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ST. PETER'S ALIVE

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ST. PETER'S contribution to Thames Valley Alive took the form of a Celebration of Harvest with Flowers, Music and Displays. The theme of Harvest was chosen to show what the Living Church offers to God.

From Thursday the 22nd to Sunday the 25th of September the church was open daily for visitors to enjoy a Flower Festival which depicted the Festivals of the Christian Church, its Sacraments, its Music, the offering of Time, Talents and Gifts, Care and Concern for Others and the Organisations which promote the Christian way of life. As well as the many beautiful flower arrangements there was a comprehensive display of photographs illustrating the life of the Church and its links with the local community and overseas.

As music is such an integral part of Christian worship a varied programme of vocal and instrumental music was devised for visitors to enjoy while they examined the displays. Young people from the congregation, musicians from St. Peter's and other churches and the choir from St. Anne's School all contributed and their efforts were much appreciated.

On Friday evening there was a concert given by the Erleigh Quartet who delighted the audience with their talent and versatility. As well as the musical items there were readings from Betjeman and Kipling and a short story written by the late Edna Fitzgustave who used to worship at St. Peter's.

On the first afternoon of the festival a group from the Mothers' Union at St. Lawrence's, Hungerford, Canon Richard Kingsbury's previous parish, joined the M.U. members of St. Peter's, St. Andrew's and St. John's for Evensong followed by tea.

During the four days refreshments were served in the Vanderstegen Chapel, the ploughman's lunches and home-made cakes proving very popular. Above the doors of the chapel was a "stained glass" window made by the 10-12 group, linking the Christian symbol of the FISH with St. Peter the fisherman.

Members of the congregation of all ages worked together in many different ways to make this special four-day event a success. Let us hope and pray that those who visited the Festival joined with us in offering praises to God and saw St. Peter's as a Living Church where they will always find a welcome.



— Matthew Flanagan

The children of St. Anne's school delighted visitors to St. Peter's Flower Festival with their singing and recorder playing.



— Alan Longstaffe

For this display the children lent their toys and made paper flowers. Each child's name is written on a leaf of the Tree of Life. Liz Lowth, Hilary Coome and Judy Kelly put this display together on behalf of Cherubim.



— Alan Longstaffe

The glowing oranges and yellows of Julie Webb's arrangement symbolised life and the vibrancy added to church worship by music.

FAREWELL TO FATHER MEAGHER

Just as "Caversham Bridge" was going to press we learnt that Fr. Meagher, who has been Parish Priest at Our Lady and St Anne since 1981, was to leave Caversham early in November. He is returning to Staffordshire where he is taking over the Parish of St John the Baptist at Great Heywood. His successor has yet to be announced but, in the interim, Fr. Marcus Stock, a Caversham resident prior to his ordination in 1988, will be acting as 'locum'. We hope to have fuller details in December's issue.



— Alan Longstaffe

"Love God and Love thy Neighbour" is the theme of this magnificent display mounted by Doreen Bennett and Mary Tucker.

D/EX 1758/31/11

TALKING POINT

by
CANON RICHARD KINGSBURY
(Rector of St Peter and St Margaret)



ARCHBISHOP RAMSEY NEVER WORE A GREY SUIT

I remember, one November, thousands in Grosvenor Square, outside the US Embassy, police horses and all. Oh yes, I was there in my donkey-jacket, callow youth fired with idealism. The CND badge is lost, I forget now why we were there then. Is "idealism" a phase out of which we've grown?

Remember the old Tory Party (Iain Macleod), the old Socialist Party (Tony Benn), the old Liberal Party (Jo Grimond)? Where has it all gone? Into suits and Cliff Richard look-alikes?

Sorry. That sounds cynical. But after the political parties' autumn conferences I long for fire again in our Nation's belly, for passion, for principles.

I go back to Sunday afternoons at Hyde Park Speakers Corner with Donald Soper. He thrived on confrontation, a prophet with fiery Christian principles. Now, where is the "counter-culture"? Is the Church sliding into the grey, anodyne mist, user-friendly but no bite?

Soper's soap box (as I remember it) has gone. So has any trace of a secular counter-culture, on which, like Ramsey and Soper, we can bite. Come back Albert Camus - it all feels too comfy here now. For some. Could Christian mission here be to get our fellow countrymen off their backsides, to turn off their TV Australian soap series and demand: "We stand for JESUS! For what do you stand? We have ideals. What are yours if they are not Christ's?"

1994's demise of idealism (with all its fanatical dangers) gives us a comfy life. For some. Bring on the Christmas tree fairy lights and the chocolate soldier. But shouldn't we not only comfort the disturbed but also disturb the comfortable?

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A PRESENTATION TO ALFRED AND EDNA MARTYN-JOHNS



— Dawn Holde r

At this year's Harvest Supper St Margaret's said goodbye to Edna and Alf Martyn-Johns on their retirement to Kintbury.

A presentation was made to them which included a book of memories to which many people subscribed by writing a little piece about their remembrances of Alf and Edna whilst at Mapledurham and including a picture of themselves and their family.

KINTBURY'S GAIN, MAPLEDURHAM'S LOSS

One day, in September 1953, Edna and Alf Martyn-Johns arrived at Greendene Farm, Mapledurham with some hens, a dog and one cow called Polly. Edna immediately began to sell eggs at the farmhouse door and Alf began to tackle the farm. From that day onwards they went from strength to strength.

From that day onwards they also decided that as they had come to live in Mapledurham they would be as much part of the community as possible, help wherever they could and join in as much as they were able with life in the parish. It was to be a joint effort and they certainly achieved all they set out to do.

Edna became a member of the Mapledurham Mothers' Union and Young Wives until both closed down. She has recently joined the former at St Peter's. She was a founder member of the Link Group and since giving up her thriving farm shop four years ago she has been helping the Jubilee Club and she was ever ready to transport them to hospital, dentist and take them shopping.

Alf became a member of the PCC and was on it for thirty-nine years, becoming Church Warden several times and acting as Chairman for the Parish Hall at Trench Green. He also became a manager of the little Church of England village school till it closed. He was also a church warden of Caversham until the reorganisation of the parish.

Besides his involvement with church affairs, Alf was thirty-eight years on Mapledurham parish council, serving as chairman for six years. He was also on Henley RDC for some fifteen years and its chairman for three. He was a Justice of the Peace for twenty-seven years.

Having worked so hard for the parish they will inevitably be greatly missed. We shall all have our own memories of them, both in Mapledurham and Caversham. We have much for which to thank them and we wish them every blessing for their future in Kintbury and hope they have a long and happy retirement there. We also hope, as they have promised, that we shall see them quite often when they visit Jane and her family.

"ESTONIA"

The sinking of the ferry "ESTONIA" and the loss of over nine hundred people brought St Peter's flag to half-mast, not least because some of the Swedish and Estonian pastors - now helping the bereaved - were in Caversham for the English-Nordic/Baltic Pastoral Conference just a few months ago. The Caversham Bridge is read in Sweden, Estonia and Finland. We send our prayers and love to our Lutheran brothers and sisters.

