

## CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL

Saturday 19th June saw the Caversham Charity Folk Festival working with Reading Borough Council at the Thameside Promenade, contributing to an afternoon of family fun and entertainment at the 2004 Thameside Festival. This clearly worked very well. Mike Tierney, chair of CCFF, said, "The facilities organised by RBC were first class. The stage area and PA were brilliant, and the large number of stalls and other attractions added to a great festival feeling."

Most of the music was provided by local musicians. The exceptions were Bram Taylor, who came down from the North West of England and Robert Hokum, who came from London to play an excellent closing set.

Reading's own 107FM were there to capture the moment, and will no doubt be featuring the festival in a future programme.

The afternoon was well attended, starting with superb weather, but some showers later did tempt some people to leave the site. However, the venture proved to be a tremendous success and, with Reading Borough Council's support, CCFF have been able to raise over £2500 from this event for their adopted charities.

Further information about CCFF and the charities it supports can be found at [www.ccff.org.uk](http://www.ccff.org.uk)



Balloon Man at Festival

L. Whitelana

## D-DAY COMMEMORATED

On Sunday 6th June 2004 in beautiful weather, unlike D-Day itself, nearly 300 people attended the Caversham Royal British Legion's 'Reflections' at the local War Memorial in Christchurch Meadows and the party afterwards at the Caversham Working Men's Club.

At 11.30 the Service began with a welcome from the Branch President, Mr Ron Jewitt, followed by "60 seconds for 60 years", readings of memories and poems of D-Day 1944. The readings consisted of memories of a lady living in London at the time, of two men who landed on Sword and Gold beaches and two poems written by unknown soldiers. There were many tears shed by those present, both young and old.

At 11.45am there was a Call to Worship taken by the branch Chaplain, the Rev Fr Philip Dallaway, Vicar of St John's.

Standards were lowered and the Ode to the Fallen, Last Post, 60 seconds' Silence and the Kohima Epitaph were observed. The Bugler, Mr Dallas from the Reading Central Salvation Army Band, then sounded Reveille, and the assembled crowd proceeded to Caversham Centre where

Standards were again lowered and a further 60 seconds' silence was observed.

A barbecue, drinks, raffle and bingo during the rest of the afternoon were then enjoyed by a large number of ex-service people and their relatives and friends. A big thank you goes out to all who helped: the Working Men's Club for the use of their premises, the Committee Men and friends who cooked all the food, all the Bar Staff at the Club, Greene King for the barrel of beer, Waitrose for the salads and Iceland for their 'buy-one, get one free' on the quarter pounders and jumbos!

The day also marked the launch of the appeal to raise the money to get the names of the World War II fallen added to the memorial by the 60th Anniversary of the end of the War in 2005. The Legion thank all the businesses who have helped so far and will update everyone on progress.

If anyone knows of a relative or friend who was living in Caversham at the time and fell during World War II, please get in touch (Pauline 0118 947 5345) and we will get it checked out with our initial list from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

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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  
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Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please note  
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necessary.

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Parish Office on 947 1703.

# TALKING POINT

By

Colin Ferguson

## Speaking up for Justice

"It's not fair!" "That's not right!" "They can't do that!" "We were robbed!"

I wonder how often you have said one or the other of these short indignant sentences. Almost as soon as we are able to string a sentence together we become conscious of what is right and wrong, what is just and what is unjust, especially when it relates directly to ourselves. For some people that is as far as their sense of justice goes. They see themselves as inevitably right and anyone who is different must be wrong. They become the first to condemn others when they get things wrong and to judge the speck in other people's eyes and not the plank in their own.

There is a constant balancing between law and justice in the courts and even though the judiciary is independent from politics it is under constant pressure to give way to the particular whims of the day. The politicians, however, change the law and as long as we have the law being determined by the press we never shall get the balance right.

People who experience rejection after rejection will reject in return because the experience of living constantly in an unfair world breeds resentment. That is one reason why our present Criminal Justice policy of control and correction is unlikely to work; it is a policy of conflict, of do as I say or else, just the sort of attitude most of us would resent if we were on the receiving end and dangerously close to Huxley's 'Brave New World' or even Orwell's '1984'.

It is easier for us to condemn the injustice of regimes far away and even to act against them with what, so easily, becomes a greater injustice than they were previously suffering. The fate of those who are held in America without trial or access to any visits is clearly not right, but it is far away from us. But we also have our prisoners being held without trial and people who have sought refuge in this country being vilified by the press and seen as a threat by the ignorant; it is not fair.

