



A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Vincent Kelly is a retired Bridge Engineer living in Caversham since 1964. He is a parishioner of St. Anne's and a Governor of St. Anne's Primary School.

For many years I have read about the Camino de Santiago, the pilgrim road to Compostela. The interest in the road was increased by the acquisition of three Spanish speaking grandchildren, now, alas, living near Paris. I decided during the winter that it was a case of "now or never" and at the instigation of my wife I started to prepare.

I discovered two organisations dedicated to fostering the preservation of the route and through them I have been able to gain some useful information. They are:-

1. The Confraternity of St. James, based in London and
2. Los Amigos del Camino de Santiago, based in the little town of Estella which is situated on the road just west of Pamplona.

I am sorry that I did not tackle the walk much earlier as I have discovered that there is a lot of quite serious preparation to be done, both from the fitness angle and the research into the history, architecture, geography, social conditions etc., if one is to gain the most from the project. The foods and wines of the various area are an attraction also.

Fortunately I have sufficient Spanish to see me through most situations and I hope that, on my return, my ability to converse in Spanish will have improved.

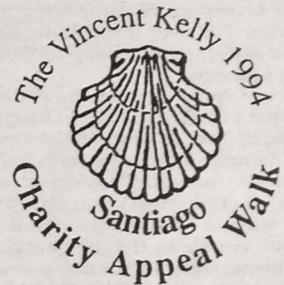
The story of Compostela commences in Biblical times and no doubt it has been embellished over the years - it is a good story for that.

The apostle James went to Spain as a missionary shortly after the Crucifixion but seemed to have had little success. On returning to Jerusalem he was beheaded on the orders of Herod in 44 A.D. The law of the time did not allow his body to be buried and so it was taken back to Spain where it was interred at the present-day site of Compostela.

Some 800 years later, when the Christians were being hard pressed by the Moors, the body of the Apostle was discovered and it became a great inspiration for them. At that time the Moors in Spain had the arm of the prophet as their talisman. There are stories that tell of the sudden appearance of St. James (Santiago Matamoros - St. James the Moorslayer) at the head of the Christian army, mounted on a white horse, bearing a great sword. It seemed inevitable that they should be victorious - even if it did take until 1492, that famous year in which Columbus discovered America.

From the tenth century onwards Compostela became a great centre of pilgrimage and it joined with the Holy Land and Rome to form the three great centres of Christianity. Not all of those on the pilgrim road were necessarily devoted Christians as there was a custom for judges to give convicted criminals the option of a jail sentence or a pilgrimage (there and back). As life expectancy in the jails of those days was minimal the pilgrimage option was frequently accepted, although many died on the route. There are authenticated records to show that hundreds of thousands walked in some years and often the pilgrimage would take as much as three years to complete from Paris. Noblemen, kings, queens, princes and courtiers mixed with businessmen and rogues of all descriptions.

The first recorded pilgrimage was in the year 951 A.D. and in 1130 A.D. a French cleric, Amryc Picaud, wrote what must be



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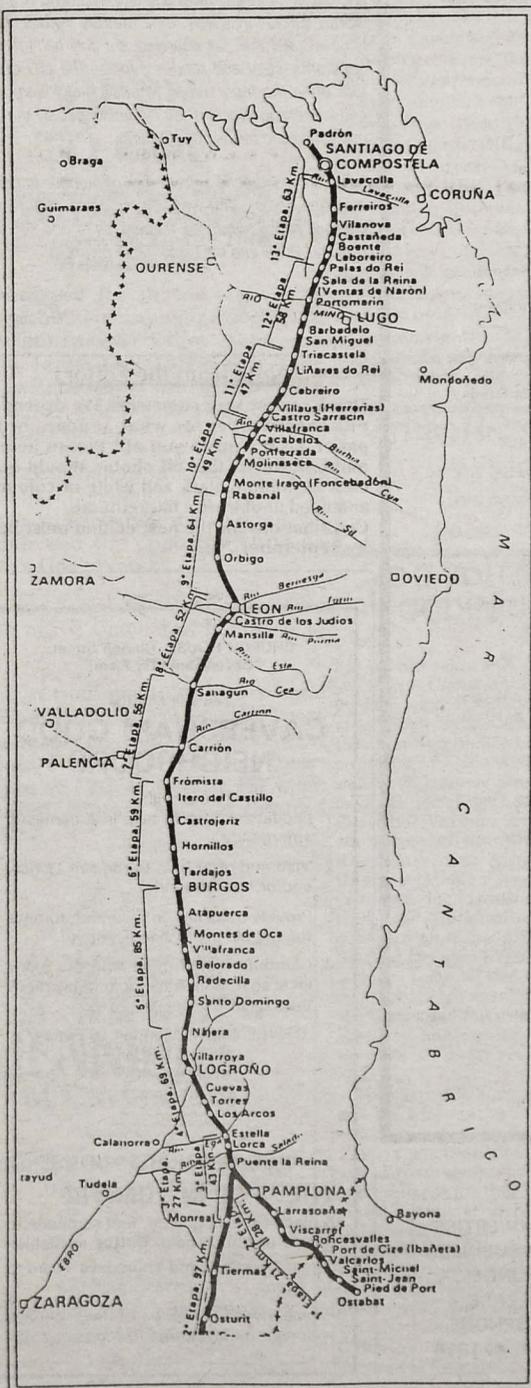
the first ever guide-book for travellers. it was in five volumes and covered all of the major pilgrim roads in France as well as Spain. To this day all of the detailed guides to the route use the same format and divide the journey into the same stages.

In my preparation I have drawn on the two organisations mentioned above as well as the personal experiences of several people that have been able to give first hand information, whether they have travelled on foot, horse-back or bicycle. Reading such fascinating authors as Starkie, Michenor, Mullins, Bentley and even the 19th century doyen of all walkers, George Borrow, has added to the enjoyment of preparation.

I have chosen to tackle it alone and without "back-up" as I am assured that I shall never be alone unless by choice - and that I shall pick up with people of many nationalities. Thus I can make my own pace, pushing ahead when I feel like doing so and holding back in those places that particularly interest me so that my photography can be done at some leisure



Continued
on
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TALKING POINT

by

The Rev. David Moody
of

Caversham Heights Methodist Church



THAMES VALLEY ALIVE

Joan and I took the last two of three seats, upstairs at the rear, on the National Express rapide London to Middlesborough: a young man in his twenties, still wearing his working jeans, took the third seat next to me. He was a Liverpool FC supporter who lived only to support his team. For over three hours to Middlesborough he chatted of nothing but Liverpool Football Club. It made for a short journey.

I never spoke to him about Christianity which is, after all, what I live for. He might have thought I was demented if I showed him photos of the President of the Methodist Conference and the church's various officers, and waxed warm about what we do at the Heights and in the Methodist Church at large. For over three hours anyway!

Yet when I really take a good look, I do talk to people about Caversham Heights Methodist Church, tell them of our full services on Sunday mornings at eleven, of the welcome at our booming Ladies Fellowship (we call it Network) every other Thursday and the Network Singers, of Squash our teenage Christian Fellowship that meets every Sunday at eight, of...but then my pen runs away with me like my tongue.

We are right in the midst of TVA - oh! yes Thames Valley Alive - with special events in Caversham during the last week of September and for Reading at large in the first week in October (mainly at Rivermead).

Evangelical events! Wow!!

Evangelism, it seems to me, is most effective when we as individuals talk to people about our faith and our church. A personal one-to-one. All an event like TVA can do is to arouse awareness and give us opportunities to invite friends, neighbours and people we know to particular events so that they can meet up with other Christians.