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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 December issue should be sent to Church House, by noon on Wednesday 3 November.

All advertising copy should be sent to Mrs E. Maule, 18 Albert Road, Caversham by 1 November.

The dates for January will be Monday 28 November and Wednesday 30 November.

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

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

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

Printed by Chiltern Offset, Amersham, Bucks.

POSTBAG

30 YEARS AGO

Dear Editor,

When I read in the Caversham Bridge that it was the thirtieth anniversary of the paper my mind went spinning back to a day in 1964 when I had just moved to Caversham with my husband and baby daughter of five months. A lady called to ask me if I would like the Caversham Bridge paper each month and also would I like to join a newly formed group for mums and babies which was called the Wednesday Group. It started as a once a month group but as more members joined and we enjoyed it so much, it became once a week, naturally on a Wednesday. We held the meetings in our homes and managed to get rid of our husbands just for the evening. We were all young mums and it was a relief to talk to each other and find we all had common problems in the home and with our children. We often had a speaker from different organisations who would come and talk to us. I always read the paper then and often delivered it with the children in the pram. It was a good time and after the children grew up I think the group finished.

After moving away from Caversham for a while I ceased to read the paper

and forgot all about it and then about a year ago, now living in Emmer Green, a dear lady knocked on my door and asked me if I would be interested in having the Caversham Bridge delivered. I was delighted and she seemed quite surprised at my eagerness but it was just like finding an old friend again.

Yours etc.
(Mrs) Liz Scott
36 Venetia Close
Emmer Green

FOXES?

Dear Sirs,

I read the October issue of Caversham Bridge with much interest. It's a little odd, because I've lived in Caversham for thirty years and perhaps because of work and family commitments have only had a passing interest in your paper.

My wife, Florence, who unhappily died in August, took more interest in local affairs. Now it begins to capture more of my interest too - as I recognise the work you do to keep a sense of locality and community alive.

There is a small point I might mention. Our garden at Priest Hill has three small lawns, one front, two back, which I keep in trim. Frequently I find animal deposits of the

unpleasantest kind which need to be removed before cutting.

I've been thinking that cats are the culprits - often seen in our garden. However, a friend suggests this may be unlikely since cats usually deposit on broken ground - he thinks foxes may be to blame!

I know foxes have been around though I've not seen any. Perhaps your readers have evidence and sightings of foxes in Caversham - as low down as Priest Hill?

This topic may have been frequently aired in your paper - but I for one would be interested.

Best wishes
Neil C. Haigh
15 Priest Hill
Caversham

"THE GREAT BRIDGE"

Dear Sir,

I feel Father Meagher has misunderstood the purpose of the photograph and short article about "The Great Bridge" in September's edition. It was intended to bring the admirable plaque erected on Caversham Bridge by the Rotarians to the notice of 'those who pass by'. Whilst the bridge and its long life was briefly mentioned, it was not intended to be a history of the bridge or the Chapels and their relics, as there are many excellent books available on the history of Reading and Caversham (including 'The History of Caversham Bridge' mentioned) and we also have our local historian!

Yours etc.
Name and address supplied

DARE TO DECIDE - A WORD OF WISDOM

Dear friends,

When my dear wife Iris died, after fifty-four years of marriage, I had a sense of loss, a wound that would not heal, but as a Christian I sorrow, not like those without hope; I will see my bride again.

Iris and I from our youth,

decided to follow Jesus. We became born again Christians. No devil could stop us, we simply, like Mary, said "Lord, let it be done according to your will".

The death of my daughter, dear Christine, aged forty, and my wife, brought home the truth. Continue to dare to decide you are going on in a deeper faith. God gives us the right to declare our decision. He will not force His will upon us, but He has provided His Name, Blood, Kingdom to come, and a closer walk with Him, but you make the decision.

Decide it now. Young believer decide for service. Senior Citizen, don't wait for God - decide to walk like Enoch did into heaven in God's time. Minister, in a dry patch, be filled with the Spirit. The gift of Pentecost is like Jesus. Just the same today for healing.

Yours etc.
Ted Burnell,
retired Pastor
11 Bristow Court,
Harley Road, Caversham

LONELINESS

I was very sad to read one letter in your paper concerning, in general, loneliness. So much of what the writer says is true, but before the gentleman (or lady) collapses in despair, may I suggest one or two ways in which he can help. I too know what it is like to feel nobody cares, to wake in the morning knowing there is no longer a little collection of correspondence awaiting reading, and to know that nobody is likely to call in during the day. Like him, we once lived in a road where everyone knew everyone else and a great joy it was to meet people and have a little chat when out shopping.

On a morning when this particular 'black bear' takes hold I try to think of somebody who does need, and would like a call, however brief, and the writer of the letter is

down the road I am sure to see somebody, possibly a stranger who has recently moved in. And quite honestly I try to force them to notice me simply by, as far as possible, making some remark as I walk past, and the simpler the better. I'm sure there's no need for me to go into details but a mere 'Good Morning' or 'What a lovely day', or even a comment on somebody's gardening efforts or a pet, can make a contact which I hope will in time make us all much more conscious of our neighbours.

Of course one does have the occasional rebuff, but it happens far less than you think, and isn't it worth the effort. I feel it doesn't really hurt me if somebody does ignore me and a contact, however casual, makes me feel a whole lot better. Wouldn't it be nice if this led to a gradual renewal of the old spirit of neighbourliness which we older ones remember well.

To misquote President Kennedy: "Ask not what your neighbour can do for you; ask what you can do for your neighbour." It might help all of us.

Name and address supplied



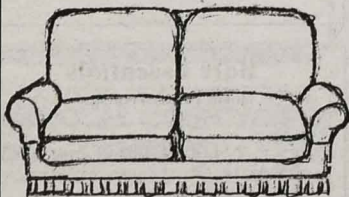
- E. S. Archer

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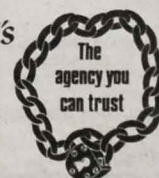
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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

By Watchdog

SUBURB, TOWN OR VILLAGE

Should Caversham become a parish? There has been talk of this, somewhat desultory, it is true, ever since the choice to do so was included in the explanatory matter setting out the functions of unitary authorities. Caversham and District Residents' Association is organising a symposium on 7th November to find out what emparishment entails and whether people think it would be of benefit to Caversham or whether they would prefer things to go on more or less as before.

Caversham used to be a parish up till 1911, when it was incorporated into the then County Borough of Reading. Parts of what is now Caversham used to be in the parishes of Mapledurham and Eye and Dunsden until the last local government reorganisation of 1974. In the course of that time Caversham has grown, if not beyond recognition, to many times its original size, but it has always remained an identifiable entity. There is no doubt about where it starts and where it stops — unlike the case with the other Reading suburbs. It is that which makes it something more than just a suburb, though when developers, seeking planning consent to fill up any spare corner they can find with concrete or bricks and mortar, refer to it as a town, one can sense hackles rising. On the other hand there are many who still talk of "going to the village" when they are going to the shops, which raises a smile among newcomers. All this makes it a possible candidate for emparishment.

