

# READING NOW A FAIRTRADE TOWN

**C**aversham was well represented in the Council Chamber on 4 March during Fairtrade Fortnight when Reading celebrated the earlier attainment of Fairtrade Town Status on 2 February. It joins about 70 other towns and cities which have achieved similar status. At the celebration Justino Peck (Chairman of the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association, a Fairtrade Co-operative in Belize) presented the Mayor, Councillor Jeanette Skeats, with the certificate confirming Fairtrade status. Subsequently they and Council Leader David Sutton cut a cake marking the tenth anniversary of the Fairtrade Foundation Mark.



Reading, voted for Oxford to become a Fairtrade Diocese. This followed a lead from Reading and two other deaneries. To achieve the status of Fairtrade Diocese it is expected that 60% of the parishes will vote to become Fairtrade Parishes as soon as possible. When Chester became a Fairtrade Diocese, the first to do so, this was achieved in three months. Other denominations are also actively moving towards Fairtrade status. Lancaster has recently become the first Roman Catholic Diocese to do so and the Reading and Oxford District of the United Reformed Church has achieved Fairtrade status.

In the UK the sale of some 250 fairtraded goods has now risen to its present level of £100 million a year. A leaflet available at various information centres in Reading lists 31 local outlets where a total of 71 fairtraded products may be bought. The number of outlets and range of goods continues to grow.

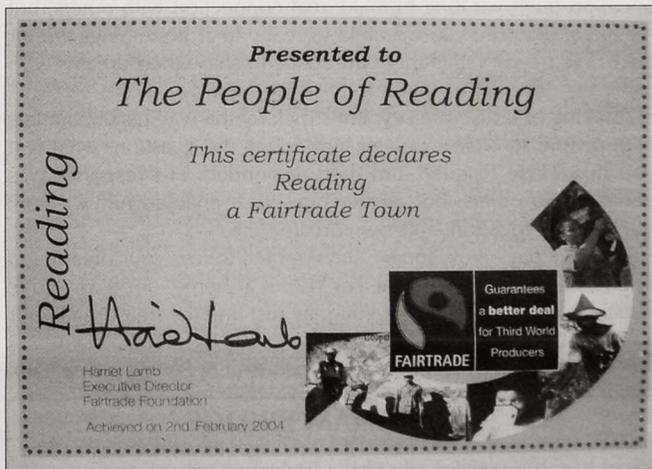
### Oxford to become a Fairtrade Diocese

Christians have been in the forefront nationally in the move towards the promotion of fairtraded products. This was given another boost at the Anglican Diocesan Synod which, two days after the celebration in

In the Reading's Council Chamber Council Leader Councillor David Sutton, the Mayor of Reading (Councillor Jeanette Skeats) and Justino Peck (Chairman of the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association in Belize) cut the cake marking the tenth anniversary of the Fairtrade Foundation Mark on the occasion celebrating Reading becoming a Fairtrade Town.

### - and St Barnabas a Fairtrade Parish

Since the Diocesan Synod the Parochial Church Council at St Barnabas Church has voted to become a Fairtrade Parish. It pledges (a) to use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which it has responsibility; (b) to move forward on using other Fairtrade products, such as sugar, biscuits and fruit; and (c) to promote Fairtrade at events during Fairtrade Fortnight - and through other activities whenever possible. From the extensive list of Fairtrade outlets through the churches in Caversham (page 6) it is clear that other churches are moving towards making this decision, if they have not already done so.



A copy of the certificate declaring Reading a Fairtrade town.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 9th MAY-15th MAY – See Page 6 for details**

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**The Caversham Bridge is your paper, providing a link between the churches and the community.**

Contributions are welcomed if they are relevant to community matters or church life. Copy should be kept short, typed in double spacing if possible and with a word count. Copy dates are given in the paper each month and copy should be handed in at the Parish Office at Church House, Church Street, Caversham. The office is open 9.30 - 12.30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note the Editors reserve the right to edit copy if necessary.

**The Caversham Bridge is delivered each month to homes in Caversham. It could be delivered to you for £2.40 per year. If you do not regularly subscribe to the paper and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office on 947 1703.**

**TALKING POINT**

By  
**Heather Serjeant**

## Perchance to dream...

As I write, the clocks have just gone forward, the weather is sunny and spring seems on its way - time to think about holidays - and I am! I spent a pleasant hour on the Internet looking at impossible destinations - places we certainly won't be visiting. But it's nice to dream! And talking of dreams...

There was an old rabbi, Rabbi Isaac of Cracow. He had a dream that if he dug under the bridge that led to the royal palace in Prague, he would find treasure. He had this dream several nights running and it affected him so much that he decided to make the journey. He was an old man, and it was a long way. He had no transport and had to go on foot, but it seemed so important that he was determined.

When he arrived, the scene was just as it had been in his dream, but guards patrolled the bridge all day and all night, and so digging looked impossible. The rabbi waited in the hope of finding an opportunity, but the officer of the guard noticed him and asked him what he was doing. Honesty seemed the best policy, so the rabbi told the officer of his dream. The officer roared with laughter. 'Dreams,' he said, 'you don't want to take any notice of them - I dreamt of a house in Cracow,' and he described the house in detail. 'In the dream I dug under the stove in the kitchen and found treasure - but I don't believe in dreams. Why should I travel all that way for a dream?'

The rabbi said 'thank you,' and quickly left. He had recognised the house which the officer described as his own. Sure enough, it was just as the officer had said. When he dug under the stove the rabbi found treasure - but in order to find it, he had needed to travel and listen to another's dreams. It was only then that he could find the treasure in his own kitchen.

One of the joys of going on holiday is to experience the culture and environment of others. We are confronted by their dreams, both realised, in the form of their culture, and unrealised. Of course we don't necessarily have to travel a long distance to encounter the dreams of others. But we do have to listen and be open. So often we long to make real connection with others, but we forget that to do so we need to really hear how things are for them. We need to give them the space to share their dreams with us.

