Parish of Caversham, then they painted in the new Vicar's name, and then the address and phone number had to be changed. The result is a mess. A sign writer is coming to re-write the board but we want to leave a

space for the Parish's new symbol".

"The symbol could be a picture of St Barnabas. His adventures are told in the bible in the Acts of the Apostles. The symbol could be about Emmer Green. It could be our initials or a picture of the church. Someone may have a really good idea that is completely new. We want a design that is clear when it is about the size of a five pence piece and still looks good when it is much larger. It should be in one colour only. We don't want anything too antique, the church is part of the modern age. On the other hand something too trendy might look silly in five years' time. The more technical we plan to use a type-face like "Times" for our headings and a simple modern style like "Helvetica" for

the body of articles. The prize for the best entry will be a book or record token worth fifteen pounds." ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE VICAR AT 20 ST BARNABAS ROAD, EMMER GREEN, READING RG4 8RA. Add your name, address, phone number and age if it is under 18. You must say if any part of the work is someone else's work. IF YOU WANT FURTHER DETAILS, SEND HIM A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. We don't promise to return work. We hope to use the winning entry but don't promise to do so. Entries should be in by Sunday 16th July 1989.

ST BARNABAS EMMER GREEN

ST BARNABAS DAY, Sunday June 11th

The St Barnabas of the Bible was a communicator. He helped St Paul spread the Christian Good News round Cyprus and Turkey. So this year, St Barnabas Emmer Green invited the Revd Richard Thomas to preach for St Barnabas Day. He is the Communications Officer for the Diocese of Oxford.



"We need to communicate well today, just as much as they did in bible times", said the Vicar Nigel Hardcastle. "Personal contacts are still the most important. But there are new ways we should not ignore".

"St Barnabas is reviewing its strategy now it has become an independent parish.

One thing we have found is that the church is good at communicating with its members. But it needs to improve the way it communicates with the rest of Emmer Green. There are lots of good things happening, but no one hears about them. We aim to change that."



The Revd Richard Thomas and the Revd Nigel Hardcastle know each other of old. They jointly won a Sunday Times British Telecom Phone award for their work on electronic mail. It was presented by Michael Aspel at the special presentation dinner at the Savoy last summer. At that time, Nigel Hardcastle worked for the British Council of Churches Church Computer Project. Richard Thomas was Communications Officer for the Diocese of Winchester.

POST BAG

Dear Editor,

Having worked closely with Elisabeth Hawthorne when we lived in Mapledurham, we would like to add to what has already been written about her.

faith sustained her in her last illness, as did her sense of humour. Typically, when we saw her shortly before her death, she told us about the record she was keeping of the humorous side of her hospital life, of the flowers in the hospital garden which she could see from her bed, and about the birds at the window and nesting nearby.

Elisabeth had an underlying respect for all living beings, which she showed itself in her thoughtfulness and consideration for others, of whatever age; in the thoroughness she brought to everything she did; in her appreciation and keen observation of the natural world. Many will remember the songs she wrote about village life for the choir to sing at successive Harvest Suppers.

Elisabeth had an underlying respect for all living beings, which she showed itself in her thoughtfulness and consideration for others, of whatever age; in the thoroughness she brought to everything she did; in her appreciation and keen observation of the natural world. Many will remember the songs she wrote about village life for the choir to sing at successive Harvest Suppers.

Her funeral was an opportunity for us to remember Elisabeth as we had known her, and to thank God for the way in which she had enriched our lives, as individuals, and as a community. We knew that "all was well"

Yours etc.

She communicated her Christian faith, which matured over the years and was firmly rooted in prayer, with others — children at school mourning over, and puzzled by, the death of a pet; young people preparing for Confirmation, or spending the Three Hours together on Good Friday; adults exploring the meaning of Stewardship. This

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The Rev Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.

(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)

The Rev Alan Wilson, St John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel: 471814.

The Rev Paul Kenchington, 51 Galsworthy Drive. Tel: 475152.

Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.

The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road, Tel: 478239.

BAPTIST

The Rev Dennis Weller, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel: 478668.

The Rev Dr Philip Egglestone, 324B Hemdean Road. Tel: 470554.

METHODIST

The Rev Keith Saunders, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.

The Rev Brian Skinner, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

UNITED REFORMED

The Rev David Clark, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel: 471909.