In latter years the rigid demarcation line that used to divide "them" from "us" has become blurred and the relationships between the local authority and residents have become more constructive. Reading is not so big that councillors are totally unacquainted with some parts of the town as can be the case with the County, when councillors from, say Wrybury or Hungerford, are called on to make a decision about something like bus lanes in Caversham, although a unitary authority will be smaller than a county, it will still be bigger than the Borough it will replace and the lines of communication built up over the years will be lost.

This is where a parish, which would have certain statutory powers, could come in useful. Tilehurst already has, and in fact never lost, a parish council and an enlarged Reading coming into being, it is quite possible that the new arrivals will want to maintain their parish status. Should Caversham join them?

Conversely, Caversham has managed quite well without a parish (a secular one that is, not an ecclesiastical one) for well over eighty years. In that time Residents' Associations have sprung up which, while not having statutory powers, have conveyed local concerns to the Borough Council and in many cases have influenced policy or brought about action. Parishes have their rules laid down from outside which could be restrictive. Parishes have a regular source of income (the parish precept) whereas Residents' Associations avoid party politics, though their members may be of any party or none. Residents' Associations often have difficulty in finding sufficient volunteers to carry out tasks but it is not unheard of for parishes to be unable to find people to offer themselves for election.

The hope is for the symposium to produce a consensus which will show which way Caversham wants to go. The whole idea can be packed up and put away, or pursued further in the limited time left to make application for parish status.

Reducing Speed

Residents of Kidmore Road have been pressing for a long time for traffic calming measures in their road. It is long and winding which ought to slow down traffic but for some reason does not, and on one side there are stretches without a footway which means pedestrians have to cross and recross the road or press themselves against the hedge, and motorists emerging from their drives are already on the carriageway before they can see what is coming.

The residents have been listened to, and a plan has been produced which includes humps, mini-roundabouts and revised priorities. Over two hundred people went along to what was billed as an exhibition to see what was on offer. The exhibition consisted of one inadequate map on a trestle table, which had neither a key nor an accompanying explanatory text, diagrams or pictures. The two councillors who were present were kept busy explaining to those who could get close enough to see what little there was to see what it was all about.

"How will it affect me?" played a large part in the comments, though it would probably be unfair to call it "nimbysism" as the traffic was going into someone's back yard anyhow. Whilst everyone agreed that Kidmore Road had problems, fears were expressed that measures to restrict the speed of traffic there might only drive it into other roads (mine, for instance!) and thus only export the problem. People who found a hump was likely to be sited right outside their house were noticeably less enthusiastic than those more favourable placed.

Irresponsible motorists have much to answer for in their disregard for those living along their routes and for pedestrians whom they seemingly never even notice. Whether the solutions shown, or rather not shown, are the answer, is another story. P.C. Stratton standing there with his notebook would probably be the best deterrent, though he would doubtless point out that other duties already fill his day. Residents of Kidmore Road will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of this consultation.

Still Traffic

In a recent issue of one of the local newspapers, there were three items on the front page dealing with the ways traffic is making life miserable for those who live along busy roads. Caversham Road is one of them. When plans were first announced for widening Caversham Road, Caversham and District Residents' Association pointed out that it would mean bringing the traffic closer to the houses and if it was carried out, sound insulation for the houses affected should be part of the package. It was not, of course, and one won-

ders how people manage to sleep at all in the front bedrooms of most of the houses. The trees which were felled would also have absorbed some of the noise and their leaves would have reduced the harmful effect of the fumes. Caversham Road, as the Association pointed out, was the most sensitive part of any scheme designed to increase traffic flow along that route, as it was an established residential and retail road. It never could be a quiet road, but it is the residents who are paying the price for any benefits that the motorists who do not live along it have gained. They deserve some amelioration of their misery.

Green Grows the Grass

As visitors to Caversham Court will know, the turf laid on the top lawn early in the summer succumbed to the drought, only the weeds in it surviving. Now the new turf has been laid and it already looks happier and more established than the first lot ever did. A rather attractive looking path has been laid across the grass as the grass on that route used to get worn away, in addition to not making a good surface to walk on in wet weather.

The woodchip path across the churchyard is not entirely satisfactory as it keeps getting trodden downwards and needs renewing. However, it is environmentally friendly and as the Borough seems to have a plentiful supply of wood chips (don't forget to hand in your Christmas tree) perhaps it does not really matter.

Bus Lane

It is about time someone came along with a scrubbing brush or some tar and blotted out the bus lane in Church Street. It is also about time to alter the phasing of the traffic lights at the junction to reduce the risk to life and limb of pedestrians and motorists trying to turn right. And the notices banning right hand turns out of Priory Avenue might as well go at the same time, as the alternatives are even more disruptive than turning right. And while we are about it, is the inwards bus stop there sited at the best possible point?

Diary Date

Monday, 7th November, 8.00pm Caversham Baptist Free Church Hall, Prospect Street, "Emparishment for Caversham?" A symposium with five speakers followed by discussion. Organised by Caversham and District Residents' Association. (Phone 0734 772300).

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

CHURCHES CELEBRATE
TOGETHER

The fourth anniversary of the establishment of new and wider ecumenical relationships between the churches was supposed to be celebrated by an Open Air Service in Caversham Court in mid-September but for the second time in its history the weather intervened. Although it was not actually raining at the time the weather was damp and bleak and the decision for Churches Together in Caversham to celebrate in St Peter's Church was wise. The only loss was the witness to the wider world.

The sharing of what we have in common in worship in these occasional but regular ecumenical services is appreciated. The major emphasis this year has been on *Thames Valley Alive*; one of the aims of the Mission has been to bring churches closer together to work for evangelism. This it has done in the Reading area and in Caversham. It was thus entirely appropriate that on this occasion the special preacher should have been the Revd Rupert Higgins from Christ Church, Clifton, one of Caversham's Assistant Missioners. His sermon was a curtain raiser for the Mission reminding us of Christ's life-changing love reaching out to all. He was accompanied by three members of the Clifton Drama Group who made several telling points in a series of simple sketches.



Although we do not have an action photograph, the Revd Rupert Higgins (*Thames Valley Alive* Assistant Missioner), second from left, was captured on film afterwards outside St. Peter's Church with the Clifton Drama Group on his right. The Revd Phil Abrey, Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham, is on the extreme left.



Our picture shows Sue Penson (right), the new ITEM Industrial Officer, being welcomed by the Revd Elizabeth Brazell (Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading).

WELCOME TO ITEM'S NEW
INDUSTRIAL OFFICER

Miss Sue Penson, the new Industrial Officer for Reading's Industry, Trade and Employment Mission (ITEM), took up her appointment towards the end of June. She was subsequently welcomed and inducted by the Revd Elizabeth Brazell, Chairperson of Churches Together in Reading (CTR) at a small service in early September at the Executive of CTR at which representatives of ITEM and the Industrial Chaplains in Berkshire were also present. Sue Penson is the fourth Industrial Officer for ITEM and breaks new ground by being the first lay appointment; she is also the first woman and the first Roman Catholic to hold this ecumenical post.

