



AMNESTY GARDEN PARTY



Photo — Peter Sear

THE Reading branch of Amnesty held a Garden Party at 45 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green to boost their funds and to make more people aware of their work for human rights among prisoners of conscience. Among those at the Garden Party were (left to right): Mrs Jean Carroll who orga-

nised the event; Miss Ethel Kirby, one of the Reading branch's oldest supporters; Miss Janet Johnstone, Director of the British section of Amnesty; and Tony Durant, MP for Reading North and a member of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group. The Garden Party raised £110.

CHURCH COUNCIL REAFFIRMS DESIRE FOR UNITY

FOLLOWING rejection of the Covenant for Christian Unity by the General Synod of the Church of England, the Parochial Church Council of Caversham and Mapledurham at its July meeting passed the following motion nem con:

"That this Council, recognising that the recent rejection of the Covenant proposals by the General Synod has, rightly or wrongly, been widely interpreted as a refusal by the Church of England to take any formal step towards church unity, emphasises its own desire to seek increasing cooperation and joint action with other Christian churches in

Caversham, knowing that, despite differences, we are all followers of the same Christ".

The Covenant, which was accepted by other churches taking part, was rejected when it narrowly failed to gain a two-thirds majority in the House of Clergy. Though the Covenant was accepted by the laity of the General Synod — albeit with a small majority — and by the bishops, it needed to get a majority in each House.

It is too early to foresee future developments towards Christian unity, though it is possible that more encouragement will be given to individual ecumenical projects at local 'grass roots' level.

RECENT THEATRE

JUNE and July saw two different offerings from our local theatrical talent. The first in St Andrew's Hall on June 12 was two one act plays and they were performed by Caversham Players and indeed was written by one of its members, Allan Bliss, who also produced it. It proved a gripping tale of the supernatural. The play had been entered in several local drama competitions where it won several awards both for itself and the fine performances of the cast. Sheila Hodson and Marion Thwaite gave impressive performances as the two daughters (nicely contrasted in theatrical terms) while Joyce Boulding created a moving picture of the old woman. The cast was completed by Marjorie Tillman and Paula Beabey as the District Nurse and Social Visitor, both giving neatly judged performances which helped to create a

satisfying whole.

The other play was a lively romp of office life (again written and produced by a member of the club) which gave scope for several well contrasted performances. All in all, a very satisfying production.

Delightful

Musical

For their last production of the season Caversham Theatre gave us Sandy Wilson's musical 'The Boy Friend' which was staged in Thameside School on July 13th, 14th and 17th. The Boy Friend, an affectionate and entertaining pastiche of the 1920's, proved a delightful way of spending a July evening (much more so than in Ken Russell's overblown film version). Out of such a large cast (over eighteen) it would be impossible to mention all, though the quality helped to create a

dancing (the latter skilfully choreographed by Dorothy Byers) cannot go unmentioned. Young love was deftly and winningly portrayed by Louise Smith and Martin Leckie as Polly and Tony, while Dorothy Byers scored in the role of Madame Dubonnet, relishing both its comic possibilities and also the character's affectionate side. One of the highlights of the piece was a hilarious cameo from Chris Bowring as Lord Brockhurst, while his wife, Sara, made a notable debut as Hortense. The musical was accompanied by Kathleen Robson on the piano, and the whole show was directed by Bob Green.

Caversham must count itself lucky to have two such drama groups of evident distinction and we look forward to their next productions with keen anticipation.

C.R.

Woodcote Way Post Office changes hands

IT is ten years since Michael Fussell came to Mapledurham and Woodcote Way post office. Now, this July, he has given up the business and Mr Page, who already has the post office at Caversham Park, has taken it over.

The little sub-post office on The Corner was always a friendly, cheerful place, but in the last decade it has become even more so and this has been due to Michael Fussell. No one could have taken more interest in his customers. He must have known almost all of them by name and was always ready with a cheerful word, enquiring about the family or sharing a joke, and always being so very helpful to, and interested in, the local community.



Recently Mr Fussell took over the post office in Hemdean Road and he intends to put all his time and energy, with the help of his partner, Mr Hannah, into developing the business there as he has done at Woodcote Way.

The post office won't seem the same without him but happily he will still be living at his present address, so all his many friends will not really be saying goodbye to him.

All his customers in the Woodcote Way area and in rural Mapledurham are doubtless most grateful for the service he has given them over the years, and for his part Michael Fussell thanks everyone for all the support he has received from them. "They are really grand people up here", he said, "so full of kindness".

We welcome Mr Page to Woodcote Way and hope to see Michael Fussell around for many a long year.

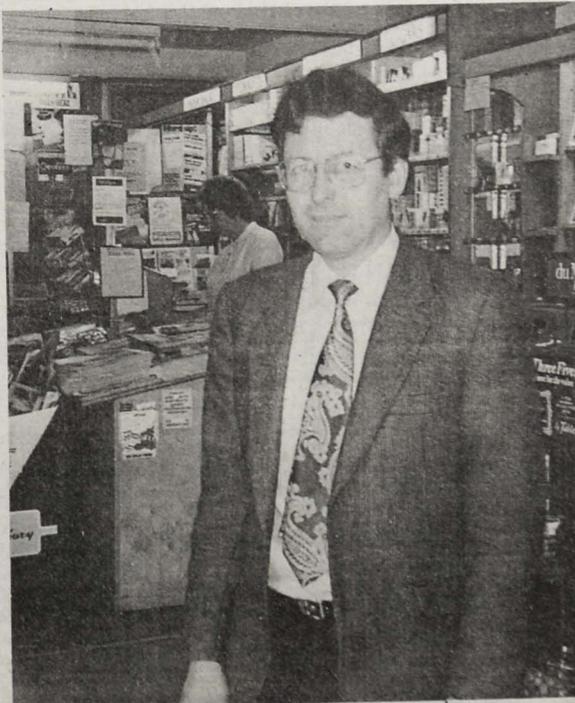


Photo — Peter Sear

The Editor's Column

FRESH WOODS

MOST readers will by now have heard that I expect to leave Caversham early in 1983; they may however like to know something about the new work I shall be undertaking.

Last September the Bishop of Oxford asked me if I would be willing to assist with the work of the Diocesan Synod by becoming secretary of the Synod's Agenda Committee. The Synod has a membership of about 250 clergy and laity drawn from the parishes of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Under the Bishop's chairmanship it could be described as the governing body of the diocese. It has a standing committee, the Bishop's Council consisting of the Bishop, suffragan bishops and archdeacons with a number of elected clergy and laity and a few members nominated by the Bishop — in all about thirty people. The Council meets several times a year, arranges the agenda of the Diocesan Synod and plays an important role in implementing the Synod's decisions. I have been a member of the Council for many years and for the past six years I have been Vice-President of the Synod and Chairman of the House of Laity, working very closely throughout that time with Sir James Cobban who has been Chairman of the House of Laity. I have thus acquired considerable knowledge of the central workings of the diocese.

Until now the work of arranging the business of the Synod has fallen entirely on Mr Frank Robson. Mr Robson has considerable duties as Diocesan Registrar as well as a demanding practice as a solicitor. The burden of work carried by the Bishop, his suffragans and archdeacons is very heavy and it has for some time been apparent that someone needs to devote time and thought to the business of the Diocesan Synod especially if the Bishop's Council is to explore and where appropriate see that the recommendations of the Partners in Mission report of last autumn are implemented. But although I have given a fair amount of my time for many years to diocesan matters it would clearly be impossible to do this extra work and remain rector of so large a parish as Caversham and Mapledurham.

Stonesfield

When I accepted in principle the idea of becoming Agenda Secretary of the Synod the Bishop suggested that I should combine this diocesan work with responsibility for a small parish. There followed a long delay; several possible parishes were considered but for different reasons none of them seemed right. Then Canon Ronald Jones announced that he would be retiring from Stonesfield at the end of September. Stonesfield is a small parish with a population of about fourteen hundred people (Caversham has a population of over 30,000). It is unusual in that it has not, for various reasons, been combined with another small parish; it is four miles from Woodstock and twelve from Oxford; church life is flourishing and I understand there are excellent relations with the Methodists and Roman Catholics the latter using the parish church for their own service on Sunday afternoons. It would seem to be an ideal base from which to undertake the diocesan work the Bishop has asked me to do. I therefore expect to move to Stonesfield Rectory early in 1983.