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The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.

The Rev Michael Holmes, 8 Southview Avenue. Tel: 474138.

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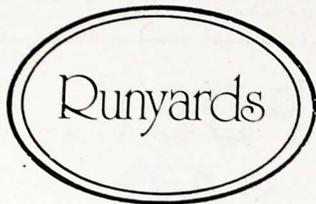
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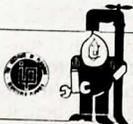
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT By Watchdog

ON THE HUSTINGS

Election fever could scarcely be said to have gripped the country, though both May and June presented citizens with the opportunity to exercise their democratic right of casting a vote for the political representative of their choice. The European elections came round once more in June, but somehow it is difficult to whip up enthusiasm for a Parliament in Strausbourg that dreams up laws over which we seem to have little control, however much we might tell ourselves we should. It is difficult too to identify with a constituency known as Thames Valley where the chance of meeting your Euro-MP even once is remote. Furthermore when, as is the case with many constituencies, the result is a foregone conclusion, any sense of involvement soon evaporates.

Much the same, at least as far as Caversham is concerned, can be said about the local government elections, which were held as usual in May, particularly as this year it was the turn of the County and not the Borough. The set-up at Shire Hall, out on a

limb at Shinfield, where it not easy for most Reading people to reach, let alone those from more distant parts of Berkshire, seems far more out of touch than the set-up at the Civic Offices, even though they are dealing with important spheres of daily life like education, social services and major roads.

However, even though the results were in no serious doubt, they were not without interest in Caversham's three wards. In the ward somewhat confusingly known as Caversham (as though the other two are somewhere else,) Ron Jewitt, the sitting member and leader of the Conservative group romped home with the highest number of votes cast in the Borough, though not quite the biggest majority. Gareth Gimblett, transferring from Thames to Peppard (which confusingly is in Caversham) also got a comfortably large majority. Thames, traditionally known as the Tory ward par excellence, provided the most interesting contest of the whole lot.

Here Hamza Fuad, already Borough Councillor for the ward, was standing as the Conservative candidate. The interesting thing was that although he had the backing of his ward party, he did not have that of his constituency party. This is because Hamza has a habit of voting the way he thinks best and not as his party tells him, so he can quite often be found lining up with the other side. This, as any good party man can tell you, is simply not done. Perhaps Thames is not as dyed-in-the-wool as its reputation would have it to be, for its electorate seems to like its maverick councillor and awarded him the largest majority in the whole county.

His fellow Tories were not exactly jubilant at the prospect of having him as a colleague. They were even less so when the total results showed that the Conservatives had an overall majority of only two, so that Cllr. Fuad could upset the applecart should he not toe the party line, something for which to

date he has shown little inclination. So we have the potential spectacle of altercation between Cllr. Jewitt and Cllr. Fuad with the latter claiming that he is the true Conservative whose mission is to put right twenty years of neglect. It looks as if we are in for an interesting time in local government politics.

The other parties stood little chance. Former Labour councillors Brian Bastin in Peppard and Eric Stanford, making the unlikely journey from Whitley to Thames, came second and third respectively, whilst Caversham's Labour candidate also came second. The parties of initials, SLD and SDP, must inevitably cause some confusion amongst the politically uninitiated, thus losing themselves some votes. This fragmentation of the opposition doubtless contributed to the newly ascendant Green Party doubling their vote from the last time round, for as strategic voting was clearly not going to achieve anything, a significant number of people seem to have settled for a spot of conviction voting. However, nowhere in the country did the Greens gain a seat, though Green inspired ideas appear to have infiltrated all the parties, which is a bit ironic.

With controversial matters like the Reading Cross Town Route coming up and with all the problems arising from too rapid expansion, life will not be dull. There is one slightly disturbing feature. These two arch-enemies, who should be staunch allies, Cllrs. Jewitt and Fuad, are both Borough and County Councillors. Can anyone, who also has to hold down a full time daily job, give sufficient time and attention to two more taxing jobs in their spare time?



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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

From page 8

Corporation over their shopping precinct. At last, after petitions, letters and much wrangling, they have agreed to the replacement of the community noticeboard. They still insist it was poorly used and maintained, or alternatively only used by commercial organisations.