Through the Industrial Officer and a number of Honorary Chaplains, also working with ITEM, the Church has a presence in a range of industrial and commercial organisations in Reading, including Heelas, the Civic Centre, Shire Hall and the Police Station. It could do more if it had more volunteers willing to take on this work. The Industrial Officer's role is part chaplaincy (Sue Penson is chaplain to John Crane Ltd and Community Industry), part enabling and encouraging, part co-ordinating and part communicating, particularly with local congregations and clergy. The work has pastoral and prophetic elements and links faith and work together. Sue is herself supported by the ITEM Executive drawn from representatives of the various denominations. She has an office in St. Mary's House, Chain Street, Reading, and may be contacted by phone on 01734 573568.

Sue Penson is a native of Emmer Green, has a B.A. in History from Stirling University and a Certificate in Pastoral Care and Counselling from Edinburgh University. She has worked in the Civil Service and, as an auxiliary nurse, has spent two years with the Taizé Community in France, for whom she subsequently visited India, and has some experience of hospital chaplaincy. She therefore comes to her new role with a wide background. Her Taizé experience has equipped her for ecumenical work and she herself was an Anglican before being received into the Roman Catholic Church. We wish her well in her new appointment.

NEW BAPTIST LEADER INDUCTED



Pictured at the induction are, from left to right, the Revd David Coffey (General Secretary of the Baptist Union), Mr Ken Shield (President of the Berkshire Baptist Association), Mrs Pauline Taylor, the Revd Jeff Taylor (the new Pastor/Secretary), the Revd Geoffrey Reynolds (Baptist Union Southern Area Superintendent) and the Revd Reg Harvey (General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society).

Woodley Baptist Church was the scene of the induction of the new Berkshire Baptist Leader at the end of September by the Revd Geoffrey Reynolds, Southern Area Superintendent of the Baptist Union. The Revd Jeff Taylor comes to Berkshire from Didcot where he was Baptist minister and has now begun his appointment as Pastor/Secretary of the Berkshire Baptist Association. His induction was attended by representatives of Baptist Churches from all over Berkshire including the Local Ecumenical Partnership at Caversham Park and Caversham Baptist Free Church, in addition to a strong contingent from Didcot. During the service there were greetings from two members of his former church in Didcot, namely the Revd David Coffey, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, and the Revd Reg Harvey, General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society. There were also greetings from the Girls' Brigade for which the Revd Jeff Taylor is National Chaplain. A welcome from the churches in Caversham was covered by Churches Together in Berkshire, which was representing around 250 different congregations.

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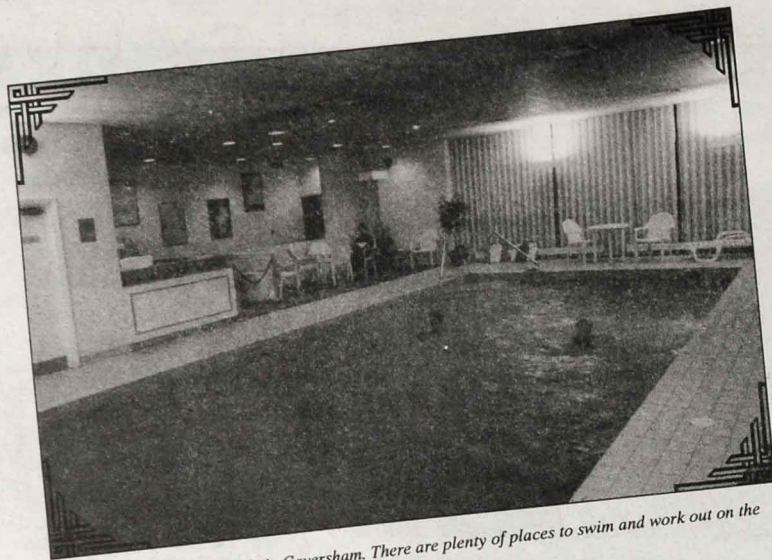
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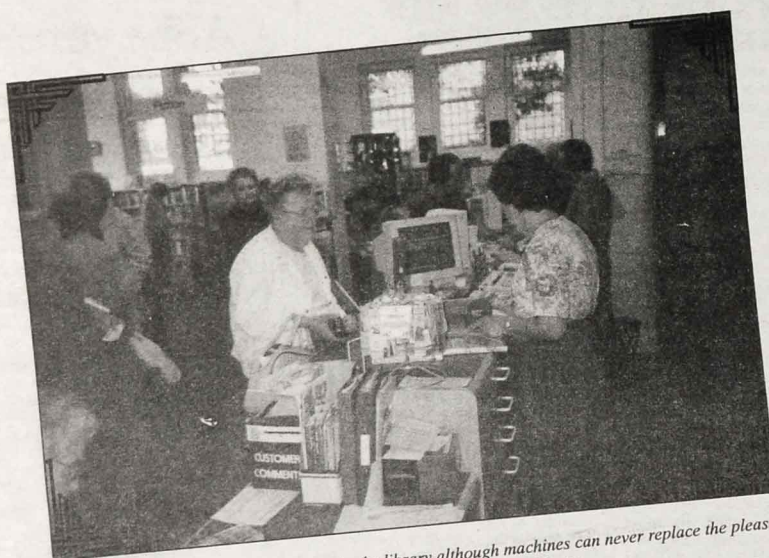
FINGS AIN'T WHAT TH

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

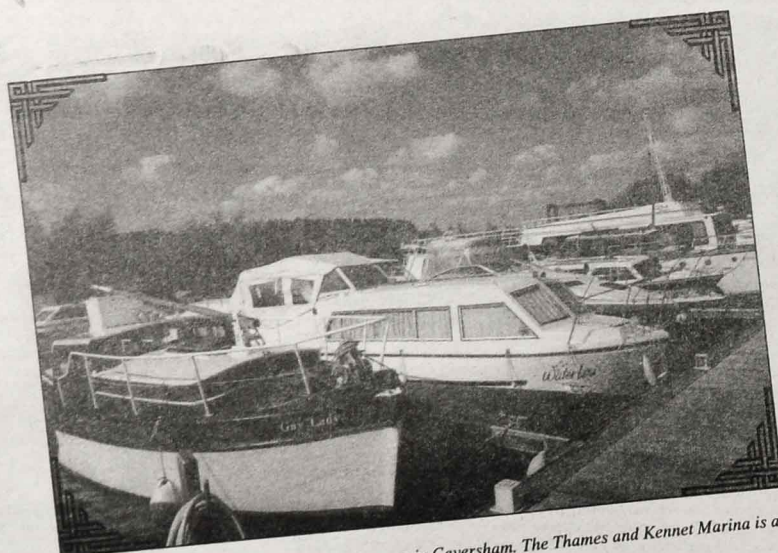
The Editors wish to apologise to all readers of last month's magazine for the photographs, particularly those on the centre page, which were very clear - unfortunately the scanning machine produced a poor quality. The pictures have therefore been re-run.