Thinking of Jesus' ministry, I'm struck by the way his encounters with people so often involved him asking the question 'what is it you need?' He listened and then responded. His response was beneficial to others, but also to himself. It enabled him to work out his own vocation - his own dream.

So as the days grow longer and warmer, follow your dream and listen to those of others, whether you're at home, or on an exotic foreign holiday. In doing so, you may just find the treasure in your own heart.

*Revd Heather Serjeant is curate at St Peter's Caversham.*

**CAVERSHAM BRIDGE**

Contributions for the June 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 5th May. The date for submission of items for the July 2004 issue will be Wednesday 2nd June.

All advertising copy for the May 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 4th May. For the July 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday 1st June 2004.

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

EDITORS: Mr Eric Chappell, Mrs Marjorie Tillman, Mr Kevin Corrigan, Mrs Kathy Munns, Mrs Val Reynolds, Mr Alan Bradbury c/o Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham, RG4 8AX Tel: 947 1703.

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER: Mrs Sarah Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham RG4 7AN. Tel: 377 3020.

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Mr M. Staunton, 23 Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7AN. Tel: 947 2389.

COMPANY SECRETARY: Mr H. Pilgrim, 64 Highmoor Road, Caversham RG4 7BG. Tel: 947 4017.

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The Editors wish to make it clear that the views expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board. The Editors also would like to bring to readers' notice that the inclusion of advertisements in this paper does not mean an endorsement of the products or of the services offered.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

**ANGLICAN**  
**St Peter's, St Peter's Hill**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.45am Parish Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

**St John's, Gosbrook Road**  
8.00am The Holy Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School

**St Andrew's, Harrogate Road**  
8.00am The Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Sung)  
First Sunday, Family Eucharist  
11.30am The Eucharist  
6.30pm Evening Prayer (as announced)  
An up to date list of weekday Services will be found on the Church notice boards.

**St Barnabas', Grove Road, Emmer Green**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Communion (apart from 2nd Sunday)  
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**  
11.00am Parish Communion

**CAVERSHAM PARK ECUMENICAL PROJECT**  
11.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)  
Morning Worship (2nd Sunday)  
All Age Worship (4th Sunday)

**CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
10.30am Prospect Street  
6.30pm Usually at 191 Kidmore Road

**CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road**  
10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church  
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN CAVERSHAM**  
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10.30am and 6.30pm  
**Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road**  
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**Woodcote Parish Church**  
9.45am (second Sunday)

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
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Sunday 10.00am and 6.30pm  
**Mapledurham House 6.00pm Mass (last Sunday of the month)**

**SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers),  
Church Street, Reading**  
10.30am  
(House study groups Sept-June Tel: 9475783)

**NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham**  
9.30am Sunday School  
11.00am Divine Worship  
6.00pm Evening Service

# YOUTH



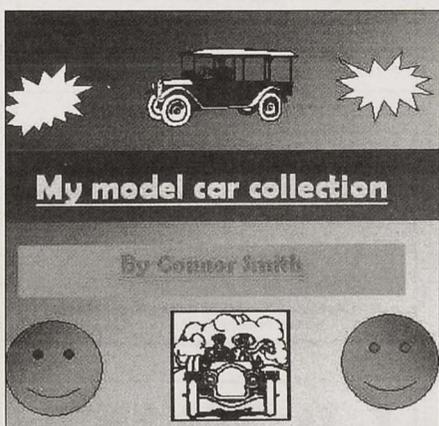
Kait Keeney-Nash

Miles Shaw and Nikita Weeks take the punishment!



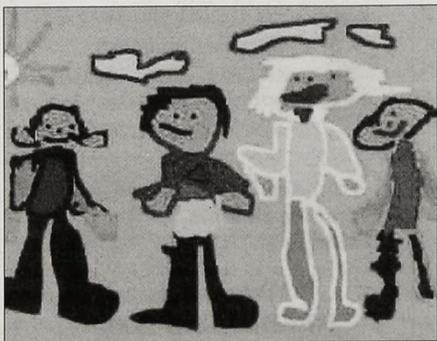
Kait Feeney-Nash

Jamie Ryers and Letitia Maybanks participate in the Charity Day activities.



St Martin's School

Title page of Connor Smith's PowerPoint presentation.



St Martin's School

Dylan Patel's picture of himself and friends. Pictures by St. Martin's school.

## NEWS FROM ST ANNE'S SCHOOL

Life has been very busy at St Anne's with many activities taking place. Class 1 visited the Katesgrove Victorian Classroom, Class 2 visited the Beatrix Potter exhibition at Reading Museum and Classes 5 and 6 took part in athletics, football, netball and tag rugby tournaments.

The highlight of the past months has, in fact, been a homegrown activity. On Wednesday March 17, Class 6, led by Mrs McEvoy, organised a Charity Day. The purpose of the event was to raise money for CAFOD. The activities included food testing, a friendship quiz, Attack-a-Splash, guess the number of sweets, matchstick mayhem and copy the super heroes – a dressing up activity.

The Class 6 children impressed everyone with their organisational skills and their ability to work together as part of a team. The rest of the school thoroughly enjoyed the event which was blessed with wonderful weather and raised over £400 which is a great achievement.

Kait Feeney-Nash

## Guiding in Caversham

Ever wondered what Guides do? Thought about joining but unsure about it? Well, this is what the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caversham Guides have been doing during the Spring Term.

They first started working towards their award for Healthy Eating followed by a Fitness Challenge. Everybody had fun and succeeded in achieving their goal. The last two evenings, a qualified instructor showed the girls how to deal with situations that could arise when they were out and about and gave them tips on how to deal with them. We do keep the traditions of Guiding but we are also up to date with the things we do.