It will therefore be great help if organisations using the board remove notices as soon as they are out of date, pin them up as neatly as possible and do not stick them on. Commercial notices, particularly if stuck on, could lead to the board's being removed again. The Residents' Association, whose members regularly tidy the board, are not equipped to remove glued on notices.

St Martin's have also complained about broken glass near the bottle bank. This is usually the result of hooligans breaking over-sized bottles left on top of the skip in the belief that they will be collected with the rest. Understandable as this is, it would be better to take such bottles home and put them in the dustbin.

They have also now come out clearly about where they stand over the oak tree. They do not intend to replace it because, they say, large trees cannot grow there. They conveniently forget that a Holm Oak was there for at least a hundred

years until they killed it by drowning it in concrete. The two replacements were planted with such a lack of preparation that it was not surprising they died. Nothing but a tree of similar quality to a Holm Oak will be accepted.

The horse chestnuts are also under threat. Two will have to be removed because of too far advanced decay, but the rest only need surgery. However, St. Martin's propose to remove the lot and replace them with ornamental trees in planters. Words fail. What is the person like who can think that polite little cherry trees in tubs can be a substitute for chestnuts, magnificent in May with all their candles, and of ever changing interest in all the other seasons of the year?

St. Martin's have been told 'No' by both the Borough Council and the Residents' Association, who are prepared to carry on this battle till St. Martin's accept their responsibility.



THE GREAT WATER MYSTERY

MAY was a lovely warm month bringing with it more sunshine than we had experienced throughout the last two dismal summers. The gardens got a bit dry but on the other hand, apart from the thunderstorm, the flowers did not get

knocked about by heavy rain.

Warm weather however regularly brings its problems to some parts of Caversham. Water pressure to houses on high ground in the north becomes so low that it is difficult to manage. Then a warning goes out to all households on rising land quite a distance from the affected areas that unless care and economy is exercised it will not be possible to maintain the water supply. Usually these warnings come later in the summer, but this year they were being made as early as May.

Not surprisingly, people started to ask what was likely to happen if the extra 500 houses were to be built in Bugs Bottom in the centre of the very areas that are worst affected. Enquiries to Thames Water produced some oddly conflicting replies.

One caller was informed by the duty officer that the problem was caused by all the extra housing that had been built in Caversham since the 1976 drought. Later the local press was assured that there were no problems at all, and that the 'recent' difficulties were caused by variations in land levels in Caversham rather than lack of water or water pressure. Everyone already knew there was no actual shortage of water, so if it was not low water pressure, what was it? These variations in land level have been there since the Cretaceous era and the difficulties, far from being recent, have been there for several years now. The poor water supply, continued Thames Water, was simply due to a lot of people using it at the same time, as though there was something unusual in water demands going up when people get home in the early evening. Surely by now the water authority ought to be able to cope with that.

This spokesman also said that there would be no problems at all if the extra five hun-

dred houses were built because new equipment and resources would be available. Why then are they not available now? Must the people living across a wide area of Caversham wait until the Bugs Bottom houses are built before they can expect any relief, or even worse, will they continue to be told that there is no problem?

It seems strange that Thames Water should be so cagey about admitting to a problem that patently exists. A suspicion begins to surface that it might not be unconnected with water privatisation when the authority wants to have a smoothly functioning concern to sell off and not something that breaks down because age old hills exist and the weather is sometimes warm.

Of Bugs Bottom itself, there is no further news, but these water problems, which were never seriously examined, could become extra evidence in the battle to get the decision reversed.



SWAG

Note. There is now a SWAG (Waste paper) collection point at Rivermead Centre on the first Saturday morning of each month for those who find the St. Martin's car park one too much of a hassle.



THE GREAT ROAD MYSTERY

Usually some notice is given when roads that take a fair amount of traffic have to be closed for road works. That was not the case for Kidmore Road. One morning, those who use it found diversions were in operation as workmen moved in and proceeded to make it up as if it were a major trunk road. It seemed

ungrateful to complain after so many years of road surfaces deteriorating from lack of attention, but this did seem somewhat excessive. On and on went the tarmac, until there was no difference in level between the footway and the carriageway, and the drains were only visible down deep holes. Then along came the white line painters and gave it the kind of treatment that might have been expected if Kidmore Road linked up two major cities.