The poor of the world feel our injustice all the time: our richness to their debt, our power to their poverty, our interests to their cost. In an address about world justice to the United Reformed Church General Assembly last year, Clare Short gave us a challenge. *"This is a time for all good people, and people of faith, and people who are inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ, to mean it, to take it into the mainstream, to move our societies and to move the world forward."*

Too often the Church is seen as part of the system of rejection when we should be about welcoming those who, like ourselves, are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus set us a new standard of love because the Law was not enough. It is this standard that we seek, a place where we care about each other, seek peace and bring hope.

Who will speak for the criminal or their victim? Who will say welcome to the refugee or peace to the warmongers? If we do not speak for what is right and just, who will?

Colin Ferguson is a lay preacher of the United Reformed Church

## CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the September 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 28th July. The date for submission of items for the October 2004 issue will be Wednesday 8th September.

All advertising copy for the September 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 27th July. For the October 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday September 7th 2004.

The newspaper produced by the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Free Churches of Caversham and Mappedurham for the local community.  
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Revd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.  
Fr Philip Dallaway, The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 947 1814  
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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, Mappedurham**  
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**  
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(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

## SKIPATHON AND SHADES AT SAINT ANNE'S SCHOOL



Some of the children skipping.

Photo - Angela Fung



### GOOD YEAR FOR CAVERSHAM PARK PRE-SCHOOL

Caversham Park Pre-School, based at the Milestone Centre Community Buildings, are pleased to report that they have had their most successful year ever.

The numbers of children attending, for both the morning and the afternoon sessions, are almost up to maximum level and they are now operating a waiting list.

The recent Ofsted inspection commended them on the improvements that have been made since the last inspection. The school was also praised for the way in which they promote the children's personal, social and emotional development and the children's communication, language and literature development. The Inspector also commented on how the setting had achieved a happy and friendly environment in which the children may flourish.

At the beginning of the school year, all parents were invited to vote for their preferred charity to receive 10% of the year's fundraising total. The most popular charity was the NSPCC who have recently received a cheque for £200. (This figure excludes the separate monies raised for 'Jeans for Genes', 'Childline' and 'Barnardos'). The pre-school thank the children, the staff, the committee, the parents and the friends of the school, for their generosity and support throughout the year.

## NEWS from QUEEN ANNE'S SCHOOL

Sir Clive Woodward, OBE, was Guest of Honour for Speech Day at Queen Anne's School, Caversham. Sir Clive, Head Coach of the England Rugby team, gave a fascinating talk on Changing Mind Sets, before handing out the prizes. He began his talk with a short video which started with some footage of Sir Clive's own playing career in the 1980s and finished with the Jonny Wilkinson kick at goal which clinched the Rugby World Cup for England last year. Every girl, parent and member of staff could remember where they were as the ball went between the uprights! Sir Clive then gave the assembled audience of over 800 an insight into how the coaching team and players constantly look for ways to improve performance.

Mr David Bruce, Chairman of Governors, thanked Sir Clive on behalf of the Governors and staff. Alice Sinclair and Tracy Ng, Head Girls, gave the vote of thanks. Alice echoed the feeling of the whole school when she said that it had been the best Speech Day she remembered. She went on to say that it had been one of the best days of her life; if Jonny Wilkinson had been there it would have been THE best day of her life!

Just before the end of term, a "Skipathon", a sponsored skip, was held in aid of the British Heart Foundation. It was organised by Mrs McEvoy and Year 6 who also acted as stewards. The other children were in ten groups which, in rotation, carried out various skipping activities during the course of an hour. As the children moved from one activity to another, the class teachers continued skipping so that someone was skipping all the time.

"Shades" was in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind and, for a fee of 50p, a child could wear sunglasses for the day.

The sun did shine on the children while they were outside but, as they went back into school at the end of their day, the rain came just in time to soak the waiting parents.

Norman Shaw

### ST MARTIN'S ON THE WATER

Shortly before the end of term, the Year Six children from St Martin's School enjoyed a day on the River Thames. The event was arranged by Mrs Hogg, deputy head, as part of their adventurous activities.

Seventeen pupils, accompanied by Mrs Hogg and Miss Cierzan, assembled at the Adventure Dolphin Activities Centre at Pangbourne. After some preliminary warm-up exercises, the children were fully briefed on all the safety aspects of the activity and then, between them, carried three Canadian canoes down to the water's edge. They were then kitted out with buoyancy aids, climbed into the canoes and set off paddling. They were accompanied by three instructors from the Centre as well as by the two teachers.