If you would like more information, please telephone the number below. If you would like to visit them, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caversham Guides meet on a Friday evening at St Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, Caversham from 7-9pm. (Why not bring a friend as well?)

For information please telephone Rosemary on 0118 972 3213.

Girl Guiding in Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park is always in need of adult help. If you can give some time to help the girls achieve their goals, please contact Caroline Smith on 0118 949 2382.

## NEWS FROM ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

During the Spring term, children at St Martin's school were able to enter a computer competition organised by Emma Ryan. Emma works at the school as a Classroom Assistant and ICT Technician and Coordinator of the subject in school. Her computer skills are remarkable and she has been able to provide training for staff, pupils and parents as well as managing the school website.

The competition was divided into three categories according to the ages of the pupils. Classes 1 and 2 had to design a picture about themselves using the computer program Paint. Classes 3 and 4 had to design an A4 sized poster advertising St. Martin's School using PowerPoint or Word. Classes 5 and 6 had to create a PowerPoint presentation, of no more than six slides, about something out of school that they enjoyed. This could be a hobby, a sport in which they were interested, a feature about a favourite pop group or whatever else they could think of.

The infants were given time in school during their normal ICT time to complete their pieces, whilst the junior pupils were given some time in school but were also allowed to work on their entries at home. Since it was a condition of entry that all work should eventually be saved on the school computers, work done at home had to be brought in to school on disc or CD.

The children worked at their tasks with great enthusiasm and the experience worked wonders for their computer skills.

It was difficult to choose the winners, but eventually the prizes were awarded – a ClipArt CD to Dylan Patel, Year 2, Windows XP and Encarta CDs to Grace Procter, Year 4 and a Flight Simulator CD to Joseph Greenwood, Year 6.

A Dell colour printer was awarded to the overall winner, Connor Smith from Year 5 for his four-slide PowerPoint presentation.

Report by Jane Shaw

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# BYSTANDER

Readers of this column are going to have to content themselves with me again as my co-writers have suffered various domestic misfortunes which have demanded all their time and attention. Consequently this is being written at very short notice.

As far as CADRA is concerned their Annual General Meeting was the most important event. This was well attended in spite of coinciding with the AGM of the Civic Society to which many CADRA members also belong. No doubt the fact that clocks had been put forward, giving a light evening, also helped.

The President welcomed people to the thirty-seventh annual meeting, remarking that there was no thought that it would still be in existence after so many years when it was first set up. It still exists because it has a job to do. It is not a social body, though members may enjoy each other's company – and if the time comes when there is no job to do, it will cease to exist. It is the second or third oldest residents' association in the town. Warren Residents' Association being the oldest having been founded in 1962 and Katesgrove the next, although the latter often has long sleeps.

Its year's activities were listed in the annual report which had been distributed beforehand. Particularly to be noticed was the regular scrutiny of planning applications, many of which were for any small parcel of land that had not been developed. In total there were applications for several hundred houses or flats, most of which will have to be permitted.

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report showing a healthy balance which meant there was no need to raise the subscription yet, though as this was the first year of a three year period there might be a need to raise it if a campaign needed to be launched at some future date.

## Riverside Parks

After the formal business of the meeting was concluded

Adrian Lawson of Reading Borough Council spoke about the development of what he referred to as the Riverside Parks. The riverside banks are extensive, stretching from the mouth of the Kennet to Tilehurst, mostly on the south side. These are enjoyed and sometimes misused by the general public, and some upgrading is needed, particularly in the area of Reading Lock. It is hoped to appoint a warden shortly to co-ordinate the work required. Caversham Court will be getting the attention it deserves. Adrian's enthusiasm for his job was plain and we can be assured the riverside is in good hands.

## Fair Daffodils

All across the town there are splendid displays of daffodils, most of them planted by the Borough but many in private gardens. Mine are not at all bad. It is the first tall flower of the season, and today's breeders have developed them so that they do not haste away so soon as the poet wept to see. They do however need reviewing from time to time, as can be seen in Caversham Court and in St Peter's churchyard. The area around the library is a new place where the daffodils give pleasure to passers by and those waiting for the bus and shopping.

## Come Buy

The Christian festivals provide a chance for commercial profits. Christmas is the highest shopping period of the year. Then comes St Valentine's Day, with cards, chocolates and flowers, Shrove Tuesday boosts the sale of lemons, Good Friday leads to the sale of hot cross buns, though these have increasingly appeared as soon as Christmas has passed. Then come Easter eggs, and I don't mean those nasty little ones that are always on sale. No wonder some people think Easter is a festival of eggs.

As everything bursts into life again at this great season let me wish everyone a happy Easter.

## Women who make a difference

Many of you will have read, in a recent issue of Caversham Bridge, that Mrs Nora Kemp was a Soroptimist and you may have thought, "A what?" Well here is an explanation:

We are women serving the global community. Nora was a founder member of our local group of Soroptimists (chartered in October 1956) and she joined this worldwide association of professional women to try, in a small way, to make the world a better place. We all join a club to give service to others and this service operates on a number of levels -

- at club level to provide support and friendship for members;
- at local level to serve the community where each club is based;
- at region or country level, where clubs join together to serve a much larger community;
- at Federation level, where the clubs from many countries join together in addressing larger issues;
- at international level, where all Soroptimist clubs in the world strive for human rights for all, equality, development and peace through international goodwill and understanding and friendship.

The actual word 'soroptimist' is derived from the Latin 'soro' meaning 'sister' and 'optima' meaning 'best'. We interpret 'soroptimists' as 'the best of women'.

Our club, 'Soroptimists International of Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell', meet monthly to discuss and agree the work that we are taking forward. This year we have been raising money for The British Community Trust in aid of Peruvian Street Children and next year we will be doing so for The Thames Valley and Chilterns Air Ambulance. As well as fund raising, each year we find the time to help various local charities by attending management committees and visiting those who need us to; we lobby our local MPs on issues such as landmines and cluster bombs and trafficking of women; and we support our quadrennial international projects. They do say, "If you want a job done then give it to a busy person". Well, all Soroptimists are busy women and we like it that way.

