

CAVERSHAM

BRIDGE

AUGUST 1981

No 201 Price 12p

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MARGARET FOX, HEADMISTRESS

A SHORT interview with Margaret Fox, retiring headmistress of Thameside Primary School, and you have some idea of her very busy life. Hers is an ever-open door and pupils, staff and parents come in and out all the time with problems ranging from class organisation to school outings and visits by the medical officer.

There is nothing unapproachable about her, and one gets the impression of a very happy and lively school where nobody is unimportant and no problem too small for her personal consideration.

Concern for Education

She took over the school when it opened twelve years ago, after three years at St John's, and those years have seen many changes, not least building alterations, new cloakrooms and improved teaching facilities. She herself has very much enjoyed the changes, especially those in teaching methods. Learning through interest is her motto and one only has to look at the many projects adorning the walls and tables to see proof of this.

It is perhaps not surprising that one of the many things she plans to do in retirement is to take round to schools a history project which she has assembled, portraying the life of a child in the time of King Alfred. She is also awaiting the imminent publication of a book she has written, a children's story about a little West Indian boy, "The Street of the Starving Cats".

Friends in Caversham

Mrs Fox came to Reading many years ago with her husband, Henry, who is an editor at the BBC Monitoring Service. A member of the Society of Friends, she attends the Wokingham Meeting, but has many friends in Caversham, so it is certainly true we shall not be los-



Walton Adams

ing sight of her when she retires in the summer. She herself would like to take this opportunity of thanking both staff and parents for all the help she has received over the years. We wish her well for the future.

LESLIE FRANKLIN, SCHOOL CARETAKER

A TEACHER once said that the caretaker was the most important member of the school staff. Leslie Franklin, who retires from Emmer Green Primary School this summer, would certainly not claim to be that, but says he was remarkably lucky when he came here twelve years ago, for he has always been included in everything that goes on at the school and never made to

feel in any way an outsider. Thoroughly happy in his job, in all this time he has travelled back and forth from his home at Sonning Common, for the first seven years on a bicycle and, since his work also included looking after the Youth Centre and catering for adult evening classes, sometimes at very odd hours. For good measure he found himself involved in all kinds of odd jobs, helping with jumble sales for the Mother's Guild and the Scouts being just some of these.

A very interesting person

It would be difficult to find anyone more interesting to talk to than Mr Franklin who, in his time, has done timber working around the country, charcoal burning in the woods near Woodcote, and was for many years in charge of a dairy; he can tell his listeners any amount of fascinating detail about all these jobs.

Fortunately he will not be losing all contact with Emmer Green — for a time he will be working part-time to show his successor the ropes and has already promised the parents' association to keep the flower beds they provided tidied up. He also



Walton Adams

■ Les Franklin — retiring as caretaker of Emmer Green Primary School and the Youth and Community Centre

expects to find himself still involved with many of his voluntary activities.

Family

But it is to be hoped he will have a little more time with his wife Ellen, his three children and ten grandchildren, to say nothing of the great-grandchild expected at the time of this interview. What-

ever he does one can see he will enjoy every minute of it and he will make a good job of it, as he has done with the one he is leaving — though this, he says, he could never have done without his wonderful team of cleaning ladies and the kindness of all the staff.

We send our very best wishes for the future.

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The Editor's Column

QUART INTO PINT POT

FOR A long time we have been expecting the numbers of clergy in Caversham to be reduced. Our expectations have now become a reality. The Roman Catholics no longer have an assistant priest and a 50 per cent cut in staff which is what this amounts to is a very serious matter for them. The Roman Catholic Church in England and in many continental countries has seen a great reduction in the numbers of candidates for ordination while many priests have for different reasons left the ministry.

The Church of England has also seen a considerable reduction in the numbers of its clergy: it is true that there are encouraging signs in that a rising number of men are now coming forward for ordination, but the number of Anglican priests due to retire in the next few years is very high, and will outweigh the larger numbers coming forward for ordination, so that the total numbers will continue to fall for a few more years.

When the Rev Martin Loveless leaves Caversham in August to become vicar of Carterton he will not be replaced. The Rev David Milling will move to St Andrews in the course of the autumn and this means that Mapledurham will no longer have its own priest-in-charge.

The members of St Margaret's have been very understanding in the way they have accepted this but its bound to have an effect on their congregational life.

The Rev John Sumner will also be leaving Caversham in September to become vicar of Swallowfield and assistant chaplain at Reading University; it may be some months before he is replaced and this will put a further burden on the remaining clergy of the parish.

The clergy work longer hours and more days in the year than the great majority of people, and even when not working find it difficult to relax in their own homes. The strain imposed on them as their numbers decline has resulted in an alarming number of breakdowns and it is unrealistic to imagine that the existing clergy can carry greater burdens than they do at present. Either some of the work they at present do must be done by lay members of the Church or else some things must go undone.

LAY LIMITATIONS

It is however equally necessary to be realistic about how much the laity can undertake, for in Caversham they already do a great deal more than is commonly the case. The majority of the work in the production of this paper is undertaken by lay members (as our photographs in the last number made plain). The Good Neighbour and Link schemes are entirely lay undertakings; because however all these are ecumenical projects they tend to get overlooked by the committees and councils of the various churches. Then there is a great deal of youth work sponsored by the Caversham churches, some through the uniformed organisations, Scouts, Guides and Boys Brigade, some through a whole range of other church youth groups.

Many other people make a Christian witness through other voluntary and charitable bodies which are quite independent of the Church, like the Red Cross, and Darby and Joan Clubs and by helping with the Meals on wheels service or old peoples luncheon clubs. I am often asked to find helpers for such causes and the response is nearly always readily forthcoming. In proportion to their numbers in the community Christians take a very large share in such work.

When one also takes into account those who are concerned to maintain the life of the different churches one finds another large group: there are wardens, sidesmen, servers, deacons, lay preachers and readers, choir members and a large number who do practical jobs round the buildings the Churches of Caversham maintain. A great deal is done and is done gladly.

TWO OTHER GROUPS

There are two further groups. There are a considerable number of church members whose daily work is very exacting; it involves considerable physical and mental strain and can mean being away from home a great deal during the week. Such people rightly look to the Church for spiritual comfort and support. They are often doing the work of Christ in a very real way in their daily work and have to take decisions which affect the lives of other people. Such people cannot be expected to play much active part in the work of the Church, though their turn to do so may come when they retire. And then we must remember that a considerable proportion of church members are elderly; they have done a great deal in their younger days and those of us who are more active owe it to them that they are not neglected in their later years.

BUT ALSO THE PASSENGERS

There is however one final category, and perhaps the Church of England is more aware of this than the other churches are. There are the passengers who get on and off the bus at different points in their life but always expect the bus to be there when they need it. These are the sleeping partners who need to note the words of St Paul "It is time for you to awake out of sleep" Such people would be offended if they were not thought of as proper church members but they accept little or no responsibility for the continuing life and mission of God's church, and their financial contribution is also negligible.

There are certain duties that the clergy cannot cut down on; we shall have as many weddings and funerals to take however much our numbers are reduced. But what about the preparation of those seeking Christian marriage or the support of the bereaved? The questions therefore we all need to think out are these "What do we expect of our clergy, and what do we think they are doing at the moment which is unnecessary? What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church at this time of fewer clergy?" And let us realise that a growing number of both Anglicans and Roman Catholics are saying "No wonder we are short of clergy when our two churches rule out half their members as being ineligible for the priesthood".