Twenty years ago

My wife and I came to Caversham with our family in the autumn of 1962 and after twenty years it will not be at all easy to leave such an exciting parish; next March however I shall be sixty three years of age and the pressure of work is such that had I stayed on I should have felt it necessary to retire when sixty five. By moving now to a small parish I shall hope to continue in an active ministry for rather longer and I am sure Caversham will benefit from having a younger rector.

In the months that remain for me here there will be much to do, including seeing that provision is made for the future of the Caversham Bridge. I have edited this newspaper since it was first published in 1964. It has acquired a place in the life of our community which is important and when the editorial board meets on August 31st it will obviously have to give some thought to the question of editorship.

John Milton may not have got his colour quite right and to-morrow is not quite here but the closing lines of *Lycidas* are not entirely irrelevant.

"At last he rose, and twitch's his Mantle blew;
To-morrow to fresh Woods and Pastures new".

John Grimwade

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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Dear Sir,

The article headed 'Old Maps can Tell a Tale' appearing in the July edition of the 'Caversham Bridge' is no doubt of great interest to many of your readers, in particular to my husband and myself as I was born in the first cottage appearing in the picture of Paddock Road. This is the first time I have seen a photograph of the old cottage, which according to the date in the brickwork of the outside wall was built in the seventeen hundreds. We used the well regularly as this was our only means of obtaining water, and

Postbag



garden where a beautiful peacock strutted majestically around on fine days. The barn shown in the photograph was also a regular playroom on wet days, mainly because it contained several old carriages.

when analysed it was considered absolutely pure. At the bottom of our garden stood a bricked up vault, always of great interest to us children.

The old house next door, now demolished, was owned by a Mr Saunders and called 'Laurel Lawn'; as a girl I spent many happy hours in their

In those early days at the beginning of the century, Paddock Road was truly a rural backwater of Old Caversham, and may I take this opportunity of congratulating the writer of this most interesting article.

EILEEN D. SLADE
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TWO VOLUNTEERS IN SRI LANKA

by
Joyce and David Newby

THANKS to Voluntary Service Overseas we have been privileged to work with, not for, some of the people in rural Northern Sri Lanka for the past two years. Living in a boys' home in their own life style, working with them and with people of a nearby village we became in tune with them and their way of life. David ran an engineering workshop for young apprentices and Joyce ran a Day Care Centre for village children and also gave English classes in the boys' home and in the village. It was not easy — the communication gap had to be overcome, the impulse to say "we know a better way" had to be resisted and we had to adjust ourselves continuously to separation from our family (who were a marvellous support to us). But it was all a tremendous experience in the process of our growth.

Can't read it

Is Sri Lanka to you the "Beautiful Lane", Serendib or the island of your dream holiday? Wonderful beaches lapped by the warm Indian Ocean, fringed by coconut palms, lush jungle, tropical fruits, fantastic mountain scenery with picturesque tea estates, exotic bird life, elephants and temples of all ages capped by the everlasting golden sun and inhabited by a people for ever ready to give help, advice and assistance? It is all these things and more BUT even this paradise has its darker side seldom seen or noticed by the tourist living in his air-conditioned hotel or travelling in his air conditioned coach or train.

It was our privilege to see just a little of this other side living as we did in what some would call "unspoilt" rural surroundings. Inadequate nutrition for the young, monotonous food for all, lack of pure water supplies, lack of adequate water, inadequate sanitation and lack of knowledge of hygiene all lead to poor health, much disease and an attitude which regards these as an inevitable part of life. One little boy at the nursery, who could not walk because of early polio, died as a result of an infection, and Joyce shared this grief with his mother. Inadequate medical attention results in this fatalistic attitude to unnecessary, early death including suicide. While we were there at least four young people killed themselves by drinking weed killer, and the brother of a nursery child was drowned by falling down a



Photo — E. S. Archer

Joyce and David Newby who recently returned from Navajeevanam, Sir Lanka, where they have been serving with the V.S.O. since October 1980. They hope to return to Sri Lanka in September or October for a further two years, but this time they will be serving in Kandy City Mission.

well. An unequal struggle is waged against the forces of nature with the monotonous grind of manual labour to provide a bare subsistence living and little hope of the development of one's humanness. The women bend double at weeding time in the heat of the fierce tropical sun to earn 15 rupees a day and that is 5 rupees less than the men who do exactly the same job! (one rupee is about 2½p). The forces of convention and custom are very strong, especially in attitudes towards those senior to oneself, in education, in marriage and in families. The only escape route is to "go foreign" and get a job in the Middle East of Singapore where more money is available at a personal price like our friend, Rani, one of a

big family who decided that at twenty-five years she must go to Singapore for two years to earn her dowry so that she would no longer be a drain on her family's resources.

What did we achieve by living there? Firstly we became friends with people of many different backgrounds varying from families who were refugees from the southern tea estates to University lecturers, who were agonising over 'development' and working in extraordinarily primitive conditions. These friendships evoked a state of great trust and awareness on both sides. Secondly we perhaps opened some small windows for them on the possibilities of change and of achieving change. In particular Joyce helped to show the girls in the village a different outlook on the position of women in the world; that possessing books was a possibility and that things are not always inevitable. David tried to give guidance in technology in his workshop so that they could enjoy some of the products of the technical age which they both need and desire. In the nursery Joyce showed both staff and children that an educational approach was possible which allowed the tremendous natural potential of the young children to develop; that learning means exploring the world and not merely being shouted at!

And how have we been affected by all this? The job is nowhere finished. We cannot sit down here in our comparative freedom and luxury knowing now what we do know. So we have to go back to do even only a little bit more. Why can't we do it here? Perhaps it is because we have learnt that even the poorest people here in material or spiritual terms are not nearly as poor as the people we have come to know and love. We hope to go back to a different part of Sri Lanka but to still keep up our contacts with the north. Our family here have readily given us their encouragement and we will depart with their blessing.

We owe it to our friends in Sri Lanka to do more with them. It is like being part of a family when each member gives and

receives support. Helping the Third World does not only mean personal or Governmental aid but it does mean real understanding, real personal friendship and help and real human contact. If some of what we have written presents a grim picture of injustice, grinding poverty and hopelessness without any compensating features it is not meant to. Our friends are a really delightful, warm and happy people who have great fun but who deserve a better deal so that they can escape from the trap of lack of opportunity for their personal and corporate development.

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CAVERSHAM PARK SCHOOL'S HEADMASTER RETIRES

HEADMASTER since the school opened in June 1970, Mr G. W. Haysom retired at the end of the summer term. During that time, the school, which was originally in Oxfordshire, grew from seventy-eight to two hundred and eighty pupils. Mr Haysom, who will be missed by both parents and children, is leaving the district to take up market-gardening. The photograph shows the presentation by the children of their gifts of a cine' editor, a scrapbook

of events of the last term, and a collage depicting some of his interests, at a surprise entertainment they arranged at the end of term. He and Mrs Haysom had previously received gifts of garden furniture, books, a framed print of old Caversham Park and a cheque at a gathering of staff, ex-staff and Friends of the School. Mr Haysom will be presented by Mr Peter Sullivan from Ulster.



Photo — E. S. Archer

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COAST TO COAST—A Canadian Sabbatical-DENNIS WELLER

THE main idea behind my visit to Canada might best be summarised in two sentences:— (1) After nearly 30 years in the Baptist Ministry it seemed right to take a Sabbatical, if only to recharge one's batteries! (2) Canada had for many years interested me as being a desirable country in which to travel, but above all I wanted to see something of the Churches and people. In the event I was amply rewarded on both counts, for there was much to see and many interesting people to meet. Even ten weeks seemed all too short to take it in.