We do not like to be thought of as do-gooders but rather as facilitators. We look for the gaps in society and try to bridge them (not always doing the work ourselves but finding the best people for the job) in an attempt to make a difference for those who have less than we do ourselves. If anybody is interested in knowing more about us, you will always be welcome to attend one of our meetings and working women may also be interested in joining us. Please ring 0118 958 0367 for more information.

Sarah Johnson  
Co-President Elect

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# BRIGHT GASLIGHT FROM CAVERSHAM THEATRE

Patrick Hamilton's classic thriller 'Gaslight' is the story of murder most foul but it is no whodunnit. The culprit is identified in the first act and the thrills are in whether he can be cornered before he destroys another life.

The murder, which had happened twenty years previously, was of an elderly lady and the motive was to secure her precious possession, the Barlow Rubies. Both the Rubies and the murderer vanished into thin air. It had all happened in London in the latter half of the 19th century in a house which now belongs to Mr and Mrs Manningham.

Mr Manningham is a suave, domineering man who appears to gain great satisfaction from bullying his sick, frightened wife with sarcasm and veiled threats, a part of which Martin Leckie played with great adroitness, whilst Kathy Munns gave an outstanding performance as the terrified Mrs Manningham, whose fears are heightened by the mysterious raising and lowering of the gas lights. Mrs Manningham's only loyal confidante in her troubles is her housekeeper Elizabeth, a part sympathetically played by Sue Stainthorpe.

The reason for Mr Manningham's bullying and Mrs Manningham's fears is solved by the appearance of Rough, an ex-detective who had been involved in the Barlow Rubies case and had long been agonising over the whereabouts of both jewels and murderer.

Rough, whose dry humour and calm but businesslike approach to unmasking the villain was very well portrayed by Ray Bryant, had been keeping a watch on the house with the aid of a boyfriend of Nancy, the Mannings' sexy maid, convincingly played by Vanessa Hine. Rough had had the hunch that the suspected murderer, Sydney Power, would return to the scene of the crime. Indeed he had done so in the form of Mr Manningham, turning up the gas as he searched for the jewels in rooms in the house which were out of bounds to Mrs Manningham, whom he was doing his best to drive to a mental home for fear that she was smelling a rat.

The tension rises as Rough confronts Manningham with his knowledge of the murderer's guilt and the finding of the rubies in, of all places, a brooch of the murdered woman which he had given to his wife! Mr Manningham turns nasty, but police are on hand to ensure that he receives his just desserts and that his wife is released from his clutches.

Bob Green was the producer of this cleverly conceived and well written play, a very successful production by Caversham Theatre. Mention must be made of the appropriateness of the set and of the costumes.

E.M.A.

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## DORCHESTER ABBEY SUMMER CONCERT

The Langtree Sinfonia will hold their Summer Concert on Sunday 23 May 2004 at 7pm at the exciting venue of Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon. This is a new venue for the Orchestra, and with the popular programme should prove an exceptional event.

The performance features the music of Dvorak and Sibelius commencing with the Overture Carnival by Dvorak. Cellist Jonathan Beecher will play the Cello Concerto by Dvorak. Jonathan is well known in the Oxford area and trained for six years with the Sri Lankan cellist Rohan de Saram. His solo work has taken him to many European countries and Japan. The final work is Symphony No 5 in E flat by Sibelius, an inspiring piece both grand and exciting. This evening concert will be conducted by Paul Cox.

Tickets: (Adults £7.00. Children under 16: £3.50) are available at the door and at Inspiration, 1 The Arcade, Goring or from 0118 947 6291 and 01491 574 267.

## SOUNDZ OF SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2004

**Saturday 26th June from 1.00pm to 11.00pm**

Reading Abbey RFC present their third Music Festival with an eclectic mix of music for all the family featuring nine well-supported local bands.

It promises to be a relaxed day out for the whole family with funfair, BBQ, pig roast, beer tent and a variety of stalls to support the melodious extravaganza, all set in 22 acres of beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

Part of the proceeds of the day are donated to charity and, so far, the Rugby Club has donated over £1,000 to the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed. This year's contribution is expected to be even bigger!

Tickets: £5 in advance, £10 on the gate, under 16s £5, under 5s free.

Reading Abbey RFC, Rosehill, Emmer Green, RG4 8XA  
 1 mile from Emmer Green on the left side of the road to Sonning Common. Contacts - music@abbeyrfc.org or tel: 0118 947 6428

## CAVERSHAM CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL

£2000.00 was collected during the Winter Warmer weekend Jan 30th-Feb 1st. The presentation of cheques to CCF's adopted charities was held at the Clifton Arms, Gosbrook Road, Caversham on Wednesday 24th March. £225 was given to each of the 9 charities listed below. After the presentation, there was music provided by many of the local artists who had played at the Winter Warmer.

### The CCF supported Charities were: -

Berkshire Autistic Society  
 Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Ltd  
 British Red Cross Society  
 Cruse Bereavement Care  
 Cystic Fibrosis Trust  
 Reading Family Aid  
 Reading Mental Health Resource Centre  
 The Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases  
 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

In the case of National Charities, donations are made to the local branch.

## SUMMER 2004 Caversham Charity Folk Festival

Two of the established events in the Reading Calendar are joining forces in 2004. Reading Borough Council and CCF are working in partnership to bring a day of family fun and entertainment.

The Water Fest is an established festival, which is normally held on the Kennet side; however, due to renovations at the Abbey Ruins, this site is not available, and so the Thameside Promenade is the obvious alternative site for a waterside event. As this is the traditional site for the CCF event, the two Festivals are combining their energies for the summer of 2004. The date for this new 'Thameside Festival', is Saturday 19th June 2004 from 12:00 noon till 8:00 pm.