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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Postbag

Greetings

from Cheswardine

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all from Cheswardine, on what I can best only describe as a 'not very June-like' Sunday.

I am taking a break from the household chores, decorating and gardening to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful 'send off' and the magnificent gift — the rotary mower, which you so generously lavished on me when I left Caversham in the middle of May. I was completely overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity and you can be assured, that your gift will be a constant reminder to me of five wonderful years spent amongst such splendid Christian people.

I have so much to be grateful for and I thank God for the gifts he has bestowed upon me, to enable me to be used by Him in His service and for His glory.

The residents of Cheswardine have given me a warm welcome and already I have made many new friends. There is much to do — getting to know the ins and outs of the new job, familiarising myself with the multiplicity of GPO forms and documents; renovating and decorating many parts of the house, and attending to the large garden. (I think youth work must take a back seat for a little while!). You will not be too surprised to learn however that I have been persuaded to join the local band of bellringers which now numbers six.

Several of you have visited me already and have given a helping hand with decorating and gardening. This has been much appreciated and it has been a great pleasure for me to welcome you in Cheswardine. I hope to see many more of you in these parts as time goes on.

The rotary mower which you so kindly gave me has been invaluable and has made very easy work of keeping the grass down in the orchard. Thank you all again for such a useful gift.

You are a very lively Church in Caversham, inspired by a devout and dedicated team of Church leaders. I, for one, am very happy to have played a small part in what is indeed a 'Living Church' which cares so much for the needs of others.

May God's Grace and Eternal Blessings be with you all,

John Williamson.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear sir,
I write and offer congratulations on the 200th number of the 'Caversham Bridge'. To maintain a service such as you obviously do in these days is no mean achievement. A newspaper is in the business of communication, and your name underlines this part of your service — to be a bridge between the churches who share in this venture, and between you all and the community at large.

Effective communication requires not just knowledge of the subject matter and the people who read it, but also the ability to present the material well. I am delighted to see how ably your paper fulfils both these requirements, and pray that it may long continue to do so.

A newspaper deals in news, and it is your privilege to share with others the news of what is happening in your churches, and, even more, that news of what God has done for us in Christ and continues to do by His Spirit in the world. I pray

God's blessing on you, and for the continued success of the 'Caversham Bridge'.

Laurence Ashman
Methodist District
Chairman

★ This was received too late to be published last month. Editor.

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate you upon your excellent publication 'Caversham Bridge'. All articles are read with great enthusiasm, such a soothing effect compared with most of the Press today.

There is just one point upon which I would comment. In 'A Policeman's Life', of the June issue you refer to WPC Ann Small. May I say that in common with so many publications using the term 'WPC' you are just a few years out of date. The term went out with the sex discrimination acts.

Yours etc.

Ivor L Fear (OAP)

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Link group annual general meeting

IN THE absence on business of Mrs Lynda Bates, the chair was taken by Mrs Doreen Bennett. The chairman's report of the previous year's activities was read by Mrs Mary Bramwell.

□□

Speakers. In trying to understand something of the problems of the people who needed help, the group had had lively and thought provoking talks from Chris Redfern (Reading Day Unit), Michael Prewett (Cyrenians), Colin Ferguson (Probation Service), Dr Kevin Murphy (new home for multiply handicapped children) and Joy Abel (Parents Anonymous).

□□

Practical Activities. A group of children from the Mencap Youth Group had been taken on an outing; toys from the St Peter's Crib Service had been distributed; the collection and distribution of household goods to needy families had grown enormously; the transport of handicapped children from their new home in Woodcote Road to their schools was established.

□□

Fund Raising. The amounts raised at the Good-as-New Sale and the following Jumble Sale had reached record levels, a total of £611. A collection had been taken at the Open Meeting, and the most enjoyable Carol Singing had raised nearly £30 for RNIB.

□□

New Ventures. This year an Open Meeting had attracted an audience of about one hundred and had been useful in making more widely known both the activities of the Link Group and the needs and problems of the handicapped and disadvantaged. An ensuing News Bulletin had stressed the help needed by various charities, and new helpers had come forward as a result. The Chairman thanked all Group members for their work and support during another successful and happy year.

□□

Allocations of Money. Mrs Vera Wilson, the treasurer, reported on the way in which the money had been distributed. Gifts had been made to Mencap, the Cyrenians, Katesgrove House, two Youth Groups, Parents Anonymous and Priest Hill House. Money had been set aside for petrol and telephone expenses for

furniture distribution. The largest amount had been given to the new home for multiply-disabled children, to provide outdoor equipment. In all a record amount of £822 had been administered.

□□

Individual Links with Charities. Several Link Group members are connected with a particular charity and they reported on these. They included Abbeyfield, Katesgrove House, Mencap, Priest Hill House, Sue Ryder Home and the new Peppard Home.

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The 'Furniture Business' This had grown so much in volume that Joyce and Jim Plunkett, who had coped splendidly with transport for several years, were overwhelmed. There were also problems with storage. A meeting had been held when a working party, consisting mainly of younger men from various churches, was set up. Further offers of transport came from the meeting. Pat Jenkins agreed to carry on taking telephone requests.

□□

Election of Officers. It was agreed that Mrs Lynda Bates and Mrs Mary Bramwell should carry on as Chairman and Secretary respectively, and they were thanked for all they had done. Vera Wilson, who was warmly thanked for her work as Treasurer over four years, asked to stand down, and Celia Beck was elected in her place. Doreen Bennett agreed to carry on in Public Relations, but Rosemary Stringer asked for a replacement to look after Publicity.

□□

Future Events. The members' Social Evening, and the autumn Mencap outing, were discussed, and future links with charities, and speakers, were suggested.

□□

House Communion. After Doreen Bennett had declared the business part of the meeting closed, she introduced the Rev. Derek Spears, who conducted the interdenominational House Communion Service very movingly. Pat Jenkins and Vera Wilson read the lessons, and Ted Boulding said the Link Group Prayer, concluding with the words which summarize the aims of the Group—'Help us to form a Link of genuine friendship that crosses all barriers'.

THANK YOU, HARRY CROCKER



— Graham Aisbitt.

Some nineteen years ago Mr Harry Crocker came to live in Mapledurham. No doubt he had known the village from the days of his youth, for he was born in the Mill cottage at Caversham where his father worked for Mr Soundy, the miller.

Eleven years ago Mr Crocker retired, but retirement for him meant working almost as hard as ever. Every year from March until November he kept the churchyard in St Margaret's neat and tidy, taking great pride and interest in the work. Keeping a country churchyard, or any churchyard for that matter, in good order is not the easiest of jobs, but Harry kept the surrounds of Mapledurham church beautifully. He took so much interest in the work that he even planted

flowering creepers against the car park wall and put daffodils round the church along its western side. It was he who planted dahlias against another old wall in the churchyard. Now, after eleven years, and with a spell in hospital in the offing, he feels the time has come to hand over to someone else. The congregation of St Margaret's are most grateful for all the care and hard work Mr Crocker has given in keeping their churchyard in such good order. No one could have done it better. His many friends thank him most sincerely for all his efforts and hope after his return from hospital he may enjoy many more years of "real retirement" in Mapledurham.

