

# THIRTY YEARS ON

by Bernard Miller, our Chairman

30 years have gone by and Caversham has grown and now has a population of some 35,000. This issue brings back memories of the past, but what of the future for the "Caversham Bridge" to record?

The battle for Bugs Bottom has been lost and soon the valley will be filled with houses. There is now little undeveloped land within Caversham but one battle has been won with the rejection of the application for a Superstore in Henley Road. Hopefully the alternative suggestion of low cost housing will now go ahead. Another site with similar possibilities is the Elliotts factory site in Gosbrook Road which may become vacant if the rumoured move of the company to an alternative site goes ahead. This would free a site in the centre of Caversham ideal for housing, including sheltered housing and housing for single persons. The big unknown at this time is the result of the Boundary Commission's review of the Borough Boundary. In our area the request from Reading Council is very modest, and if accepted and the small area between Henley Road and the River Thames is brought within the

Borough it would make possible not only the much needed and long awaited third bridge but would bring within Reading the area of gravel workings for which the present owners have suggested a variety of possible uses.

Apart from affordable housing what does Caversham need? Possibilities that come to mind include:

1. more opportunities for local employment so that it is not necessary for almost every Caversham person to go into Reading to find work. The plans shown some while ago for the gravel workings included some industrial and office development.

*The "Caversham Bridge" remains very much alive and part of the local scene after 30 years, and its Editors would like to say thank you to all whose efforts have made this possible. Our thanks go to the contributors who provide news, stories and photographs, for we rely on you to provide the copy to edit, and to the many distributors who distribute faithfully each month to the streets for which they are responsible.*

*Thank you all - keep up the good work!*

2. a wider selection of shops. Overall we are well catered for with over 100 shops in Caversham, but there are some real gaps. Where can you find shoes, mens clothing and any choice of clothing for ladies and children? Where can you buy household items such as towels and pillow cases? We cannot expect a Marks & Spencer or Heelas in Caversham, but a mini department store such as the McIlroy shop in Henley would be an asset.

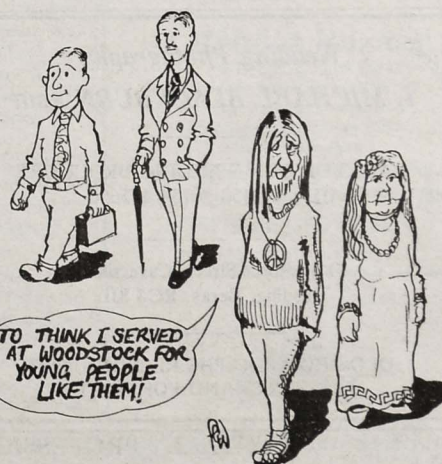
3. recreational facilities are a growth area these days, and whilst we have many open spaces there are gaps to be filled. A hall in the centre of Caversham with ground floor rooms and kitchen facilities would be a boon to local clubs and societies, and if it included a stage would be welcomed for amateur dramatics and concerts.

4. finally just a dream, but Reading lags behind smaller towns such as Bracknell and Basingstoke in its provision of many leisure facilities. Items missing include an ice rink and dry ski slope. If the Council is ever able to consider items such as these could they be sited on this side of the river?



A full house of editors:-  
from the left - Marjorie Tillman, Bernard Miller, Margaret Bailey, Kevin Corrigan, Eric Chappell -  
making up this special edition.

- Walton Adams



Thanks to Philip Webb, ex-Baptist editor

## SPECIAL CELEBRATORY SUPPLEMENT



# TALKING POINT

by  
CANON JOHN GRIMWADE  
(First Editor of the Caversham Bridge)

## LOOK TO THE FUTURE

I am grateful to your editors for their invitation to contribute to this special number of the Caversham Bridge which marks its 30th Birthday. As I reflect on what life was like when the Caversham Bridge first appeared it is impossible not to be struck by the tremendous changes that have taken place in the space of one generation, and it is most likely that the speed of change will accelerate even more in the next thirty years. It is not just that Caversham has doubled in size in these thirty years; it is that the structure of English life has altered profoundly. The basic truths of the Christian gospel however do not and cannot change; what does need to change is our method of presenting those truths as we approach the next millennium, and this is something to which insufficient thought has been given during the decade of Evangelism.

Jesus said 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'. The purpose of a way is to lead those who travel on it to their destination; though the way is the same the character of it and the scenery along it will change and call for different methods of travel. So our understanding of truth and our presentation of it will not always be the same. It is an essential mark of the Christian pilgrim to be on the move and seeking for fuller truth. Although Jesus said he was the Truth he also said that the Holy Spirit would lead his followers into all truth; the tools that may have been right for us in presenting the Gospel in 1964 may well not be the right ones for us to use today. And if there is an outcry when a leading Churchman appears to question truths that seem basic to the Gospel we need to remember that the person accused of being a heretic in one generation is often regarded in the next as the champion of orthodoxy. Those who cry 'Heretic' often do so because, consciously or unconsciously, they are very insecure in their own beliefs.

### THE CHURCH AND THE NATIONAL PRESS

The Church in recent years has suffered at the hands of writers in national newspapers who are themselves often really appallingly ignorant about the Christian faith and the workings of the contemporary Church. Were editors to employ sports writers with a comparable ignorance of sporting matters there would soon be a public outcry. One great need of the Church to-day is to supply convinced Christians to write about Church affairs; until that happens we should all make sure that editors are bombarded with letters seeking to put things right whenever a distorted view of Christianity is presented.

When the press proclaims that Church attendance has declined it fails to recognise, as the Bishop of Oxford has recently pointed out, that membership of the Conservative party has dropped by 46% since 1953; that membership of the Labour party has shown a comparable decline and that attendance at football matches has dropped by 34% in recent years. Compared with such figures a decline in Anglican church attendance of 7% since 1976 is rather insignificant, especially as the number of communicants appears now to be on the increase.

The national press has also failed to realise that many changes, such as the ordination of women in the Church of England, however controversial they may have been, are now bringing immense gains to the Church. Today England has a larger

number of Anglican priests than it has had for many years, and many women with outstanding gifts have entered the priesthood. Nor has enough credit been given to the valuable ministry of many non-stipendiary clergy; among them are a considerable number of scientists who are rapidly dispelling the notion that scientific truth and Christianity are incompatible.

### THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Good news is seldom headline news and not nearly enough credit is given to the fact that in many parts of the country the Church is the focal point of community life. The Church Urban Fund which, though Anglican in origin, in practice has become very ecumenical, has brought hope to many areas of our big cities in a way that no Government has been able to do; in recent years I have myself seen how in small rural communities it is nearly always the parish church around which the life of the village is centred as increasingly members of the laity develop new powers of leadership. In country areas it is the church building which is so often the centre of many of the events in community life and it is church members who are to be found organising the majority of the activities which build up a community sense; although we have so far failed to bring about Christian unity organisationally, Christians seem to be increasingly in communion with each other even though their Churches are not. Most Sundays I find myself celebrating the Eucharist in village churches where the organist is quite likely to be a Methodist and a lesson reader a Roman Catholic. Christian tradition has always stressed the primacy under God's providence of community and the mark of a Christian community is living care. A recent writer has said "Community is the living spirit of which society is the body". Society may be concerned with fairness and justice but community is concerned with reconciliation, forgiveness and hope. It is this which the Church is providing in so many places.

There is also insufficient awareness in the secular press of the lead the Churches have given in seeking to help the people of the Third World, but credit must be given here to several television correspondents in highlighting many crisis situations. Oxfam was founded by an Anglican priest and a Quaker Mayor and together with CAFOD, the Roman Catholic agency and Christian Aid, shows the caring nature of modern day Christianity. As such these important charities are real agents of evangelism and it is incidentally, not often realised the trust that the Government puts in them for, recognising that the staff of these charities has real expertise, the Government entrusts them with the use of some of the funds allocated for use in the Third World.

### LETTER WRITING

I have been told by a Member of Parliament that when a Member receives six letters from constituents on the same subject he is aware that there is very strong feeling about that topic as far more people have feelings about a matter than the number of those who actually put pen to paper. So one question all readers of the Caversham Bridge should ask themselves is "When did I last write to my MP about something which as a Christian I regard as an injustice?" Perhaps it might be about the way we sell arms abroad and so enable many small countries to start disastrous wars; or it might be about the number of suicides in our prisons by young men held on remand, or about threats to reduce aid to the Third World.

So we need both to write to the national press when a distorted view of Christianity is presented and to Members of Parliament about matters of injustice in our society today. The Christian case must not now be allowed to go by default.

May the Caversham Bridge continue to be the mouthpiece of a lively caring local Christian community, and may it never shrink from allowing unpopular questions to be raised in its columns.

John Grimwade

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## CAVERSHAM CLERGY

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(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. Philip Abrey, 51 Galsworthy Drive, Caversham Park Village. Tel: 475152.

### METHODIST

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

### CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL

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.

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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 November issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 5 October.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 3 October.

The dates for December will be Monday 31 October and Wednesday 2 November.

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

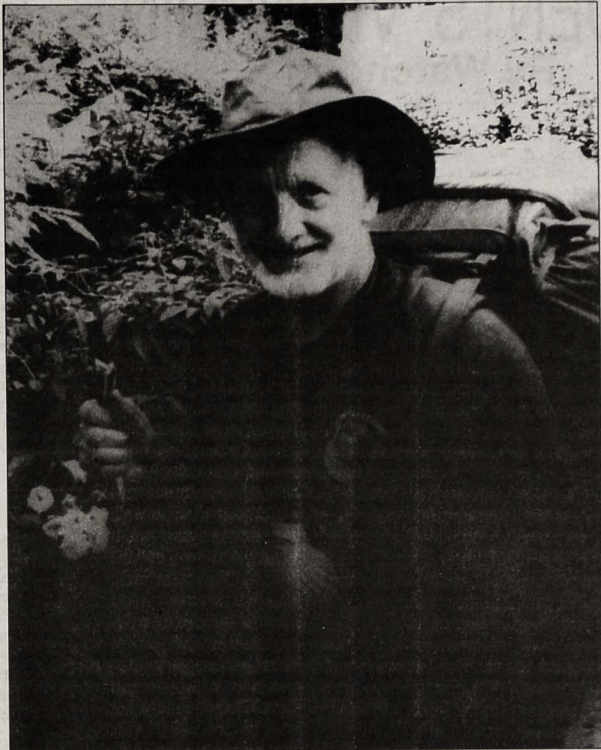
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# SANTIAGO PILGRIM



- E. S. Archer

Mr Vincent Kelly on the eve of his departure for his pilgrimage.

Following the story in last month's Caversham Bridge about Mr. Vincent Kelly's pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain, here is a photograph of Mr Kelly on the eve of his departure from England, wearing his cockleshell which shows he is a Santiago pilgrim. He was first going to Paris to visit his daughter and then to St. Jean Pied de Port in Southern France, from whence he started his long walk, following in the footsteps of the many pilgrims who, for hundreds of years, have travelled that way. By now Mr. Kelly should be nearing his goal - the imposing Cathedral of St. James in Compostela.