For those readers who are not particularly familiar with Kidmore Road, it winds an twists as it wends its way to those great metropolises of Tokers Green, Dysons Wood and Kidmore End. For the greater part of its way, it has a footpath on one side only.

Naturally its dwellers were rather alarmed. Rumours quickly arose. It was to become a main bus route. But why, when Albert Road, its near neighbour, is straight, has footpaths and few overhanging trees? It was to take construction traffic to Bugs Bottom. But Emmer Green has been selected for this privilege. Then could it be that someone, somewhere, had got their lines crossed and it was all a mistake?

Wimpy did the work, as agents of the County Council, the highways authority. The County Council, however, blamed the Borough Council for getting it wrong. Cllr. Hamza Fuad, by then a councillor for both authorities, declared that it was another typical County Council boo-boo. And there the mystery remains.

The Borough Council has agreed to put the footpaths right but have not said when. It has all cost a lot of money that could have been used to carry out much needed repairs on several other roads in the Borough. Someone, somewhere, should have a red face.

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Community
Association**

The first Monday in May was a Bank Holiday so the club did not meet until 8th May. On this occasion Narwen and Howard West were welcomed to the club to talk about some more of their exciting holidays abroad. This time they described, firstly, their trip to Russia where they found the people friendly and interested in the visitors' apparel. Mr and Mrs West visited Moscow and showed photographic slides of the magnificent gold-leaved domes there, Leningrad and Yalta. Next their visit to Rome was depicted with photographs of St Peters', the Coliseum, the fine squares and statues. Finally, a memorable holiday in New York was described and slides shown of Manhattan Island, the Empire State building, the Statue of Liberty and Wall Street to complete an interesting evening.

The next meeting was on the 15th May when Mr B.F. Sparks of Earley, was the visiting speaker. His subject was 'Birds' and he brought some fine photographic slides to illustrate his talk. All the photographs were taken on the Isle of Skomer, St David's Bay, Wales. This belongs to the Welsh National Trust and about a thousand birds nest there. These include puffins, razor-bills, gulls, oystercatchers, wheat-ears, curlew and many kittiwakes. The cries of the gulls mean there is no quietness at night. On his visit to the island Mr Sparks was followed about by a friendly goat. He explained that there was basic accommodation for eight people at a time on the island. They stay in the remains of a farmhouse. Arrival by boat is rather hazardous as it involves hanging on to tyres when arriving at the beach, or if the weather was inclement, clinging to any available rock. This was an entertaining talk and the members enjoyed the lovely photographs of the birds.

The evening outing to Milton Manor House near

Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire was made on the 22nd May. The weather was fine and on arrival Mrs Monica Mockler, the present owner and occupant, showed the members over this fascinating old house. The original house was completed in 1663. Additions were made when an ancestor of Mrs Mockler bought and restored the house in 1764 when the Georgian wings were added. It is still used as a family home. Mrs Mockler showed the visitors fine furniture, pictures, pewter and china. The pianola in the drawing room was owned by a daughter of Queen Victoria. The Roman Catholic chapel in the house is used for the marriages of members of the family and Cardinal Hume has conducted a service there. The club members admired the massive oak staircase which is over 90 feet high. After the tour, which lasted one and a half hours, the members departed for the coach ride home after an enjoyable evening.

This was the last meeting in May as there was another Bank Holiday on the following Monday.

**Emmer Green
TG**

Women's magazines were the subject for the talk given to the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild in April by Mrs Williams. Much to everyone's surprise the first recorded magazine for women was written and edited by John Dutton, the son of a country parson, in 1693. It was called the "Ladies Mercury", was issued fortnightly and had sixteen women contributors. In Queen Anne's reign there were more titles issued than we have today, although they were expensive at 17/6d per copy. There were free gifts of song by Mr Mozart and Mr Handel; advertisements played a large part in the production and the content was similar to today's magazines, advising women on their appearance and social niceties, with articles on

various crafts and artistic skills. Interest in social conditions and more serious matters wasn't aroused until the mid 1800's when middle class women had money and leisure, but were getting bored and wanted more information on social and political affairs. The Education Bill of 1910-1911 created a new reading public and, except for a period of paper rationing just following the second world war which caused a slump, women's magazines have flourished ever since. The People's Friend was established in the late 1800s and the Woman and Home in 1926. The Lady is another pre-war magazine still to survive. The continuing popularity of women's magazines is for four reasons. They are habit-forming, they are relatively cheap, one can dip into them whenever time permits and they provide variety and escapism from monotony. Mrs Avis Dalzell gave the vote of thanks on behalf of guild members.