1981

THE YEAR OF THE DISABLED

MANY DISABLED people are at a severe disadvantage when it comes to acquiring specific information and receiving advice. The work of the Citizens Advice Bureaux is geared entirely to those in a position to call at the offices, so the housebound are deprived of help that is readily available to others.

The Caversham Bridge would like to know of solicitors, accountants, tax experts, insurance experts, bank and building society officials, and others with expert knowledge (but not medical practitioners) who would be willing to make house visits to those disabled people unable to call at the appropriate offices. Both retired people and those still working in these professions are asked to volunteer. The Archdeacon of Berkshire, the Ven John Brown and Mrs Rosemary Bowden, the senior Berkshire social worker for the disabled have identified a real need which is not a present being met because such agencies as the Citizens Advice Bureau cannot undertake home visits.

Offers of help will be gratefully received by the Parish Secretary at the Caversham Bridge Office, Church House, Church Street, Caversham.

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WATER CARNIVAL



Cavershams Round Table raised £4,000 for the Ken Thomas Scanner appeal at their successful water carnival in June.

— Graham Aisbitt



Stoke Mandeville Appeal

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

Long Fought Battle

The battle to get lorries off the main Woodcote Road has been going on for so many years that the Thirty Years War might be a more suitable name for it. Whilst we (the goodies) have not actually retreated, the badies have thrown more and more troops into the fray, as heavy lorries on a national scale increased in both size and number, and Oxfordshire County Council as their willing ally, widened, straightened and generally "improved" the A4074 and its extension, the A423 beyond Crowmarsh.

At last on the Reading-Berkshire front there have been indications of renewed and determined fighting, as signs have appeared all over the town on any roads that could conceivably lead to Oxford, guiding heavy goods vehicles on to the A4-M4-A34 route, and even warning any that might have got as far as the Bridge Street-Church Road traffic lights about the "unsuitability" of Woodcote Road for them. It is not clear exactly what they should then do; indeed the mind boggles at possible alternatives. Firms making heavy use of this route have also, it is understood, been advised of the more acceptable alternative. It would be premature to regard this action as an advance, as its effectiveness is still to be monitored, or as far as we, the victims, are concerned, the evidence still to be judged by our eyes and ears.

It certainly cannot be hailed as a victory, for most of the lorries originate from north of Oxford and are mainly making a return journey when they come from the Reading direction. Victory will only come when Oxfordshire erects appropriate signs, or even better, places a complete ban (access apart) on heavy lorries. Meanwhile

Reading's signs are a step in the right direction.

Third Bridge

It is also encouraging to know that a third river bridge to the east of Reading borough boundary linking up with the A329(M) remains policy for Berkshire, in spite of the savage blows from the axe wielded by the MP for South Oxfordshire on public expenditure by local government authorities. It is also good news that there is no mention of a massive status symbol with dual carriageways and all the trimmings such as would have been produced in the jet-set sixties. It is to be (when it comes, whenever that might be) a modest workaday affair, part of a local rather than a national network. It will be useful even for cyclists and walkers, and will be of immediate benefit to our beautiful neighbour, Sonning.

Granary

On another front, the battle of the Granary is by no means over yet, in spite of certain borough Councillors saying they are fed up with it and want to hear the last of it. Of course they do, as awkward questions are still being asked. It was amazing how the Borough Planning Committee, meeting publicly in the Council Chamber, disposed of a matter that has aroused both local and national concern in five minutes flat, allowing themselves only time to hurl wild and insulting accusations at Caversham residents and church members before moving on to next business.

Caversham Residents' Association has however no intention of dropping the matter. The Granary has indeed gone, though most of its materials are stored somewhere on Council property, but the way it

went was not illegal. Until the loophole in the law that allowed it to go is plugged, any similar kind of building could be in danger. But apart from that, there are still some questions that have not yet been satisfactorily answered. A full inquiry has been promised and its results are still awaited.

Plane Trees

Yet another example of familiar well-loved objects disappearing in the twinkling of an eye was the case of the three plane trees in Caversham Road which were felled to make it easier for Rediffusion to lay a cable. Caversham Road has not much going for it at the best of times (no offence to those who live there) but its plane trees are its saving grace. Now three magnificent specimens have vanished, at a time when the town and its surrounding countryside are already the poorer for the loss of all the elms.

Replying to a letter from Caversham Residents Association, the Director of Technical Services said he also deplored this destruction of healthy trees and that a claim for compensation was being pursued against Rediffusion. After all, it seems hardly fair that either the Borough or those citizens and organisations who gladly donated trees under the Plant-a-Tree scheme should bear the expense for this piece of wanton destruction.

H. D. Sanderson

Caversham Residents' Association is sorry to record the death of its former treasurer, Mr H. D. Sanderson. On retiring from local government service, Mr Sanderson used his time in voluntary work, which he pursued in a conscientious manner. It was sad when illness intervened and compelled him to give up this useful work. It must have been a solace to his family that in the final stages of his illness he was so well cared for in the Sue Ryder Home.

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Increased giving for Christian Aid

THE HOUSE to house collection for Christian Aid in May that took place throughout Caversham and Mapledurham totalled £2,200, a welcome 27 per cent increase on the sum raised last year. Those who contributed and those who helped with the collection can feel that this money will be used partly to overcome blindness and partly to give a water supply to a Third World village. Impure water is the cause of a high proportion of illness in many countries.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST NEWS

The Organ

MEMBERS AND friends of the church have embarked on a very ambitious scheme to rebuild and modernise their 103-year-old organ at a cost of £21,000.

This organ was built in 1878 for the then Trinity Congregational Church in Queens Road, Reading, by Messrs W Sweetland of Bath. In 1913 that church was given a larger three manual instrument and the Heights Church acquired the original organ for the nominal sum of £100. The opening ceremony consisted of a recital and the rendering of Handel's Messiah by a choir of 100. The Church was packed and chairs had to be placed in both aisles. It is interesting to note that the collection taken at this event amounted to £2,17.6d. The organ was and still is, one of the largest two manual instruments in the district, containing a total of 1,264 pipes, divided into 23 ranks. All the pipe work is of excellent quality, each rank blending very well with the other. The Diapason chorus is nearly as good as that on the celebrated Father Willis Organ in Reading Town Hall.

From its installation it gave almost trouble free service for 50 years, but towards the end of the period the pedal action became so noisy and unreliable that in 1963 it was replaced by electro/pneumatic action, a balanced swell

pedal provided and two extra stops were derived electrically from the existing pipe work. Funds did not then allow for the manuals to be treated in the same way, neither could the console be redesigned. The result of this was a tonally good organ which was heavy to play and very difficult to control.

The scheme now in hand has been entrusted to Messrs Geo Osmond & Co Ltd, of Taunton, and consists of the two manuals being converted to electro/pneumatic action, the console to be redesigned and six new

only be one of the largest, but also one of the finest two manual organs in a very wide area.

The cost has been met by a grant of £3,000 from the Arthur Newberry Trust, gifts from members and friends of the Church and at the last moment a challenge offer of £1,000, provided that the whole scheme be completed.