My first 5 weeks were spent in Toronto, the capital of Ontario Province and the largest

metropolitan city in Canada today. Toronto is a modern city with many tall, but elegant office-towers; sophisticated underground shopping malls, a clean and efficient metro, moving stairways etc., all give the impression of immense progress and prosperity. Many of the older districts have been skilfully restored to full community life, civic planners and private investors combining to bring back residents, amenities and so on. There is a strong cosmopolitan atmosphere in Toronto, sufficiently relaxed to suggest real progress in integration. At the same time, the presence of a lively Chinatown, of German, Italian and Portuguese districts, provides for diversity within unity. This desire for racial harmony is well illustrated by a Provincial poster which displays a mixed group of faces, black, brown and white under the title "Together we are Ontario".

Naturally there is evidence of a strong British connection in both culture and politics. For example, nearly all the Canadians whom I met vigorously supported and applauded the British action in the Falklands.

There remains a great respect and admiration for the Queen, as for most things traditionally British, but older Canadians wonder if the younger generation feels the same affinity. The Canadian system of Federal government is itself under mounting criticism from the Province — notably Quebec — whose governing party seeks independence.

and whether the trend is reversible. Whether such drive is due to a greater "spirituality" or to better business acumen, it would be hard for the visitor to determine. That is a matter between the churches and their Lord. Trying hard not to equate large attendances and healthy bank balances with evangelical fervour, I felt that William Carey, were he alive today, would have known the answer — he said "Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God."

The Toronto church with which I was most closely linked is a central church enjoying (by European standards) a very large membership, with a morning congregation of well over a thousand. Evening congregations were proportionately less well attended. The Canadians too have a "problem" with their evening services. It came home to me that we could learn from each other as we seek God's guidance on the way ahead.

Vancouver

The second half of my visit, by which time my wife had joined me, took us to Vancouver. Vancouver is said to be noted for its rainfall, but we were fortunate to get 19 days continuous blue skies and really hot sunshine. When however it finally rained we saw why the forests of British Columbia are so green and the valleys so fertile; also, Vancouver's lovely "English" gardens, not to mention Vancouver's cricket matches "Interrupted by rain!"

Our central interest was again focussed on a city church, this time a "downtown" building with a mixed congregation of city dwellers and suburbanites. This church added to its Sunday ministry a strong element of social responsibility through Hobbit House — a centre for young and old alike, where a warm welcome and reasonably priced refreshments inevitably lead to encounters between those

who come needing the love of God in their lives and those who are there to listen and to lead them to know that love in Christ as Saviour and Lord. Whilst in Vancouver we also had opportunity to visit a welcoming suburban fellowship whose pastor invited me to preach — thus helping to keep me in practice!

Queen Victoria IN WAX!

We visited the beautiful city of Victoria on Vancouver Island and were fortunate to be there on Canada Day. The harbour area of this "most English" of North American cities was bright with flags and bunting, 600 hanging flower-baskets made a colourful background to the civic festivities. We were on hand to witness a wax model of Queen Victoria being taken for her annual drive in a vintage Rolls Royce. The mayor sat beside "her" wearing his ceremonial whisk the chauffeur wore an unlikely looking Ascot suit and topper. Naturally we pressed forward along with the American and Japanese tourists to photograph this curious cavalcade!

No account of our journey through Canada would be complete without reference to the Rocky Mountains. We were privileged to have 7 days in the Rockies and to spend time in mountain resorts like Banff, Jasper and Lake Louise. The splendour of God's creation is nowhere more superbly demonstrated than here in these mountains. In the Canadian National Parks we saw the wonders of the Creator's handiwork preserved and husbanded by the skills of man. God and man working together in partnership have produced an amazing land of beauty and usefulness.

As late one evening we left Canada by air, the western sky was bathed in the glow of the setting sun. Shortly afterwards, the rising sun came up over Greenland to herald the advent of a new day. It reminded me of the Lord's saying, concerning Himself — "I am the Light of the world." Coast to coast we understood a little more of what John Ellerton meant when he wrote—

"As o'er each continent and island The dawn leads on another day, The voice of prayer is never silent, Nor dies the strain of praise away."

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Growing churches
Turning to the main reason for my visit, namely, to learn something from the Canadian Churches — I gained a firm impression of vibrancy and growth. I found that where churches are growing, they welcome it and look for yet more growth. Where they are declining, they want to know the reasons why

ST JOHN'S DAY



Photo — E. S. Archer

■ Church warden Ken Bennett makes a presentation to the Rev David Milling, while (behind) Church warden William Vincent makes another to the Rev Graham Lynch-Watson on the occasion of the silver jubilee of their ordination.

Dr Patey to retire

FOR thirty-five years Dr George Patey has been a part of Caversham life and a doctor and a friend of many families. At the end of September he retires from the practice in Bridge Street.



A presentation is to be made to him on Wednesday 20th October in St Andrew's Hall, between 7.30 and 9.30pm. The good wishes of the neighbourhood go to him and his wife and we wish Dr Patey a long and happy retirement.

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UNEMPLOYMENT — A WAY TO HELP

SOME day, we are the fresh demands of recession will come to an end. All those made unemployed in the struggle to keep down prices by reducing the force absorbed again into new or expanding industries. When this miracle is likely to take place is anybody's guess, but the new Youth Training Scheme, which will succeed the Youth Opportunities Programme in 1983, is based on the assumption that it must happen sometime.

The new scheme will aim to give twelve months' high quality training to every 1983 school leaver who wants it, as well as to those who left school this year and have been unable to find work. They will be trained in broad occupational skills so that they may be able to respond to whatever

work to be done professionally. Local initiatives to provide employment should operate on the same principle: little would be gained if they provided work by taking it away from others.

But there is an increasing need to take action in regard to the waste, eyesores and neglect that characterise our contemporary society, and local initiatives in different parts of the country have attempted to do something about them and at the same time provide much needed work. One form that such a local initiative may take is the establishment of a neighbourhood cooperative where a group of people join forces to promote an enterprise that might, for example, undertake the loft insulation of pensioners' houses, the renovation of furniture for old people's

A key criterion of schemes developed under the Youth Opportunities Programme was that they should not jeopardise the employment of skilled workers. Activities such as the redecoration of church halls was only undertaken if the money was not available for the

homes, repairing of discarded electrical gadgets or refurbishing of dilapidated toys.

For such a cooperative to succeed it needs not only initial financial guarantees but

also dedicated input in the form of skilled supervision of the selected activity and professional administration of its business dealings. Members of the Reading Churches Ecumenical Social Responsibility Group are currently studying the feasibility of setting up such a neighbourhood cooperative, and they would greatly welcome your expression of interest or offer of help. Please ring John Madeley (476063) or Martyn Allies (472007) for further information.

Silver Wolf award



FREDDIE Knight awarded the Silver Wolf Award. The Silver Wolf Award is the highest award in Scouting and it is presented as a personal gift from the Chief Scout in recognition of outstanding and exceptional service to scouting. Freddie, who in recent months has been confined to a wheelchair, has given a lifetime to scouting, including being President of the 89th (Milestone Wood) Scout Group. Congratulations!

Twins' Queen's Award



Photo — E. S. Archer

AT the first meeting of the 3rd Caversham St John's Guides at their new Headquarters, twin sisters Dawn and Heather Mundy, of Mayfield Drive, Caversham, received their Queen's Guide awards from District Commissioner, Mrs Agnes Sanford. The fifteen year old girls first joined the St John's Brownies, and have worked steadily towards becoming Queen's Guides, gaining eighty-one Guide badges between them on the way. A small party was held afterwards at which their Queen's Award work was on show. The photograph shows Mrs Sanford (centre) presenting the awards. Also present were Mrs Turner, Guider (right) and Mrs Wendy Buss (Assistant Guider).

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

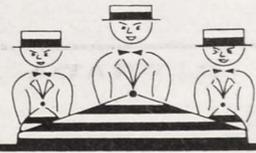
A party was held on the 5th July to celebrate the birth of a baby son to the Prince and Princess of Wales. Everyone brought a contribution to the refreshment table. Games were played with a baby theme which caused some amusement. A competition for the best hand made baby bonnet was won by Evelyn Wallis. Freda Haines won the competition for guessing the Royal baby's weight, sex and birthday.

The members were asked to bring their slide films the following week. Joan Annett was kept very busy at the projector whilst the owner of the film described the location portrayed.

The 19th July was, fortunately, a dry, fine evening for the members who were taking part in the sponsored walk by the riverside to the Roebuck and back to Caversham. The money raised was in aid of the Ken Thomas Scanner Appeal Fund.