A person might be suspicious of churches, or feel they are intruding into a private club (after all it's not 'their' church) - so an invite to that Flower Festival might help them to come to church in an 'at ease' manner. Or what about bringing a friend to the Skittles evening, or a pal to the Men's Breakfast (bit chauvinist that! perhaps there's something for working women too) or to your Harvest Festival or a friend to the youth rave-up.

That's evangelism! Finding opportunities of personally inviting someone to a church event, and bringing them if they are affirmative. No yuk event, no 'come on your knees to the front brother'. An event which you are happy with and which you know your friend would enjoy.

I was talking to a lady in France who once came to morning worship at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, who knows no English but who thought the service wonderful. 'The singing', she said, (in French of course). If you don't go to church why don't you come to the Heights on a Sunday at eleven and enjoy worship there - but there I go again.

But we do need to talk up our churches and tell other people what we do and how enjoyable it is, how satisfying, and what they will get out of it and... You must talk up for your own church. Tell you what! why don't we all determine to invite someone to come to some event or a church service in the last week of September or the first week of October: talk up what is good about our churches.

What should I invite people to? Well there's a programme of TVA events elsewhere in the Bridge. Look up an event, invite someone and come yourself. Be an evangelist in your own particular way.

SUNDAY SERVICES

ANGLICAN

St Peter's
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong

St John's
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)

St Andrew's
8.00am The Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung) First Sunday, Family Eucharist
11.15am The Eucharist (with hymns)
6.30pm Evening Prayer

An up to date list or weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

St Barnabas'
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

St Margaret's, Mapledurham
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

11.00am Family Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)
Triple F Family Service (4th Sunday)
6.30pm Evening Worship (1st Sunday)

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

10.30am and 6.30pm

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45am and 6.30pm

CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

10.30am (in Chapel)

METHODIST

Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm

Caversham Heights

9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Anne's Saturday 5.30pm,
Sunday 10.30am and 6.30pm

Our Lady of Caversham 9.00am

St Martin's School 9.15am Mass

Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,

York Road
11am every Sunday

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church

Street, Reading 10.30am
Caversham Church House -
Meeting for Worship
7.30pm. (last Sunday)
House study groups Sept-June
Tel: 475783

POST BAG

DULL?

Dear Editors,

I have read the August edition of "Caversham Bridge" with interest, but also with a growing sense of disappointment. A phrase from the article by "Watchdog" admirably sums up the usual form and content of the paper - "befitting seriousness". Why does the paper have to be so dull? Pages of close unrelieved print follow each other monotonously. Why so many posed photographs? The only photographs of people actually doing anything are too small to see properly. Why not use some line drawings? Where is the sense of humour? The only spark came from June Hardcastle's article, bless her.

It seems to me that the paper is too self-conscious, in aiming to be a quality paper, reflecting the churches and the community, the image it is projecting is one of worthy, but unfortunately rather deady seriousness. It is no wonder that our churches are only half-full, with apparently staid and serious people! The pity of it is that often the reporting of what probably were lively and interesting events is too circumscribed by the 'normal' style used by the contributors.

Jesus himself used a great deal of humour to get his message across, and was very scathing about those religious people who took themselves far too seriously. Don't let us fall into the same trap - please!

Jeanne Smith
26 Donkin Hill
Caversham

Note from the Editors

Thank you for your comments. We depend on our contributors for what appears in the paper, so it's up to you all! Please bear in mind, however, that all photos should be of clear definition, black and white or coloured, and need unobtrusive backgrounds. Contributions for the next edition must be in by September 7th.

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Please note - Offers of help always welcome by both organisations.

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

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All contributions for September issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 7 September.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham, by 5 September.

The dates for Nov will be Monday 3 October and Wednesday 5 October.

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

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

Typeset by Right Image Graphics Co. Ltd. Unit 1, 151-155 Cardiff Road, Reading, Tel: 393032.

Printed by Chiltern Offset, Amersham, Bucks.

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ST. PETER'S ALIVE!

The "Erleigh Cantors" will be entertaining visitors at St Peter's, Caversham on Friday evening 23rd September.

The concert is a highlight of the four day Harvest Festival 22nd-25th September when the theme will be celebrated in Flowers and Music.

Tickets for the Concert priced £3.50, to include a glass of wine, are available from Tillmans 475711, Bennetts 473096, Scotts 479179 and Caversham Bookshop.

Coffee, Ploughman's Lunches and Afternoon Teas will be available in the Church throughout the four day Festival.

There will be attractive photographic displays of Brownie, Guide, Cub and Scout activities, plus the many adult interest groups.

'OPEN TO GOD'

at Caversham Park church,
Caversham Park Primary School,
Queensway, Saturday 10th
September 8pm

This evening is for anyone and everyone involved or thinking of becoming involved in Thames Valley Alive - in however large or small a way. The evening will be led by Jeremy Anderson and others in Caversham who are involved in TVA.

Part of the evening will take the form of a service of commitment. There will be prayer to encourage us in what we are doing and the opportunity to be filled with God's power.

Come and hear what God has in store for each of us. Come and be 'Open to God'.

'Open to God' meets on the second Saturday evening of the month. There is no meeting in October because of TVA main events. The following meeting will be on 12th November. For more information contact Michael Benford Tel 479182.



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SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER at 3.00 p.m. CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH CAVERSHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, QUEENSWAY

Refreshments will be served after the service
NOT QUITE THE FIRST!

Last December a very special Confirmation service took place in Caversham Park church which was a "first" in many ways, but not THE first - that honour went to Jeremy Ellison, who was confirmed into the Methodist church at Caversham Park several years ago. (Sadly, Jeremy was the tragic victim of a road accident soon afterwards.) The service last December was certainly the first Anglican Confirmation Service at Caversham Park, and it was a first in that it was primarily for some of "God's extra-special people" whose home is in Uppingham Gardens and who worship regularly at Caversham Park. It was a service remarkable for its sheer simplicity, and deeply moving when, in reply to a rather long question from Bishop John about faith in God, Rhondda said "I love Jesus!" What more need to be said?

In September, another "first" is happening at Caversham Park! This will be the first Confirmation Service for the Caversham group of Anglican churches to be held at Caversham Park, when at least one person from Caversham Park church will be received into joint membership of the church there. Bishop John will be officiating, and there may be leaders of other denominations present too.

Caversham Park church is a Local Ecumenical Project - which basically means that the Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches have joined together to form ONE church, using the forms of service and rites of all three denominations. A form of service has been prepared which includes all of their rites of initiation - all in one, one for all! The service can include Believers Baptism by immersion, the Anglican and Methodist forms of baptism, Confirmation with the laying-on of hands, and the receiving into membership of the local church with the "right hand of fellowship" given by the minister. (For those of you wondering how baptism by immersion can take place in a school hall - portable pools can be hired for the occasion. Where there's a will, there's a way!)

It is anticipated that the school hall will be full for this occasion - hopefully the weather will not be too hot (though a dip in the pool might be quite inviting if it were!) Come early if you want a seat!

ST JOHN'S CHURCH JUMBLE SALE

on Saturday, October 1st at 2pm
in Caversham Hall, St John's Road
Books, White Elephant and Jumble

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GODINCIDENCES?

For several years now the Caversham branch of the Acorn Christian Healing Trust has been holding a monthly service of prayer for healing at our local Baptist Church. When we realised that the September service fell right at the beginning of Thames Valley Alive '94, everyone wanted to make it a very special occasion, and to invite someone of national repute to speak. But who? Various doors seemed to be shut, when one of our members realised that Reverend Andy Arbutnot of the London Healing Mission was giving a seminar on Christian Healing just up the road at Highmoor Hall near Nettlebed on that very day. Was it possible that he was our man? Our own Reading Deanery Evangelism Enabler, who just happens to be related to Andy Arbutnot, was deputed to approach him on our behalf, and the outcome.....yes, he would be delighted to come and lead our service that night. Sometimes what we are seeking is right on our doorstep all along!