The event will see the usual array of water craft, children's activities, entertainment, craft stalls and more. There will be a concert venue on site, and CCF will be there to provide some of the musical entertainment for the day. Artists confirmed at this time are "Blazz (Paul Critchfield and Fran Wood)", and "Tudor Lodge".

It is expected that WaterFest will return to its Kennetside location, and CCF return to its 3-day format, for the summer of 2005.

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**Christian Aid Week 2004 takes place from Sunday 9th May to Saturday 15th May.**

During this week the seven churches forming the Caversham Christian Aid Committee will try to cover as many roads in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham as they can. As always new collectors would be most welcome and if you feel you could help please have a word with your Church Representative.

The Christian Aid Walks - 5, 10 and 15 miles - will take place on Saturday 15th May over the usual courses starting at Henley Rugby Club.

If you would like to walk for Christian Aid application forms are available from your Church Representative or direct from Keith Stephen-Evans (947 3619).

The Christian Aid Service will this year be held at St. Peter's Church on Sunday 9th May at 6.30pm. There will be a speaker from Christian Aid at this service. This service is open to all, not just those involved in Christian Aid Week. Please come if you can.

**CELEBRATIONS FOR WESLEY DAY TUESDAY 25TH MAY 2004 AT 8PM**

*The Revd Rosemary Fletcher writes:*

A few years ago Owen Jewiss suggested that the Methodists should have a celebration for Wesley Day and invite other Churches from Churches Together in Caversham to join them, as the Anglican Churches do for their Patronal Festivals.

In 2002 there was a celebration of the hymns of Charles Wesley at Gosbrook Road on Friday evening May 24th. Last year the celebration was combined with the tercentenary of the birth of John Wesley and Keith Kinnaird preached at the service at Caversham Heights in June. So this year we return to Gosbrook Road and invite you all to a Wesley Day service there on Tuesday May 25th at 8pm. Yes, we do know that Wesley Day is May 24th but our date has been changed as the Anglicans are meeting their new bishop on the 24th May!

This year the service will include a local celebration of the Anglican/Methodist Covenant which was signed in November 2003 between the two denominations.

**Spring Spruce Up?**

Well, if you are thinking of renewing furniture and the like and don't know how to dispose of good useable items get in touch with Christian Community Action. CCA is a Reading based charity started in 1992 to provide help to those in need in the town and up to seven miles out. Part of their work is to encourage the re-cycling of furniture, textiles and other household goods. They have a warehouse (0870 2402187) which operates Mon - Fri 10 am - 4 pm and a super van to pick up anything of use. At the moment they badly need good quality double bedding and saucepans. They are also very glad if anyone can help at their four charity shops in Oxford Road (Reading), Whitley, Southcote and Sonning Common.

For further information about the work of CCA please contact them on 0118 951 2336.

**BETTY CARDEN 1910-2004**

Betty Carden, who died on 14 March shortly before her 94th birthday, had worshipped at St Peter's ever since she came to Caversham nearly 30 years ago. Born in London, she married Stanley Carden, an Anglican clergyman, and moved to the West Country, where her children, Roger and Anne, were born. After Stanley's death she moved via London, where she held the post of Administrator at two Drama Schools, to Caversham. Betty worked for some years at Sonning Common Health Centre, cycling there in all weathers; the bicycle was only discarded when she reached 80.

Betty took an active part in the life of St Peter's to the end of her life and made many friends amongst the congregation. She loved and was adored by her two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as members of her large extended family. She died as she had lived, independent and knowing she was going home to the God she loved.

A Celebration of Betty's life will be held at St Peter's Church, Caversham on Thursday, 3rd June at 11.30am.

**Correction to date of BIBLE SOCIETY 'PICNIC in the PARK'**

This will now be held on Saturday, 22nd May 11am-4pm (not June 20 in Prospect Park) in conjunction with the Reading Children's Festival Family Day in King's Meadow. There will be children focused games, Bible Society displays and projects and bookstall - and lots of space around them for you to enjoy your picnic. Come and join the fun.

**FAIRTRADE DIRECTORY**

Apart from at the usual commercial outlets, Fair Trade products can be purchased through the following churches. The person to contact is shown against each entry. (This list is according to the latest information provided to this paper).

- St Andrew's Church** - Mrs V Vincent - 947 7644
- St Barnabas' Church** - Mrs P Fuller - 946 1945
- St Peter's Church** - John Madeley - 947 6063
- Caversham Heights Methodist** - Pam and Phil Chatfield - 947 2444
- Our Lady and St Anne's** - Mrs C Palmer - 947 3117
- St Michael's RC Sonning Common** - Mrs S Carey - 948 3195

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH**

**Saturday 8th May**

10.00-12.00 Noon

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Wednesday 5th May  
 Wednesday 2nd June  
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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## IN FAITH WOMEN SHAPE THE FUTURE

Each year one of the best supported ecumenical events in Caversham is the Women's World Day of Prayer. This surely must be because it is part of a global ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action that originated long before any of the present day ecumenical movements.

## Historical background

In this year, when the Church of England is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood, it is interesting to note that the antecedents of the Women's World Day of Prayer go back to the early part of the 19th century. At that time there was a movement among women in the United States and Canada which encouraged them, in their personal prayer and within their mission associations, to take a lead in communal prayer; annual days and weeks of prayer

followed. These women identified themselves with the needs of women and children. Despite strong resistance from mission boards that were all male, these women formed in the 1860s their own boards which became very effective for foreign and home missions. Through these they worked directly with and for women and children and sought ways in which appropriate support might be provided for them. During the next 50 years in North America there emerged, at first denominational and then ecumenical, days of prayer in support of this work.