They started paddling upstream, first negotiating Pangbourne Lock, and then continued along the river to the Beale Park Landing Stage where they had a picnic lunch. After lunch, the children paddled back downstream to Pangbourne. Unlike the day before when it had poured with rain, the weather remained fine, if rather windy, and the children behaved very sensibly, worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Back at the Centre, they enjoyed further activities using kayak canoes.

The skill and professionalism of the Dolphin Centre instructors and the fact that they were so very safety conscious made a great impression on the school staff.

Report by Jane Shaw



David Bruce, Chairman of Governors, Mrs Deborah Forbes, Headmistress, Sir Clive Woodward OBE.

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# FROM THE LOOKOUT POST

## Sources of help

Reading Borough Council and its partners have either produced or acquired a number of useful documents. Three of these are available in the Caversham Library. The first is a wallet information card giving 13 different contacts to assist those affected by drug and alcohol abuse. These abuses are serious problems in Caversham and we all need to work on reducing drug and alcohol dependency and the related crime. The second document is Help the Aged's HandyVan Scheme leaflet. The scheme is aimed at assisting people over 60 on low incomes with a range of safety and security products in the client's home. The contact telephone number for the HandyVan Scheme is 01255 473999 or www.helptheaged.org.uk. HandyVan fitters only arrive by appointment and always carry photo identification. The third document is a small sticker declaring that you do not buy or sell at the door.

## Planning Issues

There are a number of large planning proposals casting a dark shadow over greenspace in Caversham. The Council intention to sell off some of Mapledurham Playing Fields along Hewitt Ave to finance the building and maintenance of a new pavilion remains on the cards. The playing fields management committee intends to consider in late July the draft planning permission application in connection with the land sale for building of a number of bungalows. If the application is made, we are advised that a very comprehensive consultation will be conducted. The preparation of detailed costings and tenders for the proposed new pavilion is being undertaken as a separate exercise.

The other land disposal being proposed is for the tennis courts on the north side of Highdown school playing fields. The proceeds from the sale are intended to assist with the provision of an assembly hall. The desirability for Highdown to have a facility to accommodate all students is not disputed. However, it is regrettable that the authorities intend to finance it via sale of sporting facilities, at a time when there is concern over the health and fitness of younger people. Couldn't the public make greater use of these tennis courts as has been successfully done for many years for the Highdown swimming pool, squash courts and gym?

The determination of the Council to sell off the family silver in these two instances is sufficient reason to support the residents' associations in their critical reviews of these proposals. These associations work individually and together to try to achieve the most favourable, balanced outcome for the community.

## Home Security

I have reason to add to my security suggestions in the June Lookout Post that focused on measures to secure dwelling front doors and valuable items, such as car keys, in the vicinity of letterboxes. I was recently awakened at 4.00 am to note the agility and speed of an intruder over my side gate, who quickly slid the bolt to allow his conspirators in and provide an escape route. My advice is that a throw bolt on outside gates provides minimal protection. A modestly increased investment should be made in more effective locking devices, such as a padbolt and lock.

Full marks to Thames Valley Police and Victim Support (phone 958 6166 or e-mail victimsupport.reading@virgin.net) for their response.

## Scams to watch out for

We heard recently about two nasty scams. Cars in the station car park have been intentionally damaged and a note left of whom to contact to exchange insurance details. The owners phoned the number given and gave their home address only to find that their home was burgled, their car keys taken and then their car stolen from the car park. Another particularly unpleasant scam involves people purporting to sell perfume at good prices with a card to sniff and choose your fragrance. What you actually sniff is ETHER!

## Round 'the village'

How good it is to see the library with its newly cleaned façade. All it needs now is an elegantly styled rubbish bin to complete the effect. Perhaps it will inspire some improvements in St Martin's Precinct.

By the time you read this, Lindsay and John Mullaney will be enjoying a well deserved retirement from the Caversham Bookshop. We wish Lindsay and John bon voyage on their travels and a very happy retirement. Their very personal service and encyclopaedic knowledge has been a unique feature of Caversham and their involvement in so many Caversham community issues has been widely appreciated.

Meanwhile the empty Post Office on Prospect Street is looking very sorry for itself. However, further up, I see that number 38 is 'under offer' and, down the hill, 'San Marco' has a new look and a

new name - 'The Italian Job.' Look out for the three Mini Coopers driving past!