The following week the members met on Thames Side Promenade for a games evening including rounders and informal tennis. Mr Ted Howard, the Vice-President kindly delivered the fish and chip supper to the members to complete a pleasant outdoor meeting.

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When Salmon and Trout were caught at Caversham

FROM earliest times the people of Caversham must have used the Thames as a source of food supply and fish weirs in some form or other must have come into use very early on in their attempt to catch fish which would have been a very important addition to their diet. In medieval times these obstructions across the river were called stops, kidells or hedges, the last name very apt for these barriers were very like a form of hedge. Crude brush-wood structures, they were secured to the river bed by piles. They were placed either across part of the main channel or between one bank and an island. Here at Caversham there were far more islands or eyots in the Thames than there are today.

The position of these stops or kidells in the water was vital and they were placed at angles across the current either in the shape of a V or W. Fish were funnelled into the open end of the V or W which contained large nets or baskets. Here they were trapped.

The original flimsy structures were later erected in a much more durable style. Two rows of inter-laced piles were placed across the river and the space between them filled with hurdles and all manner of infilling. At the first flooding of the river many collapsed and the infill either blocked the navigation channel or floated down stream to become caught at

the next surviving fish weir.

This method of catching fish lasted until Tudor times and by then it was causing increasing obstruction to river traffic which, by now, was using the Thames more and more as a highway. Even in pre-Norman days these barriers were a nuisance and very early in the year 1066 Edward the Confessor is reputed to have passed an act relating to such inconveniences in the Thames and other rivers.

Eels were just one kind of fish that were harvested and they were sold in "stikkes". A "stikke" contained twenty-five eels which were threaded onto a piece of wood, hence the name. In 1287 eighty "stikkes" of eels were caught in the Thames near

Reading and sold at four and a halfpence a "stikke". Three "stikkes" of eels formed part of the title award to Whitechurch. The catching of eels was a thriving business which this year (1982) has begun again at the mouth of the Thames according to the national press.

Years ago eels were also caught in huge baskets made of willow rods and secured to large wooden frames or stages which were driven into position in the river bed. These baskets could be lowered or raised in and out of the water and they were called eel bucks. There were eel bucks at Caversham Mill in the river near Chazey Court Farm, and in the Thames behind the Griffin, one of Caversham's ancient inns. Nearby the latter is a little turning down to the waterside called appropriately, Buckside. The innkeeper at the Griffin had the rights to all eels caught in the traps close to his tavern and many a hungry traveller must have feasted on eel pie or stew. At least one person in Caversham remembers eating eels caught from the Griffin bucks. Sadly they were destroyed in 1911. Those near Chazey Court farm were removed in 1900. A house on the back close by is called the Fisheries. Eel bucks were usually in use from October to December when the main eel migration to the sea took place. A good night's catch from a set of traps could reach fifty-six pounds in weight or even more.

For catching all the many kinds of coarse fish a large conical hoop net was used even into the late eighteenth hundreds.

Salmon to eat seven days a week

It is hard to imagine salmon in the Thames but at one time it was a great salmon river. There is a story that tells of London apprentices being fed on salmon every day of the week until they rebelled and refused

largest fish that has been caught in these parts for a great many years."

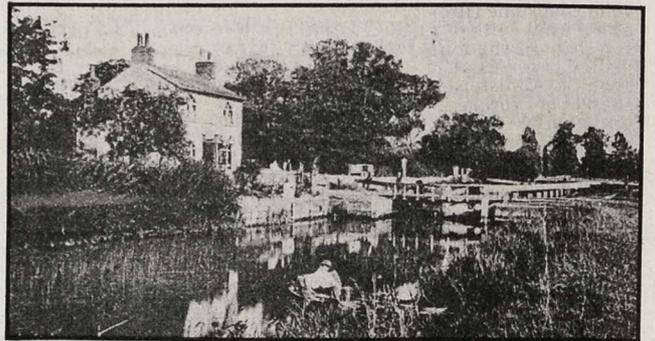
It was not only salmon that were caught in the Thames in past years. Another entry from the same paper reads "12 May 1867: Seven pound trout measuring two feet long by five and three quarter inches caught near Caversham Bridge". And at Mapledurham large trout were occasionally caught in the mill pool as late as 1920. In 1343 a stretch of the Thames there was known as the Mulewat (mill water) and was noted for good fishing. In those days it was rented for five shillings a year. In a Mapledurham rental for 1466 Walter Pecke rented fish

zealously guarded by those who owned or rented them.

Fishy stories abounded then, no doubt, as they do today and many a tale was probably told about the one that got away.

Anyone wishing to see some of the ancient tools of fishing should go along to a superb and fascinating exhibition now on at Reading Art Gallery and open until September 24th from 10 - 5. Every aspect of the Thames in earlier times is to be seen and there are some beautiful paintings and prints of riverside localities.

It may interest readers to know that in a recent article on the return of salmon to



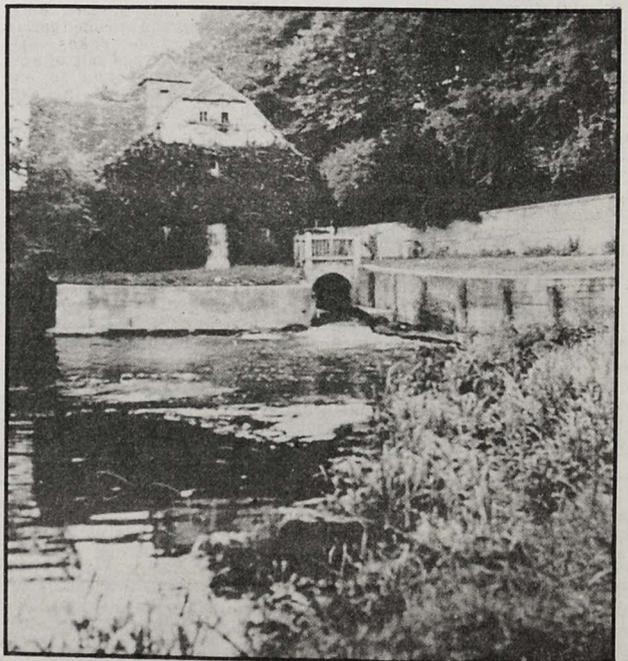
■ The idyllic setting of Caversham lock around 1910. Behind the lock house was the cottage home of Henry Knight, basket maker, who in 1882 was providing "at reasonable charges the necessary gear and information" to fishermen.

ner of filth from the coming of the Industrial Revolution. The last salmon caught at Caversham was found in the eel bucks in 1848. On June 11th, 1748 the following entry appeared in the Reading Mercury "This morning a salmon was catch'd in one of the Bucks belonging to Mr Willis (or Willats) of Caversham Mill, that was above four feet long and weighed about forty pounds. It is the

weirs for eleven shillings a year plus a large pike and one trout.

Today fishing is an occupation of leisure, but years ago it was a serious business and any Caversham or Mapledurham villager would have been very thankful to be able to bring home a fish to augment the meagre diet of his family. This was probably not easy as fishing rights would have been most

the Thames, in County Life, July 22nd, mention was made of a salmon, freshly dead, found floating in the vicinity of Caversham bridge in 1981. To reach the place where it was found the fish would have had to cover some forty miles from Tower Bridge and negotiate as many as twenty-one weirs from Teddington. So salmon have once again returned to Caversham.



■ The mill pool, Mapledurham, 1938. It is said by some fishermen that pike caught in this pool are among the tastiest in the Thames. A pike from this pool is quite a speciality.

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ROUND THE CHURCHES

BAPTIST NEWS

NOTHING SHALL BE HIDDEN

BUT very little has been revealed and the suspense is killing. Our Minister and his wife have returned safely from their sabbatical in Canada and we have been left wondering. We at least expected that he would appear in a ten-gallon stetson and that she would be sporting a pair of moccasins, but no such luck! It was a former Minister of the Church, the Revd. Dr. John Gladstone (1949-1956) who spilled a few beans when he visited us recently. John is Minister-in-charge of Yorkminster Baptist Church, Toronto — with a membership of two thousand and an army of assistant ministers and full time workers. It was with John and Joyce Gladstone that Dennis and Rhoda Weller spent five weeks studying Church Activities prior to taking a holiday with friends in and around Vancouver. John produced an amusing photograph taken during a visit to Niagara Falls in which our Minister appears in a rather sporty cream coloured cloth cap — a disappointing substitute for a stetson irrespective of capacity.