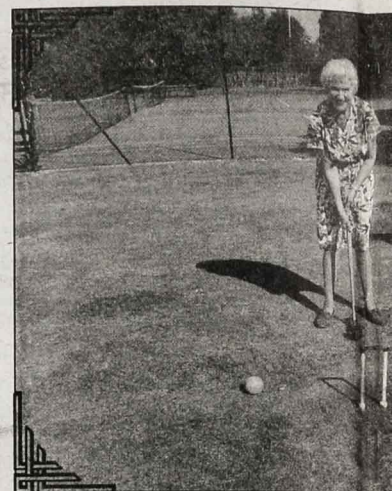
There's no excuse to be unfit in Caversham. There are plenty of places to swim and work out on the machines.



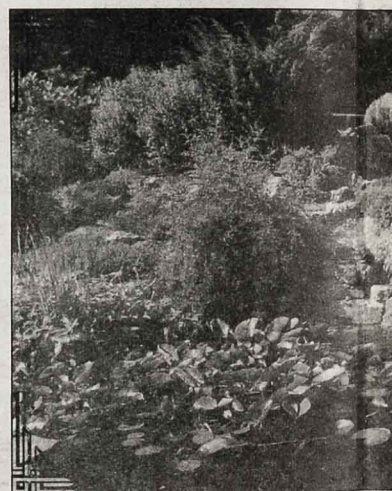
Computerisation has improved efficiency in the library although machines can never replace the pleasant and friendly service offered by the staff there.



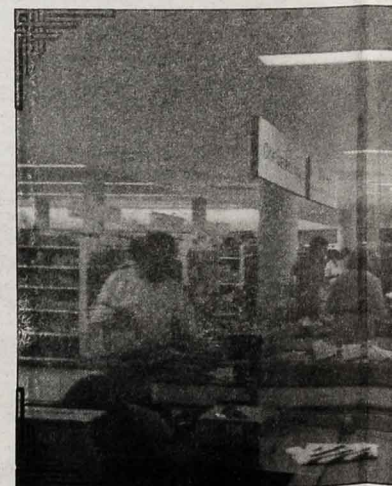
Boats are an essential part of the riverside scene in Caversham. The Thames and Kennet Marina is a welcome amenity in the area.



The children's playground in Albert Road Recreation Centre offers a variety of activities, including tennis and bowls, a game of bowls.



This charming water-feature makes a delightful addition to the garden where passers-by may rest and a stunning sight.



As well as a good variety of small shops Caversham has a good selection of small businesses.

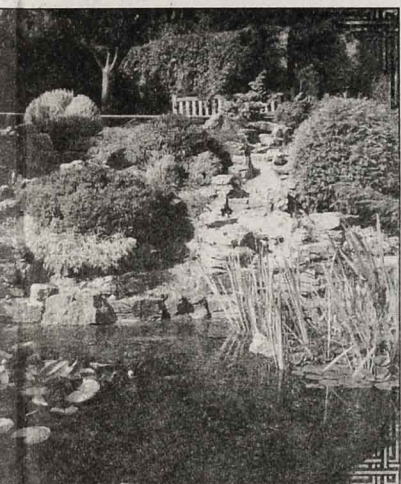
THEY USED TO BE . . .

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

of last month's Bridge for the very poor reproduction of entire pages. Ken Tillman's photos were excellent and fine produced dark images which could not be rectified.



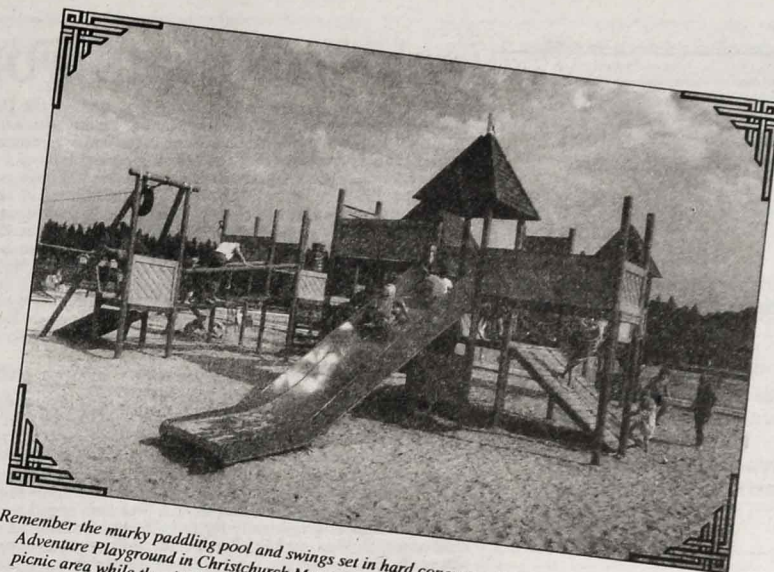
creation Ground has been much improved and, as well as game of croquet can be enjoyed.



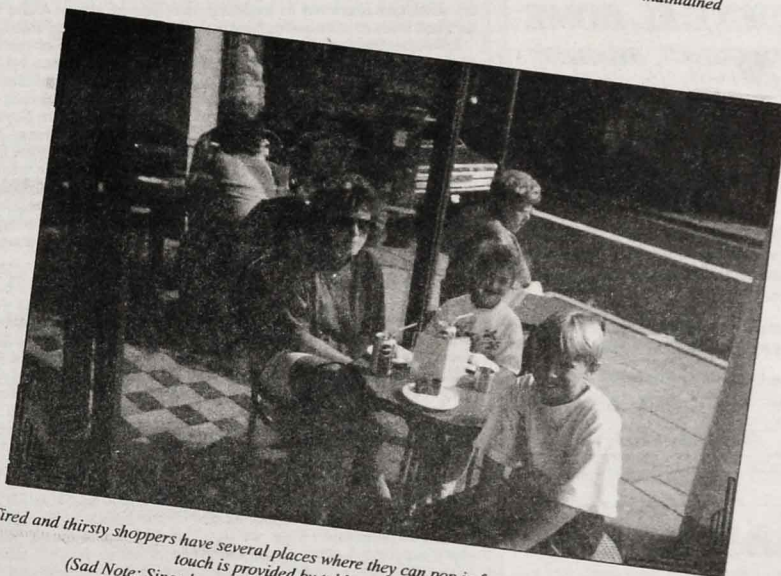
In addition to Caversham Court. It provides a tranquil spot stunning backdrop for bridal photographs.