On Church Street, the Post Office counter in the Day Lewis Pharmacy seems to be doing good business. Following the removal of the post box on Prospect Street, the post box on the corner outside Waring's Bakers now has a late collection at 7pm and one at 2pm on Sundays.

It is disappointing to see signs for an end of lease sale of Nickson's Countryware / Chiltern Antiques. Over the years we have had some first class boots, some very attractive antiques, not to mention some delicious fresh eggs. All good wishes to Fred Nickson in his plans for the future.

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# KING'S MEADOW AT RISK

To call a meeting for a Saturday lunchtime in June seemed to be asking for trouble. If there were a dozen people present that would be a miracle. The Jeremiahs were proved wrong; St Andrew's Hall was packed to standing room only. Moreover, the subject of the meeting was not even in Caversham but across the river on the Reading bank. However, in many ways the railway line can be regarded as the real cut-off line between Reading and Caversham, leaving the Meadows more Caversham orientated.

As was emphasised by the speakers, Jane Griffiths MP being the major one, no firm plans are yet in but proposals are under consideration. These are to replace the swimming baths with a six-floor high hotel and restaurant which would also entail the loss of or damage to twenty-two mature plane trees, and the provision of extensive parking places.

The meeting made it clear this was totally unacceptable. It was less clear what would be acceptable, but it would have to be something that left views, was appropriate to the riverside and

beneficial to the people of Reading. A refurbishment to bring the baths up to present day standards was feasible.

There was general agreement that the area around the lock had been badly neglected in the past. There are many towns that would give their eye teeth (or whatever the municipal equivalent is) to have a major river (let alone two) within its bounds, so let us not lose this major asset to commercial interests. It is not a case of saying no to any kind of development, but that development must respect its site.

M.C.

## GIRL GUIDING IN CAVERSHAM A REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

by Caroline Smith

Girlguiding Caversham District is one of the largest districts in the County with 12 units, 280 girls and currently 24 warranted guiders, 5 pre-warrant guiders, 15 Young Leaders (of whom 6 are working on the Leadership Qualification) and 4 unit helpers.

We rose from 11 units to 12 units in September 2003 when 1st Emmer Green (St Barnabas) Rainbows opened. All 3 guiders were new to the Movement and have all gained their warrants through some very hard work and dedication. They would like to express their thanks to their "very patient" mentor, Helen Randall. I have attended several of their unit meetings and have every admiration for them. Well done to them.

3rd Caversham Brownies started off September's term with a slightly changed leadership team. They have entertained the parents, taken the sixers and seconds to Marwell Zoo, completed badge after badge and both leaders have completed the Leadership Qualification.

All the Brownie units have been getting to grips with the new programme. New handbooks seem to be very popular with the girls and the new badge book has encouraged the leaders anew. Brownie Traditions has been very popular, as has First Aid plus the old favourites of craft, artist, the various world badges, swimmer, agility

and many, many more.

4th Caversham continue their strong links with Mapledurham Playing Fields and have spent time there helping with their conservation events. Their girls enjoy tree planting. 2nd Emmer Green Brownies have also completed the Conservation Badge including making bird tables – an evening involving hammers, nails and wood. Nobody was hospitalised and lots of bird tables got made!

2nd Caversham Park Brownies had a Japanese visitor as part of the Communicator badge, who showed them a kimono and taught them some Japanese phrases and some origami. 1st Emmer Green took part in the Children's Marathon Challenge and elected to run round the hall 26 times. Half the money raised went to a children's leukaemia charity and the rest was used to buy handbooks and promise boxes for the unit.

Units associated with churches have been taking part in church activities – attending, and sometimes leading, services, giving food for harvest, toys at Christmas and helping with their Church fayres and fetes. Many units took part in Remembrance Day at the war memorial by the Thames. 3rd Caversham Guides laid the wreath this year.

The guide units have completed all sorts of badges – Fitness, Flights of Fancy, Splash, Peace. 1st Caversham Park have rung handbells, held a Christmas entertainment and met a Guide Dog puppy. 2nd Caversham raised money for Jeans for Genes Day, decorated Santa's grotto and held a dash challenge evening with 2nd Emmer Green. 2nd Emmer Green held a very smelly "experiment evening" – how to get eggs from A-B without touching them. They sewed for Mothers' Day; a very impressive hive of industry it was too. 3rd Caversham took a trip to Madame Tussauds.