The fund at the moment is £1,700 short of its target of £21,000. This is hoped to be realised by an "Objects d'Art" sale on September 12. It is hoped there will be enough

the candidates included W H Jude's setting of "Take my life . . . with Margaret Bensley as soloist, and the service concluded with the celebration of Holy Communion.

Thanks be to God for the privilege of welcoming Andrew Bull, Belinda Byers, Jan Keating, Sean Keating, Alison Pearce, Alison Ross, Philip and Margaret Agrawal, Susan Roberts and Judy Smal as full members of the church, and for giving others this opportunity to renew — publicly — their own Confirmation vows. Truly a day to remember.

lowship over the year. Peter and Jean Brook are moving to Oakridge in Gloucestershire, following Peter's retirement as Principal of Estate Management at Reading University.

Both Peter and Jean have been active members in many different ways, Peter as chairman of the last Stewardship Review Committee and member of other committees, Jean, as a founder member of the Stay-a-While Club, with both Peter and Jean being Pastoral Leaders.

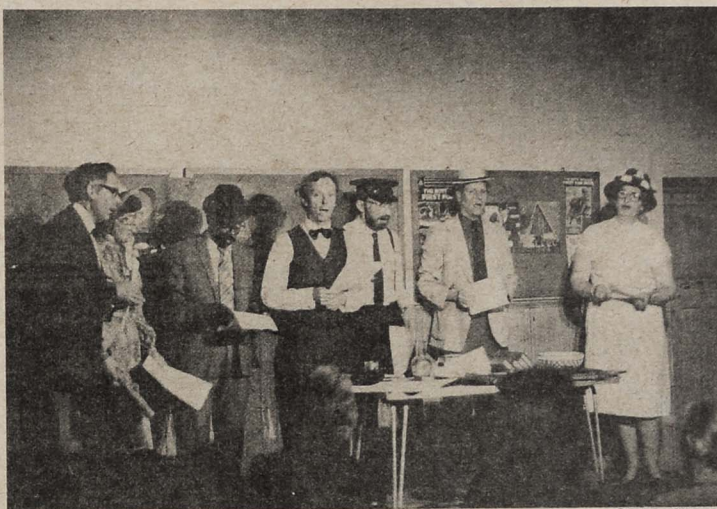
The youth of Caversham have benefited greatly by the inspiring leadership of Ray and Tricia Court, who, upon Ray's promotion in the Bank, are moving to Bournemouth with their sons Paul and Martin. Tricia has been Superintendent of the Junior Church and Ray leader of the Junior section of the Junior Church, almost as long

as they have been in Caversham and the success and quality of this is very much due to their dedication and inspiration. Paul and Martin have also been active members particularly in the Splinters and Squash Youth Groups.

Mr Rogerson expressed gratitude that neither family were moving far away and the hope that the church would see them frequently in the future.

In adding her thanks and best wishes for the future, Mrs Janet Offord, Senior Steward, presented the Brook family with a voucher to purchase trees for their new home and the Court family a table lamp. Both families were also presented with an address of appreciation and a house plant.

All friends join in wishing the Brook and Court families God's richest blessing for the future.



— Graham Aisbett

stops to provide a wider range of tone colour. When completed, this instrument should not

people interested in the project to contribute to this, and support it on the day with their presence at the Church Hall, Highmoor Road, Caversham Heights. The opening of the organ will take place on September 30 at 7.45pm, when a recital will be given by Dr W S Lloyd Webber, CBE D.Mus (London) FRCO FLCM HonRAM, whose expertise, together with that of Clifford Harman FRCO, has resulted in the final design.

Annual Confirmation Service

Most people will remember that June 14 was a beautiful summer day. Some will recall that it was Trinity Sunday; but for the morning congregation at Caversham Heights, it had an added significance; the annual Confirmation Service.

In a simple but moving ceremony, conducted by the Rev Ralph Rogerson, assisted by Janet Offord, Senior Church Steward, and Geoffrey Green, leader of the senior section of the Junior Church, seven young people and three adults, supported by their parents or other relatives, confirmed the vows made on their behalf at their Baptism. The hymns chosen by

Family Concert

Members and friends packed the Church Hall on the evening of June 5 to enjoy and take part in an Old Tyme Concert in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. A wide variety of acts were presented by various branches of the church family ranging from musical items of singing and a solo french horn, to comedy sketches introduced in a magnificent mirth-making melodious manner by the Methodist Minister from the manse, Rev Ralph Rogerson.

All good things come to an end and at the close of the enjoyable evening all friends were sad to say farewell to two very much loved families of the church. Mr Rogerson expressed very warm and sincere thanks to both families for their work in the life of the church and for their friendship and fel-

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By
Zoilus



■ Last day party at the Kameleon Youth Club

YOUTH CLUBS have had to take quite a flak in the past few years, some of it justified, so it's nice to be able to report a happy venture by our Emmer Green Club into the field of international understanding. Perhaps that's a bit of an exaggeration because it was only a week in Holland, but the outcome was at least something of an antidote to the horrendous behaviour of our barmy football hooligans.

Last month a mixed party of twenty members of the club together with four adults (or geriatric

teenagers, as we called ourselves) left Reading Station and by train, boat, tube and tram, humped our luggage to the far outskirts of Rotterdam and our headquarters, the Kameleon Youth Club. Here we were each allotted a host and taken off to the family with whom we were to stay. So started a memorable week for all the party, though it ended in tears. But tears of regret that the kids had to leave Rotterdam and all the Dutch friends they had made.

Things went well from the first evening, which some of us spent in a

local Jazz Club where the band turned out to be from Lancashire—to the final Friday which ended in a party at the Youth Club at which our kids put on a little variety show and at which it seemed the entire population of the suburb were guests. We were lucky that the two professionals amongst us, Detta from Emmer Green and Tim from Reading, were good organisers, but the great thing was that the Club members played their part as Youth ambassadors to perfection and were no trouble to anyone.

There were educational group visits to other Youth Clubs and welfare organisations in Rotterdam and trips to Amsterdam, Delft and the Hague as well as private outings with Dutch families.

One thing that struck us all was the genuinely friendly feeling the Dutch had for we British. My Dutch phrase book was quite unnecessary because so many people spoke fluent English, one reason being the centuries old trade links between the two countries. There is a famous couplet attributed to Canning, the nineteenth century politician "In matters of finance the fault of the Dutch is giving too little and asking too much". Maybe it is still so in the world of commerce, but in friendship we found everybody generous in the extreme.

The Dutch host families have been invited to Caversham in October as an exchange visit and everyone at the Club is looking forward to this and planning trips and entertainment for them. If any reader wants to join in with hospitality Detta, the Youth leader at Emmer Green Club (tel 475794) would love to hear about it.

The St Peter's day service at the end of June was one of those occasions that the Church of England, as exemplified by our own parish church, does so very well. Although many Christians would say that the sincerity of true worship does not need any trappings of pomp and circumstance, and that two or three gathered together in faith are the corner stone of our religion, it's surely right that there are times when the Word should be proclaimed by a trumpet as well as a whispered prayer.

The processional and augmented choir, the favourite hymns, the sermon by the Dean of Christ Church, and above all the overflowing congregation drawn from all parts of the Caversham Christian community must have been an encouragement to our clergy and a fitting tribute to the memory of our patron saint.