We have, however, gleaned that at Yorkminster the Deacons and Stewards parade in morning suits and this may provide the clue to the demand by our antiquies organisation, RHOJO, for bowlers and toppers — perhaps they have the idea of cornering the market in readiness for the day when the Revd. Dennis gets his Deacons and Stewards into uniform and lines them up for inspection — tallest on the right shortest on the left — prior to morning service. So much for speculation — it is good to have the Wellers back amongst us again.

A few revelations

It was a delight to welcome John and Joyce Gladstone — both as youthful as ever — and it seemed to those who knew them that it was but yesterday that they led our Church, their first charge in the Ministry which took them to Plymouth and Bromley before emigrating to Canada. Their memories for faces and names had to be experienced to be believed and John's fund of amusing stories of those far

off days' brought the house down'. He confessed to doubting the strength of his spiritual teaching when he heard the then caretaker, whom he referred to as a 'displaced cockney', shout: 'Get to hell out of here, this is Gawd's House', when some youngsters had dared to enter the Church at a time when they had no business to be there. He also recalled his concern that when he started his sermons the then Church Secretary closed his eyes as if to sleep, an idiosyncrasy which another deacon had also noticed. This came to light when John informed the Deacons that he wished to leave Caversham to further his experience. In giving notice he light-heartedly suggested that he would have to start repeating his sermons. This prompted the Church Secretary to comment that he would be pleased to hear them a second time. This remark brought a rejoinder from the observant deacon that the secretary had not even heard them the first time!

ST MARGARET'S CHILDREN'S BARBECUE

THERE is no doubt that the barbecue on Saturday July 10th held by the children from Family Workshop (3-8 year olds) and the Children's Group (for older youngsters at Mapledurham) was a great success.

Workshop and the Children's Group have been going for several years and it was felt that such a get-together would be a useful exercise. Martin and Janet Perham kindly allowed the event to take place in their garden at Crispin Close, and while some fifteen children from Workshop were busy cooking for the party the older ones were helping to get things organised around the barbecue.

Irene Lindsay's home was once again filled with under eights busy making cheese scones and straws, jam tarts, mince pies and various cakes and some amusing comments were heard from the young cooks. "Dump the flour in the marg..." "We've got to squash it out now, haven't we?" They worked with a will, the carpet getting a fair sprinkling of pastry on it, which happily was swept up before it was trodden underfoot. However things like that never worry Irene and somehow all was well.

When the cooking was done the children walked round to Crispin Close proudly bearing their contribution to the

refreshments and the party began.

It was tremendously encouraging to all who run both the children's groups to have such backing from so many parents and friends and it meant an awful lot to the children to have their mums and dads coming along. It was certainly all very worthwhile.

THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL

ONCE again it was typical St Margaret's weather, a lovely evening, for the patronal festival on July 20th. And once again a goodly gathering of friends from Caversham came to share in the celebration, at which there were one hundred and seven communicants. During the service Sister Barbara Thomas from Springfield St Luke was licensed by the guest preacher, Canon D. H. Ruddy, Warden of the Diocesan Readers.

ST JOHN'S NOTES

ST John's Guides gave a display of maze marching as their contribution at the Guides' District Fete on July 3rd. With no prompting they marched themselves into circles and squares, and from a complicated wheel, to straight lines, to salute the flag. To do it so faultlessly meant a great deal of practice for the leaders and guides. Then the Brownies entertained with races, especially the "running to school" race, in which one small girl was "mother" and dressed another Brownie as she "ran-to-school". Everyone watching was impressed by the absolutely matter-of-fact way in which St John's Guides and Brownies made sure their disabled members could join in the fun.

On 10th July the Scouts held a Mini-Market to raise funds for the Scout/Guide Hut and made £33. Bric-a-brac sold well to children as well as adult bargain hunters. Families had provided garden produce, cakes, preserves, and sale of work articles, and so had members of the congregation.

It was a cheerful, friendly gathering with people chatting over coffee on the lawn. The

New organist at St Andrew's

ANDREW Evans, who has been organist at St Andrew's for three years, has left to study Music at Merton College, Oxford, where he has an Organ Scholarship.

His place is being taken by Ian Crabbe who is

Head of the Music Department at Chiltern Edge School. Before coming to St Andrew's Ian Crabbe was organist at St Mary's, Long Crendon. He also finds time to conduct the Sonning Common Orchestra.



■ Andrew Evans

Photo — Peter Sear



■ Ian Crabbe

Photo — Peter Sear

organisers would be grateful for any offers of help for future occasions — Tel: 477185.

The Summerdown Singers gave their profit of £50, from their Evening of Music held in St John's on 16th July to the Hut Fund. The refreshments were provided by the Guides. "Very good they were too" said the choir, and "How well the Scouts did the job of selling programmes at the door, and showing people to their seats".

Caversham Mothers' Union

ABOUT thirty members of the combined Mothers' Unions met in the Rectory garden in July. A general question and answer session began the afternoon, with the Rector answering the questions. Several topical questions were asked, such as "Whether the Church's teaching was relevant to the present unemployment situation", etc. Tea was served after this and everybody enjoyed the fine weather and lovely garden.

OUTING TO UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE

MEMBERS of St Barnabas' congregation enjoyed an outing to Uffington White Horse on Sunday 18th July. After a picnic lunch there was an opportunity for the younger (and not so young) people to fly kites and everyone joined in a game of rounders among the cow-pats!

The afternoon ended with tea in Uffington village hall, followed by a short service in Uffington Church.



Photo — Peter Sear

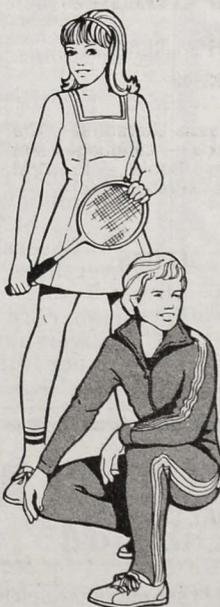
■ Outside Uffington Church ... the end of a happy afternoon.

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BARCLAYCARD AND ACCESS WELCOME



■ Children from St Margaret's Family Workshop enjoying themselves.

ALL OVER EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA TODAY, the lifestyle movement is growing. The movement goes under different names in different countries but basically it consists of people who are giving up goods and services they could afford to buy. Many but by no means all are Christians.

In Norway the movement is gaining recruits at about a thousand a month. It is particularly strong too in Holland and Sweden. But the biggest growth is coming from the United States where an estimated 45 million, that is nearly one quarter of the population, are practising some form of voluntary restraint. In Britain the movement is as yet small, but it could grow substantially in the near future.

Why are more people becoming interested in "life-

style" Reasons vary but can be classed under 3 main headings. Firstly, millions are now voluntarily living more simply in order to give a warning that man is tipping nature out of balance. Man through his greed is despoiling God's world. The pursuit of more and more is

industrial society, as it is today, are partly to blame for disappearing forests and for the gobbling up of finite resources, which once gone, are gone forever. At a major U.N. environment conference in Nairobi this year, the Director of the U.N. Environment

— not just in industrial areas but also in rural areas. Fish catches in Sweden have been seriously affected; crops could also suffer unless we stop our madness. If we make do with less, then pollution is likely to be just that little bit less.

choice about lifestyle".

The aspect has two arms — living more simply is an act of solidarity with the poor, and it also means that we have more money to give to the poor. By living more simply we can help all to simply live.

Horace Dammers was interviewed by an Australian journalist about the lifestyle movement. After the Dean has finished his explanation of what the movement was all about, the journalist asked "but that's just what Jesus taught isn't it?"

Lifestyle means sharing, loving others, loving God's creation. If that is just what Jesus taught, then no Christian can surely stand aside from this movement. People who join up with the lifestyle movement in Britain commit themselves to living more simply "so that all may simply live". They pledge themselves to make "decisions on what to buy, how much to spend and what to do without, as one who wants fair shares for all".