2nd Caversham have started a D of E group under Sylvia Page. Most of the girls involved in the group are not only guides but also Young Leaders round the District.

The Brownies in the District hold an annual sports with all units vying to defeat the might of 3rd Caversham. The Brownies met in July for a 90th Birthday Party at St Anne's with a Stars and Stripes theme, finishing with a balloon release.

Ellen Wilson and Katherine O'Halloran are both taking part in the County trip to Mexico in July and very much looking forward to the adventure. They have both worked very hard to raise the funds needed. Unfortunately, Ellen will be moving to Exeter at the end of the summer but will, hopefully, have some fabulous memories of her time with Berkshire Guiding.

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The Christian Aid Week street collection in Caversham, Emmer Green and Mapledurham raised £11,642.35 in 2004. This amount includes £422.05 raised by Queen Anne's School in their own envelope collection. Over £4,000 was declared for 'Gift Aid' which will result in a further £1,200 being added to the above total.

Nine walkers took part in the annual Christian Aid Walk at Henley and they raised £607. This amount goes to the Reading Christian Aid Christian Walk Committee where the total amount raised usually approximates £12,000. This year's Christian Aid service at St Peter's raised £352.

Overall results this year are about the same as 2003 and, once again, grateful thanks go to collectors, walkers and all who helped in any way to bring about this excellent result.

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**ONE WORLD WEEK**

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**AROUND THE CHURCHES****NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST ANNE**

May and June saw several important events in the parish of Our Lady and St Anne.

On two consecutive Sundays in May, thirty two children from Year Three at St Anne's School made their First Holy Communion. The church was crowded each week as family and friends joined with the children as they went up to the altar to receive Holy Communion for the first time. On the feast of Corpus Christi, the First Communion children were able to wear their special outfits again as children from Years two to six went to Mapledurham House to join in the open-air Mass and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. This year the celebrant was the Rt Rev Geoffrey Scott OSB, Abbot of Douai. As always this was a very moving occasion.

On 19th June, nineteen pupils from the two top classes at school, along with five other children and five adults, were confirmed at the 5.30 Mass. Canon Tom Farrell, Episcopal Vicar for the south of the Birmingham diocese, officiated and it was a wonderful occasion for all concerned.

Finally, at the end of June, the summer fete took place. It was disappointing that, after all the lovely weather we have enjoyed recently, the day dawned grey and wet. The band of helpers, however, cheerfully set up stalls in the school hall. The rain did hold off and the barbecue was set up in the corner close to the entrance where it attracted the attention of lots of customers attending the fete.

There were numerous stalls selling a variety of items from bric-a-brac to home-made goods. The cake stall quickly sold out and the plant stall did good business. There seemed to be a permanent queue at the tombola and the lady on the raffle table was kept busy folding up tickets and putting them into the bucket ready for the draw. Homemade cake and beverages were available at the refreshment counter including a wonderful coconut cake! It was a relief to sit and chat over a cup of tea after wandering round the stalls. Despite the uncooperative weather, it was an enjoyable social event and, to quote Father Tony, "It also made a few bob for the Gateway fund." *Report by Jane Shaw*

**CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION TALK AT  
CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL**

Two years ago, it came to public attention that a college in Gateshead was promoting the account of Earth's origins given in the Bible. Scientists, philosophers and even church leaders loudly condemned this as ludicrous and dangerous.

The outcry, however, was not universal. In a letter to *The Daily Telegraph*, a Professor of Thermodynamics and Combustion Theory at the University of Leeds said there was 'little hard evidence for the evolutionary hypothesis.' And an Emeritus Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Liverpool John Moore's University pointed out that, 'The description of Creation in Genesis accords pretty well, in terms of chronological order, with that given by science'. In spite of the unquestioning assumption by most people today that Charles Darwin broadly 'got it right', his theory of evolution remains merely a set of beliefs - and clearly not the only one, even among scientists.

Caversham Hill Chapel is offering a further contribution to the debate in the form of a talk called 'Is Evolution True?' by visiting speaker Paul Garner. A former information scientist with a Cambridge-based pharmaceutical company who is a Fellow of the Geological Society, Mr Garner has spoken on the Creation versus Evolution debate on radio and to audiences of all ages throughout the UK and internationally. Using easy-to-understand language, he examines the popular arguments for large-scale evolutionary change and explains why he thinks Darwin's theory should be rejected in favour of a biblical view of Creation, basing his argument partly on the famous "missing links" in the fossil record. His talk will be followed by a time of open questions.