There will be another opportunity next year for the Rector and his helpers to show their expertise as producers in the artistic as well as ecclesiastical field when some of the medieval mystery plays will be staged in Caversham Court as part of the summer festival. This will be held from June 26 to June 29 and prayers for good weather seem to be justified.



Barbara Pirquet

"A PERFECT partner and friend" is how Dr Caiger-Smith described Dr Barbara Pirquet, who died in June after a short illness. In whatever relationship one stood to her, be it patient, colleague, neighbour or kinsman, one always became 'a friend' and one for whom she cared deeply. Her life was all of a piece; there were no separate compartments in her mind and news of her family and friends spilled over happily in conversations in the surgery.

Patients were never machines to be patched up; they were human beings like herself, with sorrows and joys. She loved her profession since it gave her the chance to show practical care. Though able to take complete charge when the occasion demanded, she was never authoritarian in her approach.

She would discuss and advise on various methods of treatment and patients who had ideas of their own were listened to carefully and such ideas tried out if they seemed reasonable.

Practice in Czechoslovakia

Dr Pirquet came from a medical family, her father having worked for some time with lepers in Kuala Lumpur. She herself trained and qualified in this country, but met her husband-to-be, an Austrian, in Switzerland at a time when war was imminent; faced with a terrible choice, she chose to stay with him and they practised medicine in Czechoslovakia throughout the war. Their two eldest children were born in Prague.

After the war they emigrated to Canada where they continued to practise. Returning to England in the early sixties, Barbara Pirquet went first to her parents' home in Mapledurham, later moving to Bank Farm, Pishill. She joined the Oxford Road surgery and eventually helped to set one up in Emmer Green, where she remained for the rest of her life, fortunately living to see the building of the new surgery for which she and her colleagues had fought so hard.

It is always her aim to run a happy and friendly surgery, and this she and her partners did. One of her

greatest satisfactions was that they were always able to find such friendly people to work as receptionists; her dearest wish was that when she and her partner, Dr Caiger-Smith, retired, the surgery would continue to be run as a place where patients could approach happily and with confidence, receiving the help or reassurance they needed.

Though she had her troubles and sorrows, at heart she was a supremely happy person, living life to the full. She loved the earth and the good things in it, though was naturally concerned about their misuse. A member of the Church of England her faith was deep and, though no evangelist, she had no hesitation in discussing it when she thought it would help somebody. One of her great pleasures was to organise each year a 'live' crib at the farm, in the hope of restoring some of the true meaning of Christmas. It gave her scope to show all her love and friendliness, her ability to organise and her great love of music. Her eldest daughter, Caroline, became a nun of the Sacred Heart Order and her own visits to the Convent to rest and recuperate were a great blessing in her very busy life.

Visits to and from her son John, in Canada, to her daughter Netti, living with her husband and family at a climbing centre in Wales, and to Elizabeth who lived with her family in Scotland, were always a great joy. She was devoted to all of them and to her eight grandchildren—naturally, since she loved all children.

There is so much that could be said about Barbara Pirquet, her utter reliability, her ability to make people care for each other—many a lasting friendship was formed by a request to 'pop this prescription in' to a housebound patient—and her faculty for instilling into others many of the qualities she herself possessed. One outward sign of her caring was that, a founder member of the Reading Samaritans, she remained a consultant to them to the time of her death. She loved and she received love, and if she were able to send us a message it is almost certain she would say, simply, "Love one another . . ."

W. D.

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BAPTIST NEWS

A Beautiful Dream

MRS PEGGY Ide admits to having a dream — probably caused by a surfeit of cheese for supper — that a Flower Festival in the refurbished church would be the thing to draw the crowds and boost the Building Fund. She told members of the Building Fund Committee of the vision — an unwise thing to do as they have a habit of battenning on to bright ideas — and found herself saddled with the job of organising one. As the countdown to the fateful weekend continued the job loomed larger and her heart sank lower.

However, she knew of at least two talented flower arrangers in the church, Mrs Barbara Dove and Mrs Pauline Hay, and when the idea became common knowledge another member, Mrs Isobel Evans volunteered, army fashion, the expert services of her mother, Mrs Doris Walmsley of Coventry and we really had lift-off.

Gifts of flowers were invited, instructions on their treatment almost clinical in detail, were issued and arrangements finalised. On the day prior to the Festival, Mrs Walmsley and her helpers put in a marathon stint, suitably refreshed at interval with coffee and possibly a little of Mrs Ide's cheese arranging the beautiful flowers in a most delightful manner. The great day dawned and anyone who failed to visit the church missed a truly wonderful spectacle. If Peggy's dream was caused by cheese, a pork-pie may well be the prerequisite to something even bet-

ter next time but that will be exceedingly difficult to achieve.

Coupled with the Flower Festival was a concert given in the church by the Reading Male Voice Choir under their conductor, Mr Gwyn Arch. The range and brilliance of their performance — as one might expect of this renowned choir — matched both the beauty and variety of the surrounding flowers. Lustre was, however, added by the Woodley Percussion Ensemble and these young ladies under their leader, Mr Clive Waterman, who also accompanied the Choir on the piano, are to be congratulated on their lively and interesting contribution to a wonderful evening.

Received with thanks

It was a moment of high drama and deep emotion for members of the church when, at the Annual Assembly of the Berks Baptist Association, a cheque for £1,054 was presented to the Minister for the Building Fund. As the Association's 'Church of the Year' our report had finished by quoting the well known grace — 'For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful', and He certainly did. The members of the church have been both surprised and humbled by the generosity of so many during the past year and not least by that of the small community of Baptists at Ascot who gave the church £300.

Good value

Less like a weekend, more like a week would

perhaps be an apt description of what is known in Baptist circles as the Missionary Weekend. It starts on Friday evening with a reception, at a town church, for the missionaries visiting the churches in the district, continues with meetings of a social nature

health visitor has been supervising the treatment of leprosy patients. It was Mrs Wheeler who attended the Ladies' Meeting on the Monday afternoon and had a thrilling and heart warming story to tell of her activities, and in such an unassuming manner.



Jill Armstead, Sarah Aplin, and Angela Pyatt with Dr Martin-Bates planting a buddleia outside the new doctors surgery in Emmer Green. Jill, Sarah and Angela are sixers in the 2nd Emmer Green Brownies who donated the buddleia.

on Saturday, reaches its zenith with missionary services on Sunday and winds-up, rather than down, with further meetings on Monday culminating in a supper — this year a strawberry and salad affair in the evening.

The Caversham Church was well served at its Sunday services by the Rev Ray Richards, a retired missionary of some 30 years standing, and Mr David Wheeler. Mr Richards served in Zaire as a schoolmaster and college tutor, a field of activity for which he confessed to having neither specialised training nor a burning desire but which he appears to have discharged with more than a modicum of success.