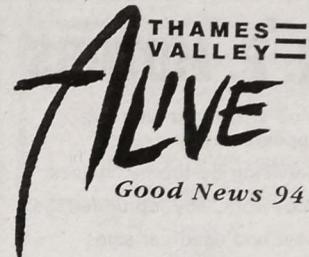
We consider it a great privilege to have Andy and his wife Audrey with us that evening. He has been at the London Healing Mission since 1983, a place which someone has said is 'the only place I know where you go in as a person and come out another person'. None of the people who minister there claim to have any special powers 'It is the Lord's ministry', says Andy Arbutnot 'our role is simply to love him and make ourselves available to him so that his power may flow through us to fulfil his wonderful purpose'. Why not come along on Saturday 24th September to Caversham Baptist Free Church at 7pm and see what 'His wonderful purpose' is for your life.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

The next All Age Praise service of informal worship will be conducted by Mrs. Viv Morrissey at 9.30am on 19th September. There will be a creche for those who wish to use it and all, of whatever age, will be warmly welcomed.

Harvest Festival Celebrations

This year's Harvest Celebrations will take the form of a Harvest Supper and Concert on Saturday, 24th September and Harvest Services at 11am and 6.30pm on Sunday, 25th September, both conducted by the Rev. David Moody. The morning service will also be a Parade Service for the Girls' and Boys' Brigades.



EVENTS IN CAVERSHAM

During the first week of Thames Valley Alive, 25th September - 1st October numerous events are taking place in Caversham. Come along and bring your friends - there's something for everyone. A team of people from Bristol, led by Rupert Higgins will also be in Caversham this week and will join with us.

Saturday 24th September

7pm Caversham Baptist Free Church. "God does heal today." Service with speaker Andy Arbutnot of London Healing Mission.

Sunday 25th September

Church Service with Guest Preacher.
10.30am Gosbrook Road Methodist. Rupert Higgins, from Christchurch, Bristol.

Monday 26th September

10am St John's Prawn Service.
12 noon Heights Methodist Church Senior Citizens' lunch.

Tuesday 27th September

2.30pm St John's Harvest Festival Service followed by tea for Mothers' Union and Women's Fellowship members and friends. (Harvest gifts of tinned foods and toiletries for Reading Drop In Centre are requested)
7.30pm Miller's Arms. A skittles evening with speaker Michael Green.

Wednesday 28th September

All Day Open Day at The Vine, 4, The Mount, Caversham. Come and ask any questions you may have about the Christian faith.

2.30pm Church House Over 60's meeting

2.45pm Chapel on the Hill Senior Citizens' tea.
8pm Church House St Peter's Mother's Union Ecumenical meeting for International Year of the Family with a Talk on the Family.

Thursday 29th September

2.30pm St Peter's "Cherubim" for mothers and young children.

Friday 30th September

12 noon 51, Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Senior Citizens' lunch.

12.00-4.00pm Caversham Baptist Free Church. Lunches and teas available.

Saturday 1st October

8.30am The Grosvenor. Men's Breakfast with speaker Martin Cavender "Out of Plenty".

10.30am Holiday Inn, Richfield Room. "Coffee, Croissants and Chat" for women, with speaker Elizabeth Brazell "A woman's place is in God's Home". The Bristol team will also be going into schools to do Assemblies and take other sessions throughout the week. Homegroups and other groups will be meeting during this week. For further details of these and other events listed please contact Fi and Andy Radford, Tel 483965 or Rev Phil Abrey Tel 475152 or Anne Ballard Tel 481195.

Sunday 2nd October

Church Services with Guest Preachers.
9.30am St Barnabas, Martin Cavender.
10.00am St John's, Rupert Higgins.
11.00am Caversham Park Church, Martin Cavender.
6.30pm Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Mike Hill.

Wednesday 5th October

Christian Women Together in Caversham at St John's Church. Speaker Rosemary Green. There will be tea afterwards.

TVA EVENTS AT RIVERMEAD LEISURE CENTRE

Wednesday 5th October

8.9.30pm "Welcome to the Circus" Youth Evening with Steve Chalke (See him on GMTV).

Thursday 6th October

10.30-12 noon Fitness for Life "The best is yet to be". A varied programme for those over 55.

8.9.30pm "Man Alive" a multi-media 'Good News' presentation with Michael Green.

Friday 7th October

11.00am-3.00pm "Harvest Special" with Ishmael for those with learning difficulties and their carers.

8.9.30pm The South Bank Show. An evening celebrating the Arts with Special guest appearances.

Saturday 8th October

10.30-12 noon Basketball and Table Tennis training session. Free coaching with Matthew Syed and Phillip England.

2.30-4pm Ishmael leads an All-age Celebration for the family.
8.9.30pm "Carry on Living" a multi-action 'Good News' presentation with Michael Green.

9.30pm "Born to Grow" After-Meeting with Michael Green.

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A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

and so that I can get to know the area better.

Along the route there is a chain of refuges rather like some YHA hostels but in general much more basic. They are, on the whole, fairly conveniently spaced and in many places the local authority or the church can provide simple accommodation or direct the pilgrim to a place of shelter.

In fixing the date of departure I must bear in mind the possibility of very hot weather early on whilst at the same time trying to avoid the wet conditions that prevail in Galicia as the journey nears its end. It is possible to avoid the rigours of walking in the heat by making a start each day just before sun-up but always one is bearing in mind the distance to the next refuge. Ideally the aim is to finish the day's stint before mid-day. This means that one can dine well (don't forget the wine again), have a siesta and retire early. Ear-plugs are advised to cut out the noise of the younger generation in some refuges as they seem to be able to do without sleep despite the need for an early start the next day.

My backpack will be kept to a minimum but it seems that the weight for a reasonably comfortable existence is about 25lbs. So far all is going well with the physical preparation - remarkably few aches and pains and only two minor blisters so far. The difficult part of the training for me is the getting up in time to start walking by five o'clock in the morning. It is then possible to get in about 20 miles before lunch.

My journey starts in Reading whose great abbey, one of the finest in England in its day, is dedicated to the same St. James. I then travel by train to the South of France where my walk commences in the pretty little village of St. Jean Pied-de-Port.

The first stage sees me through the Pyrenees via the Pass of Roncesvalles, at a height of about 4,000 ft., which was used by the Roman, the Visigoths, the Moors, Charlemagne and Napoleon in their forays in and out of the two countries. The first important city is Pamplona, famous for the annual running of the bulls through the streets in July. Fortunately it will be over before I pass through.

Very soon, at Puente la Reina, the other pilgrim routes, which have traversed the Pyrenees at Somport further east, join in. I then proceed to Nájera and on to Burgos (2,800 ft.) where I plan to stay a few days exploring that beautiful city.

From here the road crosses some high, dry and fairly uninhabited country at about 2,500 ft. where the lack of shelter from trees makes the conservation of water important.

Arrival at the historic city of León signals another stop of a few days and then on through Astorga to an area where the local people (the Maragatos) still cling to their ancient customs of dress, music and craft work, hardly touched by modern times.

Approaching the highest elevation on the road one passes through Foncebadón, the dogs of this area are being reported by Picaud as being very fierce. Today, they are still approached with great caution and a stout stick is recommended. At nearly 5,000 ft. the highest point is reached at El Acebo and it is near here that there is a monument in the form of a rusty and mangled bicycle mounted on a stone pedestal. It is in memory of a German cyclist who met an untimely end in an argument with a lorry.