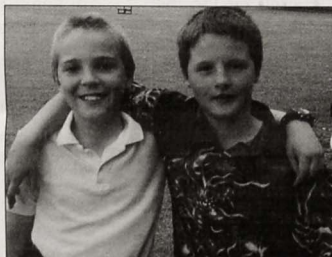
Paul Garner gives his talk 'Is Evolution True?' at Caversham Hill Chapel, 119 Peppard Road, Caversham, on Thursday 16th September at 8.00pm. Admission is free.

**METHODISTS AT PLAY**

For the past five years James Rowley has organised, usually on Fathers' Day, a cricket match and 'bring your own picnic' at Mapledurham Playing Field. The weather has been kind and those not wanting to play have been the spectators.

This year the two team captains were Jan Broady and James Rowley. It looked as though all was set for James' team to win and Jan's last pair of bats were Kathy Munns and Rosemary Fletcher. However, they, unexpectedly some thought, went on to score eleven runs each and were the best partnership of the day. Rosemary scored the winning runs - this felt good on her last such match. However the tradition is that she chooses the Person of the Match and she gave this jointly to Jonathan Munns and Andrew Hine, who had scored six and seven respectively.

In giving the notices at her evening service that day, Rosemary said that her father, who put a cricket bat in her hands as soon as she could walk, would have been proud of her! The youngest player of the day was Harriet Booth, aged three, who scored a run and certainly had learned from her father what to do with a bat at the crease!



Jonathan Munns and Andrew Hine.

**ST ANDREW'S  
HEALING SERVICE**

The Guild of St Raphael Healing service on Sunday 20th June was very well attended. Elizabeth Bryson, daughter of the Rev Sidney Doran who was the Priest in Charge at St Andrew's from 1943 to 1951, gave a very moving testimony. She told us how God had healed her as a tiny baby after her father had administered the laying on of hands and anointing. She suffered problems in the womb and an eye disease, causing gradual blindness and was completely healed.

Several members of the Guild were enrolled at the service and June Deville was commissioned as the new secretary.

Regular Guild services are held, usually on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and there are 3 Healing services a year. The laying on of hands and anointing is administered to all who would like it at all these services.

The next few services are: Tuesday 17th August at 7.30pm, Tuesday 21st September at 7.30pm

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

# CTC Youth and Family Initiative Ltd

Churches Together in Caversham Youth & Family Initiative (CTCYFI) came into being from the work that Chris Evans and his staff team were (and still are) doing in Lower Caversham, particularly the Amersham Road area.

Chris is a Youth and Family worker, employed by the Methodist Circuit, with special responsibility to manage the daily leadership of the staff in Lower Caversham. The staff team have a paid administrator who is also involved in working with girls and young women – and, as Chris says, 'is a great support to have on board!' They have an office in Gosbrook Road Methodist Church where a lot of the activities with children and young people are also held. They also have an employed full-time Youth Outreach worker who works mainly with teenagers.

The YFI comes under the responsibility of Churches Together in Caversham but has its own Management Team. The administration, project management and finances were such that a Private Company, Limited by Guarantors – CTCYFI – was duly formed in July 2004, and is now seeking charitable status. The Management Team consists of the Chairman of CTC, Secretary, Treasurer, Chris Evans and 4 members of CTC churches with particular and special skills in management, administration, fund-raising and police work (a local policeman with the Crime Prevention Squad), plus occasional visits from other members of Chris's team.

The goal statement of YFI is:

*"The CTCYFI exists with the hope that by the grace of God and through his love, we may:*

- build working relationships and friendships in the local community;*
- create and facilitate activities for local children and young people;*
- develop mentoring, mediation and advocacy for those most at risk;*
- offer support and care for local parents and families;*
- find ways of establishing community participation and leadership to ensure sustainability.*

*This work is understood to be an expression of God's boundless love for His world and, whilst driven by the local Churches, exists for the benefit of the local community."*

Several volunteers work with the team at different times – mainly school holidays – throughout the year. Presently, there are two young people working their gap-year with the YFI team. Connexions allow Tom

Evans (a full-time Youth Key worker in the Caversham area, employed by Connexions) to have regular involvement with YFI. A manager for the Messy Play staff is currently being sought. Messy Play is work specifically with parents and very young children.

Chris also works in close conjunction with the schools – Highdown, Thameside and Micklands, where most of the children attend – in the key work of youth mentoring.