Mr Wheeler proved to be a Reading man, having been born at Shinfield where his parents still live. He is a highly qualified civil engineer — a seemingly unlikely qualification for missionary work — having at sometime been engaged in this country on motorway construction. On the mission field his skill has been devoted mainly to building construction. He has virtually remodelled the famous Baptist Missionary Society Hospital at Chandragona, Bangladesh where his wife, a qualified nurse and

Iona Pilgrims' seven week cycle ride

ABOUT FIFTY or more people assembled in the home of Barbara Latto on a recent Sunday night to meet the Iona Peace Pilgrims. They are a small group who left Iona on Easter Day and cycled to Canterbury Cathedral where they were received by the Dean on Whitsunday. En route they stopped to hold meetings and visit military centres to explain their own religious convictions, opposing a military solution to the world's problems. They included a retired couple cycling on a tandem. It must have been a tough ride, and it cannot have been easy approaching military commanders.



The meeting was addressed by Bruce Kent, a Roman Catholic priest who is also General Secretary of CND. A lively discussion followed. Unfortunately the press gave them very little publicity, but it was good to have them for one night in Caversham.



St Anne's News

JUNE WAS a busy month in St Anne's. The joint Parish Dance with St John Bosco and English Martyrs was held in the Top Rank Suite on 3rd and was well attended. On 14th an exceptionally large congregation attended the Mass at which 26 children received their First Holy Communion.

16th June saw a working party of 18 attacking the presbytery orchard which had become something of a jungle.

On June 18th — the feast of Corpus Christi — open air Mass was celebrated in the grounds of Mapledurham House followed by a procession and benediction. About 400 people attended. Up until the Second World War this was a regular event and it is hoped that the tradition will now be restored for it is a memorable occasion in a most beautiful setting.

A meeting was held on 23rd to discuss the formation of the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Caversham and it was decided to establish this in September. June 27th was the day of the annual Fete in St Anne's School grounds. The weather was kind, for once, and more than £1,200 was realised.

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ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

THE REV John Sumner who came to Caversham in May 1975 as priest-in-charge of St John's has been appointed vicar of Swallowfield and assistant chaplain of Reading University. He will be instituted as vicar of Swallowfield on September 22. The Rev Martin Loveless whom it was announced in last month's Caversham Bridge is moving to Carterton will be instituted to that living on August 18. A farewell presentation to them both will be made at the Dedication Festival Evensong in St Peter's on Sunday, October 4.

The preacher that eve-

ning will be Canon Anthony Caesar, Sub Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal.

Justham Cup. Tim Etherington of St Peter's choir was this year's winner of the Justham Cup which is awarded to the best chorister in the parish under the age of fourteen. Dr Kemp of Reading University was adjudicator of the competition. Although there were fewer entries this year the standard was considerably higher. The runner up was Stephen Bryden, also of St Peter's choir.

ANGLICAN NEWS

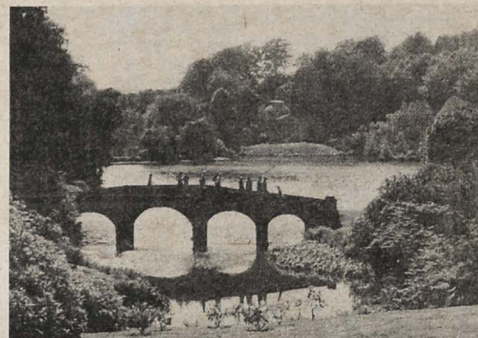


— Graham Aisbitt.

also. The Eucharist was concelebrated by the seven priests of the parish and their seven red chasubles around the altar made a very colourful scene. The Dean of Christ Church, the Very Rev Eric Heaton made his first visit to Caversham and preached on the transformation of St Peter. The choir sang as an anthem Bryd's Ave Verum. The church flowers in the arrangement of which many people had helped were splendid, and thanks to the efforts of Mrs Bramwell and the catering committee refreshments were served to the large congregation after the service. The only thing missing this year was the flying of the flag from the church tower.

This is because wet and dry rot has been discovered on the tower roof and the flag staff has been taken down until the repairs are completed.

Social occasions. St Peter's congregations enjoyed two outdoor social occasions in June. Country dancing took place on the Rectory lawn on one of June's many cold evenings and consequently fewer people than usual came. On Trinity Sunday however the weather was much kinder and some seventy members of the congregation set off by coach after the Parish Communion and had a most enjoyable day at the National Trust gardens at Stourhead, Wiltshire.



■ The garden at Stourhead

— Graham Aisbitt

ST PETER'S NEWS

ST PETER'S Day was once again a truly joyous occasion, when not only members of all the congregations of the parish came to their parish church but Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic friends



— Graham Aisbitt

■ Energetic dancers keeping warm on a chilly June evening

St Peter's Wives

FOR THEIR June meeting the Wives Group welcomed back Mrs Ann Skip. This time Mrs Skip was invited to demonstrate her ideas for decorating "Teenage and Party cakes". Members were soon busy jotting down recipes and suggestions as Mrs Skip gave a practical demonstration of her ideas for party cakes to suit all ages and, like all the best ideas, they were basically simple. The meeting was well attended and everyone went home brimming with enthusiasm to try out one of Mrs Skip's cakes as soon as the next birthday in the family occurred.

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ANGLICAN NEWS

St Andrews Church

The Annual Fete was held on June 20 in aid of Missions to Seamen, Sue Ryder Home, Nettlebed, and the USPG (a project being overseen by the church in South India which involves digging two wells in a leper colony at Arasaradi, Madurai State). The weather was very

kind as were all our many friends who came and spent their money. This year there was a children's fancy dress competition, won in great style by Noddy and Wonder Woman! With two shows of Punch and Judy put on for us by Roger and Michael Kent, splendid teas and

many bargains to be had (including the Auction) we hope everyone spending enjoyed themselves as much as the organisers. A total of £1,050 was raised, which included profits from the Bridge Drive and Cheese and Wine party. As the money will be divided equally between the charities we trust our contribution will have done something to offset the ravages of inflation this year.

St Peter's and St Barnabas Mothers' Union

INSTEAD OF the June meeting in Church House members entertained housebound friends to tea in the Rectory. The weather was fine but not too warm, and those who were able took a walk around the garden. Some were even brave enough to enjoy their tea on the balcony.



Inside and outside — St Andrews fete attracted young and not so young alike.



— Graham Aisbitt

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St John's Notes

MRS ELLA TEGG has been a Mothers' Union member for many years, and her ninetieth birthday was celebrated with a party. After Mrs Tegg had been given a special card and a plant, everyone encouraged her as she blew out the nine candles on the cake.

All three St John's members who took part in the Christian Aid walk finished the twenty miles, although the going was often slippery and difficult. This was splendid because they raised £100 between them, and so set a wonderful example to the younger generation — all three walkers are grandparents. (Where were all the younger members that Saturday?) One grandmother was determined that, if burglars broke in, they should not find her sponsor money. She hit it so securely that, in spite of many helpful suggestions, it was a week before she found it again.

Because St John's Day is also mid-summer day there is an abundance of sweet smelling flowers. This year the church not only looked

lovely, but was also full of the mixed scents of roses, lavender, syringa and honeysuckle. It was very pleasant to welcome back old friends, and to see that people had taken care that elderly and disabled church members could come and join in the worship to get her. After the service everyone talked together as they enjoyed the refreshments, organised by the Mothers' Union, and shared the surprise gift of a flagon of homemade elderberry wine. This was potent enough to revive one very tired Girl Guide!