After the First World War these women were convinced that world peace was tied to world mission. Their efforts for unity were renewed across North America and a day of prayer was held each year at the beginning of Lent. In 1926 the women distributed their worship service to many countries and partners in mission. There was an enthusiastic worldwide response to this which resulted in the first World Day of Prayer for Missions in 1927. The subsequent worldwide growth of the movement led to international involvement in the planning and responsibility for the World Day of Prayer. Since 1968 this has been through an International Committee of representatives from National/ Regional Committees which meets in a different area of the world to plan the themes every four years.

Once the international meeting has chosen the themes, the women of the selected World Day of Prayer Committee develop the worship material on their theme that is subsequently distributed. Through the preparation and participation in the Women's World Day of Prayer those involved learn how their sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. They hear the concerns and needs of these people and feel solidarity with them. In this way the richness of the Christian faith is experienced as it grows deeper and broader, internationally and ecumenically.

## Worship prepared by the women of Panama

This year it was the turn of the Christian women of the Central American Republic of Panama to plan the service. They chose as their theme "In Faith, Women Shape the Future" and pointed out in the material for the service that perhaps during the 20th century the most persuasive lasting transformation in many parts of the world has been the emergence of women as a major presence and force in public life. At the service, held in St John's Church, we learnt from the speaker, the Revd Lynne Davis of Caversham Park Church, that the women in Panama were not entitled to vote until 1942; by 1997 there were more women graduates than men and 49% of the professionals in Panama were women. Despite this, many women are still disadvantaged; sexual harassment is not against the law and women from the lower social order are oppressed. She reminded the congregation of the contribution and experience of great women and the potential of the women in the congregation to make a difference in shaping the future observing that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world".

## Treasure to be shared

The message of the Service, reinforced by the address, was based on three examples. First there were the daughters of Zelophehad who took their problem to God for a just solution. Secondly, Mary Magdalen whose love, devotion and the practical application of her deep faith meant that she did not desert Jesus after the crucifixion, but subsequently discovered the empty tomb, told the disciples and had a personal encounter with Jesus. Finally there was the example from one of the world's oldest crafts, pottery made in Panama. As the potter moulds the clay so women may be moulded by the Holy Spirit for Christian service. "But" as scripture says (2. Corinthians 4:7) "we have treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us". With these examples, those present at the Service were challenged to recognise that they are as earthen jars holding a treasure that is meant to be shared with all whom they meet in order to extend the Kingdom of God here on earth.

As always, a small number of men shared the privilege of attending this service by women for women and with a message that all may take home and act upon. Next year the theme "Let our light shine" comes from the women of Poland. The date is always the first Friday in March. Make a note of it now.

Those involved in the presentation of the Service were drawn from the churches in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham.



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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

# RIDING LIGHTS IN CAVERSHAM

Riding Lights, Britain's leading Christian Theatre Company, came to Caversham Heights Methodist Church on the Friday before Holy Week to give a dramatic presentation of THE PASSION.

Based at Friargate Theatre, in York, Riding Lights tours the country presenting the Christian message in a dramatic setting. The presentation that was seen by a packed house in Caversham was performed in York Minster a week later as the centrepiece of its Good Friday service.

The play was presented in the context of worship, with hymns, prayer and silence, led by John Ogden and Rosemary Fletcher. It was divided into six episodes to create space for worship and reflection arising out of the drama. From a circular, sloping stage at the front of the church - with the "green room underneath" - the seven-strong company gave us a moving performance of the events in the life in Jesus Christ, culminating in his death on the cross. The whole presentation was a powerful act of remembrance, both participatory and reflective - providing us with a doorway into a deeper experience of the nature of Christ's passion.

What came across to me from the drama was the humanity of Christ. The church often speaks, quite rightly, of the divinity of Christ, that Jesus was and is God the Son. But Jesus was also a man. He enjoyed being with his friends, helped them with their fish catches, responding to their needs. We watched him the night before he died, knowing what lay ahead, agonising and pleading with his Father - "if it be possible let this pass from me, but nevertheless not my will, but yours". We heard his screams as he was nailed to the cross. Yes, this was a man, fully man, who felt pain as we do, and yet fully God.

## NEWS FROM GOSBROOK ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Congratulations to Catherine Hackman and Robin Scott on their recent marriage. Catherine and Robin were married on Sunday 29th February, by Revd Rosemary Fletcher. The church was packed with many relations and friends. The family had arranged for two receptions, one in the church hall for all the church family, which took place directly after the service. The first of two beautiful cakes was cut. Catherine made her own wedding cakes, as this is one of her many talents. The intricate icing work must have taken a good few hours, as did all the red roses and mauve lisianthus which decorated the cakes and were also made of sugar. The colours of the day were red, purple and silver. Everything was well coordinated. Catherine wore an ivory beaded dress and carried red roses. Nicola Elliot was the maid of honour and she wore a dusky lavender satin dress with matching stole. The second reception was at Phyllis Court in Henley on Thames. Cathering has been a member of the

Gosbrook Road Church since the day she was born and is at present one of our most conscientious Church Stewards. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Italy and will be living in Caversham. February 29th is a special day for the Hackman family as it is Julia's birthday, (Catherine's mother). I think Robin is hoping he will only have to remember the Anniversary once every four years, and lest he forget...he has his mother-in-law to remind him! Best wishes to you both for your future happiness.  
Eunice Cooper



Photo Eileen Herbert

Towards the end of the service we were invited to place on a cross a ribbon we had been given. This was to signify that we were placing ourselves at the foot of the crucified Jesus, and declaring that in taking up our cross we will walk in his way. A most moving evening.