It is interesting to note that the once great Abbey of Reading (in its time a centre of pilgrimage) was also dedicated to St. James, and his cockleshell badge was included in the Arms of the

Abbey.

Mr. Kelly, whose looks belie his years, will celebrate his 70th birthday just after his return in mid-October.

## STOP PRESS

Mrs Kelly reports that her husband has been making very good progress after a tough start up into the Pyrenees. By September 20 he had passed through León and had reached Villa Franca del Bierzo, well on the way to his destination.

## POST BAG 1

*I don't usually involve myself in matters mainly concerning the Church, but something happened recently about which I feel very strongly. So I would like to add a few thoughts of my own about recent events. Before we all get involved in the Big Question - Do we believe in God or not - I must admit I rather welcome the advent of Anthony Freeman, a young clergyman and author of "God in Us", who has caused something of a furore with his own thoughts about God. I hope it isn't going to stir up too much, but to be honest let me say straight away that none of us knows what, if he exists, God is really like - certainly not a benign gentleman in a long white robe. Most of us see too much of the horrors of this world to continue to see him as an all-powerful, all merciful, God, capable of interfering whenever he thinks it is necessary while appearing to ignore our problems at other times. So please don't let us fall out about it - those of us who claim to share the Christian faith in whatever form can find something positive about our religion that I would like to think we could all continue to work happily together. Remember the Quaker saying that "there is something of God in every man". Surely we can't go far wrong with that, can we?*

Name and address supplied.

## TVA STOP PRESS!

Have you received your leaflet detailing the **Thames Valley Alive** events coming up at Rivermead from 5th to 8th October?

Every household in Caversham should have received personal invitations to come and hear some outstanding presenters of the Christian message and to enjoy some great entertainment.

If you are interested in knowing more about Christianity then this is an opportunity not to be missed. If you have already heard and accepted the Christian message, then why not bring a friend along - there really is something for everyone in this four day Festival.

**For Young People:** Weds. Oct. 5th 7.30-9.30pm. 'Come to the Circus' with **Steve Chalke** - renowned communicator for young people and GMTV Presenter.

**For those of Mature Years:** Thurs. Oct. 6th. 10.30am-12 Noon. 'Fitness for Life - The Best is yet to be.' A varied programme for those over 55.

**For Lovers of the Arts:** Fri Oct. 7th. 7.30-9.30pm. 'The South Bank Show' with **Michael Marshall** and Special Guests.

**For those with Learning Difficulties and Carers:** Fri. Oct. 7th 11am-3pm. 'Harvest Special' - with **Ishmael & Company**.

**For Families:** Sat. Oct. 8th 2.30-4pm. 'All Age Family Party' **Ishmael & Co.**

**For Sports Lovers:** Sat. Oct. 8th 9.30-11.30am. Sports Coaching with the Stars including Table Tennis with **Matthew Syed**, England's No. 2 Player.

**For Everyone:** Thurs. Oct. 6th. 7.30-9.30pm. 'Man Alive' & Sat. Oct. 8th. 7.30-9.30pm. 'Carry On Living' both with **Michael Green & Friends**.

Should you not have received your invitation then please ring Anne Ballard - 481195, Phil Abrey - 475152 or Andy Radford - 483965.

Don't miss out - TVA at Rivermead 5th-8th October.

## The Thames Valley is coming alive...

... as almost 100 churches of all denominations in Reading, Woodley and the surrounding area work together to prepare for Thames Valley Alive, the major Christian Mission which will take place from 25 September to 9 October. More than 200 events are planned to bring the Christian message to all the people of the area wherever they are, in pubs, schools, leisure centres, retirement homes, shopping centres etc. People of all ages and interests will hear the good news that Jesus Christ offers a direction for life in a world which often seems to be a moral and spiritual desert.

During the first week of the Mission the emphasis will be on local events. In addition to such occasions as skittles evenings, family fun days, talks on science and Christianity, and sports events, there will be a large number of small house groups at which people can meet for discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. The Mission will culminate in a number of larger events to be held at

Rivermead Leisure Centre between Wednesday 5 and Saturday 8 October. The main speakers at these events will be Bishop Michael Marshall, Canon Michael Green and Steve Chalke, the Baptist minister who is well known for his television appearances. It is hoped that some 1,500-2,000 people will come along to Rivermead for each of the evening meetings.

The Mission as a whole will be led by the 'Two Michaels' assisted by teams of associate missionaries working with groups of local churches. Because of its large size, the Reading and Woodley region has been divided into 11 local areas for the purposes of the Mission. So much interest in Thames Valley Alive has been generated in the villages surrounding Reading that a nominal '12th area' has also been established incorporating several outlying places.

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# RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

## By Watchdog

**THIRTY YEARS ON...**

Did we ever think what it would be like 'thirty years on' when this newspaper made its first tentative appearance in Caversham in the early autumn of 1964? Probably not, except to reflect that traffic was already getting pretty bad, but then hadn't it always been, and that the infant Caversham Park Village, out on the far borders, wasn't going to help matters.

We were right about the traffic, though most of us had probably not visualised all the repercussions that would arise from such a huge increase in car ownership. As for Caversham Park Village, it is now an established part of Caversham, but in the past thirty years practically every piece of vacant space, however small and, in the case of Bugs Bottom, however beautiful, has had something built on it.

What then, are we likely to see thirty years on from now, yes, in 2024? For one thing, what shall we be calling it; twenty twenty four, in the manner of the past thousand years, or two thousand and twenty four? After all, 1066 was ten sixty six and not one thousand and sixty six. Whatever we call it, it seems not unreasonable to suppose that something will have been done or something will have happened to reverse the continuation of the huge increase in traffic over the past thirty years. If not, the whole system will have choked itself (and us in the process) to a complete standstill.

Will this reduction have taken place in time to stop the nightmare of defendants of South Oxfordshire, that motorists, belting along the M4 on their way to Swindon, Bristol, Cardiff et al will suddenly change their mind on hearing that another bridge had been built across the Thames between two places they'd never heard of (called Caversham and Sonning) and turn off the M4 to hurtle through unfamiliar territory to Birmingham instead? Or will a three lane motorway already have carved its way through wooded hills and valleys, golf courses and sleepy villages, bringing in its wake the vast housing and industrial estates with which, everyone knows, avaricious Reading is only waiting to cover its rural neighbour?

And what else? Barges instead carrying non-urgent freight along the Thames and Kennet, with the watery equivalent of double yellow lines to control mooring? A good flexible and affordable bus service which makes parking problems and long tail-bus things of the past?

What too, does the future hold for Caversham Bridge? One thing is sure, the Thames which flows beneath it, will still be there, a visible demarcation between Caversham

and the rest of Reading. And for this newspaper, which takes its name from it, because it also is a link, may it still be flourishing thirty years on, serving the churches and the whole community of Caversham, chronicling its daily life and exploring current thinking on current matters, whatever at the time those matters might be.

**GREEN DAY**

Having done its best to wash out the town centre Green Day on the first Saturday in September, the weather relented for Caversham's day on the Sunday, when Caversham Court became the centre for an amazing variety of Green activities. Bats, butterflies, bikes and bodgers all had their patch. Recycling and low energy was the order of the day and environmentally friendly food found plenty of customers. Delicious home made cakes boosted St. Margaret's Mapledurham building fund (for a loo) and other good causes also benefited.

Volunteers set to on the disgraceful growth of weeds, choking all in their way along the causeway leading to the Gazebo, and made passable the path for walks that were taking place round the garden. There is a lot that is still beautiful in what should be a jewel amongst Reading's open spaces, but too often people were heard saying 'This used to be such a beautiful place'. Next year they must be heard saying 'This is such a beautiful place'.

**TUM-TE-TUM-TE-DUM**

This year's Reading Festival was in most respects a happy affair. The Festivalgoers looked happy to be there and residents felt happy to see them looking happy. They conducted themselves courteously and considerably, dropped no more litter, at least off site, than the average Reading citizen, and managed to keep extraordinarily clean looking without the advantages of a built in bathroom.

What caused the complaints was the noise. For the last two or three years it has been reasonably controlled, although the Warren, separated only by the width of the river from the site, will always suffer. This year the larger part of Caversham, some of it a long way from the site, found the noise very difficult to bear. The music itself did not carry far but the incessant, intrusive beat was the cause of many complaints. It even continued long after midnight from unofficial sources, making sleep impossible for many.

Modern technology plus more rigorous stewarding of the site, ought to be able to prevent this nuisance. This must be done if the Festival is to retain the goodwill that has taken years to build up.

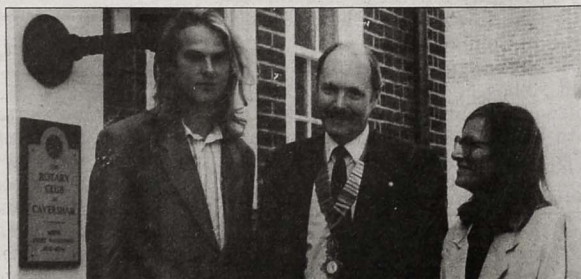
**SUNDAY OPENING**

Waitrose is now open for shopping on Sundays, legally, as the company is anxious to let you know. By far the greater majority of their shops across the country remain closed, but two of the small minority to open, in Caversham and Woodley, are in the Reading area. This is probably because they are not in town centres, rather than a commentary on Reading people's willingness to ignore the fourth commandment.

**DIARY DATE:** Tuesday, 7th November, 8.00 p.m. Caversham Free Church Hall. A symposium on Emparishment for Caversham. Is this the way forward? Organised by Caversham and Residents' Association.

## ROTARY CLUB OF CAVERSHAM

RUSSIAN STUDENT VISITS CAVERSHAM CLUB



Yan Zubavichus with his host, Dr. Christine Cardine of the University of Reading, being welcomed by David Harper, President of the Rotary Club of Caversham.

**YOUTH IS ROTARY'S AIM**

Announcing his plans for the forthcoming year, David Harper, newly elected President of the Rotary Club of Caversham, pledged to commit his year to helping the cause of young people — with the emphasis on those within the area covered by the Caversham Club.

In support of the theme, the Caversham Club has sponsored a place on the Rotary Youth Leadership award scheme which involves a group of individuals (ages 16-25) taking part in a week of strenuous activity at the Berkshire County Council's outward bound centre in North Wales.

With regard to the club's general activities for the coming year, David is keen to have positive impact in respect of underprivileged youngsters and the club's committees would welcome contact with appropriate organisations who may be able to assist in meeting this aim. To underline the club's intent the guest speaker at a recent lunch meeting was Yan Zubavichus, a 20 year old student from the Higher Chemical College in Moscow and currently attending the University of Reading, sponsored by the University, Technical Institutes and supported by Rotary...

Yan has benefited much from access to new instrumentation and computing equipment plus access to new technology in the university's chemistry department. His studies will lead to scientific publications of the highest quality and forge new links sponsored by the European Community.