SEPTEMBER EDITION

All material for inclusion in the September edition of the Caversham Bridge must reach the Parish Office by 9am on Thursday, July 30th.

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■ Keith Kirby and Christopher Markham — part of a group from Berkshire Youth Action — painting St Barnabas' Hall under a Youth Opportunities Programme scheme.

— Peter Sear.

Unemployment in Caversham

TWO MEETINGS of local employers and other interested parties have been called recently by the clergy of Caversham to examine the effect of the recession on employment in this area and to see if there is any way in which action by the Churches could help to ease the situation, especially amongst unemployed school leavers.

Following enquiries which were made of the Manpower Services Commission it is felt that greater use of the Youth Opportunities Programme in Caversham could provide opportunities of training for a number of school leavers, and as this scheme may not be well known amongst employers in Caversham fuller information is given in the article on this page by Mr Gareth King of the Careers Service.

The possibility of setting up some form of workshop was examined but not felt to be practical at

this time. However, the scheme administered by the local authority under the Community Enterprise Programme and entitled "Berkshire Youth Action" is being supported locally and unemployed school leavers have been helping with the redecoration of St Barnabas Hall. It is expected that other projects within the Caversham area will be tackled in the near future.

Another possibility considered was the provision of some form of day centre in Caversham where unemployed youngsters could meet and where counselling would be available. This has been answered by the agreement of the Management Committee for the Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre to open the Centre initially for one afternoon a week starting in September. Fuller details will be given in the next issue of "The Bridge."

Youth unemployment in Reading today

by Gareth King

MUCH HAS been written about unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, recently. There are, naturally, marked regional differences that often remain obscured. This article aims to highlight how the youth of Reading are affected by declining job opportunities. Although since the mid-seventies jobs have been somewhat scarce in Reading only now unemployment is tightening its grip on the area. In the past unemployment was more a threat than a reality. Qualifications and/or experience normally ensured work of some description.

semi-trained, useful employees. In nearly every case the young trainee had a 'need' for a particular scheme whereas now a much wider cross section of youngsters are having to consider the schemes. In many cases the true need these people have is for an actual job.

As far as the Careers Service is concerned the most notable change in the last year or so has been the disappearance of job vacancies. In the past it was possible to argue that jobs existed and it was merely a matter of tracking them down. This is no longer the case. And it is now much harder to advise young people realistically about career opportunities and prospects.

In the absence of vacancies the Careers Service is very much dependent on YOP.

Work experience

For many years the 'Work Experience' element has been fruitful in Reading. This scheme affords young people the chance, over a six month period, to experience, at first hand, different tasks that relate to a theme of work under the eye of a local employer; this to the young person is the next best thing to being employed. For a trainee feels like a normal employee — part of the company.

Aside from Work Experience however there are an increasing number of vocational training courses. These are normally for about three months and are run by various training

establishments in the locality. Courses in engineering, retail distribution, office skills and vehicle maintenance have been approved.

Community service

Berkshire also has a Community Service Scheme, Berkshire Youth Action, sponsored by the County Youth and Community Service. The young people participating on this scheme are engaged on jobs seen to be of direct benefit to the local community. For example Berkshire Youth Action is responsible for the adventure playground in Palmer Park and is also concerned with clearing derelict allotments.

Jobs, in the long term, are of course essential and it would be nice to hear from employers who are considering recruiting someone in the near future. Whilst jobs are thin on the ground what is called for is an increase in the numbers of employers utilizing Work Experience. (Any employer interested in the scheme should contact me for further details. Please note however that approval for a scheme takes roughly three months at present.) It is not just employers who can help though. Voluntary and community enterprises can help themselves and the local young by creating work for Berkshire Youth Action. Furthermore we can all play a part in aiding the young to adjust to the situation through counselling and morale boosting in these depressed times.

For further information contact Mr King.

Unemployment Specialist
Careers Officer

4th floor, 7 Cheapside,
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Caversham Darby and Joan Club

JUNE was a month of entertainment for the members. The first week they were visited by Mrs Nash and her singers and joined in songs old and new. Then the annual outing to the sea, Bourne-mouth being the venue this year. The weather was cold but fine and the first stop was at Lyndhurst for coffee, then on to Bourne-mouth. Most members stayed on the front, but the more active ones toured the town and gardens. An early return to Cadnum for an excellent tea at the Old Well Restaurant, followed by a ride round the countryside, stopping at the little village of Blewbery, then home to Caversham. Last, but by no means least, a visit from "June and her Girls", a party of young wives, who gave an exhibition of all forms of dancing, disco, ballet and international.

Finally, the club has reached its target, and now has six brightly coloured pvc tablecloths to brighten up the weekly meetings.

Caversham Community Association

THE JUNE meeting commenced with a Stainless Steel Party. Mrs Pat Williams was the demonstrator and came with a wide array of household articles to show the members. Some attractive jewellery was also displayed.

On June 8 it was a request evening for the dancers at the club. Joan Annett and Doreen Crawley led the members in their favourite dances in Old Tyme and Modern style.

Mr Trevor Wilton, Area Supervisor of the Reading Borough Council was the visiting speaker on June 15. Mr Wilton explained how Reading acquired the public parks and gardens it has today. At one time

Reading townfolk found it very easy to reach the countryside but as the town expanded and land was sold for building it soon became apparent that, unless some positive action was taken, there would be no open spaces for public walking left in the town.

Matters improved, however, when Mr George Palmer of the well known biscuit firm, gave the park named in his honour to the Reading townfolk and Cintra Park was given by the Sutton Seed family. Reading Borough Council purchased Prospect Park after public petition. Over the years the gardens at the Forbury were developed into the popular visiting place it is today.

Mr Wilton completed his talk by showing some attractive photographs on slide film of the Forbury gardens and explained his methods of making the flower beds.

A Beattie drive was held on June 22. Joan Annett was the winner with Alice White in second place.

On the last Monday in June the members went by coach for a Mystery Tour of the pleasant local countryside. The weather kept fine and although cool was ideal for the occasion.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

THE GUILD celebrated its 20th birthday in style at the last meeting. There was entertainment from the drama group, food provided by members and a simply splendid cake - baked by Mrs Pat White and iced by Mrs Joyce Gosling. The theme of the decorations was red, white and blue and the main flower display was done by Mrs Strange.

The ploughman's lunch held at Mrs June Davidge's home raised over £30 towards the Jimmy Savile Appeal. The next ploughman's lunch at Cambus Moon will be in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

ROUND THE CLUBS

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

THE GUILD welcomed back again an old friend in the form of Mr Richard Snailham, this time talking about Ethiopia. He described his extensive travels through this large mountainous country, but regretted visits had been suspended since 1973 when Russia and Cuba took control. Ethiopia is a wild empty land, the size of France, Spain and West Germany together, but with only twenty-four million people, ninety-five per cent of whom live fifteen miles from a road. There are scattered farmlands, volcanic hot water pools, National Parks and desert fringes. Mr Snailham used slides to show examples of those and of the eighty different peoples who are mainly Christian, living a simple expendable life.

Members have enjoyed visits to the Vineyard at Purley with wine tasting, and good hospitality and also to Warberg Nature Reserve at Bix, following up a talk earlier in the year.

The bravest group of ladies are following a programme of slimnastics - the giggles coming easier than the loss of weight!