Britain's lifestyle movement began ten years ago this month at a church conference at Selly Oak, Birmingham in September 1972. To coincide with the anniversary, the Dean of Bristol has written a book "Lifestyle: a parable of Sharing". *He would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the growing movement (Dean of Bristol, the Cathedral, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TJ) *published by Turnstone Press, price £4.95

THE KING IS DEAD—LONG LIVE THE KING

by STAN ELDON

BRITISH Athletics is going through one of its best ever athletic seasons despite the absence for most of the season of the two big names, Coe and Ovett.

We have produced these two great athletes and several more during the last few years but the crop of surprises that we have enjoyed this year exceeds all expectations. First of all there is David Moorcroft, at 29 years certainly not a new discovery but his record-breaking form matches, and indeed his 5000 metres world record probably surpasses, anything done by Coe and Ovett. This record is now one of the toughest in the book and means running at a speed of 4 mins 11secs per mile for over three miles.

Moorcroft's current form, where he is breaking records and setting up personal best performances, makes him not just the athlete of 1982, but certainly places him with the 'greats' of all times. However, he will be one of those athletes who will go down in history for his record and not for winning Olympic medals as it is unlikely he will be around in the same tremendous form by the next Olympics in 1984.

Two other athletes are waiting and indeed have started to take off where Coe and Ovett left off. Steve Cram, who is now 21 and has been following our two great middle distance stars for two years, is now establishing himself as our No. 1 miller and 1500 metre runner whilst 19-year-old Peter Elliott is ready to take over the 800 metre top spot.



How is it that in recent years we have been able to produce what seems to be one good middle distance runner after another with a repetition almost as predictable as East Germany producing athletes or Russia top gymnasts? The answer is largely down to Coe and Ovett; they set their sights higher than the previous generations of runners and showed that times hitherto thought impossible could be achieved. This has inspired many young runners to take up these events and has thus produced even more quality performers. But of course other things play a part. Every so often training techniques change and man learns to push the human body closer to its limits.

The price of success can be high. The form of Steve Ovett this season tells me that his body cannot be pushed to its limits any more and indeed even the injury to Seb Coe could be attributed to the pressures of continually running to the limit.

I may be wrong but I think the time is very close when the youngsters, Cram and Elliott will take over — but for the sporting public — the King is dead!

LIFESTYLE MOVEMENT IS GROWING

by John Madeley

causing pressures on the planet that could lay it to waste before the end of this century. The demands of

Programme, a quiet scientist not given to over-statement, said that unless we begin to use resources rationally and fairly, we "face a catastrophe as complete and irreversible as any nuclear holocaust".

Lifestyle

The Lifestyle people are trying to use resources in a rational and fair way. If anyone still has any doubts about the environmental perils that are upon us, think for a moment about the rain we now get — usually all too often.

Today's rain is not the sweet gentle rain we were getting ten, even five years ago. Today we are being drenched with "acid rain". The pollutants we have pushed up into the sky for years are coming back to us

The second reason why people are living more simply is to free themselves from what Quaker William Penn once called "cumber", compulsive extravagance. If we can free ourselves from cumber then we have a better chance of seeing material things in a truer perspective — as goods to enhance and not oppress life. Things should not become more important to us than people.

Simplicity

The third reason for voluntary simplicity has been well put by the Rev. Horace Dammers, Dean of Bristol and the co-ordinator of the lifestyle movement in Britain. The Dean described lifestyle "as an act of solidarity with the majority of humankind which has no

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HARVEST FESTIVALS

September 19th — St John's
September 26th — St Andrew's
St Anne's — St Barnabas'

Caversham Baptist Church
Caversham Heights Methodist Church

October 3rd — St Margaret's
Caversham Methodist Church
October 10th — St Peter's

A LINK RENEWED

TWENTY citizens of Dusseldorf arrived in Reading on July 17th on the fourth visit arranged by the Reading Council of Churches, and nine of them stayed in Caversham homes. The idea of an exchange of church members of the linked towns first arose when Gerald Restall, Director of St Mary's Centre, met Pastor Klaus Dedring in Dusseldorf in 1973. Now the cycle has taken place four times.

Some events of the week are constant ingredients, being essential to the success of the confection. One is the warm reception by the Mayor, this year Caversham's George Robinson, followed by the chuckle-evoking demonstration by Macebearer Michael Hehir, another Caversham resident, of how he would use his noble implement if the Mayor were ambushed.

by Lily and Martyn Allies

A second ingredient is the ecumenical service in St Mary's, conducted part in English and part in German, at which the preacher on this occasion was Pastor Gunnars Anson of the German Lutheran Congregation in Reading. And the third traditional event is the farewell party at the Restall's home on the eve of departure.

First visit

Other ingredients vary from year to year, for although most guests are here for the first time there are one or two who can't resist a second visit and are grateful for new sights and experiences. This year the highlight was a coach trip to the Cotswolds, whilst on other days the party visited Oxford, Ewelme and Dorches-

ter, Avebury and Basil-don Park.

Some of the hosts confessed at the farewell party that they had faced their responsibilities with some apprehension, and some of the guests must have had their doubts about their ability to cope with seven English breakfasts. But at the end of the week all qualms had vanished, and at the farewell party everyone entered into Auld Lang Syne with great feeling, even if some of the guests had little idea what words they were singing.

The next visit to Dusseldorf will take place in 1984, so watch these pages next year for an announcement of the dates. The exchange is open to members of all churches and it costs only the air fare and the very pleasant duty of hosting a German visitor a year later.



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CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

THERE is no such thing as a "correct" accent said Dr. Malcolm Petyt, speaking on "Dialects and Accents" in June. Forms of speech vary regionally and socially, but even an individual will modify his pronunciation and grammar according to the situation — he will speak more carefully to an official than to his workmates, for instance. It is necessary, for the sake of communication, for children to be taught to write standard English, but speech and grammar are constantly changing and what would have been thought incorrect a few years ago is now acceptable.

Dialect is not just an unusual pronunciation, it is a difference in vocabulary and grammar and can be totally incomprehensible to the stranger. The strongest local accents are found among the very young and the elderly — in middle life most people speak more carefully — but usually women speak

less broadly than their husbands.

Seeing the Rocky Mountains was an ambition achieved for Mr and Mrs Cyril Kirby. The story of their journey across Canada, illustrated by Mr Kirby's superb slides, was such appreciated at the July meeting. They were impressed with the vast scale of the country, with its towering mountains, fast-flowing rivers, enormous ice-fields and beautiful lakes. Even the cities were larger than life with their huge, fantastically shaped buildings and shopping centres. Small things were not ignored, though, and there were many slides of animals, including the appealing little gopher, squirrels, goats and even a bear. The talk closed with a sequence of views of Niagara, set to music. The smaller American falls and the majestic Horseshoe falls of Canada were beautifully portrayed. In particular the rainbow effect of the sun

shining through the spray and the colours when the falls were illuminated at night excited admiration.

ROSEHILL WI

MRS Allwright presided at the June meeting, which was the nineteenth birthday. Miss Marie Hyde entertained with her accordion and everyone joined in with a sing-song. Two VCO's came as visitors, and a number of other visitors were invited. All were given button-holes made by members.

The silver salver for the highest points in competitions for the year was again won by Mrs Gillings, and the goblet for runner-up again by Mrs Ellingham.

At the July meeting members were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Millie Shuffle, a former Committee member. Mrs Barge gave an interesting account of the AGM at the Albert Hall. Mrs Scott gave a demonstration of a fresh food 'Bamix' mixer, a marvellous machine which could save money, time and energy in the kitchen. The competition, for "The Best Rose in your Garden" was won by Mrs Weller, Mrs Gray 2nd and Mrs Appleton third.

CAVERSHAM WI
AT the July meeting Vice-President Mrs Betty Atherton introduced Mrs Elizabeth Bailey who gave a talk on Amnesty International, a voluntary organisation who do such wonderful work for the release of prisoners of conscience, the fair and early trial of all political prisoners and the abolition of torture and the death penalty.

The competition for the flower of the month was won by Mrs Olive Harris.

At the September 16th meeting Mrs E. Wilson will speak on 'Thoughts for the Over-Forties'.