Founded in 1977, Riding Lights creates four to six new plays a year. Its vision is to reawaken a strong dramatic tradition in the Christian community. It cannot do this "without the brilliant support of our 4,300 members", it says. If you are interested in becoming a supporting member, the address is Riding Lights, Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, York, YO1 9SL

E-mail: info@rltc.org

Web: www.ridinglights.org

## METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

- May 2 10.30am *Holy Communion* - Rev Dr John Ogden  
6.30pm Mrs Paula Andrews continuing the series on *Prayer*.
- May 9 *Christian Aid Week* -  
10.30am Jonathan Skeet  
6.30pm *United Christian Aid Service at St. Peter's*.
- May 16 10.30am *Parade Team Service* -  
Henry Stroud/David Munns  
6.30pm *Holy Communion* - Rev Rosemary Fletcher
- May 19 2.30pm *Circuit Easter Offering Service at Silchester*.
- May 20 8.00pm *Ascension Day United Service at Caversham Heights*.
- May 23 *Aldersgate Sunday* -  
10.30am Steven Deveney  
3.00pm *Joint Service at St. Mary's, Reading, celebrating the Anglican/Methodist Covenant*.
- May 25 8.00pm *Wesley Day United Service*.
- May 30 *Pentecost* -  
10.30am *United Service at St. John's*.  
6.30pm *Healing Service* - Deacon Glenda Sidding

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- May 2 9.00am *Holy Communion* - Rev Dr John Ogden  
10.30am Patrick Stonehewer  
6.30pm *First in series on 'Hard Sayings of Jesus'* -  
Revd Dr John Ogden
- May 9 *Christian Aid Week* -  
10.30am *Revelation*  
6.30pm *United Christian Aid Service at St. Peter's*.
- May 16 10.30am Rev Ann Barton  
6.30pm *Holy Communion* - Rev Tony Bell
- May 19 2.30pm *Circuit Easter Offering Service at Silchester*.
- May 20 8.00pm *Ascension Day United Service*.
- May 23 *Aldersgate Street Sunday* -  
10.30am *Holy Communion* - Rev Dr John Ogden  
3.00pm *United Service at St. Mary's, Reading*.
- May 25 8.00pm *Wesley Day United Service (see page 6)*.
- May 30 10.30am Rev Rosemary Fletcher  
6.30pm *Healing Service* - Mrs Beryl Wootton

ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH, WOODCOTE -

- May 9 9.45am Rev Rosemary Fletcher

### TO BOOK A ROOM FOR YOUR EVENING (subject to availability)

Caversham Methodist Church (Gosbrook Road):  
Contact David Herbert 947 8209.  
Caversham Heights Methodist Church: Contact  
Mrs. Janet Offord 947 0903 or (Wesley Lounge)  
Judith Higgs 947 4494

# TRIBUTES

## GEORGE MOTT

14 September 1900 - 17 January 2004

George Mott must have been, if not the oldest, certainly one of the oldest Caversham residents when he died in his 104th year on 17th January 2004, having lived through the whole of the 20th Century as well as briefly experiencing the 19th and 21st. Though he lived in Caversham from 1924 onwards, his early days were spent in Reading, being beautifully recalled in these, his own words, which shed a fascinating light on a child's life in the Reading of a century ago.

I was born in Reading in 1900 in the Hosier District of St Mary's Butts in Wine Place, one of the many alleys in that area. I went to St Mary's Church of England School; it is now occupied by the Market and Civic Centre.

I didn't know my mother (but) was brought up by my grandmother and well remember her, when I was about four years old, wheeling me in a pushchair from Hosier Street to the Royal Berks Hospital twice a week when I was suffering from a poisoned leg. This was quite a distance for an elderly lady; transport was scarce in those days.

My father worked in a grocer's shop in St Mary's Butts, in the late 1880s, called Aubury and Verbury; I don't suppose many Reading people will remember the premises. The surviving partner, Mr Verbury, was an elderly gentleman who lived

above the premises and had to be taken out in a bath chair. This bath chair had a large wheel at each side and a small one at the front to which was attached a long handle. My father and I used to take him out on Sundays. We would start from the shop in St Mary's Butts, go via Broad Street and along King's Road, turn off into London Road and then back home. I would pull with the handle in front and my father would push from the rear. The old gentleman would pay me the large amount of two old pence; I was six or seven years of age at this time. I don't know how much my father got.

I was a member of the Seventh Reading Boys' Brigade. The Captain was a Mr (Dad) Holmes, the owner of Holmes Furniture business that used to be in St Mary's Butts and is still trading in Chatham Street (alas no longer, Ed). In 1911, when I was eleven years old, we paraded in St Mary's Butts with a bugle, fife and drum band, and marched to a village named Dunsden, about three miles from Emmer Green, on a lovely Whit Monday. We had a field day, tea in the village hall, then prizes and medals presented by the vicar at the vicarage. A lovely day was had by all.

## Margaret Woolgar

Died 2 March 2004 Aged 76

The Editors send their sympathy to Brian on the death of his wife.

Margaret delivered the Caversham Bridge to many neighbours every month from the first issue nearly 40 years ago until the day before she died suddenly on the bus going to shop in Reading. She had been suffering from heart problems for several years.

Margaret and Brian celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last September. Until recently she led the Sunday morning coffee rota and was a flower lady.

Over 90 people attended a Requiem Mass at St Andrew's Church. There was a retiring collection for St Andrew's Flower Fund.

Margaret will be missed as a loyal and faithful member of St Andrew's congregation for over 50 years.

My early memories of Caversham were from when I was about eight or nine years old. I came from Reading to Caversham to sell evening papers; the 'Star' I think it was. There were not the restrictions on (children's) working in those days. Some of the shops I remember were Howards the Bakers, Caversham Motors and Repairs, owned by a Mr Wooland, Turner's Grocery Stores, Harry Eynot Nurseries, Fred Wise Plant and Tomato specialist, and an elderly gentleman named Mr Launchbury who had a shop that you had to go down two steps to get inside; it was a nursery and fruit shop. He would buy a paper from me and I would always come away with a lovely big apple. I came to live in Caversham in 1924 and I brought the first motor lorry from Baylis's Reading shop to the Baylis shop in Caversham as the horse and van that I used to drive had seen its last day. I worked for the Baylis grocery firm for forty-two years.