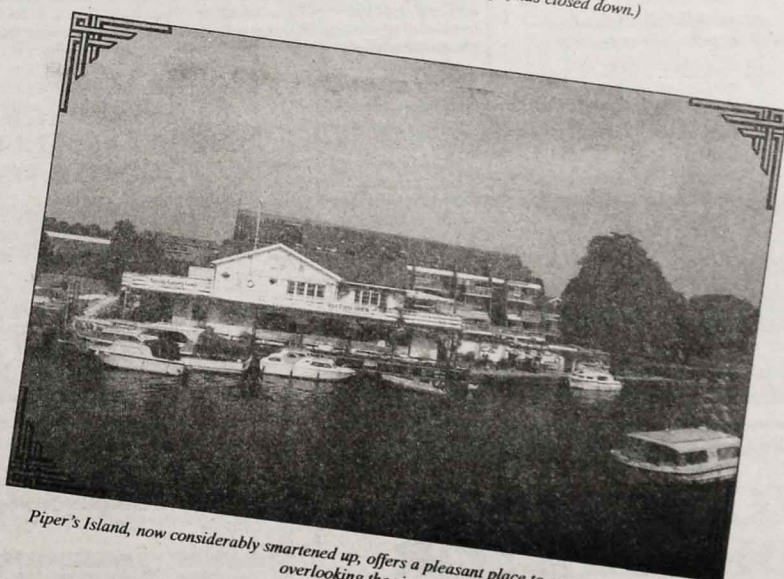
Caversham now has the asset of well-stocked supermarkets.



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.
(Sad Note: Since last month Scots, featured in this photograph, has closed down.)



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

Photographs by Ken Tillman

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WHO RUNS THE WORLD?

Is this another quiz question? Is it the President of the United States or faceless economic institutions like the big banks? Running the world is all about the control of money. That boils down to economics which is boring. This is roughly what the opening paragraphs of a new book say.

There I might have switched off had not the 103 page paperback (*Who Runs the World?*) been published by Christian Aid and written by Caversham's John Madeley together with Dee Sullivan and Jessica Woodroffe (price - a modest £4.99). Quickly I discovered that the book contained a critical analysis of the effect of the economic policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Third World who, in exchange for development loans to less developed countries, had imposed on them Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). The whole idea of World Bank loans was to improve the plight of the poor in the Third World but the SAPs are having the opposite effect.

The poor are getting poorer - where will it end?

My reading of the book coincided with, and was heightened by, the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Madrid at the beginning of October. Press reports questioned the future of these organisations and open letters in the press from Christian Aid were urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to go to Manila and elsewhere in the Third World to see for himself before going to Madrid where he should seek reforms. As a taxpayer I was also urged to find out more; the book did this graphically for me. There are detailed examples from Zimbabwe, Bolivia and Sri Lanka, in addition to examples from other places. In every case the poor of those countries are getting poorer and opportunities for work, education and health care are all declining because of SAPs; these should enable those countries to repay their debts and eventually increase economic growth but in practice they are resulting in reductions in public expenditure, the privatisation of industry and the increase of exports; the last of these often flood a world market with commodities that are already there and thus cause a glut.

I was particularly struck by the comments that "Too many of the costs of the global economic problems are currently borne by people in the Third World. There should be a more equal sharing of the costs of these problems. ... If Third World countries are really to have a chance, there will have to be a redistribution of resources from North to South." Accompanying these assertions is a graph comparing the trends in income per head in Europe (OECD countries) with those for Developing Countries. This showed an elevenfold difference now which will widen to a sixteenfold one in the next 35 years. Surely in humanitarian terms alone here is a time-bomb ticking away for our children and grandchildren, something about which we as Christians showing love for our neighbour and seeking justice for the poor should be concerned. This is just what Christian Aid is about.

Christian Aid's Campaign

Who Runs the World? is not only the title of the book but it is also that of a two year long campaign, for which the book is a major resource. The campaign, which began with the 50th anniversary of the setting up of the World Bank and the IMF and will end in two year's time with the corresponding anniversary of the award of the first grants, has three aims: to influence the design, impact and replacement of SAPs so that the poor benefit; to make the World Bank and IMF more accountable (14% of all U.K. Government Aid went through them during the period between 1982 and 1991); and to demonstrate that there are more people-friendly alternatives. The first two chapters provide the background to the origins and actions of the World Bank and the IMF; the human cost is covered by examples in the third chapter. The remainder of the book analyses what went wrong, the alternatives and how we may set about getting things changed. Each chapter is well illustrated with black and white photographs of Third World scenes and by campaigning cartoons. The campaign follows closely on those for fairer trade and debt; the book should be read by all of us enjoying a comfortable life in Caversham, whether or not we buy mangle-tout that probably originated from drought stricken Africa or cafédirect in our local supermarket. In so doing we shall be more aware of Christian Aid's campaign, their recommendations for change and what we can do about it.

Owen Jewiss



VOCAT, owned by Jane Bramah and Linda Stacey have successfully been running courses for the past 7 years. Initially intended to help women wanting to

return to work, the organization has since grown to help a wide variety of people, both men and women, find work.

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KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Far be it from me to criticise anybody who has a hand in the production of the "Bridge"; I do know something of what the editors have to put up with when it comes to printing, publishing etc. But it really is time something was said about the reproduction of photographs. Or was it meant as a joke when contributors had to be reminded that photographs should be clear, not too dark and not taken from far away, followed by "It's no use if people are unrecognisable blobs on the horizon" only to turn to the centre page of this month's "Bridge" and find what could be a good example of what not to do. We have some very good photographers in our ranks, so perhaps something can be done about this. (See box on centre pages. Ed).

OLD FRIENDS

This month I've had the opportunity of meeting, quite often by accident, some of the other contributors. I was happy to run into Mary Kift and to congratulate her on her latest item about the Griffin. Where on earth does she get all her information.

CHIMNEYS TO SWEEP

I also ran into our friend Gabriel Scicluna, who a we featured some time ago with his motor-caravan business in Albert Road. It was great to see him again and discover that he has now gone into the chimney sweeping business among other things. It may seem odd that a skilled engineer and purveyor of motor caravans should be sweeping chimneys but these days one goes where the work is and Gabriel tells me there is still plenty to do in that field. His rates are reasonable and if I know Gabriel

he will be a joy to employ — so if necessary do ring 473560 and ask for his advice.

HAROLD HILL

Another person I met by accident was Harold Hill. As a regular reader of the "Post" I've been following his recent collection of old photographs; somebody told me he had a shop in Emmer Green (this is at the end of the Budgen parade) and quite by accident I found myself in the vicinity and saw a notice saying "come in and browse". Anyone interested in old photographs of the district will, I'm sure, enjoy browsing and perhaps coming away with a memento of old Caversham.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy time lately with all kinds of activities going on and I was glad to attend the coffee morning (part of a nation-wide event) at the Bowling Green Clubhouse in Caversham Heights. Lots of Caversham friends were helping out and the Macmillan Nurses should have benefited well from the event. It was only a pity they couldn't have found a larger and more suitable place for the event.

THE VETS

Many Caversham people will by now have made the acquaintance of Nick Butcher and Deborah Stanley and their excellent team of nurses. Alas, since moving in they have discovered two main disadvantages of this property which is not quite big enough for all their equipment. But, more important, it has no accommodation for cars or parking of any description. They are anxious to remain in the area so are looking for a suitable property which they can buy and which has room for a few cars to park when delivering pets and picking them up. If anyone can help in any way, please call 479298 and discuss possibilities. I for one am anxious to keep them in the district.