Rosehill WI

MRS ELLINGHAM welcomed visitors and members to the eighteenth Birthday Meeting. After the usual business the play reading group entertained. Tea followed with a lovely birthday cake made and iced by Mrs Barge, then a competition. Visitors were given buttonhole sprays of flowers made by members. The silver salver for highest points in competitions for the year was won by Mrs Gillings and the goblet for the runner-up by Mrs Ellingham.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

THERE WAS no speaker at the June meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild, so in view of the fact that there was rather more business than usual to discuss, members enjoyed a long teabreak and went home in daylight for a change. Mrs S Budgeon gave an excellent report of the NUTG meeting at the Albert Hall which she attended with Mrs H Collins. Many topical items were on the agenda, not least of which was the Guild budget which is causing some concern. Members were interested to hear that there are five Guilds especially for disabled women.

A short period of silence was observed when the death of Dame Margery Corbett Ashby, aged 97, the founder of the Townswomen's Guild movement.

Mrs J Allen gave an interesting report on the Federation meeting as did Mrs P Whittaker on the meeting of Age Concern. Mrs P Candy thanked helpers for their assistance with the May Jumble Sale which raised £74, some of which has been donated to the Stoke Mandeville Appeal.

Members were very sad to learn of the death of Miss Dorothy Sidford who with her sister, the late Miss Barbara Sidford, was a founder member of the Emmer Green Towns-

women's Guild. Miss D Sidford was extremely active in the Red Cross, also helping at the Luncheon Club, and was a member of St Peter's Church. She worked hard for the Guild for many years, on the committee, as chairman of the social studies, and organised the annual outing. A donation in her memory was sent from the Guild to the Red Cross, her especial love; she will be sadly missed.

Blagrove WI

At the June meeting Mrs M Popplewell presided in the absence of Mrs J Price. Members enjoyed a most interesting talk with slides on "Berkshire Wild Life" given by Mrs Ruth Wright, a member of BFWL. Mrs P Price thanked Mrs Wright on behalf of all members.

The competition 'Picture of bird or animal' was won by Mrs Rawlingson with Mrs Dean second and Mrs Popplewell third.

Caversham Ladies Club

AT THE June meeting the speaker was Miss E Turner. Her subject was silver and jewellery. Hall-marking began in 1300, and she explained in detail the assay marks of both gold and silver, and how mem-

bers could find when and at which office the article had been hall-marked. She suggested that their silver should be used and enjoyed every day, but care taken in cleaning as silver was very soft. Jewellery could be cleaned by washing in soapy water and polished with a soft cloth. She finally answered questions and discussed some of the articles which members had brought with them.

The chairman, Mrs Harwood, thanked her for a very interesting and informative afternoon.

Caversham WI

MRS BETTY Atherton the Vice President chaired the May meeting and was pleased to welcome a new

member. Mrs S Hill VCO County Treasurer gave guidance on discussion and voting on the resolutions for the Annual General Meeting at the Albert Hall.

The competition for a saleable item from scrap was won by Mrs Betty Atherton, second Mrs Phyllis Colley and third Miss Rosemary Powell.

At the 16th July meeting there will be a demonstration on summer entertaining cookery.

The competition will be home made short bread.

A breath of summer spread into the June meeting with a visit by Mr G Bartlett who made gardening look very easy with his talk and demonstration on the growing and propagation of Fuchsias.

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Start to run for health and fun

SEPTEMBER is the month to get your shorts on and start running for exercise and fun!!

The National Jogging Association are making September "Start Running Month" and it is hoped that by the end of that month people all over the country will have run enough miles to reach the Moon, and hopefully, get back again. With the success of so many different mass running events over the last few months, from the London and Birmingham marathons to the very recent half-marathon at South Shields, where 12,000 people took part, the month is being

organised to help even more people to 'get started'.

Local authorities, sports councils, running clubs are all to be asked to organise running events of all kinds during the month of September. It is already a busy running month, with several marathons, half-marathons and the now well established Sunday Times Hyde Park Fun Runs over 2½ miles. This year there will probably be 20,000 people in these runs alone, clocking-up 50,000 miles! In addition to these there will be plenty of other events for anyone who wants to start running but needs that little push to get started.

In the Reading area

there will be a number of places where you will be able to run under supervision. In particular it is hoped there will be regular lunchtime sessions on the new track at Palmer Park, with someone on hand to give practical help and advice.

Running is a basic way to general fitness and costs nothing but a little effort, and the fitness you gain will help you to enjoy not only many other sporting activities to the full but your everyday life.

In this year of the Disabled People, many runs have been sponsored and much of the proceeds have gone to various charities for the disabled and it is hoped that many of the events

in September will also raise money for those not fortunate enough to take part in a full sporting life.

So it is very much a case of while you help yourself you can also help someone else at the same time.

So — START TO RUN FOR HEALTH AND FUN — and for others too!

Sports shorts . . .

A new Table Tennis Club has just been formed locally, the Gillette TT Club is an exclusive club aimed at taking young players to the top in the sport. The original squad has 7 lads aged from 13-17 and one girl. They will be starting off in the 3rd Division of the National



League but hope it is a rapid climb to the 1st Division, where they will play against the best in the country.

Two young players from this area are in the squad, 17 years old Simon Rowland of Oakley Road and 16 years old Paul Halliday of Sonning Common.

Caversham athlete, 16 years old Katie Fairbrass, who runs for the Reading Athletic Club, is having another very successful season. A short while ago she won an International 1500 metres race in West Germany.

Albatross Diving Club's Marianne Green has now won her third Southern Counties diving title and must have taken another step towards international

honours in her sport.

From the youngsters to the more mature . . . at Crystal Palace recently, a team of 100 Veteran athletes (over 40's) broke the world 100 x 1 mile relay record, in a time of 8 hours 45 minutes and 21 seconds, shattering the record held by a team of American Vets, by over 30 minutes. Reading made its contribution in supplying 5 of the record-breaking team including Ian Collinson and yours truly from Caversham. We have now been challenged by the Australians and Canadians. It is nice to break a world record at 40 plus!

The Hare beats the Rabbits

The best sporting upset for a long time was in the World record attempt by Steve Ovett and other top class athletes in the 1500 metres in Oslo. It was splendid to see the 'hare', Tom Byers, run away from the rest of the field, including Ovett, and not be caught. As Ovett said afterwards 'the rest ran like rabbits' . . .

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St John's

From August there will be no service of Holy Communion on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8am.

St Anne's

Sunday Masses are now at 9am and 11am (No evening Mass at 5pm).

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Maplewood WI

MRS JOAN FRY, the President, gave a very good description of the AGM at the Albert Hall. It was her first visit and obviously much enjoyed.

The speaker for June was Miss D R Gribble, her subject 'A Pride of Writers'. With a simply fantastic memory she recited from Rupert Brooke to John Galsworthy. Many of these prose or poetry items she is preparing for the Edinburgh Festival.

The competition, an amusing epitaph, was won by Mrs Joy Le Mare.

Several members helped at the very successful stall at the Hospital Fete selling cakes etc. made by friends and members of Maplewood's group of five Women's Institutes.

A coffee-morning committee at Mrs Betty Clamp's house has arranged the rota for Friday mornings behind the Maternity tea bar at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

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