Ponferrada and Villafranca del Bierzo follow and before Triacastela one encounters, at Cebreiro, a national museum which features a group of pallozas, very old stone and thatched buildings, one of which is used as a refuge for pilgrims. At Portomarin there is a large reservoir and here one sees the major buildings that have been dismantled and rebuilt stone by stone rather than leaving them to be drowned in the waters of the reservoir.

From here on the road remains at about 1,000 ft. to the end of the walk and it is said that this last stretch is the most difficult of all. There is not a lot to see and it is, by contrast, almost dreary and boring.

On arrival at the Cathedral the first duty is to report at the office to obtain the "compostela" or certificate of completion. This is an interesting practice surviving from the earliest days of the pilgrimages as it was a requirement that convicted criminals should return home with a compostela to prove that they had indeed completed their sentence. Before setting out I shall be issued with a "passport" and all along the road this is to be date-stamped by local churches, local authority offices and police stations as evidence of my progress. On satisfying the authorities that I have complied with their requirements I shall receive my compostela and this entitles me to three free meals a day for three days at the pilgrim hostel in Santiago.

The logistical problems to be solved are:-

1. To start late enough in the year to avoid the worst excesses of the heat of Summer.
2. To finish early enough to avoid almost inevitable wet weather conditions as one approaches the end of the journey.

3. To arrange each day's walk so as to be at a refuge early enough to get a good night's rest.

4. To be in any short-stay places of interest sufficiently early to be fed and get the necessary photography done whilst meeting the needs of the previous criteria.

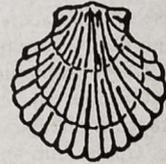
At an average of 15 miles per day the walk would take four weeks but, allowing for stops on the way for rest, photography etc., I will spend six or seven weeks on the road. Starting late in August I hope to finish in mid-October and then return by rail to Paris to visit my grandchildren and to be met by my wife, Mary, and celebrate my 70th Birthday.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

It puzzles me that more people don't take a local paper, even if they decide to share it with a neighbour and cut down the expense. There are many occasions when the 'Post' helps us discover local interest if it was n't for the 'Evening Post' and now that they have decided to run a 'Pets Lost and Found' page once a week it really is a must for anyone who, like Christopher, who studies at the Guildford School of Acting, is home for an obviously likely to come to our lost animal, or trying to trace one that is lost.

CHRISTOPHER BENNET

Then there are odd items about local people and their activities. We can't always get to them in the daily round, so the 'Post' helps us discover local interest if it was n't for the 'Evening Post' and now that they have decided to run a 'Pets Lost and Found' page once a week it really is a must for anyone who, like Christopher, who studies at the Guildford School of Acting, is home for an obviously likely to come to our lost animal, or trying to trace one that is lost.

ward to hearing more of his progress. It's always great to have news of our young people, like Guy Brown for instance. So if anyone has information about any of them, please let our editors know about it.

AND TALKING OF RAIN

VICTORY

But of course the Big News this month, just in time for publication, is the fact that the Inspector has found against the case for a huge supermarket on the site of Queen Anne's Playing Fields. I'm not exaggerating when I say that Caversham people have played a big role in achieving this and I think particularly of the many Caversham people who trudged round the streets collecting signatures to a petition, the local shopkeepers who played their part in all this, the gentleman in Cromwell Road who had handbills printed for us, the printing shop in Church Street which did a lot at greatly reduced prices. But I'm sure our Watchdog will be writing more about all this, so I'd better leave it to her.

LIZ HALVERSON

While on the subject of local shops - when I ever get away from it - I don't suppose I'm the only one who will miss Liz Halverson's friendly face in the local TSB where, I understand, she has coped with customers for around 20 years. I'm not sure what she plans to do now that she has retired, but I hope she will let us know so that we her old customers can be kept in touch. And in the meantime, many of us would like to thank her for her patience and kindness in all these years.

Well, I should have been. As I typed this, we in Caversham are having our first delightful downpour in weeks. Won't it be nice to see gardens come alive. Mind you, some of them have been very much alive in spite of the heat, but heaven knows how much hard work this has meant for our gardeners. And I make no apologies for mentioning yet again, the delightful small garden, particularly in Lower Caversham. I find it sheer joy to walk down South Street for instance, though if this rain keeps up I fear I shall soon find myself paddling down South Street. The surface of this street is a disgrace and, now that I've started beefing, may I have a moan about the rain keeps up I fear I shall soon find myself paddling down South Street. The surface of this street is a disgrace and, now that I've started beefing, may I have a moan about the state of our roads and pavements in general. One poor lady came to grief very badly in Falkland Road, though I understand the local council are considering compensation, when she fell over one particularly nasty piece of paving stone. I'm aware that until the Council was forced to put out such repairs to private tender things were never as bad as they are today, but I do feel the Council could chase up some of the contractors. Going back to this piece of bungling in Falkland Road, though somebody has put some kind of 'gunge' down to replace a sett, I'm sure it won't be long before the whole thing is washed away again.

well organised, comparatively quiet and, considering the numbers involved no complaints. Long may they reign.

people remember the old barn in Prospect Street. Yes, Caversham does have a history. I also discovered that the Bookshop now has available a selection of very nice local cards based on calendars they sold last Christmas, produced by our local artist, Diane Setek. Get some in - they are great to send to people who used to live in the district.

But I must just add a big thankyou for Lindsay Mullaney who has a fantastic memory when it comes to knowing what customers like. I thought I'd lost Jean Plaidy when she died - I'm afraid most of my history knowledge comes directly from Jean's writings. She also wrote as Victoria Holt but now I discover she was also Philippa Carr. So, particularly interesting for anyone who remembers the last war and its effect on civilians at home, I am now enjoying 'We'll Meet Again' which, I'm afraid to say, I can't put down. One of these days I suppose I must get back to some serious reading but just now I want something I can manage easily.

A SAD LOSS.....

Condolences go to Mr. Ted Burnell, the indefatigable octogenarian art tutor, after the death of his wife Ivy very recently. This is a hard blow for Ted, but he hopes to continue his classes in the Church House in the autumn.

.....AND A NEW WELCOME

Congratulations to Canon and Mrs. John Grimwade on the birth of their first grandson, Harry - he and daughter Alice are doing fine.

MY FAVOURITE BOOKSHOP

WOMAD
I don't think I need to enlarge on the success of what is becoming an annual event, except to say that it was a pleasant surprise, particularly to the oldies who view such occasions with misgivings, that it was very well organised, comparatively quiet and, considering the numbers involved no complaints. Long may they reign.

OUR ANNIVERSARY

Now I'd better shut up and concentrate on the bookshop coming up with something entirely different next month's anniversary (30th) copy. Heaven alone knows what I'll do but it does give me the chance to go through old copies. See you many then.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY
AT SYNOD

Bishop Michael Marshall enthralls Anglicans for Mission

In a lively address to the Anglican Deanery Synod in July, Bishop Michael Marshall, one of the Springboard Team on the forthcoming Thames Valley *Alive!* Mission, gave a foretaste of the style and content of his likely contributions to the events. He came to give encouragement for mission and evangelism and pointed out that we were going to do the Lord's will. He displayed a passion for the Gospel and urged us to be sensitive to the signs of the times. He urged us to read our Bibles from a perspective of the newspapers and our newspapers with the perspective of the Bible. From this preview those who heard him will be anxious to hear more and will be keen to persuade their friends to do the same.