**SUNDAY SERVICE**

<b>ANGLICAN</b>
<b>St Peter's</b>
8.00am Holy Communion
9.15am Parish Communion
11.15am Matins
6.30pm Evensong
<b>St John's</b>
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong (1st Sunday)
6.30pm Informal Worship (3rd Sunday)
<b>St Andrew's</b>
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 of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.
<b>St Barnabas'</b>
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)
<b>St Margaret's, Mapledurham</b>
8.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
11.00am Parish Communion
<b>CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH</b> (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)
<b>CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH</b>
10.30am and 6.30pm
<b>NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH</b>
10.45am and 6.30pm
<b>CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL</b>
10.30am (in Chapel)
<b>METHODIST</b>
Caversham, Gosbrook Road
10.30am and 6.30pm
<b>Caversham Heights</b>
9.00am Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
9.30am Family Service (3rd Sunday)
11.00am and 6.30pm
<b>ROMAN CATHOLIC</b>
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 (1st Sunday of the month)
<b>UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, York Road</b>
11.00am every Sunday
<b>SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Church Street, Reading</b> 10.30am
Caversham Church House — Meeting for Worship 7.30pm. (last Sunday)
House study groups Sept-June Tel: 475783.
<b>NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD</b>
9.30am Sunday School
11.00am Divine Worship
7.00pm Evening Service



# AN ANCIENT CAVERSHAM INN



The Griffin before 1906. Sadly it looked in a very poor condition.

Looking at the present Griffin public house, which lies close to Buckside near Caversham bridge, it is hard to believe it has links with the past. Yet on the very same site stood an inn which is reputed to have dated from the fifteen hundreds.

The Griffin, as it is now, was rebuilt in 1906. Before that you stepped down from road level into an ancient village inn, once thatched and where parish business was conducted in its quaint low rooms.

## Stewed Eels

Pilgrims to the holy well of St Anne in Priest's Lane, now Priest Hill, must surely have rested here and possibly enjoyed stewed eels, for the landlord had the right to set eel bucks (traps) between a nearby island and the Caversham river bank – hence the name Buckside.

Bellringers from St Peter's church also gathered there and many entries in the church accounts tell us so. In 1690 they received "beare money" for ringing the bells to commemorate "the King's Crown-ation Day" and each time the monarch had a birthday it was celebrated with bells and beare! As late as 1716 the bells were rung on November 5th for in church accounts you find "Given to the ringers at Gun Powder Treason three shillings beare money".

Mary Clissold, who kept the Griffin in 1805 was ordered to provide beer for the ringers "on account of the glorious victory obtained over the combined fleets of France and Spain by Lord Nelson". The name Clissold is interesting for around that time Caversham House, a large Georgian house, which later became Caversham Academy and where you now find St Martin's Precinct, was owned by Nathaniel Clissold, a respected and wealthy merchant who lived there with his wife and daughter. It seems rather strange that another Clissold had the local inn, however there may be a connection for the name is quite uncommon.

## Four posters and sea cole

Another owner of the old inn was Henry Carter of "Cawsham". An inventory of all his property can be found in the Bodleian Library Oxford. Dated 1682 it is interesting to read. He is described as a yeoman farmer and gardener but on reading the document it becomes obvious that he was also landlord of the Griffin. His "wearing apparel of all sorts" was valued at 3 pounds. Then comes the name of every room in his house each with all its contents listed carefully and clearly. First comes the chamber over the hall with a bed with curtains, surely a four

poster, and another bed, a press to put clothes in, a table, two chests and two boxes. The last four items must have been used to store the large amount of linen that followed – sixteen pairs of sheets, two dozen napkins, eight tablecloths, five pillowcases and other items – far too many for an ordinary yeoman household. Next the little chamber over the hall, again well furnished with another possible four poster and a chair plus other furnishings. Yet another bedroom over the parlour, again with a bed curtain and a valance, a cupboard and other furniture. Then comes the Griffin Chamber with a similar bed, four leather chairs, three stools, fire irons and the like. This must have been the main guestroom. What is more, Henry had recently built another bedroom for in "the new chamber" were a table and a couple of rough beds. Next came the court room containing a bed, a little table, a chair and a court cupboard, presumably where all parish business documents were stored with ink and quill pen. Perhaps the bed was for a visiting official.

The parlour appeared sparsely furnished with stools, a chair and a set of fire irons. The large hall, with the two bedrooms above, was equally bare – a settle and fire irons and hanging from the beams, three fitches of bacon.

Outside was the buttery, brewhouse and stable, the latter having a trough and trestle, along with "a little cart, two pairs of old coach wheels and a sea cole".

## A fatal day in 1723

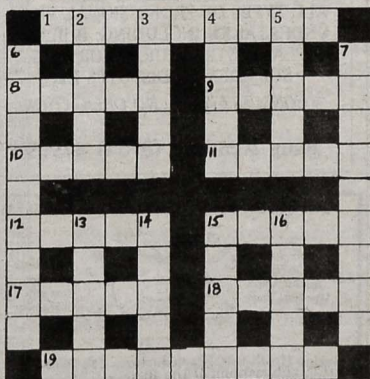
Perhaps the most unfortunate occurrence at the Griffin came on February 12, 1723 when John Blagrave of Blagrave farm, Mapledurham, called in there on his way home from Reading market to drink a pint (or more?). According to the report in an early edition of The Reading Mercury he had done well at market and boasted of the fact. He was overheard by scoundrels who followed him when he left and murdered him for his money a few fields up from St. Peter's Hill, a very lonely spot in those days. He was probably half way between Toots farm in Darell Road and his own at Mapledurham, somewhere near the junction of St Peter's Avenue and Woodcote Road.

Whether the game of quoits was played outside the inn during Henry's time is not known but in later years right up to the turn of this century quoits was a regular pastime at the Griffin whose team played against that of the King's Arms (now a private house at the bottom of Mapledurham hill at the start of the track to Hardwick) in the early eighteen hundreds.

On this happier note it seems a fitting place to end reminiscences of the old Griffin.

M.K.

## CRYPTOS Semi-secular Prize Crossword



## ACROSS

1. Servants (9)
8. Confirmations (5)
9. Nosey (5)
10. Unburdened after absolution (5)
11. Arrested (3,2)
12. Pre-unclothe (5)
15. Bride-follower (5)
17. Without wires (5)
18. Blemishes (5)
19. Winter sports gear (3,6)

## DOWN

2. Pacifier (5)
3. Let in (5)
4. Intent (5)
5. He is (5)
6. Holy haven (9)
7. The heathen suffers such? (9)
13. Coronations character (5)
14. Tine (5)
15. Prohibited (5)
16. We come to this at Christmas (5)

Prize of a Book Token for £10 for the first correct solution. All will be opened after 29 October – prizewinner will be announced in December issue. Solutions to be sent with name, address and phone number to: Crossword Solution, "Caversham Bridge", Church House, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX.



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# KATY IN CAVERSHAM

## THIRTY GLORIOUS YEARS

Can it possibly be thirty years since I first got involved in this publication; I suppose it must be since one of the editors reminded me some time ago and wanted to know what I was going to do about it. Rather surprising, really, anything I had been going to do had, I'm afraid, been done long ago and not always in any way to the good of the paper. But I suppose it must be more than 30 years since I received a summons, for want of a better word, to present myself to a meeting at the Rectory one night - to be honest I don't remember who rang, but when I enquired what it was in aid of I was informed without further ado, that I was now 'on a Committee'. At the time I didn't enquire further - it wasn't always wise to do so but better to await further events. Still, by now, most of you will be very familiar with the events that led to the first publication of the 'Bridge', so I'll spare you the gory details.

**Katy in Caversham**  
It's funny but even now people often ask me why I call myself 'Katy'. Most of you will know but perhaps the rest of you will forgive me for repeating the story how, when I stopped being a mere Roving Reporter and

became a chat columnist, I adopted the name mainly because I thought so much of our old friend, Mary Clift, whose husband at that time was a curate at St. Peter's. I yield to none in my admiration of the work John Grimwade did in helping to set up the paper but it would probably be true to say that without Mary this paper certainly wouldn't have got off the ground in the very professional way it did - I believe Mary actually met her husband, David, when she was lecturing a group of young clergymen on the subject of journalism. Mary was a very wonderful person and anything I can do to keep her memory alive I do willingly, and since she used the name 'Katy' when writing her first chat column, I saw no reason to alter it. Alas, neither Mary nor David is, any longer alive, but should their daughter see this I should like her to know that so many of us still feel a very strong affection for both of them.

**And More and More**  
But I mustn't get too bogged down. I could fill this paper with the names of the many wonderful people who have had a hand in its production. Skipping through some ancient copies of the 'Bridge' I

noticed just how from the beginning Jim Pilgrim came on the scene as our Company Secretary, a job he has continued to do ever since. I admire these backroom boys and girls more than any of them, for so many carried on for years with little acknowledgement but with a great deal of enthusiasm. And none, perhaps, ranks higher than Daphne Vincent, who has kept her contributors on the straight and narrow for many years.

Mind you, writing for the 'Bridge' in those days was comparatively easy, as many people wanted to lend a hand with information and Caversham being a much smaller unit with a plethora of small shops and almost a complete absence of large supermarkets, with the possible exception of Bayliss (now a night club) and the Co-op in Prospect Street. Never one to hide my light under a bushel, I broadcast my new job far and wide and in return received all kinds of information about Caversham people. I think fondly of my good friend, Barbara Dalton who, on the days she drove us both to work at the BBC could always be guaranteed to feed me some bits of interesting information particularly about her friends at St. Anne's.

In those days most of our grocery shopping was done at the Corner Shop in Westfield Road, where Mrs. Towner cooked her own ham and enticed so many into the shop with these lovely smells. She has not been with us for many years but she was a great lady. After many ups and downs the shop was finally taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Hargun and there has been a link with the past not so long ago when Mrs. Hargun told me that quite by accident she found herself speaking to Peter Towner on the phone, when trying to obtain some information through the good offices of the police. Peter, she said, was so knowledgeable about the shop and the district that it wasn't long before he admitted that he was actually brought up in the shop where she now lives.

These are just some of the threads that go through my mind when I try to think back over 30 years. A few days ago I came across a photograph I sent in about Annette Taylor as she was then, making Christmas decorations out of polystyrene tiles. Of course she has been Annette Mabbitt for years now, has travelled far and wide and has three delightful children whom we see briefly from time to time.

It's a great pity I can't list all the many people who have been so helpful in producing this paper. A few years after the first issue of the 'Bridge', Caversham and District Residents' Association was established, so we hastily enlisted the services of many of the committee, including my own family. Alas, many of our old friends are no longer with us, but many still are, including our long time colleague Bernard Miller. And when John Grimwade departed for pastures new, we were fortunate in obtaining the services of other editors - and the help we have had from Lindsey and John Mullaney in the book shop is almost unbelievable.

We've run through a series of photographs but most of all I would like to mention Ben Archer who, helped by his wife, Joan, has thought nothing of trailing all over Caversham to take whatever photographs are needed.

I really could go on all night but I must not. Others, more qualified than I, will want to have a hand in this. So please forgive me for all those I've left out and, once again, many thanks for all the help you have given me personally. I wouldn't have missed this job for worlds.

## CAVERSHAM THEATRE - NEW SEASON

Caversham Theatre's new season of plays begins with the production of "Lloyd George Knew My Father" by William Douglas Home. This humorous play written in the early 1970's is still very topical. The plot follows the consequences of a motorway being built through rural England.