Chris and his team work very closely with, on average, 40 to 55 young people and have found an increasing breadth of useful activities for one-to-one contact, including different sports at Rivermead, bike rides across the county, driving lessons, discussions and conversations and general support. The football team has been very successful, even beating a local police team! There are also consultations, when appropriate, with the schools, Youth Offending Team and Thames Valley police.

The YFI Team continue to have increasing contact with children, young people and families and are currently assessing ways to include **more volunteers** from the community and local churches. One possible proposal is a Breakfast Club, where volunteers would be needed to dish out the cereals and toast etc, and to see the children to their schools.

Other on-going events, where volunteers play a big part in the work with children of all ages, are Holiday activities, Homework Club (term time), Messy Play and mentoring.

But more volunteers are needed. If you feel you can help in any way, please give your name to Sarah Douey at Gosbrook Road Methodist Church – 0118 948 4333.

*In a letter to Caversham Bridge, Chris Evans adds that: CTC YFI continues to exist financially on a hand to mouth basis, and we are really struggling with cash flow. Recent grants include £7,000 to work with prison families, £8,000 to develop family support in Amersham Road, and £1200 for furnishing the youth room at Gosbrook Road. We also receive income for the holiday activities we organise for up to 300 challenging youngsters in Lower Caversham. However, these funds do not cover our ongoing costs: please do pray for this, as we are really struggling.*

*Please do pray for our little team, and the friends and neighbours we are really coming to love. God bless you*

## SPONSORED WALK TO HELP PALESTINIAN CHILDREN SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

As part of the celebrations for the British & Foreign Bible Society's bicentenary year, churches in the Reading area are invited to join in a sponsored walk to raise funds for one of the bicentenary projects, providing funds towards Operation Palestinian Child, a project run by the Bible Society in Palestine. The programme helps children overcome the fears and oppressions they face in their daily lives. During 2003, holiday clubs enabled 1,500 to 2,000 children to enjoy participating in drama, puppet shows and games. Funds raised by this walk will go towards this year's programme.

The five mile walk, designed to suit all ages and degrees of fitness, will start from St Andrew's Church Hall, Albert Road, Caversham at 2pm on Saturday 18 September. Refreshments will be available en route at St Margaret's Church, Mapledurham. The walk will end in Whitchurch and lifts will be available back to Caversham. The route is suitable for bicycles and pushchairs, and participants can choose to do only one section of the walk if they prefer. For those who would rather not be sponsored, a donation towards the project of £5 a family is suggested. Sponsorship forms are obtainable from Sue Wilmot on 0118 959 9796 or sue.wilmot@biblesociety.org.uk or by phoning Jan Blakeley on 0118 947 2305.

The Bible Society began in 1804 when committed Christians realised that people all over the world should be able to encounter God's Word for themselves. Two hundred years later, the worldwide work continues, through a global alliance of more than 130 Bible Societies. Together, they work to make the Bible heard through translation, distribution and campaigning work.

For more information about this and other bicentenary events, visit the Bible Society website at [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk)

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## AROUND THE CHURCHES

### ST BARNABAS CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCHES AN APPEAL FOR NEW PARISH CENTRE

The congregation at St Barnabas takes its lead from its patron: Barnabas, an encourager, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. This was the upbeat background to the weekend in mid-June celebrating its Patronal Festival, combined this year with the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the consecration of the "new" church. It also happened to be the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone and 110 years since Anglican worship began in Emmer Green at the old school. In his sermon at the Anniversary Service the new Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, continued the theme of encouragement. He

startled the congregation by suggesting three changes he would like to make to the Bible but these turned out to be signposts through which he emphasised three things: first the gift of the Christian Church in the rest and joy of recreation; secondly he reminded us that what the Holy Spirit did for Barnabas is also true for us; "You did not choose me, I called you; go and bear fruit"; thirdly he said each generation needs to hear afresh the old, old story. This he said is good news for our lives and the world; the life of the Church will be continued in us: "Go and bear fruit that will last".

#### St Barnabas remembers the past and looks to the future

There were many clergy present who have encouraged us in the past including Leonard and Jenny Burn (1972 - 76), Peter and Anne Sear (1977 - 85) and Nigel and June Hardcastle (1989 - 99), who were two of the past priests-in-charge, the previous vicar and their spouses. The celebrations continued afterwards in the Church Hall when Bishop Stephen cut the Anniversary Cake appropriately bearing the St Barnabas, Emmer Green, logo. The occasion

also saw the launch of the appeal for the new Parish Centre which, while providing additional space, has the Christian concern for the community and people of Emmer Green.