Bishop Marshall used St. Luke's version of the call of Simon Peter and the other disciples while fishing on lake Gennesaret and applied it to us all. Peter was obedient to God's word in letting down his nets; we also needed a new obedience to God's word. Before the call Peter was netted in his nets, living to fish rather than fishing to live. Many of us are now in the same situation. As Peter was bidden to "Put out into the deep and cast down your nets", so Bishop Marshall urged us to do the same. Unlike us God is always faithful; the Church in Reading would not be the same after Thames Valley *Alive!* New Christians would be made and Christians would be made new. In gathering the harvest of fish Peter had to beckon to his partners to come and help. Today true ecumenism is being forged on the frontiers of evangelism and we are working with our partners in other churches. The Church holds up the glory of God through the face of Jesus, who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. The Church has the potential to astonish the nation, bring people up with a start, and to turn the world upside down. Like Peter we were urged to go fishing, to gossip the Gospel, not to be afraid, to cast out into the deep and to see what a wonderful harvest there would be.

The Year of the Family

1994 has been designated the International Year of the Family and, as part of its contribution to that, each Deanery in the Oxford Diocese has been asked to consider action at local, diocesan and national levels which promotes a more family friendly society. From this background of Christian concern for our neighbour Mrs Shirley Kay, the Director of the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work, addressed the Anglican Deanery Synod. She said we had to take society as it is; she then highlighted the present situation by reference to a set of statistics on families and relationships prepared for the Year of the Family by FLAME (The Oxford Diocesan Family Life and Marriage Education Group).

Since 1971 marriages have fallen by a fifth. Almost 60% of people over 16 are married today; 92% of women born in 1946 married; 36% of all marriages are remarriages. Between a third and a half of all marriages end in divorce, but 75% of all divorcees eventually remarry, 75% of men and 50% of women do so within five years. In addition to the effect of divorce on family life there is more illness, accident and suicide among the divorced. Cohabitation almost doubled during the 1980s to 58%. There was a 50% greater risk of couples who had cohabited before marriage splitting up after marriage when compared with those who had not cohabited. In 1990 43% of the known conceptions occurred outside marriage and a third of these ended in abortion. 31% of live births occur outside marriage and three quarters of these are registered by both parents, however, in the early 19th century two thirds of pregnancies were outside wedlock. Within the EC, the UK has the highest proportion of one parent families, each with an average of two children. Of these families 60% are headed by mothers who are separated, divorced or widowed, 10% by fathers and most of the remainder by young women who had never married.

Ideas of the family have eroded since the 1980s while at the same time there has been increasing longevity among the population. The expectation of people has changed: women go out to work for financial and other reasons, they have greater control over their lives, and they have greater self-fulfilment. The Church can offer a lot: first by encouraging people through practical and pastoral support of both older people and single parents; also by showing what it means to be part of a family; by looking at what can be done in relation to social activity (people find it hard to go out socially if they have no partner). The Church needed to look at itself to see how it can be more family friendly. Mrs Kay suggested that within the Church we needed to make people feel part of a wider family, we needed to be aware of the problems and be prepared to discuss what we can do to help.

'A DIAMOND WEDDING'

Congratulations to Mr. And Mrs A. E. Wake of 17, Gurney Close, Caversham, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding on the 2nd June, when they received a telemessage from the Queen. Albert and Eileen were married in All Saints Church, Putney Common in 1934, and moved to Caversham in 1948, when they lived in Kidmore Road. They became members of the Mapledurham Rep. Association where they served as Secretary and Treasurer for 20 years, and where they also looked after the scenery and props. The M.R.A. was a small, friendly company which produced two plays a year. In earlier days Albert and Eileen



Mr & Mrs Wake - Diamond Wedding.

- E.S. Archer

were keen tandem-cyclists, touring extensively both in England and on the Continent, where they cycled over many mountain-passes, including Gross Glockner (Austria). Later, caravanning and camping became their interest. Albert had a successful career with H. & G. Simmonds Brewery (later Courages) joining them in 1923 in Brighton. It should also be mentioned that he was Treasurer of Toc-H for some years.

UP-DATE ON SOME
CAVERSHAM CLERGY

Wheeling round Cathedrals

The 48 Cathedrals of England and Wales appear to have survived the visits made to them by the Revs. Derek Spears and Peter Sear. Earlier in July, these intrepid motor-cyclists undertook a sponsored ride in aid of the Children's Society, and were signed in at each Cathedral to prove they had been there. Many congratulations, as the pair raised £10,000 for their project.

The Rev. Peter Rye

The early death (at age 64) has been reported of Peter Rye. He was recently vicar of North Hinksey, but from 1968 to 1973 he was Chaplain to the Deaf in the Diocese, working at the Deaf Centre in Reading. He and his wife Rita lived in Kiln Road, Emmer Green. When his duties permitted, he was always willing to help in the parish.

Gardens Open

Canon John Grimwade has spent much time and energy in organising a "Gardens Open" scheme on behalf of Christian Aid, specifically for terracing in Eritrea. The last garden open under this scheme is Cotswold Farm (5 miles north of Cirencester on the A417, signed just west of Five Mile House Inn). It will be open from 2-6pm on Sunday 4th September. If any readers are in the area, it would be a good scheme to support - or take the day out for a picnic? The cost to enter is £1.50 and teas are available.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

St Margaret certainly smiled on the congregation at her Patronal Festival on July 20th. Mapledurham looked at its best on that perfect summer evening, and members were delighted to welcome many friends and neighbours from Caversham to their festival communion service.

They were also very happy to have Christine and Dennis Allsopp among them once more and hear all their news since they left last January. Together with Richard and Sheila, Christine officiated at St Margaret's for the first time since her ordination in April.

Afterwards the usual sumptuous refreshments were enjoyed in the open air outside the church.

It was certainly a very happy occasion.

CAVERSHAM
CLERGY

ANGLICAN

Canon Richard Kingsbury, Caversham Rectory, Church Road. Tel: 479130.
(Parish Office: Monday-Thursday 9.30-12.30 Tel: 471703)
The Rev Bill Carpenter, St Andrews House, Harrogate Rd. Tel: 472788.
(The Rev. Andrew Tyler, Hon. Asst Priest)
The Rev Nigel Hardcastle, 20 St. Barnabas Road. Tel: 478239.
The Revs Stephen & Christine Rowe,
The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 471814.
The Rev Sheila Nunn, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel: 472070

CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT

The Rev David Moody, 72 Highmoor Road. Tel: 472223.
The Rev John Boakes, 9 Woodlands Grove, Caversham. Tel: 482530.

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

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The Rev Chris Justice, 119 Peppard Road. Tel: 474529.
The Rev Michael Holmes, 13 Carlton Road. Tel: 474138.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev Thomas Meagher, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel: 471787.
(For Caversham Park Village)
The Rev John Ellis, 18 Peppard Road, Sonning Common. Tel: 723418.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
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These amazing facts are taken from last Autumn's edition of Tear Times - the magazine of Tear Fund.



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BROWN OWL RETIREES



Mrs Jean Nicholls with two of her granddaughters, Airelle (7) and Amélie (8) Corpe, who are in the 2nd Loudwater Brownies in Bucks.

The celebrations 6.30pm, it was interrupted by former started at Church Parade on 17th July. Brownies, Guiding friends and parents. After the banns had been read Brown Owl was presented with a basket of roses and freesias by the Revd Christine Rowe. She was completely overwhelmed!

A surprise party was then held on Wednesday 20th July at the Guide Hut in Gosbrook Road. Guest of honour was Mrs Jean Nicholls, Brownie Guider of 3rd Caversham (St John's) since 1964.