Performances are at St Anne's School Hall, Washington Road, Caversham on 27th, 28th and 29th October starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £3.50 and £2.50 for concessions and are available from the Caversham Bookshop, or telephoning 477372 or are available on the door.

## CAVERSHAM WEST FRIENDS OF GUIDING INVITE YOU . . .

**GOOD FOOD 'GUIDE' 94** - Come and support the guides and sample some super food. This is truly a night to remember - Friday 14th October at 7.45pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road - when ten cooks bring three favourite dishes for us all to taste before buying the recipe. The cooks will all give a brief introduction of themselves and their chosen dishes and will be available to answer questions. Coffee and teas will be free with tickets, cakes for sale along with Christmas treats.

Tickets at £2.50 (concessions £1.50) available from Lis Rout 471738 or Margaret Pearson 473913.

Many thanks for supporting local guiding.

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# CELEBRATORY SUPPLEMENT

## THIRTY YEARS – HOW DID WE DO?

Jim Pilgrim our Secretary/Treasurer, who was present at the inaugural meeting of 'The Caversham Christian News Ltd' at The Rectory, Caversham, on Tuesday 14th July 1964, recalls that shortly after the appearance of the first issue of the 'Caversham Bridge' one of the local papers gave it a life expectancy of six months. Such prophetic insight nearly proved to be true. Reference to the Minutes reveals that Advertisement and Distribution Managers were appointed at the inaugural meeting. The Advertisement Manager was off like a rocket, he soon reported circulating ninety businesses inviting them to advertise in this new and as yet unseen venture. Following that initial flash and bang there was little evidence of the stick for only ten replies were received of whom five rashly booked twenty column inches of advertisement space. The Advertisement Manager picked himself up, dusted himself down and by September had forty-five advertisers on the 'band wagon' requesting 145 column inches. (Today the paper carries some seventy advertisers averaging 400 column inches). The Distribution Manager failed to get into orbit and for reasons unknown his resignation was accepted at the next meeting.

Correspondence figured prominently in the early days with readers complaining that a Christian Newspaper was not the vehicle to advertise X films. An advertisement by a local cinema, of blessed memory, was the prime cause of this furore and one now wonders what the Editor had done with his blue pencil. The record is silent and it is open to conjecture

whether the cinema 'dropped-out' or was 'pushed' for no more seditious advertisements appeared, that is not until a restaurant advertised alcohol.

By March 1965 the paper had reached its life expectancy date and this seems to have prompted a missive from the principal of a local paper containing several devastating criticisms. Officially this was disregarded as an attempt to obtain printing business – the paper, at the time, was a syndicated issue of the National Christian News printed in Birmingham – unofficially it was considered to be 'sour grapes' for it now seemed that the Prophet of Doom had got it wrong.

A little later, in May 1965, an anonymous letter was received enclosing one pound to be offered as a prize for the best drawing – of all things – representing the intentions of the 'Caversham Bridge'. Such warped facetiousness was met by an acknowledgement in the next issue indicating that the money would be donated to a charity unless alternative instructions were received. No further instructions were forthcoming and the Pakistan Flood Disaster Fund benefited.

Focus on the trivialities of the early days must, however, not be permitted to eclipse the tenacity of the then Chairman, the Revd. John Grimwade – celebrity status was to follow albeit not as a newspaper tycoon – for the 'Caversham Bridge' was his brain child. He steered it with determination and purpose through many vicissitudes until his departure from Caversham in 1983 and for this those of us who worked with him, and sometimes against him, still salute him.

## A BRIDGE NOT TOO FAR

John Grimwade came to Caversham.  
His aim was clear to see.  
To make the church much more a part  
Of the community.  
So changes were accepted,  
Though some were not too keen,  
Until he thought we should up-date  
The Parish Magazine.

A few cried out 'You can't do that.  
It's full of pious thought  
And by the good church-goers  
It is regularly bought'.  
But most agreed the need for change.  
'It's Moribund; It's dead.  
A glossy thing of black and white  
But very seldom read!'

A team was soon assembled,  
Each with a job to do,  
A publication to produce,  
Both interesting and new.  
With one to be the editor  
And check each contribution.  
Another had the vital task,  
To deal with distribution.

One volunteered to keep accounts.  
One organised reviews.  
Another saw to all the ads.

That brought in revenues.  
And Katie wrote of local folk  
Stan Eldon wrote on sport.  
The aura of old Caversham  
By Mary Kift was caught.

To those who started up the Bridge,  
Those stalwart pioneers,  
We honour and salute them  
And give our thanks and cheers.  
But some moved on and some got old  
And others had mishaps,  
More volunteers came as required,  
To fill up all the gaps.

Watchdog dealt with planning  
And speculators' dreams  
And what they planned for Caversham  
And how to thwart their schemes.  
But let not us forget those souls  
Who trudge from door to door,  
In all weathers, year on year,  
A trusty band, for sure.

So after thirty years we pledge  
The paper shall endure.  
We vow the Bridge will still be here,  
In twenty twenty four.

The Caversham Bridge is thirty years old this month and still going strong with a circulation of over 4,000. The editors felt it was time to find out from the public their



Of the people interviewed outside Caversham Library during busy shopping hours nearly 70% had never heard of the paper. The rest were regular readers, some of very long standing.

The older they were the more satisfied they seemed with the paper, reading it from cover to cover and particularly enjoying Katy and Watchdog. This loyal following offered no criticisms and few suggestions, one middle-aged reader even described it as a "super little paper".

But before the editors decide to preen themselves and rest on their laurels let's look at the comments of some of the younger people interviewed. Two men said their wives read it but they never looked at it, one going so far as to comment that he had far more interesting things to read!

Watchdog and comments and articles on local events and affairs earned universal praise and it was felt that the advertisements for local businesses and articles about work done for charities

were a good thing. Several interviewees mentioned that they liked to read about the clubs, one remarking that "it gave good ideas for speakers" and another saying she thought it would be a good idea to have more information about the various groups in Caversham.

Last month a reader criticised the paper for being too "dull" and "serious". She suggested bigger photographs with more action, less closely packed text and more lively illustrations. She cared enough about the paper to read it, think about it and put her opinions down in print. Other constructive comments that came out of our mini-survey were that there should be more ethnic content, more about the environment and more that is political (though not "party"). Surely, Watchdog meets the last two requirements and we aim to have a feature on the Caversham Court Environment Centre in the near future. There is plenty to interest residents of all ages going on there.

The editors pointed out in last month's issue that they rely on you to supply material. The objectives of the Caversham Bridge were, in the first place, to provide a bridge between the churches and, secondly, to provide a bridge between the Christian Church and the Community.

Don't be discouraged if your submission is not used straightaway, the editors have to be selective and the point is taken that if there is too much text the paper is boring to read, so keep your articles short and snappy.

The Bridge was conceived by Canon John Grimwade and brought to fruition by his hard work and dedication. There is a small band of committed people working voluntarily to bring our this paper and a larger band who regularly pound the streets delivering it.

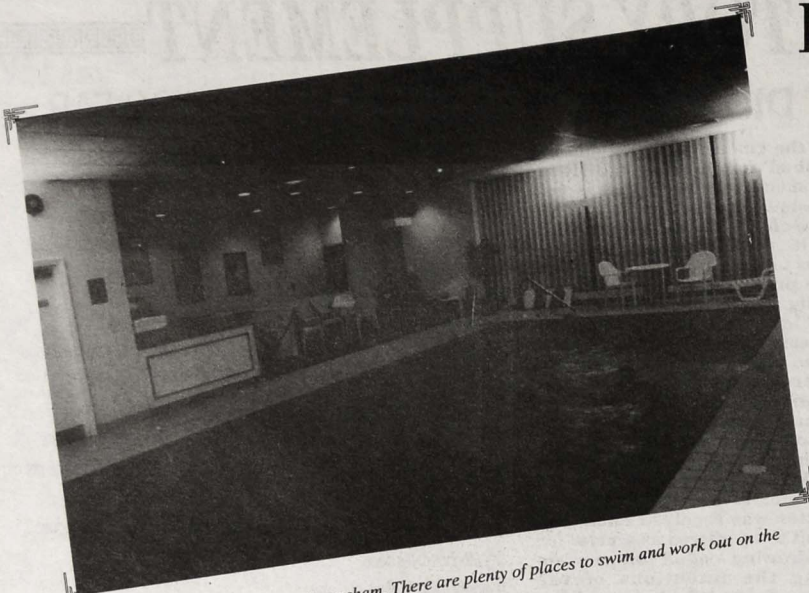
Support us and help us to make the Caversham Bridge lively, topical and interesting.

Here's to the NEXT THIRTY YEARS.

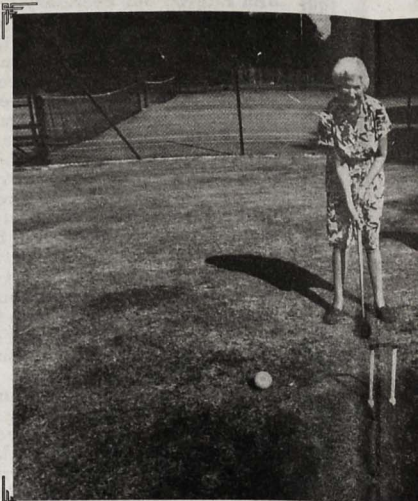


# FINGS AIN'T WHAT TH

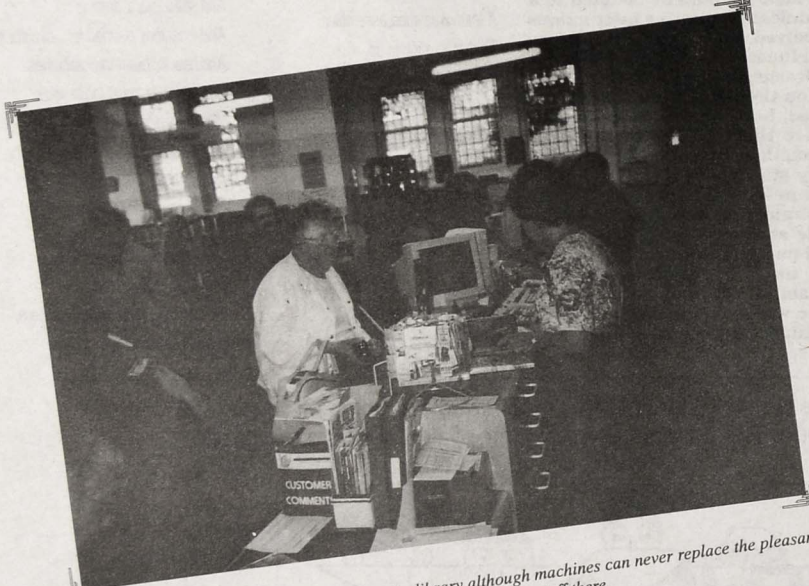
... True, for in recent years a lot of changes have taken place. Some people would say, but let's be positive and look at just some of the things that have happened in the years ago.



There's no excuse to be unfit in Caversham. There are plenty of places to swim and work out on the machines.