"READING AT WAR"

I have been asked to put out another appeal for wartime objects and memorabilia for the exhibition which the Museum is currently preparing for the anniversary of VE Day. So if you have any wartime items relating to subjects such as the home, the workplace, civil defence or voluntary organisations, do contact Steve Yates at the Museum,

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WEATHER-FORECASTING THE BIRDS

"Hello, lovely day — think it will last?" "I doubt it Mrs Gale, I washed the car this morning!"

An everyday topic of conversation in Britain — but with a difference. The fictitious "Mrs Gale" was unaware of the forthcoming weather, whereas the recipient of her query was a twitcher who knew full well that within the hour, they could be scurrying for shelter from a thunder storm.

In our changeable climate it has always surprised me why Meteorology does not form a Subject in its own right, within the Educational curriculum. Each year lives are lost on land and sea, often due to an ignorance of weather-mechanics which supply the wherewithal to forecast an hour or even several weeks ahead.

Weather is with us all day, every day, and whatever our interests, it is surely always better to KNOW "what it's going to do" rather than be a victim of it. Some constantly bemoan incorrect weather reports (which are usually CORRECT) anyway, but have not been listened to with concentration. Far better to purchase a quality newspaper which daily carries TWO synoptic-charts, then study them and give oneself an accurate forecast — sometimes for further ahead than a T.V. or Radio Forecaster is wont to do!

For the serious bird watcher, such knowledge is essential. An elementary example, understood by many schoolchildren is that an anti-cyclone (area of HIGH pressure) generally gives long, calm conditions (e.g. Summer 1994). If it settles over Scandinavia in Sept/Oct its gentle, NE winds may well "pick up" a number of very rare birds from, say, E. Finland/Siberia (about to migrate to Asia/China), and "steer" them across the North Sea to Britain. Regular winter migrants such as Redwing and Fieldfare may also arrive at the same time.

Just one day of North-easterly winds in early September, sandwiched between unsettled weather, set us off post-haste to the North Norfolk coast. That one day had brought in twelve rare species of birds which then remained fast, due to the following days of LOW pressure with its variable conditions.

It was really quite remarkable the numbers of birders of all ages and both sexes, who were either still on holiday, or had otherwise taken time off to the same places and for the same reasons as ourselves. Truly, we all enjoyed superb, if changeable, weather at times, as well as fine views of some of the rarest birds to visit the U.K.

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VOLUNTARY SERVICE LEADS TO SEED FOR AFRICA

Nairobi Today

Emmer Green student Stephen Smith returned recently from Kenya after a year's voluntary service sandwiched between leaving school and going to university. It was an experience he readily shared with family, friends and members of St. Barnabas Church at the end of August when he gave an illustrated talk on his year, which had been spent in Nairobi working with Church Army Africa. Although we were impressed by his safari into the nearby Game Park and his pictures of big game, particularly a close up of a lioness, we were probably more impressed by those other safaris he made into the slums of Nairobi. There, living close to a westernised city with its high rise buildings, were the indigenous people who had come from up-country to search for non-existent work in the big city and who were now living in abject poverty in shacks made of packing cases and with open sewers. What hope was there for the street children?

In modern Nairobi Stephen had been in the slums where white men fears to tread today for fear of mugging. He had done so in the company of the local pastor who had at least brought hope through the love of Christ to those children, some of whom at least are now able to smile. Vividly through his pictures, but without the smells, we in Emmer Green were able to get a good impression of what city life in parts of Africa is really like. In contrast we also saw a little of life in a country town and gained an appreciation of the crowded nature of the local bus service and its erratic timetable.

Church Army Africa and the need for SEED

It was the church that led Stephen to spend his time at Church Army Africa which is a parachurch organization that works alongside the Anglican and other churches in concern and care for the community and evangelisation. Its compound in Nairobi encompasses many activities including dental care, commercial courses, a nursery school and a secondary school, as well as housing the Church Army College of Evangelism. Stephen spent part of his time at the centre teaching maths to 14 year olds in the secondary school. The parents of the pupils often had difficulty in finding the fees of £70 a year, but the pupils were neatly clad in school uniform and eager to learn; there is no free education in Nairobi and no education at all for the slum children.

Church Army College itself trains people not only from Kenya but also Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda and, since September, from Somalia, Zaire and Malawi. It promotes a two handed Gospel: proclamation and practical care. This it does through Primary Evangelism, Church Growth, and Evangelism Training. That is, going to where people are, helping churches to grow and mature, and training others to be evangelists. Interestingly the centre has a local link with this area: the General Secretary of Church Army Africa is the Revd Stanley Dakin who was previously Vicar of Nettlebed from where much financial support currently comes. The Revd Stanley Dakin trained at the Church Army College on the compound where his son, the Revd Tim Dakin, is the present Principal. Indeed the College itself does need partnership and secondary bursaries for those dioceses in Africa that cannot afford to pay for their students. Currently it costs £1,750 a year to train a Church Army student and the college is looking for support for 40 training places. The Church Army sows the seed for Africa through its bursary scheme Supporting Evangelism Education Direct (SEED). We in this country can support the scheme by sending cheques to "Church Army College Africa" via Church

members was then auctioned by the President and £13 raised for institute funds.

the CLUBS

Rosehill W.I.

Rosehill W.I. do not have a business meeting in August but a

very happy garden party was held at Mrs Strong's home. The weather was kind with warm sun and all the stalls were well patronised.

In September a members' meeting was held with Mrs Stockill in the Chair. Members were divided into six groups and asked to offer suggestions for next year's programme - for Speakers and outings. From these ideas next year will have a good choice of programme.

Caversham W.I.

A delicious spread of food greeted members at the September Harvest Supper. After the business section members were entertained by committee members with a variety of readings ranging from the origins of Harvest Festivals to the breeding habits of supermarket trolleys!! Supper was enjoyed and reminders of future events including the bazaar on November 5th, were given. Produce donated by

Caversham Ladies Club

It was the Harvest Meeting, and members had brought along a lovely selection of goodies for this event. Mrs Brenda Strong, Chairman, opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanks to the members for their generosity. As in previous years, a Harvest Queen was chosen to preside over the afternoon meeting. Club member, Mrs Edna Beardmore, was the recipient of this honour and crowned by the Chairman.

The Coffee Morning held at Mrs Strong's home in August was enjoyed by those who braved the dreadful weather, and the proceeds were added to the Club's collecting box to be donated to the Sue Ryder home at Nettlebed. The outing to Bourton-on-the-Water was finalised re meeting place, time etc, and a sunny afternoon to enjoy this lovely place was hoped for.

Members were reminded that next meeting would be their October Autumn Fair and a good attendance on the day was hoped

Army Headquarters in Blackheath, London SE3 9LG. A collection on the night of Stephen's talk raised £60 for this purpose.

In the research stage is the expansion of the work on the Church Army compound to include a Street Children Centre, which will feed 50 children a day and provide counselling and social work, and the opening of a Primary Health Care Clinic with a 10 bed ward. Like many of the other activities, these developments also depend on financial support particularly from outside Kenya.

Water Aid

Stephen's talk gave many of us insights into another part of the world of which few of us have much knowledge and even less any experience. For example, in this country we take for granted the plentiful supply of water on tap. Among the difficulties of living in Africa highlighted by Stephen is the problem of drought and the necessity for water conservation. A practical requirement of the Church Army centre is for more water butts in which to store the rainwater.