Brown Owl, as she is known to all the Brownies, thought she was holding a last meeting, but at

£62.10.2¹/₂ in total!

Afterwards Brown Owl was presented with several gifts including a book clip (with an owl's head), a photograph frame and an embroidered picture of the Brownie Promise badge.

Over one hundred visitors came to wish Brown Owl well in her retirement, among them her two daughters and granddaughters, Amélie and Arielle, who are Brownies in Bucks. After refreshments and a cake decorated with the Brownie Man, the evening finished with favourite songs and Brownie Bells.

Although no longer working with the girls on a weekly basis, Mrs Nicholls has already joined the Trefoil Guild (the section of the Guide Association for former Guiders) and will continue to test both Brownies and Guiders for interest badges.

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



From Theophilus to the readers of the Caversham Bridge, Greetings.

Woof! Hello again!

Holidays! Many of us have been away on holiday - including me! I've been to Herefordshire and the Gower Peninsula and did plenty of walking - my favourite activity! Mind you, my great friend and master struggled with some of the walks, but he does have *two* feet instead of four, so it's feet I want to talk about this month.

Great Uncle Growler used to woof a song (not very tunefully - he wouldn't have made it to Esther Rantzen's show) "These paws were made for walking". We all got very fed up with it. The other day, when we were walking on the Gower, the master sang a few lines (he couldn't remember any more of it) from a song which went like this: "I like my feet, I like my feet. Sweaty they are and smelly they are, but I like my feet". It got me thinking, lying in my favourite spot by the front door waiting for the postman.

Feet. I do like them. Big feet, flat feet, small feet, gnarled feet, beautifully pedicured feet. Some hate wearing shoes and go bare-foot (we do it all the time, but the good Lord has given us special padding to help us). Yet where would we be without them? Some manage with one, two or three feet. Some need a stick, a zimmer or wheelchair - but life is then a bit of struggle.

Often we forget our feet are there - until they hurt! When the nails get long or grow in, or the corns appear we begin to notice them. When feet hurt it often shows in the face! Yet feet carry the strain of life

almost unnoticed and they keep on going. Paul mentioned feet as part of the body, and how we need our feet! Look after them!

Final thought - the master has asked me to apologise to the winners of the competition. He will be in touch, if he hasn't already. His brain gets a bit addled in the heat! Lots of love and licks

Paws 

GOING A-BIRDING

'She laments sir - her husband goes this morning a-birding'. Shakespeare knew his business, when writing 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' - but how much better advised would Mistress Ford have been to have 'gone a-birding' too!

These days there are many lady birders who accompany their 'partners' or even 'go it alone' with their own cameras, binoculars, 'scopes and tripods, and who achieve as much 'kick from getting a tick' as the male fraternity!

My friend Jill is an accepted, long-standing twitcher of almost thirty years, with whom I have travelled many thousands of miles, and who can boast a very creditable Check-list. Her knowledge and instant identification of birds is humble, yet highly accomplished, as are her show-jumping achievements.

So much has been written in disparagement of twitchers and twitching, but as always in such matters, the majority are good, ordinary folk, who would never contemplate breaking down fences, committing trespass, or damaging property. They are indeed, far more likely to observe the 'Country Code' than many a car-riding casual - as recent visits to the east end of Kings Meadows have proved! Deliberate vandalism of these fields by rubbish strewn on to the regularly mown grass with trash-bins in sight is utterly inexcusable - say no more!

Those who derive pleasure and excitement from seeing a new or rare bird, are invariably knowledgeable and vigilant participants in a natural science whose endeavours in recent years may well have enhanced and invigorated ornithology.

I will never forget the tingling thrill of hearing my first Golden Oriole at 6am one summer morning, echoing from a large, black-poplar plantation near a U.S.A.A.F. fighter-base in Norfolk, one of the few, scarce breeding-sites in Britain.

Gordon, Chris, Jill and I arrived shortly behind the Winchester group, who with humorous thoughtfulness, had indicated for us where the Orioles could be located, by means of twigs laid out on the ground -

ORIOLES!

We caught up with them just as a male flew onto an overhead branch, its gold and black plumage being as breathtaking as its loudly ringing, onomatopoeic song.

The above plantation has now been cleared and with it sadly, have gone the Golden Orioles. Fortunately, they have re-established themselves elsewhere, although often such rare migrants are not readily disturbed and may never return.

In my article, 'Terns (Part 1)', July issue, I note that somewhere in printing, my word 'Aerobatics' has intriguingly been replaced by 'Aerobics', leaving the birds - and myself completely 'grounded'!

SCOPS OWL

CHRISTOPHER D. KEEN A.R.I.C.S.

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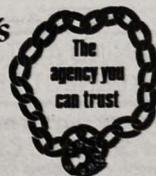
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

LONG HOT DAYS OF SUMMER

August, with people away and local organisations wound down for the holiday period brings a welcome reduction of pressures, though when everything springs back into action in September the opportunity to take up interests again is equally welcome. In some ways Caversham becomes increasingly busy during August as its riverside attractions draw many people to it from other parts of the town.

Caversham Court is one of the attractions. Close by are the wide acres of Christchurch Meadows and the Promenade where ball games would not come amiss, yet all through the summer groups of (mainly) youths gather in it to play football and ride their bicycles, regardless of the flower beds and the wishes of those who have come to enjoy what should be tranquil gardens. A primary school even was once seen running off heats for their sports day there, whilst language schools appear to tell their students that it is a recreation ground where they can kick a ball around. Park keepers now being an extinct species, there is rarely anyone around to stop this kind of misuse and the ordinary citizen who plucks up courage to remonstrate is usually met either with miscomprehension from those who cannot see anything inappropriate in what they are doing, or unseemly language

from those who don't care.

WEEDS OR FLOWERS?

Gardens cannot be expected to look their best after weeks of hot dry weather, though Caversham Court's flowers have managed on the whole to hold their own. Earlier in the summer the water lilies in the rocky pool were beautiful, but now the waterfall is no longer flowing, thanks to the local vandals.

One thing that is flourishing is a mass of weeds which detract badly from the better kept parts of the garden. Waist high weeds border the terrace, and the path leading from the steps at its far end down to the gazebo is practically impossible, mainly with stinging nettles, but with plenty of other varieties. There was even a large specimen of the forbidden ragwort to be seen. All this may attract a certain amount of wildlife, but a garden does not have to become a jungle in order to avoid harming wild life. If contract services are responsible for this kind of thing, their terms need looking at again.

It is to be hoped there will be some improvement by Sunday 3rd September when the gardens will become the focus of environmental issues with day long events put on by all kinds of groups concerned with care of the environment. A lot of enthusiastic work has gone into this project and there should be something for everybody there.

THUMBS DOWN FOR SUPERSTORE

The Inspector who presided over the inquiry with Reading Structure Plan has recommended that no superstore be built on Queen Anne's playing fields on the south side of Henley Road. This is a triumph for ordinary people. Safeway had brought in a lot of big guns to put their case. Ranged against them were a cash strapped Council and residents from Caversham, armed only with their local knowledge, their willingness to give their time and their determination to defend their patch from outside commercial developers. Although Queen Anne's field cannot remain open and green, the houses which will go there will be infinitely less

damaging than a major superstore and will not have a harmful effect on existing small businesses in the centre of Caversham.

FAIR OR UNFAIR COMPETITION

Waitrose doubtless breathed a sigh of relief that a competitor with a huge car park, cut price petrol and a whole range of services will not be appearing on the scene. However, Waitrose an attractive locality for them to build in the first place. No amount of high sounding talk about wishing to support small businesses will compensate for this. Actions count more than words. Increasingly people are expressing their displeasure. Waitrose can for the time being afford to ignore this but they are losing good will.

EXCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Although there are now a number of builders working away in Bugs Bottom, they are all part of the same development of what could still be 500 houses and will certainly be well in excess of three hundred. Imagine then the surprise of people to see an advertisement by David Wilson Homes which showed a contented looking couple standing in an unspoilt valley wherein nestled a thatched cottage as they declared that this small development of twenty-five houses in its lovely setting was just what they were looking for. If recent legislation to curb the excesses of estate agents' descriptions means anything, surely it should apply to a misleading advertisement such as this.

Another advertisement was for a site calling itself Caversham Grange. Here the builders blithely declare that they are making the most of the undulating landscape by having double garages built into the hillside, when what they really mean is that the gradient is so steep that that is the only place they could put them, and the front door of the house has to be reached by climbing up a double flight of stairs which may look fine, but in the heat, snow, or with a

load of shopping or luggage will be less than attractive in use. Meanwhile the names of the new roads being made get more and more fanciful, suggestive of a beautiful English countryside steeped in history and given over to traditional rural pursuits. The down to earth list of names proffered by the Bugs Bottom Action Group has been ignored in favour of Saxons and hunters pursuing their pleasures on a midsummer morn.

MIKRON THEATRE RETURNS

Once again the Mikron Theatre Company moored their narrow boat alongside the river bank at Caversham Court where they presented their latest production to an appreciative audience who needed no extra wraps but a good supply of midge repellent on a very warm evening at the end of July. This time their show was entitled Beer Street and it told in lively and rumbustious style the story of beer and the pubs serving it and the part they have always played in our society. The traditional

stuff, like that brewed at Burton by mediaeval monks on the banks of the Trent, and not the gaseous keg of marketing managers and accountants served in theme pubs, was the object of their praise. A highlight was the song wittily setting out all the processes of brewing which should have been enough to send an audience to sleep, but instead had them roaring with laughter. Over indulgence will of course result in drunkenness but as an almost unending stream of all the different expressions to describe this state tripped off the actor's tongue, his listeners were once more helpless with laughter. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and all for free, though the audience was generous with its offerings.

The company had brought their boat from Long Wittenham where they had performed the previous evening and next morning were setting out for Woolthampton along the Kennet and Avon Canal with its many locks, for a performance the next evening. They work hard but seem to thrive on it.

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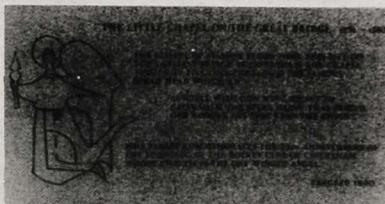
The boys are seen at the Prep school before setting out for France.

As mentioned in an earlier issue of the Caversham Bridge, the choir of the Oratory Preparatory School visited Normandy in June. In commemoration of the 1944 Liberation Campaign they sang at special masses and concerts in Bayeux, Aunay, Villers-Bocage and Villedieu-les-Poêles and in the abbey of Mont St Michel.

Several Caversham and Woodcote boys are members of the choir, including Thomas Cutts, Tim Harcourt, Edward and Gregory Nash and James Mullaney. Many of the boys' parents were able to travel to Normandy to attend the concerts and everyone was both moved and thrilled by the beautiful singing of works by Fauré, Britten, Gounod and many others. Particularly moving was Tim Harcourt's singing of Pie Jesu from Fauré's Requiem in churches which, fifty years ago, had stood amidst so much destruction and suffering.

"THE GREAT BRIDGE"

How many people who use Caversham Bridge daily, have read this commemorative plaque erected in 1990 by the Rotary Club of Caversham? As the majority of present-day travellers cross by car or bus, intent upon reaching their destination as soon as possible, probably not many! The 'Great Bridge' was built of stone and timber in the



"The Great Bridge" - E.S. Archer

13th Century, when for using the bridge the foundation of were collected) until it Reading Abbey helped fell victim, as did to make Reading a Reading Abbey, to much-visited town, and King Henry VIII's the 'Little Chapel' dedicated to St. Anne - Commissioners in the sixteenth Century. The Mother of the Virgin Great Bridge however, Mary was built on the north-side. The Bridge though much-repaired, served as the only way of travellers until June 1869, completing 700 feet (there were ferries for years of service. In 1926 by the present bridge! There is a most interesting short history of Caversham Bridge by A. L. Humphries in Caversham Library.

an old woman who lived in a shoe".

5-12 years: Design a trainer shoe on A4 paper and colour it using crayons, paints or felt pens.

13-18 years: Write a short essay saying which five of your possessions you would choose to take with you if you were a refugee - and why.

Mark your entry clearly on the back with your name, address, age, school, group or church, and post it in the special One World Week box in the Caversham Bookshop in Prospect Street. You may make as many entries as you like.

ENJOYING ANTIQUES

The 1994/95 programme for the Chiltern Edge Antiques Appreciation Society opens on 6th October at the Community Centre, Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common in the lecture room at 6.45pm.

The Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month, from October to May, apart from January. (The April date may vary according to holiday dates). Meetings, apart from the initial one, start promptly at 7.30pm.

Subjects for the coming season range from the Bodleian Library, The Chelsea Physic Garden, Tea and its influence on domestic life, Painters, especially Velasquez and John Sargent. In addition there are outings to Exhibitions at the Royal Academy, the British Museum and other places from time to time.

If you are interested, come and join the Society. The annual fee is only £8.50. You can join at the opening evening, or write to the membership secretary, Mrs J. Bowen, C.E.A.A.S. c/o Chiltern Community Education Centre, Reades Lane, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9LN, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.



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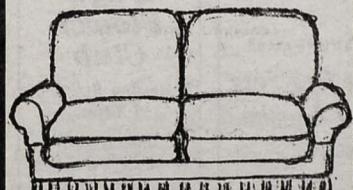
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ing to the seaside, sailing across the Channel to France or flying to countries far away from Caversham? Have you been 'on the move' during the holidays, perhaps during October

To remind us that refugees don't have comfortable homes, have to wear out their shoes trudging along unfriendly roads and can take few possessions with them, we are holding a One World Week competition. This is what you have to do:

3-4 years: Make a picture (A4 size) using crayons, felt pens, paints or collage materials of the SHOE in the Nursery Rhyme "There was



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Caversham W.I.

On a warm July evening the business part of the meeting was quickly finished, including a report on the successful summer fair. Mr & Mrs West were then welcomed and showed slides of their trip to Canada. Starting at Vancouver and crossing the snow-capped Rockies the dramatic scenic tour ended at Niagara Falls. Mrs Myszor gave the vote of thanks and the holiday photo competition was judged.

Two coffee evenings were arranged for August and the next regular meeting will be the Harvest Supper on September 15th.

St Peter's Wives' Group

Twenty-two members were present on Tuesday the 19th of July to hear Sue Frayling-Cork's talk on Aromatherapy and Massage. Sue gave the background of her qualifications and stressed the importance of consulting a fully trained practitioner. She outlined the properties of various oils and also the dangers and gave each member a sample stick impregnated with rose oil.

Sue demonstrated on one of the members how to massage a hand. Then members grouped into

pairs and with natural oils provided by Sue and under her supervision massaged each other's hands and feet.

This was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all and the speaker was warmly thanked. Discussion and questions continued during coffee-time and members availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase oils and gift vouchers. Each member was given a sample of lavender oil and a leaflet.