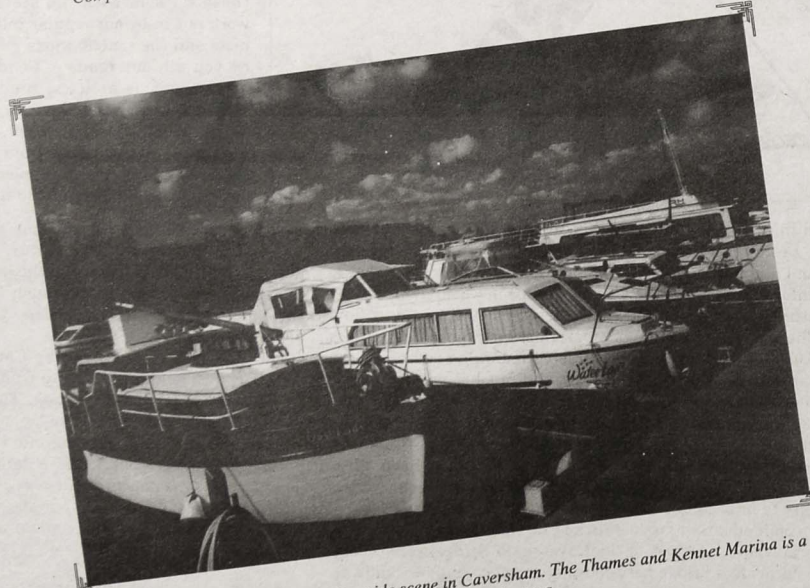
The children's playground in Albert Road Recreation Ground. There are tennis and bowls, a game of croquet.



Computerisation has improved efficiency in the library although machines can never replace the pleasant and friendly service offered by the staff there.



This charming water-feature makes a delightful addition to the riverside scene where passers-by may rest and a stunning backdrop.



Boats are an essential part of the riverside scene in Caversham. The Thames and Kennet Marina is a welcome amenity in the area.



As well as a good variety of small shops Caversham has a good range of facilities.

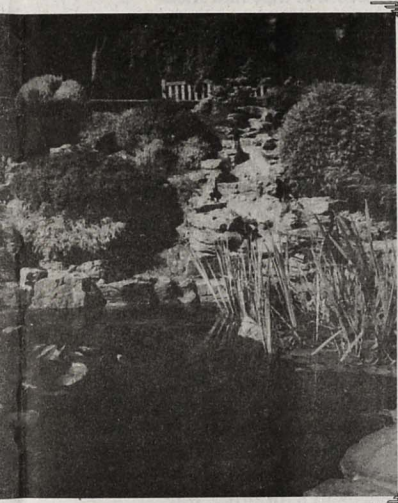


# THEY USED TO BE ....

... taken place in Caversham. Not all for the better, some of the assets we enjoy which were not here thirty years ago.



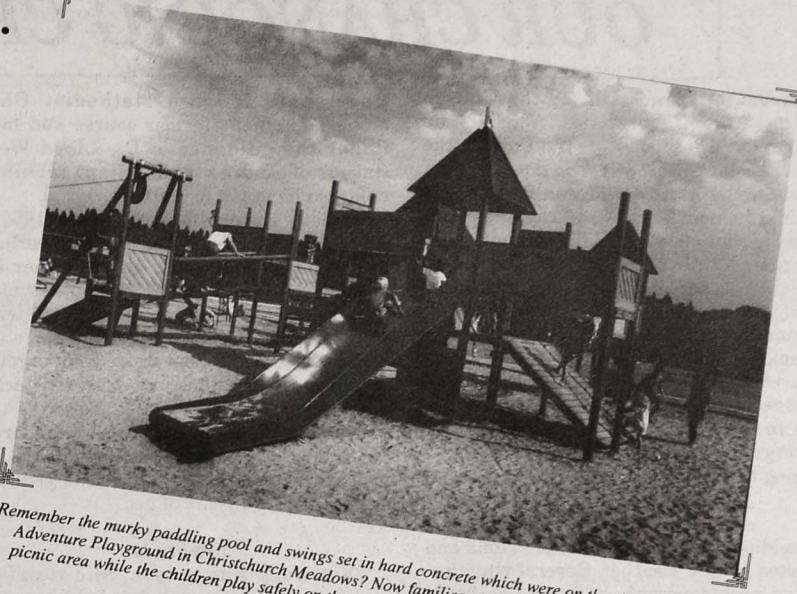
...ation Ground has been much improved and, as well as ...me of croquet can be enjoyed.



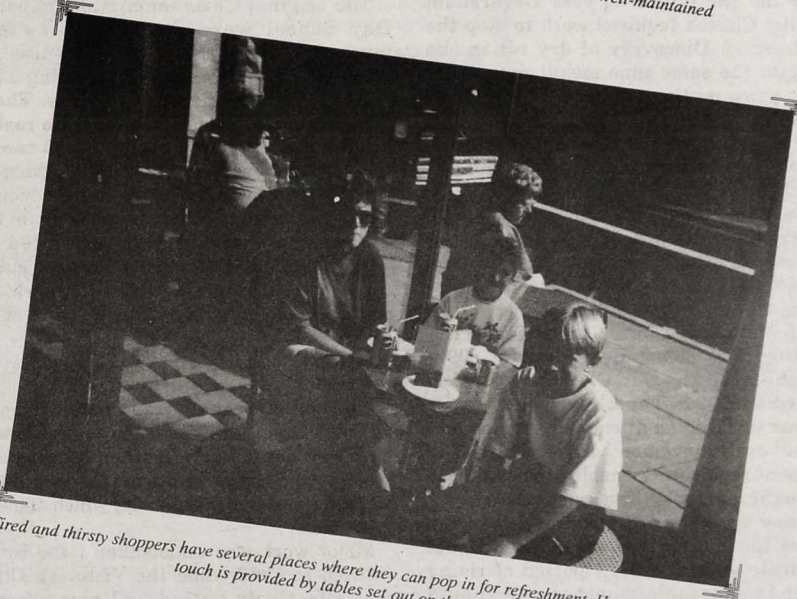
...ddition to Caversham Court. It provides a tranquil spot ...unning backdrop for bridal photographs.



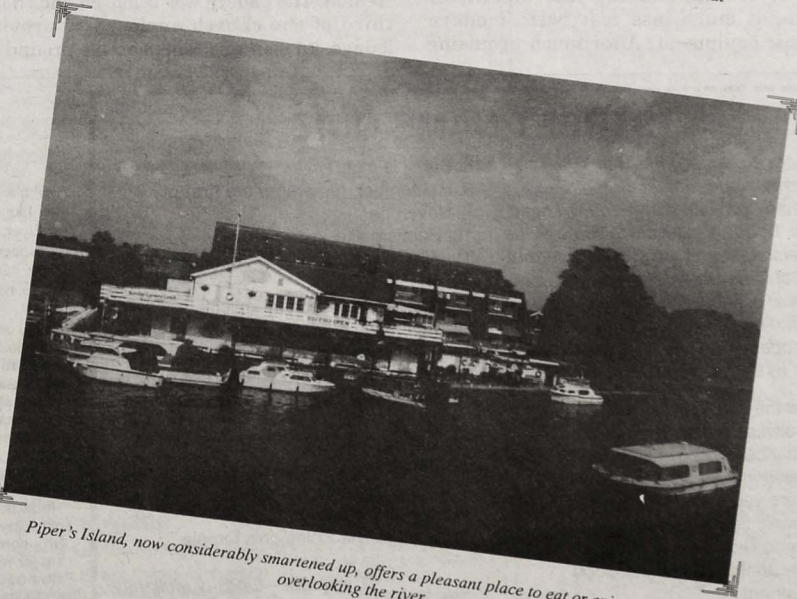
...ersham now has the asset of well-stocked supermarkets.



Remember the murky paddling pool and swings set in hard concrete which were on the site of the present Adventure Playground in Christchurch Meadows? Now families can relax on the green lawns of the picnic area while the children play safely on the robust apparatus and splash in the well-maintained pool.



Tired and thirsty shoppers have several places where they can pop in for refreshment. Here a continental touch is provided by tables set out on the pavement.



Piper's Island, now considerably smartened up, offers a pleasant place to eat or enjoy a drink overlooking the river.

Photographs by Ken Tillman



# OUR CHANGING CHURCHES

Time does not stand still for the Church buildings of Caversham. While the congregations are themselves the Church, the effectiveness of their witness does in part depend on the nature and quality of their individual homes. Most of the churches date back to the times when the areas around them were initially developed. Over the years remedial work becomes necessary, additional space is needed and the existing accommodation needs adapting to the requirements of the day. During the 30 years the Caversham Bridge has been published much has been accomplished and this is a tribute to the generosity and faithfulness of the congregations in maintaining and enhancing their places of worship.

## Maintenance

All buildings age, can develop problems and be affected by the weather. Several churches have had problems with walls and roofs. In 1980 part of the roof of St John's had to be retiled and the following year Caversham Methodist Church required work to stop the walls bowing. Discovery of dry rot in the flooring at the same time meant removal of existing pews, putting in a solid floor and the refurbishing of the church with chairs, a moveable pulpit and new communion area. Prior to a major reorganisation of the interior of St Anne's R.C. Church in 1985/7 a significant amount of remedial work had to be done on the walls and roof to ensure the soundness of the basic structure.

The storms of the late 1980's caused damage leading to the re-roofing of Caversham Heights Methodist Church in 1990 and the rebuilding of St John's Bell Tower in 1992. Caversham Methodist Church was also reroofed in 1991. The church hall at St Barnabas survived an attempted burning and later outward movement of the walls. The consequent repair work enabled the church to improve the quality of the accommodation.

In many ways the organ forms part of the fabric of the church, and these instruments deteriorate with age. In a period of rising costs it is debatable whether one should repair or rebuild existing instruments or replace, at much less cost, with modern electronic equipment. After much agonising

Caversham Heights Methodist Church embarked on the former course and largely under the guidance of Dr. Lloyd Webber (father of Andrew and Julian) rebuilt and enlarged its organ in 1981.

Similarly the organs at St John's (1980) and St Andrew's (recently) have been overhauled and rebuilt. St Peter's on the other hand decided that replacement of their instrument by an electronic organ was the preferable solution. St Barnabas has the best of both worlds since it has kept its original organ and installed an electronic one, both of which are used regularly. St. Anne's acquired a new organ to replace its old instrument around 1978. It is interesting to note that the organ at Caversham Baptist Church is still going strong after 100 years of use.

## Expansion

This work has arisen where existing premises were too small for the congregation and its needs and land has been available.

The original Caversham Hill Chapel and Day School were erected in the early nineteenth century. In 1985 it was necessary to build a new Worship Hall seating 170 at the rear of the existing buildings. The old schoolroom and lean-to kitchen were replaced in 1987 by a 2-storey complex of 3 meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets. At Caversham Heights Methodist Church a new meeting room, toilets and kitchen were built in 1974. The kitchen was further extended and improved in 1986. In 1990 a 1st floor suite of rooms, including a resource centre, was erected over the side entrance of the church premises.

## Alterations

While most of the churches installed modern kitchens, toilet facilities (one wonders how our forebears coped!), new lighting, heating, audio systems and car parks during the period there were particular developments which should be mentioned.