Mrs Sutherland thanked all those who had helped in the display of arts and crafts at the Federation Exhibition in Newbury in April. Several members had made the trip to the exhibition and had enjoyed it very much.

**St Peter's
Wives Group**

This month's meeting at Church House was particularly well attended.

Mrs Rixon from Tilehurst, encumbered with three large suitcases, full of her collection of dolls, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the doll from Egyptian times to the present day. Members learned of the making of dolls, their cost, their composition from wood, was and china to the present day vinyl; also the way they reflected life at the time of their manufacture.

Mrs Rixon's priceless collection which she has been compiling over thirty years gave the ladies of St

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Peter's a truly enjoyable evening.

Next month's meeting will be a talk on Travellers children and their education.

**Caversham
Afternoon
TG**

The Guilds give an opportunity to any lady who wishes to gain general knowledge and at the same time be able to socialise and enjoy herself. Guild members this year have already gained valuable insight into the history of St Dunstan's and the problems of the blind. Mr R Pringle, blind himself, taught members the fundamentals of Braille with a series of lights. Mrs S. Brandon enthralled members with her large collection of buttonhooks, the result of fifteen years' collecting; the social standing of the ladies showing in the design and materials used in their hooks.

Photography continues to be a major part of peoples' lives and it has enabled members to travel in Africa with Mr Jeffrey Taylor, explore Old Reading with Mr Moss and to realise how fast familiar landmarks are disappearing, and most recently, we were able "to walk" the oldest road with Mrs Meryl Beek who spoke so animatedly of her journey that we were able to enjoy

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE, JULY 1989

the animals, people and mud with her.

Members have also been active themselves, attending painting sessions led by Mrs Anne Shepherd, entering handicrafts in the Federation Exhibition at Newbury and still surviving in the Inter-Guild Quiz - do you know the inscription surrounding a one pound coin? - then come and join us. Your next opportunity is Thursday July 20th, 2.15 Church House, Caversham, when we shall be hearing about "the lighter side of Tourism" from Mrs Pamela Kovacic.

Fund raising has its place too, and members are currently involved with the RBH Appeal.

**Reading &
District
Gardeners'
Mutual
Improvement
Association**

The Reading and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association has organised, as it does each year, a programme of summer events which includes excursions and visits to gardens and nurseries of particular interest.

The first visit was to the garden and nursery of Miss Audrey Vockins and

Turn to page 11

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THE CHANGING SEASONS

First of an occasional look at the world around us

Has someone shot him? Him, in this instance being a cock pheasant, the most recent that occasionally, singly, or a pair, wander in and out of our garden.

We first noticed him pecking up pieces of nut dropped by birds, such as tits, greenfinches, sparrows, the great spotted woodpecker, and that small creature we have so far been unable to outwit, the grey squirrel, feeding from the nut-cage hanging from the silver birch at the end of the lawn.

□ □

One of us had the idea of laying a trail of nuts across the lawn to the back door in the

hope that he might become a little tame; and that is what happened.

Slowly he got to trust us, first a little warily, but by keeping still or moving slowly, as we fed him with mixed bird seed he would eat his food without fear. We tested his nerve by getting him on to the step, then the doorsill, inside on the mat, and finally to fee from our hand; a great thrill for us. He came regularly most days, making his presence known either by looking through the window of the french door, or crowing on the lawn. If he was some way off under the nearby trees picking up bits dropped from

other nut catges, with a call from us he would come running to be fed, showing his pleasure by continual clucking and we talking to him, calling him "phessy". Having had his fill he would stroll up the garden path and through the hedge to shelter, or sleep, under a small conifer. At other times he would stretch up his neck, flutter his wings, and give a strident crow.

□ □

Occasionally we heard and still hear, his call from distant field or wood, either for a mate, or for the joy of living; or it may be another cock pheasant, and we wonder,

has some trigger-happy person shot our "phessy", even though pheasant shooting is out of season by law at this time of year. We hope not, for he trusted us, we humans; we were his friends.