BLAGRAVE WI

A welcome return was made by Mrs Mann of Rural Home Economics at the July meeting. Her subject 'Summer Desserts', making use of the soft fruits in season, quickly produced some delicious mouth-watering dishes which were later enjoyed by the members who purchased them.

Mrs Fisher reported on the business and resolutions of the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall.

A well-supported competition for a farmhouse fruit cake was won by Mrs Peacock. Final arrangements were made for an August outing to Loseley House, which took the place of the usual monthly meeting.

WHEN Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild was formed in 1961 the first Chairman was Mrs Violet Kitcher and she ceremoniously cut their twenty-first Birthday Cake at a Barn Dance to mark the occasion on Thursday June 17th. Joyce Gosling made the cake and decorated it with a replica in icing of St Anne's Well, the emblem of the Guild. This cake was the Guild's entry for Fed-Ex '82 at Fleet in March and was much admired by all.

Guests included members of Federation Committee, Caversham Afternoon, and Emmer Green Guilds, and former Chairmen of the

CAVERSHAM DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

JUNE was a busy month for the Club. At one meeting they had the Townswomen's Guild Concert Party to entertain them with songs old and new, and at another meeting they had the Fir-tree Club Choir with songs, solos and a piano duet.

At the end of the month the annual outing to the sea. Southsea was the venue this year. Although the weather had been very wet all the week and it was even raining when the coach left Balmore Hall, the sun came out by the time the party stopped at Fareham for coffee, and it miraculously shone all day. After tea at the South Parade Pier members returned home a little tired and slightly sunburnt.

The club met every week as usual in July, and at one meeting were entertained by Mrs Nash and her party. At the end of the month a presentation was made on behalf of the Club to Mrs Turner of the W.R.V.S. who was leaving her job as District Organiser, and also Mrs D. Stockwell who was giving up as Treasurer of the Club, a position she had held for five years.

CAVERSHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ON the 7th June the members met for a Beetle Drive.

While the Beetle Drive was in progress Vicki Scheel was busy arranging the Nearly New stall.

The June meetings ended with an enjoyable day's outing to Bath and the Cotswolds. There was plenty of time to visit the attractive places in Bath and later the beautiful Wye Valley.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

host Guild.

Thanks are due especially to Mrs June Davidge, who prepared the splendid supper, and Mrs Dorothy Moore, who served a delicious fruit punch.

On Monday 28th June Mrs Moore held a very enjoyable Bar-

becue for the Social Studies Group.

At the July meeting Mr Norman Wicks gave an illustrated talk on One Thousand Years of Reading's Waterways. By means of slides and maps, members were taken through an ever-changing panorama of

peace and tranquility, flood damage and ice-bound wild life. Tales of people connected with the waterways and bridges in bygone days made fascinating listening, and, it was agreed that Reading was fortunately situated, with facilities for all to enjoy.



Photo — Reading Chronicle

EMMER GREEN TG

THE July meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was held at the Emmer Green Primary School. Mrs J. Martin gave a report on the National Conference held at Brighton.

The main speaker was Mr Jim Clarke, his subject being the 'Mary Rose' and the efforts being made to raise her. In spite of being submerged for four hundred years this old warship is in perfect condition. Mr Clarke has been involved with this project for many years as a diver and was able to convey to us his enthusiasm in this fascinating talk illustrated by slides.

The Jumble Sale will be held on 27th September, 1982

More clubs on page 10

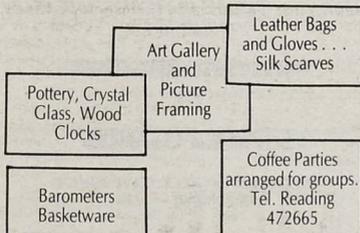
CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

AT the June meeting after the business session a demonstration of a food mixer showed how various dishes, drinks, etc could be made, with the several attachments. A very interesting afternoon, with a tasting session afterwards. Members were also reminded to keep busy making goods for the Autumn Fare in October.

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The West Berkshire Community Health Council represents the public's interest in Health Service affairs in Caversham, Reading and West Berkshire

The thirty members of the Council are drawn from local authorities, voluntary organisations and other sections of the community. They form an experienced independent group, representing your health care interests

Council meetings held regularly are open to the public and notes are put in the local press

The influence and effectiveness of the Council depends on the weight of public opinion behind it. Views, ideas, proposals or complaints on any aspect of local health affairs — from individuals or from community or other groups — are welcome

The more views that come to hand the better the Council can act on your behalf

For further information, call or telephone our friendly staff

John Stevens (Secretary), 10 Gun Street, Reading
(behind Heelas) Telephone: Reading 595678

KATY IN CAVERSHAM

LIFE is full of minor unfulfilled ambitions. I've long wanted to try the 'snack-bar' in the Prospect Street Baptist Church, on a Friday lunch-time, but so far had not been able to make. Until last Friday that is — finding a crowded room and hearing cries of 'a record number' I was prepared to beat a hasty retreat to a sandwich in the peace and quiet of my own home. But I never got a chance. Far from the usual means of staff in an overcrowded restaurant, the influx of so many was greeted with squeals of delight from the ladies behind the counter and a hasty re-organisation of tables and chairs. And what a lot of old friends I saw there.

This restaurant does not offer haut cuisine — it does provide a variety of snack meals, soup, ploughman's, egg on toast, etc., at very low prices and such a friendly atmosphere that is a positive

haven for the rushed and harassed shopper in the middle of the day. It will be closed during August but it is hoped to resume service in September. Try it, you'll like it!

Huntington's Chorea

Does that mean anything to you? I doubt it, which is why families who are smitten by it — and I do say families — because it is hereditary — find themselves in an utterly lonely position at times. This disease involves progressive deterioration of the body and mind; little is known about it even now and unfortunately its onslaught, often in middle age, often makes its presence known only after children are already born to those so affected. So far there is no known cure but worldwide research continues, which is

one of the reasons why the Association to Combat Huntington's Chorea needs all the help it can get. Neville Amos of Earley, whose wife died of the disease eleven years ago and whose daughter is also affected, helped to form a Reading and District Branch some 18 months ago, and has asked for our help in publicising it here in Caversham, where small social events have already been held to raise cash.

Mr Amos would like to know if anyone in the district suffers from the disease and needs help — equally he would like to hear from anyone willing to help with fundraising for this association which is frantically trying to get a foothold in a world full of better-known charitable organisations. You can either ring him (Reading 663140) or, better still, go along to the members' evening at the Abbey Baptist Church, Abbey

Square, at 7.30 on 23rd September, and find out more. Please help if you possibly can.

Dyslexia

One of the handicaps featured in these pages recently is that of dyslexia. Many people have expressed an interest in this problem, so we pass on the fact that on Saturday 16th October a teacher's workshop for the teaching of dyslexic children is being held at Caversham Heights Methodist Church from 9.30 to 4pm. The principal of the Helen Arkell Dyslexic Centre and two other teachers will be reading papers offering practical suggestions for helping children with reading and writing difficulties. There has to be a charge of £6 which will include the provision of coffee — teachers are asked to bring their own packed lunches. Anyone interested should get in touch with the secretary of the local group, Mrs Doris Kelly, 17 Marchwood Avenue, Emmer Green (470166) for further details.

The Religious society of friends

On a happier note I have been asked to pass on the fact that a series of four talks has been arranged at the Reading Meeting House (Church Street, off London Street) (19.45 - 21.45) beginning 22nd September, on successive Wednesdays. The theme will be "Jesus: whom say ye that I am?" and the last part of each meeting will be spent informally over tea and biscuits. A registration fee of £1 for the series is asked to meet speakers' expenses and anyone interested should get in touch with Duncan Brodie, 3 Cedar Wood Crescent, Caversham. Events in Caversham in recent years have shown that you don't have to be a Quaker to enjoy sharing their meetings and events, and I'm sure there will be a number of Caversham people interested.

To Diane - a Son

Diane worked at the local Co-op for several years and was very popular with the customers — I'm sure they will be delighted to know that

she had a son on 6th July. Congratulations Diane! Readers do like to have news of their favourite shop assistants once they leave, so please don't forget to let us have items like this to pass on.