Major work was undertaken at the Baptist Church in 1980 when the Victorian Chapel was effectively gutted and new premises created. The gallery was removed and the rear third of the church enclosed to provide a lounge, kitchen and toilets on the ground floor

and a hall above. At the opposite end of the church 2 extra rooms were built above the existing vestries. The church interior was then modernised with new furniture, heating and lighting.

St Peter's has created a circulating area at the back of the church by the removal of pews and the Vanderstegen Chapel has been glassed in to provide a soundproof room. St Andrew's has improved the area around the church and made the altar west facing. St Barnabas has relocated its choir from the chancel to the front of the nave and too has created a circulating area at the back. St Margaret's now has a children's corner. At St John's an oratory was created in 1990 in the south porch available for daily prayer.

The introduction of the modern liturgy caused both St Anne's and the chapel of Our Lady of Caversham to resite their altars so that the priest faces the congregation. At St Anne's a new altar and pulpit were built of Bath stone and designed to match the existing building. The baptismal font was remodelled and relocated next to the Sanctuary. An illuminated stained glass window, by a local artist, depicting the Holy Ghost over the baptismal waters was also installed.

## New Churches

While no new buildings have arisen the Reading congregation of the New Testament Church of God took over the building in the centre of Caversham which was formerly the Glendale Cinema. Only the sloping balcony and the seats remind one of its former use. The ground floor is now level and leads to a dais, incorporating the baptismal tank, and an elevated platform for the church band.

## Losses

Not all has been gain. The work carried out by the Baptist Church necessitated the disposal of the West Memorial Institute (where its week day activities had been held). Also after some controversy the Parish sold Balmore Hall, well situated for public meetings. The building was pulled down and replaced by the Balmore Surgery which meets community needs in a different way.

In conclusion the writer would like to thank all church correspondents who contributed so much information for this article.

## STREET NAME QUIZ

Here are 20 clues to roads in Caversham and Emmer Green. See how many you can solve. You will need to add 'Road', 'Close' etc to some of the answers. All roads are shown in current maps of Caversham.

A prize of a local history book will be awarded by Caversham Bookshop to the sender of the first all correct entry drawn by 29th October.

1. How the third Gospel was written.
2. No olives on this one.
3. A chancellor who cheated the executioner.
4. Where you may hear the wind blow.
5. A manly fisherman.
6. Near to Richelieu.
7. They do this behind the Good Shepherd.

8. Babel is nigh.
9. Remember, remember the first of November.
10. Baptism site.
11. Where you might hear the office chanted.
12. Paul's companion in Antioch.
13. Where we hung up our harps.
14. A holy grandmother.
15. Where the Keys hang on trees?
16. A meadow keeping the sabbath years.
17. The 'right path'.
18. The dishonest one was commended - but this one was royal.
19. Pilgrim's corner.
20. Used to line Solomon's temple.

Copyright - Lindsay Mullaney

## CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING PRICES

A number of brickbats have been thrown at Waitrose lately, but the Bridge would now like to offer them a public bouquet. Thanks to Mr Davis, Manager, and to Mr Piper, most of the following information was made available in half a day; the remainder followed two days later. For the purpose of easy comparison, the cost of the early items have been decimalised. Weights too have not been easy to equate, but just looking at the figures will give a general picture.

Item	1994	1964
Large white sliced loaf	51	16p
1lb cheapest butter (now 1kg)	£1.26	20p
1lb Lard (now 1kg)	82	13p
1lb cheapest cheddar	£1.48	17p
1 doz. standard eggs	£1.25	37p
1lb cheapest bacon	£1.29	21p
1/4lb cheapest tea (now 125 gr)	49	9p
4oz. jar instant coffee (now 100 gr)	£1.29	18p
1lb gran. sugar (kilo bag now)	67p	3p
tin tomato soup	38	5p
1lb pork sausages	£1.19	16p
pkt. digestive biscuits	32	8p
Box cornflakes	89	8p
1lb jar marmalade	79	8p
1lb frozen peas	69	8p
tin baked beans	21	5p
10 frozen fish fingers (for 12)	£1.15	16p
Toilet paper (now a two-pack)	72 for two	6p



## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## ST ANDREW'S FETE &amp; FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Andrew's Fete and Flower Festival, held on a glorious day in early July, produced a wonderful spectacle of colours in Church and Hall. £1,700+ was raised, to be divided between the MacMillan Nurses and the Church's Home Mission.

A large number of families patronized the rainbow-hued stalls and side shows and the large entry in the "Children's Flower Arranging Competition" provided much interest. The colourful exhibits were later taken into the Church to join the beautiful displays, which depicted in flowers so many of our best-loved hymns.

Truly, an enjoyable and worthwhile weekend.



Photo - E. S. Archer

## AFTERNOON TEA AT ST PETER'S



Photo - E. S. Archer

Afternoon teas served on Sundays during the summer, at St. Peter's Church, have proved to be a success. Not only the teas themselves, but also in the number of visitors to the Church. (The teas - especially the cakes - were excellent!) It is hoped to repeat the experiment next year.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their Sunday afternoon - and to those who provided the 'eats'.

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ST PETER'S WIVES'  
GROUP MEETING

There was a fresh look to the traditional August walk this year, with a visit to the Caversham Court Environment Centre, established in October 1993. There the Group was greeted by Mark Hillyer, Reading Borough Council's Environment Centre and Schools' Officer. Part of his job is to develop the Centre as a focus for environmental matters for the whole of Reading. Mark also works with schools and community groups to create an interest in, and awareness of, environmental issues. He hopes that the thoughts and ideas stimulated in young people will remain with them into adulthood and influence their approach to these issues. He concentrates on local concerns as well as global ones and shows how individuals can help to solve problems.

Within the Centre are static displays covering such topics as energy efficiency, organic gardening and the contents of the typical dustbin. Again, the message is to show visitors the effect of their own individual contribution, for good or ill, towards the environment in which all live.

Mark then took the group outside to the Caversham Court allotments and the gazebo. The beautiful old brick wall below the church yard was much admired. As dusk fell, the evening ended beneath the trees on the river bank. Mark produced his bat detector, and soon high pitched squeaks were heard (no, not from the visitors) as the bats swooped around. A most interesting and enjoyable meeting.

## THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

A special candle is now in use at St Andrew's. This candle is alight on the third Thursday in every month at 7.15pm during the ministry of healing services.

A branch of the Guild of St Raphael was formed at St Andrew's in 1955, and at present has fifteen members who regularly pray for, and care compassionately about the sick and distressed who are brought to their notice. It is hoped that, before long, it will be possible to hold some Guild services which will include the laying-on-of-hands and anointing. These can be so very helpful and beneficial to those needing extra spiritual comfort and strength. It is often the spiritual healing which leads to physical healing.

The Guild of St Raphael was first formed in 1915 to bring the Church of England back to an understanding of its own healing ministry. The ministry of healing is incorporated into the worship of other denominations, and there are also ecumenical groups, but the Guild of St Raphael remains the only wholly Anglican organisation in this field.



## OBITUARY

## PHYLIS HEIDEN

With the recent death of Phil, of Gifford House, at the age of 80, Caversham has lost yet another of its truly good residents.

For decades, she was involved in the old Reading Cooperative Society, believing strongly in the principles of the Movement, particularly peace and internationalism. She was active in its mixed Guild and its educational activities, but her greatest contribution was in running a Co-op Woodcraft Group for very many years - taking the youngsters on outings and camping, teaching them a variety of skills and passing on her own and the Movement's ideas of fair-play. Not surprisingly, she was an involved member of C.N.D. from its inception.

In later years, her time was limited as she cared for her husband, Eric, who was by then confined to a wheel chair. She could be seen all over the town and further away, pushing him - which was no mean feat - to all sorts of events so that his life should be as full as possible. Nevertheless, she still found time to help Eric's fellow-sufferers with Parkinson's Disease, persuading them to come to meetings and other events held by the self-help group for that disease. Many had not left their homes for years, but Phil with her warm, encouraging personality was able to get them out to enjoy a better quality of life. After Eric's death, she carried on with this work as long as she was able.

Phil was not rich, important or self-publicising but very many people were happier for having known her.

## CLERGY ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to the Rev. Peter Mullins, formerly of St. Peter's and St. Margaret's. Having served for four years in Scunthorpe, the Bishop of Lincoln has recently appointed him to take on the in-service training of the clergy in the diocese. He smiles at his official title of Bishop's Clergy Training Adviser and Co-ordinator. Peter's previous experiences have made him well suited for this challenging post, which he will undertake with his usual thoroughness and efficiency. Well done Bishop for spotting a winner.

ST. ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP BOOK SALE  
at Caversham Heights Methodist Church, Highmoor Road

On Saturday 5th November 1994, St. Andrew's Bookshop will be mounting a Book Sale in the Methodist Church Hall, Highmoor Road, from 10am-4pm. Many people enjoy browsing in bookshops but it will be even more convenient, especially when trying to park your car, to have such a sale locally. There will be a wide choice of books and the date should prove popular with those seeking to buy Christmas presents.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST  
CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER AND  
EARLY NOVEMBER

October 16 - 9.30am All Age Praise Service - Rev. David Moody

October 27 - 7.30pm Rev. Dr. Leslie Griffiths "REPORT ON AFRICA" after his recent visit to Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa.

November 5 - 10am-4pm St. Andrew's Bookshop Book Sale.

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## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE ONE WORLD WEEK 23 to 30 OCTOBER 1994

## THE SUFFERING OF 50 MILLION PEOPLE

by  
JOHN MADELEY

There are now 23 million refugees, according to the latest figures of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the highest number at any time in history. These are people who have left their homes to become refugees in another country.

The UNHCR says that another 26 million are "displaced persons" - people who have been displaced from home but who have stayed within their own country. In all, it adds up to almost 50 million people - almost one in every hundred of the world's population.

Some 7.5 million refugees are in Africa, nearly 6 million in Asia and 6 million in Europe including some in Reading. In the countries that made up former Yugoslavia around 2 million people have sought refuge in neighbouring states, while a further 4 million are displaced people.

The living conditions of refugees are often grim and their plight little noticed; many have fled from war, violence and human rights abuses to live in makeshift camps that at least offer some secu-

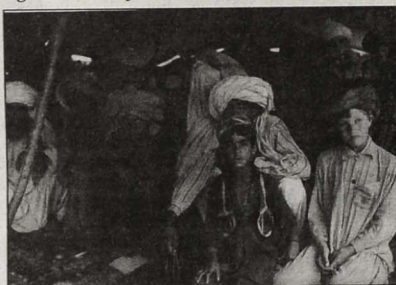
city. Once they have gone through the trauma of fleeing their borders, refugees seem willing to endure harsh living conditions for years before returning home. Thousands of people who fled into Sudan from northern Ethiopia in the 1970s, for example, are only now beginning to return home.

Some 6 million people from Afghanistan have sought refuge in Iran and Pakistan over the last 14 years, in the aftermath of the severe disruption that followed the Soviet invasion of 1979. The ousting of the Soviet-installed government was the signal for many of the

refugees to trek back home. But although over a million have returned, many Afghans remain in Iran and Pakistan.