□ □

He was a beautiful bird in his summer plumage, with mosaic-patterned back, blue head, red cheeks, little tufts above the ears, purple sheen on his chest, a long tail, one of God's lovely creations. Our hope is that he has found his mate nesting somewhere, and we shall again see him and his spouse walking up the garden path.

SUE RYDER SUPPORT GROUP CAVERSHAM

Once again the Group would like to extend its sincere thanks to all its supporters. While it's true the members work hard, the financial result is thanks to all of the people who come and buy and give goods for sale. The Group was able to donate £1,500 from last year's activities and have been well supported already this year at the Jumble Sale (April), the Hill School Easter Fair, the Highdown School Fete and the Balmore Surgery Car Boot Sale. The next chance is the Summer Fair at Nettlebed on July 15th - a family fun day.

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the CLUBS

From Page 10

her niece at Enborne, near Newbury. This was a timely and prompt follow-on to a talk given by Miss Vockins when she showed some lovely slides and described with affection the plants in which she has a special interest.

On May 20th members went on a full day excursion by coach to Essex to see the well-known and splendid gardens and nursery owned by Beth Chatto near Colchester. Beth Chatto was a regular winner of Gold Medals at the Chelsea Show but has

recently devoted her time and energies to further extension of her delightful garden and to the nursery where one can generally purchase specimens of the plants to be seen growing so well in the garden. Mrs Chatto has written several books - The Dry Garden, The Damp Garden, Plant Portraits and recently A Garden Notebook written as a diary and full of her experiences in the successful growing of interesting plants.

There is a phrase now

recognised - "Beth Chatto type plants" and Reading Gardeners now know its meaning. She specialises in plants of subtle form and colouring, always with attention to the conditions in which they would grow naturally and always gives new introductions a thorough trial before building stocks for sale and the whole range of plants sold in the nursery is grown in the garden. It was a glorious May day for the visit and everyone bought plants as a reminder.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Harwood, Chairman, welcomed the members to the May meeting, and after various club matters were attended to, introduced Mr Blandford, who was going on to show films of 'Sutton Seeds' and 'Dogs'. What a wonderful display of flowers with such brilliant colours; they stretched for acres and acres. Then it's the turn of the vegetables, shrubs and so much more. Suttons, who were originally stationed at Reading, moved to Torquay as the climate there is milder. They send over a million catalogues around the world, and were the first to send mail orders around the world. They receive seven thousand orders a day. It has been one hundred and fifty years of working, sorting, improving, and watching the film one could see the answer to their efforts; a wonderful achievement.

Battersea Dogs Home

was then shown. Sometimes they have as many as eighteen thousand dogs and cats on their books, dogs ill-treated, unwanted and lost dogs; cats in the same conditions. Why do humans buy pets and then when they get tired of them take them out and turn them loose far away from where these poor animals have lived. If only it was compulsory for the animals to have on their collars the owners name and address, this would help the Dogs Home at Battersea to reunite lost animals, and help them in other ways. They do a wonderful job at the Home, dogs and cats are fed, medically treated, exercised, etc. Please everyone do remember animals do have feelings and want to belong. Particulars of the coach pick-up and time leaving for the Isle of Wight were given out. Members then left saying how much they had enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment.

Rosehill W.I.

The May Meeting was held on 3rd May when everyone was enjoying the beautiful, sunny weather. After the usual business Mrs P. Morden, VCO, explained the resolutions for the AGM at the Albert Hall in London on 1st June. The Rosehill representative was to be Mrs Baddeley from Maplewood W.I.

The competition for a small flower arrangement was won by Mrs Ellingham.

The June meeting on the 7th was a special one to celebrate the Institute's twentieth anniversary. The Hall was full with

members and visitors from other institutes. An outing is being planned for August to Uppark House in Hampshire, and crafts, Rambling and Play Reading as usual.

The Chairman, Mrs Fricker, was present and gave the good news that negotiations were almost complete for the W.I. House at Mortimer.

Before an excellent tea with Birthday cake, Mrs Weller presented Mrs Gillings with the silver salver for most points in the year in competitions and exhibitions. The Runner-up, Mrs Dick, had the goblet. Meanwhile group games were enjoyed by all.

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6.30pm Evensong

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9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
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