Mystery Plantsman

En route to Reading from Caversham Park on a No 25 bus I was intrigued to see a man digging the verge of Caversham Park Road. I mean that side of the road which backs on to fields and which later develops from modest hedge to wide scrub boasting elders (flowers and

fruit for home winemakers) and blackberries (autumn picking for the thorn-proof high fibre addict). Beside the digger was a wheelbarrow full of bergenia (I think) plants, better known as 'elephant's ears'. A later trip revealed the plants to be flourishing and they still are. Have the local Council embarked on a conservation scheme? Or is there a philanthropic naturalist about, brightening up CPV? Or perhaps a thrifty gardener not wanting to throw away surplus plants? Whoever and why ever, I for one am most grateful to him and look forward to next spring and their flowering.

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ROUND THE CLUBS — Continued

MAPLEWOOD WI

AT the June meeting, the speaker for that afternoon was Miss P. M. Wiltshire; the topic "How to get the most out of your bank". Miss Wiltshire told the members how it all started in Lombardy, Italy, in the middle ages; when financiers and merchants conducted their business from benches in the open air. The Italian word for "bench" is "banque". So, when these people came eventually to England and settled in Lombard Street, London, E.C. banque was anglicised to bank. Thus banking grew from comparatively small and uncomplicated beginnings to the vast national and multinational business of the present day. But, the first principle remains. One has to put money in before it can be taken out.

Mrs Joan Fry, Maplewood President, wants to thank all members (including those from other institutes) who

worked so hard for the Hospital fete in June. The sum of £117.60 was raised by the WI produce table.

At the July meeting Mrs J. Fry, Maplewood's president introduced Mrs J. Smith who spoke about "The History of the Mary Rose". The "Mary Rose" was one of Henry VIII's warships and was probably named after his sister. The ship sank in the English Channel two miles offshore, and there she would have remained for ever had it not been for a number of marine archaeologists who became convinced the wreck could be salvaged. Their months of patient, loving work, it is hoped, will come to fruition with this year's Neap tide (September/October) when "Mary Rose" will be brought to the surface.

July's competition was for a single flowering rose, and the two best exhibits were shown by Mrs M. Jeffrey and Mrs Fereday.

The month's activities included a very interesting outing to Waterperry Horticultural Institute and Gardens, and a tea party at a member's house in aid of A.C.W.W. (Associated Country Women of the World). The next meeting is on 21 September at St. Andrew's Hall.

CHAZEY WI

ON Tuesday June 1st the summer programme of the new Chazey WI got off to a flying start when Mrs Runham from Newbury came to talk about patchwork. It was a celebratory meeting to mark the founding of the new group, and sparkling wine and cake were served.

On 15th June a party of thirty members went to the Watermill Theatre at Newbury to see "Stage Struck" and a thoroughly good evening was enjoyed by all.

A cream tea and Bring and Buy afternoon took place on Wednesday June 23rd at the President's home, 50 Chazey Road, Caversham. On Tuesday 6th July Mrs Smith came to talk about the Mary Rose Trust and there was an exhibition of old coins.

CAVERSHAM LADIES CLUB

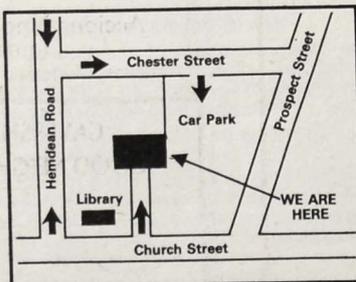
AT the July meeting due to the absence of the speaker because of the rail strike, Mrs Roach stepped in at very short notice and described her stay in Budapest. This was illustrated with slides and was very interesting.

The annual outing to the sea was to Eastbourne, and the day was sunny but rather windy. The coach left at 8.30am and members were taken for a tour of Sussex before reaching Eastbourne.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT BY WATCHDOG

Trees for the future

CAVERSHAM is a green and leafy suburb and its skyline of trees can be enjoyed from Reading town centre. Caversham Road which leads here is appropriately lined with trees, and so is, or rather was, George Street.

Caversham Road lost three of its plane trees last year when Rediffusion Ltd. felled them to

lay a cable. These were replanted last autumn, the cost being billed to Rediffusion, but unfortunately, possibly owing to the severe winter, only one has survived. The other two will be replanted at the next planting season, but it is going to be many years before that section of Caversham Road regains its former appearance, thanks to Rediffusion's precipitate action.

The replanted trees along George Street are still not doing very well, and other trees in Hill's Meadows have been the victims of vandalism. However, good news here is that the Borough has made a grant this year for tree planting, and the greater part of this will be spent on the Christchurch and Hill's Meadow area. These of course are enjoyed by many more than Caversham people, particularly during the summer months.

Caversham Court

In Caversham Court the surgery needed to resuscitate the yew hedge has now been started. The north side has been cut away and is already putting out new greenery. When this side has made good headway, the south river facing side will undergo the same treatment. This cannot be a quick job, but in something between five and ten years this

centuries old hedge should be starting to regain something of its old familiar appearance.

The Arbutus or strawberry tree, which finally succumbed to the cold winter of 1978-9 has also been replaced with a new tree on almost exactly the same spot. It appears to be flourishing healthily, and when it gets big enough will be pruned to encourage it to take on something of the attractive shape its much lamented predecessor had. Caversham Ladies' Club donated this tree under the Borough tree planting scheme, a very welcome gesture.

The new flower beds beside the river have also been much admired this summer. They have been brilliant with colour as have the flower beds just inside the gates. There were, and possibly still are, some particularly handsome begonias in these. Another new attraction is the camomile lawn, planted in a chequer pattern beneath the terrace wall, definitely an original touch.

For those who have been wondering whether the old underground shelter just inside the gates has been re-vamped with some sinister purpose in mind, the answer is fortunately 'No'. It in fact houses a booster pump to increase the water supply to houses at the top of the escarp-

ment on the outskirts of the borough, which in the past frequently suffered from very low water pressure. It is not exactly an attractive looking structure, but it has recently been regrassed and generally tidied up.

The Warren escarpment

The Warren escarpment was the subject of a report recently submitted to the Environment Committee in which steps were described for enhancing and conserving those parts of the area in private ownership. This can be done under provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. The proposals are for a joint management agreement, with financial contributions from the Borough Council, individual owners and the Countryside Commission. This scheme should result in the much needed maintenance and conservation of the tree belt, which latterly has been getting deplorably sparse. It would also allow public access to the parts in public ownership, with footpaths and places to picnic. It sounds an imaginative scheme which should be welcomed.

Cleere Kennet - Stately Tames

This exhibition in the Art Gallery is full of interest to Caversham people. Do try to visit it. It is open till 4th September.

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The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.

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The Rev Cecil Keane, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: Kidmore End 3418.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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9.15am PARISH COMMUNION
11.15am Holy Communion (1st, and 3rd Sundays)
11.15 Matins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion (not on 4th Sunday)
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00am Children's Service (1st Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.15am Holy Communion (not 3rd Sunday)
11.15am Matins (3rd Sunday)
6.30pm Evensong (not June 6 or 27)

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am FAMILY EUCHARIST
6.30pm Evensong (2nd Sunday)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
11.00am PARISH COMMUNION

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
10.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)
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7.30pm Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

METHODIST
Caversham
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

Caversham Heights
8am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Morning Service
6.30pm Evening Service

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Caversham Community Association

Mrs Abell made the collection for the Ken Thomas Scanner Appeal.

The following week the members were entertained by two visitors to the club — Mrs Wainwright and Mr Francis. Mrs Wainwright gave some amusing monologues and later asked the audience to join in community singing. Mrs Gladys Cowdery, a club member, accompanied at the piano.

Mr Francis, who had worked as a pawnbroker and jeweller in Kings Road, Reading, in the latter years of his career, gave an interesting talk on the early days of his training. As a young boy of 14½ years his first job, in London, included board and lodging at the shop. To his surprise his fellow apprentice explained that his own bed was a mattress on the shop counter — the new boy slept in the cupboard below — thus acting as a deterrent to burglars.

October Caversham Bridge

All matter for inclusion in the October Caversham Bridge must be at The Parish Office Church manse by noon on Wednesday September 1.



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