In Africa, 1.2 million Rwandans are refugees in Zaire. Even more people - 1.7 million - have fled into Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia and Swaziland over the last few years from the civil war in Mozambique.

"Refugees have fled their homes and their homelands for compelling reasons", says the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mrs Sadako Ogata, "for them to return home safely and voluntarily, there must be a significant change in the conditions which caused their flight".



Pakistani Refugees

photo9161 - Courtesy Y. Cuénon

## REMEMBERING REFUGEES

During One World Week the young people in Caversham are being encouraged to remember refugees - through competitions and through being 'on the move' themselves!

The 3-5 age group have been busy making a picture of the shoe-house where the old lady lived with all her children and had her problems. Primary age children were asked to design a trainer shoe, whilst children of secondary age had to write a short essay on which five of their possessions they would take with them if they were refugees and the reasons for their choices. The winning entries will be on display in Caversham Library from 22nd-29th October, so do come along to see them.

Should you be out and about in Caversham on the morning of Saturday, 29th October, do look for a stream of 'refugees' carrying bundles and on the move. They will be children who have been invited to dress appropriately in order, by their banners and leaflets, to tell the story of the plight of PEOPLE ON THE MOVE in many parts of the world. The 'refugees' will leave Caversham Court at 11.00am and end their journey at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church where they will be revived by bread and soup!

## YOU CAN BE ON THE MOVE!

If you attend one of the Caversham churches you may be invited on the morning of the first day of One World Week, Sunday 23rd October, to be 'on the move' to worship at another church in Caversham of the same or different denomination. Invitations will be available in the churches from One World Week representatives.

You may like, later in the day, to attend the special service at 3.00pm in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, or that in Westminster Abbey at 6.30pm, where the congregation will give thanks for those countries which open their doors to refugees and asylum seekers and pray for greater generosity from materially rich countries.

## GET THE REFUGEE PROBLEM RIGHT! QUIZ

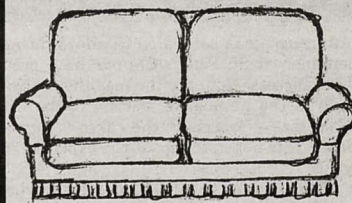
Answers at foot of p.13

- What is the largest cause of refugees in the world?  
(a) famine and environmental disasters  
(b) wars and famine  
(c) the Reading Rock Festival
- Which of these famous people was a refugee?  
(a) Mother Teresa  
(b) Albert Einstein  
(c) Boy George
- What percentage of refugees seek safety status in Europe?  
(a) 57%  
(b) 28%  
(c) 5%
- In 1992, 24,065 people applied for refugee status in Britain. How many got it?  
(a) all of them  
(b) 32%  
(c) 3.2%
- Who or what are Kurds?  
(a) what Miss Muffet was eating when the spider arrived  
(b) an ethnic group in the middle East  
(c) a group of refugees from Somalia
- Refugee camps aim to provide 10 litres of water per person each day. How much water do we need each day to survive?  
(a) 5 litres  
(b) 10 litres  
(c) 20 litres
- What is the biggest threat to refugees trying to go home?  
(a) the Mamba snake  
(b) a landmine.  
(c) a lion trap

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## ONE WORLD WEEK

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by  
JOHN MADELEY

John Steinbeck's book "The Grapes of Wrath", vividly portrayed how farmers in the United States had to abandon their own land in the 1930s and move away to what they hoped would be greener pastures. Their land had become a "dust bowl", eroded by inappropriate agricultural practices.

In the Third World the problem goes on today. Some 26 million people are now displaced in their own country, many because of economic and environmental circumstances. Many move to other areas because they can no longer make a living from their land - and every day another 2000 to 3000 people join their ranks. Unlike political refugees, they have no United Nations or other kind of international organisation to look after their interests.

What is happening today is that nature in some parts of the world can take no more. "Vast areas are becoming unfit for human habitation", says Jodi L. Jacobson in an article in the UN Fund for Population Activities magazine *Populi*.

Land on the fringes of deserts, for example, is becoming degraded, partly because it is over-worked by people battling for survival. Africa is experiencing the highest numbers of environmental refugees, mostly from the Sahel region which stretches across the continent from Mauritania to Sudan. Lying on the southern end of the Sahara desert, the Sahel region is vulnerable to creeping sand, over-grazing and loss to top soil. It seems that many millions of people have become environmental refugees in the last 20 years, and have moved south to the Ivory Coast and other countries on the West African coastline. The African continent, north of the Sahara, is also affected, with desertification a severe problem for several countries, especially Algeria and Morocco.

In the 1980s many farmers in India were forced by drought to move from western Rajasthan and from eastern parts of the country to neighbouring

Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Some of them made their way to Madras, causing pressure on basic services such as water.

Some of the world's largest cities are to be found in Latin America; this is partly due to the influx of farmers whose land could no longer yield them a living. "Millions of poverty-stricken farmers facing decades of agricultural neglect and land degradation throughout the mountains and plains of South America", writes Jodi Jacobson, "fill the urban shanty towns of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Lima and La Paz".

Third World governments are often genuinely short of funds to tackle the problem - due to foreign debt, low commodity prices, and an unjust international economic situation. The Brundtland Report, *Our Common Future*, says in relation to Africa, "debts that they cannot pay force African nations relying on commodity sales to over-use their fragile soils, thus turning good land into desert. Trade barriers... make it hard for Africans to sell their goods for reasonable returns, putting yet more pressure on ecological systems".

The international economic and financial system is therefore partly responsible for the increase in the numbers of environmental refugees. Changes in the system, in the form of debt relief and in the terms of trade, are needed to help stem the flow.

## "SEA REFUGEES"

Global warming, the so-called "greenhouse effect", could lead to a further vast increase in the number of environmental refugees. A warmer world could lead to rising sea levels and seriously affect some of the developing world's most populated

countries. A one-metre rise in ocean levels worldwide "may result in the creation of 50 million environmental refugees", believes Jacobson.

For the people of Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, the effect could be catastrophic.

Already Bangladesh has suffered from flooding in times of high rainfall. But a one-metre rise in the seas around its coasts could force between 20 to 25 million people from their homes, perhaps a fifth of the population.

Low-lying Egypt could also be seriously affected. Over a quarter of Egypt's habitable area could be at risk of flooding. "Several shallow, brackish lakes along the coast, accounting for 50 per cent of the nation's fish catch, would also be endangered", says Jacobson. According to the UN Environment Programme, Gambia, Indonesia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, Surinam and Thailand are also among the most vulnerable countries to sea-level rise.

A number of small Pacific and Indian Ocean islands could be turned into virtual desert and depopulated by rising seas, with their inhabitants forced to flee abroad. In the Pacific, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau and the Marshall Islands are particularly at risk. In the Indian Ocean, the Maldives is very vulnerable. Some of these islands are only several metres above sea level at their highest point.

The limited climate convention agreed by leaders at the Rio summit in 1992 should lead to a stabilisation in carbon dioxide emissions and a slowing down in global warming, but may not be enough to bring stability to sea-levels.

The energy we use up, in our homes, motor cars, etc, and the policies of our government on matters such as Third World Debt, are linked to the refugee problem. In our "One World" of the 1990s, refugees and displaced people are the responsibility of us all.

## ALL THE PRESIDENT'S OMENS!

"In my mind's eye", wrote Dr Leslie Griffiths to the Methodist Recorder from Harare, "I have a clear picture of typical 'refugees': lines of people, pitifully clutching whatever precious belongings they can carry, walking dispiritedly along endless roads towards destinations they cannot even imagine. But that's not what happened in this part of Malawi. Scores of thousands of Mozambicans fled the horrors of war and senseless destruction, abandoning their homes on one side of the road and rushing to take shelter on the other. They could actually see their lands being ravaged and smell the fire consuming their homes. Peace has now broken out in Mozambique, and Leslie relates seeing two trucks crammed with refugees returning home after years in Malawi, clutching their rolled up mats and with treasured possessions tied up in plastic bags.

The Revd. Dr Leslie Griffiths, currently President of the Methodist Conference, has recently returned from travelling in southern Africa for Christian Aid. He commenced his travels in Malawi, visiting a refugee camp which once held over 100,000 refugees from Mozambique. Now the camp has only 65,000, and the problem is to help the original Malawian population re-establish their lives now that the refugees who camped on their land are going home.

From Malawi Leslie Griffiths went to Zimbabwe and then to Mozambique, where he saw for himself the

devastation caused by the magnificent arms supplied to the warring factions, on the one hand by the Soviet Union and on the other by Portugal, South Africa and the United States, as long as the Cold War lasted. Millions fled into Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Swaziland and South Africa, whilst huge tracts of land were laid waste. Now this is a ravaged land where almost everything needs to be rebuilt. "The abomination of desolation", Leslie writes, "bestrides like a colossus, the devastated land".

In Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Thursday, 27th October at 7.30pm, the President will relate his travels in southern Africa and speak on his hopes and fears for these great lands. Do not miss this opportunity of hearing this popular and challenging contributor to Radio 4's 'Thought for Today'.



Mozambican refugees in the Bindura camp in Zimbabwe.

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Rev. Dr. Leslie Griffiths.

## ANSWERS TO THE REFUGEE QUIZ

- (b) The vast majority of refugees are fleeing from some form of conflict. Others may be fleeing political or ethnic persecution. People fleeing environmental or economic problems are not refugees according to the United Nations definition.
- The great scientist Albert Einstein was a refugee from Nazi Germany. Mother Teresa went to India of her own accord.
- Only 5% of refugees try to find asylum in Europe. In fact 8 out of 10 refugees are fleeing from one poor country in the south to another. Whilst we worry about relatively small numbers, poor countries like Malawi are playing host to millions.
- (c) Only 3.2% were granted full refugee status, but another 43.9% were given 'exceptional leave to remain'. This lets them stay in the country temporarily, but doesn't give them the same rights as refugees.
- (b) About 20 million Kurds have fled their homeland in the mountains joining Iraq, Iran and Turkey. Around 420,000 of these are now refugees, having fled ethnic violence.
- (a) We need 5 litres of water each day to survive, but an average family in Britain is likely to use 1,000 litres a day!
- (b) An estimated 800 people are killed by landmines every month in poor countries in the South. 75% of survivors need at least one amputation. Until roads and fields can be cleared of mines, it is too dangerous for many refugees to return home.

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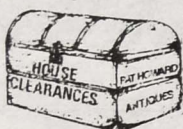
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# POSTBAG

Dear Editor,  
re: **'The Great Bridge'**  
item in your September issue.

Could I correct most of the contribution about the 'Great Bridge'? I happened to notice it because the Rotarians very kindly asked me to dedicate the plaque on the Bridge, after I had explained to them the significance of their logo, about which more later.

As I told them before the dedication, the Chapel to which their badge referred was the Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham, the chief claim to fame on this side of the river. The Chapel on the Bridge was, as you rightly say, a Chapel of St Anne, which was matched on the Reading side of the Bridge by a Chapel of the Holy Spirit. They were built, presumably, as 'slipper' chapels for pilgrims en route to the Shrine, which was situated near St Peter's Church, and a visit to the Well at the top of Priest Lane (now Priest Hill). The Chapel on the Bridge became a dwelling house until long after the Reformation.