Caversham Heights TG

Salzburg or Spice Craft
At the meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild in July at St Andrew's hall some useful questions were put to members about the sale of "Townswoman", some discussion following. There was news about the full complement now in federation, and social studies described the enjoyable outing to Brighton. There were questions and answers also in connection with the questionnaire sent out earlier this year about cervical screening.

Mrs Ann Haggerty, who was the speaker, said she had first been inspired to try to use spices in craft work when her husband returned from a visit to Norway nine years ago. Since then she has been to the Christkindmarkt in Munich, and now feels that using spices is preferable to pot-pourri work. Many and varied were the spices used in her display; Cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, ginger and eucalyptus. Beechnuts, coffee beans, lentils and melon seeds were all enlisted in the task. Flowers can be made for Christmas, a num-pomander can look like a small Christmas pudding, and pearls might be

included for wedding work. Some charming little gifts were bought by some of the members. Marilyn Jones gave a vote of thanks.

University of the Third Age - Reading Branch

JULY ACTIVITIES

The monthly meeting at the Kennet Room heard Pamela Moxham talking about the Library Services in Reading. Apart from distributing annually four hundred and sixty-six thousand books, many other facilities are now available. Besides music tapes, videos can now be hired for a small fee. A new system of having out new books for one week only is working well. Many visit the library for information only.

The Music group heard John Simpson give an enthusiastic and well-prepared talk on Chamber Music. The Books group completed their study of Thomas Hardy with his poetry, his poems generally sad but nature details wonderful. The play readers enjoyed 'The School for Scandal'. The month ended with a coachload of members going to Chichester to see the Review, 'Let's do it'.

New members always welcome. Please contact Mrs Grace McGregor Tel. 866037.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

At the July meeting Mrs Duckworth and her team interested members with their subject 'RNLI'. Each lifeboat is given the name of a river - the slides shown featured many different kinds of boats. Rowing boats were the norm back in the days of Grace Darling, followed in their turn by sail and steam. Nowadays "state of the art" boats take just seven seconds to self-made for Christmas, a ber of people rescued small Christmas pudding, topped the thirteen hundred mark, an astonishing

figure remembering that the work is voluntary apart that is from the paid boat mechanic. Members were pleased to learn that sixty-eight women now form part of the fully trained force of crew members. The RNLI club "Shoreline" is based in Poole HQ along with the children's club "Storm Force".

The chairman's report from the National Federation meeting at the Albert Hall, attended by Patron, Princess Anne, was warmly received and applauded.

A further outing to the Berkshire Museum of Aviation at Woodley had been arranged, also an all-day coach trip to the Forest of Dean. Plans for the August Garden party to be held at Mrs Adair's home were well under way.

This month's competition for a "A Single Rose" was won by Mrs G. Gale with a lovely pale/deep pink bloom.

The Guild meets on third Thursday in the month at Church House. New members/visitors always welcome.

Chazey W.I.

The meeting on Tuesday 2nd August, started with a talk by Harold Hill on old Reading. Members set-

tled down and listened with great interest, secure in the knowledge that there would be no wearisome watering can work that night as it was actually raining. Mr Hill had several large photographs to make a visual tour of Reading and even people who were born and bred here could learn something new about the town. As for those who are newcomers it was literally an eye-opener. Everyone knows about biscuits and brewing in Reading, but cotton mills? Cotton and timber by barge brought prosperity to a Reading which had always a place in history, from the abbey to a rural retreat for Elizabeth I. William Penn's Meeting House was discovered, inadvertently, by Harold Hill, and he had such a lot of information to pass on that an hour seemed too short. During the the coffee break several members added to his local stories and also asked questions, and it was difficult to break off to start the business of the meeting.

The president, Kate Buckley, announced that the fashion show was no longer to be held. The project had been researched and would need a larger number of volunteers than had

Turn to page 11

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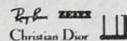
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From page 10

offered their services. As an alternative fund raiser it was proposed that a harvest supper be held at the end of October. There would be a three course hot meal with coffee and a "variety" type of entertainment, all for £6.50. Tickets would be on sale soon. Wine or beer and soft drinks would be made available. Members and friends could sure of a good evening.

At the next meeting Mrs Jennifer Martin will talk about "Looking after yourself with Music". This will be on September 6th in Mapledurham Pavilion at 8.00pm. New members are invited to come along and join in.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild held their monthly meeting in St Barnabas Hall on a Tuesday evening in July.

ARTS & CRAFTS - had a trip to Ascot last month for the National Patchwork exhibition. Next meeting was held on Wednesday 20 July when members were asked to bring their current knitting and sewing. These were discussed and also any problems arising on these projects. The meeting in August would be spent in Oxford on a China and Pottery tour, plus a picnic or lunch and a look around Oxford.

WORLD & MUSIC - Schubert's Trout was a great success at the last meeting. There will be no further meetings until September.

RAMBLERS - had a wonderful walk 6 1/2 miles long on 23 June around Fawley. Ramblers saw several animals not usually seen in England including wallabies, zebras and ostrich. Having a picnic in the sun was a nice change after all the very wet walks members have had on previous walks this year. On July 7 another walk around Medmenham and Danesfield, a circular walk of approx 5 miles including walking through the Danesfield tunnel which is 75 yards long with two roof lights. Again weather was very warm and ramblers had their picnic in the sun.

The talk for the evening

was "The Sport of Kings" given by Mr H. Granger who is the President of Public Speaking and as far as T.G. members are concerned he deserves the title. Mr H. Granger was an excellent speaker. He gave members so much information on horse racing and it was very interesting and humorous. Mr Granger managed to keep members alert and attentive on a very hot evening.

T.G. members joined approx 3,000 other T.G. members from Guilds around the country on the 28 June for an outing to Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex. The weather was very hot but members enjoyed looking around the gardens and decided it was well worth the visit.

On Tuesday 9 August Margaret Pocock held a Coffee morning from 10.00 till 12.00 noon and an afternoon from 2.00 until 4.00pm in aid of the Guild Birthday Party in October.

Caversham Ladies Club

Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with her usual welcome to members. Club business was then attended to. Mrs Strong said the trip to the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed had been very enjoyable despite the bad weather. Mrs Brenda Strong, Mrs Queenie Strong and Mr Les Strong had very kindly offered car transport to the Strawberry Fair at the Home, and the lucky ones able to partake of the offer appreciated their kindness very much.

It was now time to introduce Mr Jessop, speaker of the afternoon. He had brought along a lovely collection of slides to present and accompany his talk on The Rockies, Vancouver, Montreal etc, and what fabulous views there were of animals, glaciers, towns ending up with the majestic sight of the two enormous waterfalls, American and Canadian, both at night with all colours showing through the waters.

Members showed their appreciation in the usual way and were delighted to hear Mr Jessop would be paying a return visit in the near future.

Caversham Inner Wheel Club

Past President Vicki Mountford of the Inner Wheel Club of Caversham handed over her "Chain of Office" to



Past President Vicki Mountford hands over her badge of office to newly elected President, Adrienne Jacobs.



Vicki Montford hands cheque for £650 to Pamela Maule of the Macmillan Nurses.



Caversham Inner Wheel Club cot blanket which came joint second in the Thames Valley competition.

newly elected President, Adrienne Jacobs. Before doing so Vicki had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for £650 to representative Pamela Maule of the Macmillan Nurses. The money was raised at a Charity Event in April, when the Club organised a "Hanging Basket Demonstration" at the Hill Primary School. Over one hundred and fifty people attended and were surprised by the easy to follow method used to produce a beautiful display. An appetising buffet preceded the demonstration, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The District Inner Wheel held a "Cot Blanket Competition" open to all Inner Wheel Clubs in the Thames Valley. Over two hundred blankets were entered in the Competition, and

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