With this overseas experience behind him Stephen is going to St. John's College, Durham, to read theology, having previously been at Reading School. He worships at Greyfriars, although his parents are well known in Caversham circles as stalwart members of St. Barnabas Church. We wish him well as he starts his university studies and we are grateful to him for sharing his experiences in Kenya with a wider audience.

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Turn to page 11

the CLUBS

for. Tea was then served which was very welcome before members left for their home after a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

"Honey" was the Speaker's subject at the September meeting of the Guild. Mrs Blackburn's account of her life, along with her husband, as a beekeeper proved to interest members greatly. Much of their knowledge was learned from Mrs Blackburn's father who kept bees for much of her childhood, and was able to pass on many of the skills involved. From insights into the lifestyle of the 'worker bee' to tips on how to capture a swarm, the time sped by all too quickly, but members were able to appreciate later, through tasting samples, the varying flavours of honey derived from different pollens taken up by the bees.

At the Apple Fair on

Saturday, 22nd October at Caversham Court, the refreshment tent, as last year, was organised by T.G. members and volunteers both served during the day and provided home-baked goodies.

Rehearsals for the Drama Festival on 17th were under way. The Garden party in August proved once again to be much enjoyed by members with tea taken in Mrs Adair's lovely garden. Mrs J. Spall's delicious "Honey bars" were voted winners in the monthly competition this month for "Honey Biscuits".

Meetings are held at 2pm in Church House. New members and visitors always welcome. (Third Thursday each month).

University of the Third Age Reading Branch

The talk in the Kennet Room was given by Alan Roach who has worked his way to the top from being a postman. He began by giving a brief history of the Post Office from the days of Henry VIII's "Master of Post" to 1959 when Post Codes began. He then showed a video of the profitable and efficient service which has many lessons to give to other western countries.

The Books group devoted their time to Henry James. Many

members found his books difficult but Eric George explained his greatness. The Playreaders read "Another Country" by Alan Bennett. They were mystified until they realised it was based in Moscow. They go on to read plays by Sheridan and Ibsen. The Travel group heard an entertaining talk on 'travel books'.

A new group has been set up to walk around Reading on Sundays and view places of interest. New members are always welcome. Please contact Mr Frank Butters. Phone 0628 27112.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

A Harvest Fair took the place of the customary jumble sale at the meeting of Caversham Heights Townswomen in September. More new members were being given a special welcome later in the month. Mention was made of the need for volunteers who will donate blood. St Andrew's hall being a centre for this.

The speaker, chairman Mr T. Heron from Swan Lifeline voluntary group, disclosed how his youthful hobby of bird-watching had developed into an involvement with swans of about thirty years. Numbers of swans have increased many times since the low population in the early 1980's, now they are doing well, are known by name, and rescue and cleaning out work is undertaken. A social worker at a child guidance clinic as well as a swan lover, the speaker commented that there is a need to have an observer at Caversham Bridge, where the problems are similar to those at Windsor; although people already sometimes help, bridges present a difficulty and a third bridge would not be a good thing for swans, he maintained.

At social studies at the end of the month members were allowed a fascinating glimpse into the island of Sicily.

The Carthaginians and Greeks, amongst others, have made an interesting impression upon the island whose eastern side is dominated by Mount Etna. Salemtine in the west is named after the wild celery which grows freely. The last group of slides that the speaker, Mr Ray Goodman, showed were taken by special arrangement and showed scenes from God's creation of

the world, still a favourite subject with modern artists. These ancient mosaic pictures are to be found in the cathedral at Monreale south east of Palermo.

Caversham Community Association

September opened with the annual arts and crafts competition. Entries were up in numbers and the judges were kept busy.

Results:
Photography - portrait:
1st Wendy Colton,
2nd Betty Petherbridge

Flowers:
1st Joan Annetts,
2nd Betty Colton

View:
1st Betty Petherbridge,
2nd Freda Haines

Animal:
1st Freda Haines,
2nd Molly Bradford

Flower Arranging:
1st Beryl Latcham,
2nd Muriel Waite

Unusual Container:
1st Wendy Colton,
2nd Maida Feast

Jam Jar:
1st Margaret Cameron,
2nd Beryl Latcham

Miniature:
1st Beryl Latcham,
2nd Nan Nelhams

Winner of Muriel Rampton bowl:
Beryl Latcham

Cooking - Sponge:
1st Betty Colton,
2nd Maida Feast

Fruit Cake:
1st Maida Feast,
2nd Muriel Waite

Scones:
1st Wendy Colton,
2nd Betty Petherbridge

Jam Tarts:
1st Muriel Waite
Knitting - Adult Garment:

1st May Plant,
2nd Wendy Colton

Child Garment:
1st Joyce Roddy,
2nd Margaret Cameron

St Peter's Wives

David White, a freelance press photographer, was the speaker at the St Peter's Wives' Group open meeting held in September. He described the wide variety of his earlier work and how gradually he had started to specialise in animal photography. He first delighted his audience with slides showing appealing and unusual friendships between apparently ill assorted animal pairings. This had led to coverage of the very cruel hunting of Canadian seal pups which had contributed to the campaign to end the hunt. In 1986 the campaign was successful and the hunt ended. However, by then David had been completely captivated by the beauty of the seals and their birthplace in the Gulf of St Lawrence. The pups are born in March in frozen conditions on the Canadian ice floes where they

spend the first 3-4 weeks of their lives with their mothers - Dads spend their paternity leave 10-20 miles away in an all male environment! David now visits this harsh but breathtakingly beautiful nursery every year and has built up the largest library of seal photographs in the northern hemisphere.

The photos are used to encourage tourism which is providing a new economy to replace the hunting based one, and to ensure that the welfare of the seal pups retains a high profile in the world's media. A selection of superb slides from the collection, accompanied by an informative commentary, provided a very enjoyable evening.

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Arts & Crafts hoped to go to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford in September. On another Thursday evening in September, Peggy Tomlin talked about her holidays in Iceland.

Words & Music There would be an evening in September to discuss "Magazines" past & present, what sort of magazines members read, interesting articles etc. Members would also be going to a Wednesday matinee in September to see Peter Hall's Hamlet at the Hexagon. **Ramblers** have had several walks since the last meeting. On a Blackberry walk, although it was very wet at the end of it, after the picnic lunch members managed to collect several pounds of blackberries. There was a second walk during a very hot day around Hambleden. Another walk took place around Cockpole Green walking through a field of Sunflowers. A member of the Ramblers, Rose

Wingrove was proud to have her 80th birthday in August so there was a special pub lunch to celebrate and also cake and tea afterwards at another member's house. Plans have also been made for a walking holiday on the Isle of Wight for next year.

There was a "Harvest" table during the evening and then the talk for the evening was given by Sarah Derbyshire from Waitrose of Richmond. Sarah gave information on different foods and some products. It was an interesting talk and members were very impressed at the amount of information that Waitrose are prepared to gather for the use of their customers, especially those with allergies.

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