The Bridge, incidentally, was built sometime between the years 1219 and 1231 at the joint expense of the Abbey and the Lord of the Manor of Caversham, to facilitate pilgrims for the Shrine.

Your mention of the relic is of a relic of the True Cross, brought by Robert, Duke of Normandy from the crusades in 1106, and pre-

sented to the Shrine. The Shrine itself became as important as that of Walsingham, and received patronage from royalty and nobility. There were great pilgrimages to it, as was reported by the Commissioner, Dr John London, sent by Henry VIII to destroy the Shrine and pillage its precious plating and gold crown to pay for Henry's ludicrous French adventures.

Dr London wrote to the King explaining that he had put the statue on a boat for London, and, as a postscript ridicules the relics he found, such as (he said) 'a piece of the halter Judas hanged himself with, and an angel with one wing that brought to Caversham the spear head that pierced our Saviour's side upon the Cross'. Even Dr London, with all his sarcasm would hardly claim that the angel was 'the relic'. The fame of the Shrine never depended on relics, genuine or otherwise, but on the faith of the pilgrims who flocked there.

These are one or two details taken from a short pamphlet about the Shrine, which is readily available for a nominal sum. It seems a great pity that there is such lack of knowledge about Caversham's real glory.

Yours etc.  
Thomas Meagher  
Father Thomas  
Meagher, St Anne's

The Presbytery  
2 Southview Avenue  
Caversham

## FACTORS

Dear Editors,  
I note with interest a letter from Jeanne Smith in September issue of Caversham Bridge. Some of the points raised, such as use of small print, is surely at the type-setter or printer's discretion? However, it is healthy and refreshing to realise that there are those 'out there' who are prepared to offer constructive criticism.

I have been a reader since the 1960s and a contributor for at least the last three years. As Jeanne's letter gives only June Hardcastle a

'clean bill of health', my own articles must 'fall beneath the hammer'. May I thus say, 'Thank you and well done Jeanne'. Whilst being unable to promise 'fireworks' or a host of hearty humour in the foreseeable future, she may rest assured that should I ever stray from the fact into the realms of fiction - and fail to make it frivolously funny, it will be only with an instant twinge of conscience, therein.

When aiming to complete an article in 400 words, space being a priority, omission rather than inclusion becomes the 'order of the day'. Then there are all sorts of other factors such as 'balance' and the 'set' of a Magazine - one has always to write for the readership, whether a book, novel, or a parish magazine. It just is not possible to please every reader.

Further, our five very able Editors are of long-standing and experience who forever have their 'blue pencils' poised and 'ready for action'. (I'm only joking, of course!)

SCOPS OWL

## LACKING HUMOUR?

Dear Editors,

I am sorry Jeanne Smith (Post Bag, September) finds us poor hacks on this newspaper so lacking in wit and humour. I really do try to produce a scintillatingly brilliant column, sparkling with wit, but somehow when I come to read it through I don't burst my sides with laughter so I don't expect my readers do either.

But, come, come, 'staid and serious'. Well, perhaps it's a case of how others see us, but I can assure Mrs. Smith that it certainly does not describe my fellow columnists. For my part though, it is difficult to produce a barrage of jokes when faced with such devastation as that going on in Bugs Bottom, but I will have a good try at making traffic and local government boundaries good for a laugh.

Yours sincerely  
Watchdog

## CHANGES

Dear Katy,

As a regular reader of the Caversham Bridge I was so pleased to hear you were having the same grumble as me; why have all our neighbours shut themselves away from society and their neighbours? Well, I think the answer lies with everyone being out to work all day or unemployed, and TV and videos take up the rest of their time.

I've lived in this house since 1941 and I can tell you I've seen the road go from lively chat and people around to being like a graveyard, dead. I have very good neighbours but I rarely hear or see them; people today have no interest in the world around them, they do not do any gardening, they have no hobbies and when you do speak to them they are like a lot of zombies. You don't see your neighbours out as they all have cars. No one walks anywhere now.

I was made redundant seven years ago. I dreaded it; I was fifty-eight, single. I came home and I've been alone ever since, and am still single. I do agree with you, you don't want to be in and out of one another's homes. I don't understand this world now. My young neighbour says 'Pop in and have a chat', but never tells me when I can go in so I don't bother. For people living on their own life is lonely. I had

one old lady in my road stood at her gate and cried 'I'm so lonely, my family don't want me'. She was eighty, she just gave up and died.

We had another old lady over eighty, so lonely she drank herself to death. I had another good neighbour had two strokes and died. It never went into the paper, he was buried, and weeks later neighbours were asking me how Bill was. I'm now keeping an eye on my other eighty-one year old neighbour. He has no one, never goes out now. He has a home help and nurses who go in, but that's all, and all my neighbours keep saying 'How's the old chap, never see him now, is he dead?'. I say to them 'Why don't you knock on his front door and find out?'

It's so sad Katy to see the way people have changed so much over the years. To finish, you take me, I'm an uncle and great uncle, and I don't see any of my nieces and nephews. I have two married sisters, one has gone to live in the States. They are in their seventies so I won't see them any more. My other sister lives at Winnersh, I have not seen her for the past twenty years. So there you are, this is why you and I don't see our neighbours.

Yours etc.  
Name and address  
supplied.

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# SCOTLAND'S WILD WEST

Having driven the full length of Loch Ness without a glimpse of 'Nessie' we drove west from Fort Augustus and diverted onto the twenty-five miles of lonely, single-track road which runs alongside Lochs Garry and Quoich, to Kinloch Hourn.

A solitary fly-fisherman in a small boat drifted before a gentle north-westerly, up Loch Garry as a Peregrine soared high above.

A fleeting shadow overhead prompted instant investigation. Stopping the car, we rounded a small hillock and came face to face with a Golden Eagle, standing astride a freshly-killed rabbit. Majestically it rose, minus its catch, to which we hoped it would soon return. Guilt assailed us, surprised that 'the eagle had landed' as usually they will take their prey and fly on. It was Jill's 'first' – and what a way to get it.

We resumed our journey, constantly avoiding straggling sheep. Whinchats sat atop fences enclosing shaggy, Highland cattle. In a clearing two Wheatears occupied a boulder, beneath which a party of Twoite prospected a patch of grass.

Approaching the end of Loch Quoich, Greenfinches and a male Redstart sang from a tree overhanging the water. Moments later, two Black-throated Divers surprisingly emerged from the shadows.

Beyond, the road becomes a tortuous mountain-track with 'bottomless' gorges and sheer mountain-faces. Years before, I had misjudged a seemingly innocuous turn and stopped abruptly on the brink of a precipice. We had to detach the heavy tent-trailer in order to negotiate the severity of the bend.

This time, a herd of red deer scaled the gorge, crossed in front of us

and nimbly climbed the near vertical mountain on our left.

In bottom-gear we eased carefully downwards to the small, asphalted area which terminates the 'road' overlooking Kinloch Hourn as a Merganser, disturbed by our arrival, swam across those brooding waters, carrying two young on her back. On either side, three-thousand foot mountains plunge into the loch, Norwegian-fjord fashion, helping to determine the wet, local climate.

Hereafter, an enthusiastic back-packer has ten miles of sheep-track for company to the outer sea-loch.

Seldom are other mortals encountered throughout this exhilaratingly wild, fifty miles round-trip.

Scotland boasts many such areas of desolate beauty which should be undertaken only with highly-equipped caution – and considerable respect; one may then feel welcome to return again.

Less mobile birdwatchers may take heart as all species herein, except Golden Eagle, have been recorded near Reading during comparatively recent years.

SCOPS OWL

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### Caversham Heights TG

#### Tracing Your Family Tree

At the meeting of the main guild of Caversham Heights Townswomen in August at St Andrew's hall a collection as part of emergency help for Rwanda was made. As there have been a few more new members recently a meeting to welcome them was arranged for September. Members were asked to think about the need in the new year for a new chairman, vice-chairman, several committee members and perhaps a new secretary.

Mrs J. Debney was the speaker at the meeting, describing how tracing

family history has been her hobby for over twenty years. It began with her own family history, purely by asking questions. She indicated some of the sources available which may be consulted if you wish to trace your family tree. There are potentially many, many ancestors to be discovered. She recommended finding relations who can be approached and questioned. Write down all the information received and then pursue one line. A useful book which will not give mental indigestion is "Beginning your family history" by George Pelling published by Countryside Books.

The next meeting will take the form of a harvest fair, and produce such as jam and pickles may be brought along for sale.

### University of the Third Age Reading Branch

July ended with a most enjoyable visit to Chichester. A full busload of members appreciated the drive and then the musical which combined songs of Noel Coward and Cole Porter. These were arranged by Robin Ray who pointed out the close ties between the two composers. Equally successful was a visit by members to Hampton Court. They were amazed at the rebuilding that has taken place since the fire.

The monthly talk in the Kennet Room was given by Rosemary Mather, the Educational Officer for the Reading Fire Brigade. She described the administrative set-up of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and pointed out how good a service is offered with the latest equipment.

She ended by begging all to invest in a smoke detector as most fatalities in fires are caused by smoke.

The Books group did not meet in August but are preparing to study Henry James in September. The Playreaders much enjoyed 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. The Music group heard David Evans give a comprehensive talk on 'The Rediscovery of the Harpsichord! It is hoped to start an Architecture group if a convenor can be found.

New members are always welcome. Please ring Frank Butters Phone 0628 27112.

### Chazey W.I.

Did you know that anyone can exercise every muscle in the body whilst sitting down? Well, Chazey W.I. members didn't – until their meeting on Tuesday 6th September. Mrs Jennifer Martin gave a talk called "Looking after yourself" and all sorts of interesting facts came to light. Mrs Martin is a physiotherapist who helps patients at Joyce Grove, the Sue Ryder Home at Nettlebed, and years of experience have given her skill in assessing a person's needs and abilities. She uses her knowledge to adapt exercises to each individual, working around their personal physical difficulties and easing their discomfort. Relaxation is one of the first goals, and then exercise. Chazey W.I. heard about the hazards of some fashionable footwear (trainers to stilettos heels), and the right and wrong way to do housework or pick up heavy objects, before being asked to sit up and exercise. Starting with clapping, members moved every joint from top to bottom (literally!) in time to music, all within the space of ten min-

utes. This sort of exercise can be done at any time, though perhaps not in the dentist's waiting room or waiting for a church service to begin although either would be a good moment to practise relaxation.

In keeping with the musical theme this month's competition was for the most unusual instrument – no difficulty for Chazey W.I. A bass recorder (enormous), a Chinese single string violin, an Andean flute, a copper kettle with a trumpet mouthpiece, pottery bird warblers, all showed that members visit exotic places for their holidays.

The social group visited the Museum of Rural Life on 14th September. This is the place to which everyone means to go when they have the time, so partners were included in the outing.

The next meeting is 4th October at 8.00pm in Mapledurham Pavilion and the talk is "Hypnotism" by Philip Simpson, possibly the ultimate in relaxation? Go along and find out for yourself.

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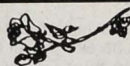
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