(The following later information has been culled from Revd Heather Serjeant's eulogy, delivered at George's funeral in St Peter's on 26th January).

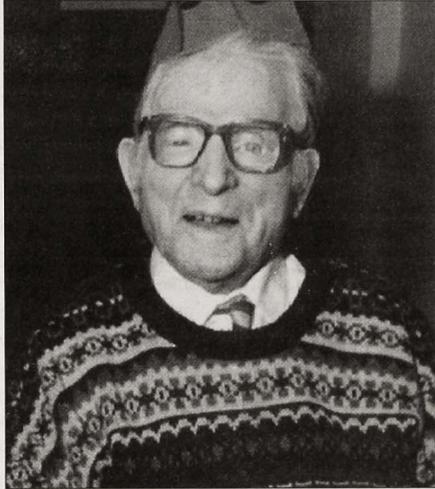
George was married to Hilda and they were able to enjoy their Diamond Wedding together before Hilda's death. They had two children, Jean

and Reg, two grandchildren, Elisabeth and Nick, and, by the time of George's death, six great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

A generous and friendly man, George was much admired by those who knew him and, with his sense of humour and outgoing nature, there were many of them. He was never afraid to try something new and, at the age of 99, bought himself a greenhouse, not having had one before! Gardening remained a great hobby until he was just too old to manage it.

Like many who enjoy their gardens, he was a calm man who made the best of things, accepted what life brought and never asked 'why me?' What life did bring for George was fullness of years, a loving family and many friends. 'In old age', he said, 'we come full circle, returning to childhood', and he could still laugh about that!

He will be much missed, not least by the four generations of his immediate family to whom our sympathies are extended.



George Mott at a Darby and Joan celebration, Christmas 2003.



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## the CLUBS

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The March meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild included the Annual General Meeting and Mrs Christine Cooke from the Berkshire Federation was welcomed as Returning Officer. All was in order and the Guild can go forward into 2004/5 with a strong committee and an exciting programme. The last year has been a full and busy one and the next year seems set to continue in similar vein. The Gardening, Arts and Crafts, and Words and Music Groups flourish and the first social event, a fish and chip lunch, will celebrate the past 75 years of the Townswomen's Guilds. The movement was formed in 1929 by Dame Margery Corbett-Ashby to educate women in the use of their newly acquired vote and today, 75 years on, the interest in education in the very widest sense continues, with a wide range of interesting speakers and activities.

Mrs Helen Holloway, a member of our Guild, continued her talk on her trip to Patagonia, showing excellent slides and giving a vivid account of glaciers, bird-life, camping, driving over very rough terrain and an altogether exciting and unique trip. Mrs Margaret Pocock gave the vote of thanks and Mrs Holloway was kept busy answering questions afterwards.

Mrs Margot Sutherland, Mrs Audrey Preston and Mrs Pam Harvey manned a sales table of well over 100 hand made greetings cards, the work of the Arts and Crafts Group and a considerable sum was raised for Guild funds. Mrs Grace Cave, a retiring committee member was thanked for her hard work and the two retiring officers, Mrs Joyce Woodage, Treasurer, and Mrs Vi Morley, Vice Chairman, were presented with gifts in appreciation of their time in office.

The Guild meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St Barnabas' Church Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green and visitors will find a warm welcome.

### Caversham Women's Institute

The annual meeting was held in March, giving members the chance to hear of the events of the past year. The President presented her report and added thanks to all the supportive members and especially the Committee. The treasurer presented the accounts and those were accepted. A brief election followed with all Committee members staying and Miss Margaret Cameron again elected as President. Refreshments were followed by a picture quiz of 'Old Reading' - a few brain teasers which resulted in four winners. The evening ended with the raffle. New members are always welcome.

### St Peter's Wives' Group

At our March meeting we were entertained by Alan Copeland, who gave a talk entitled 'Curiosities of the Cotswolds'. He showed some lovely slides of Cotswold villages, some familiar and others away from the 'tourist trail'. Some of his slides featured curiosities such as a topiary snail in a garden and a stone memorial to a fish, which apparently lived for 20 years and used to be hand-fed by its owner. Lots of old finger posts were featured, along with gargoyles, stocks with seven holes for legs (to accommodate, amongst others, a one-legged criminal - allegedly) and the nameplate of Adlestrop station, which now graces a shelter with a bench overlooking the local cricket pitch. Many other curiosities were featured and Alan's presentation has made many of us want to visit the Cotswolds in the summer and see for ourselves all the beautiful villages and their curiosities.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Betty Carden, a long-standing member of our group.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th May at 8.00pm at Church House, when we will be holding a party to celebrate the Group's 40th anniversary.

New members always welcome.

### Caversham Ladies Club

Chairman, Mrs Brenda Strong, welcomed members to the AGM.

The Chairman gave a full report on the Club's activities for the year. This was followed by reports from the Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairman and committee were re-elected to serve for the next year.

After a cup of tea, members enjoyed viewing an interesting video on the "History of making Pancakes."

Finally members were reminded that the next month's meeting would be the Easter Party.

### Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

Mrs Edna Manning, Chairman, welcomed members and the Returning Officer at the AGM on Thursday March 18th 2004. The usual annual reports were read by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. As there was no election Mrs Beryl Langton, Returning Officer, read the names of the new committee. The Competition Cup was awarded to Mrs Doris Smith. Following the tea break Mrs Manning presented a gift to Mrs Langton in appreciation.

Meetings are held every third Thursday, 2pm at Church House, Caversham. Do come and join us. New members welcome.

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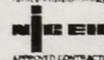
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