Bishop of Reading with clergy and lay ministers at St Barnabas Patronal Festival. From left: Bill Harper, Leonard Burn, Anne Sear, Derek Chandler, Peter Sear, Edward Tildesley, Bishop of Reading, John Dudley, Margaret Dimmick, Liz Gash and Walter Williams.

#### 75th Anniversary Dinner

Replacement of the pews by chairs some years ago means that the church now has a multi-functional building at the heart of the community. It provided a fitting venue for the Anniversary Dinner, which proved to be a happy, memorable occasion. Thanks to the hard work of the Social Committee, over 60 sat down to a three-course meal, with choices, at tables elegantly prepared

and arranged in the nave. This was an opportunity for joy, rest and recreation. Young members of the congregation gave musical entertainment, interspersed by reminiscences from May Smith, Wendy Howell, Nigel Hardcastle and Peter Sear and ending with a poem by Hermione Evans specially written for the occasion.

#### All Age Service and Barbecue

The celebrations continued on the Sunday morning with an All-Age Service to which the Methodist circuit drama group "Revelation" contributed three sketches. The choir led the congregation out into glorious sunshine with "We shall go out with joy", which is exactly what happened as we adjourned to the playing fields of neighbouring Emmer Green School for a barbecue. Details of the history of St Barnabas Church and, more importantly, its plans for a new Parish Centre, have been on display in the church. We now look to the future and the prospect of bearing fruit for which we take Jesus' imperative "I am the vine, ye are the branches", words portrayed in the West window of the church.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN READING FOCUS ON YOUTH WORK

At the recent Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Reading, held in the Borough's Council Chamber, the main focus was on two initiatives with young people. Chris Evans spoke about the Youth and Family Initiative of Churches Together in Caversham. Not only did he outline the work but he drew attention to the very different expectations of the youth among whom he works compared with those of the average middle class child in Caversham. Both can respond to the Christian faith. With the aid of a video made by the children of Amersham Road, Chris Evans was able to convey a clear picture of the needs and the opportunities in Lower Caversham.

The Revd Chris Russell also spoke about the work he is doing from his base at St Laurence, which is currently being reordered to provide an appropriate space that would help unchurched young people come to faith. He also spoke

about the background and expectations of these young people and their difficulties in following Jesus in today's world. Some of the contact is derived from mentoring done at Prospect College. Chris Russell emphasised the importance of those working with youths to be authentic.



Officers of Churches Together in Reading were photographed in Reading's Council Chamber. They are (from the left) the Revd Nigel Hardcastle (Vice-Chairman), Major Samuel Edgar (Chairman), Miss Doreen Woods (Secretary) and Mr Graham Fuller (Treasurer).

#### Continuity and change among CTR Officers.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary (Major Samuel Edgar, the Revd Nigel Hardcastle and Doreen Woods) all remain in office. Mr Graham Fuller of Park URC and a resident of Emmer Green is the new treasurer. Mr Nick Crowder, onetime Chief Executive of Christian Community Action, is being nominated by Christian churches

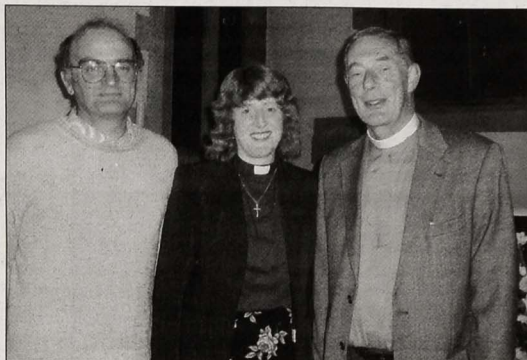
to succeed Mr Kevin Potter as the Faith Communities Representative; the nomination will need the support of the other faith communities.



## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## METHODIST MESSAGE AT ST PETER'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

It was doubly appropriate that the Revd Rosemary Fletcher, the Methodist Team Leader in Caversham, was preaching at St Peter's Patronal Festival on 29 June. It is the year in which the Anglican-Methodist Covenant has been signed and represents a growing together of the two denominations. It also afforded an opportunity for many in the Anglican Churches to say goodbye to Rosemary towards the end of her 8-year ministry in Caversham. They did so within the context of a service that could not be more Anglican: a full 1662 Choral Evensong in which St Peter's Choir demonstrated their prowess at church music.



The Revd Rosemary Fletcher was photographed in St Peter's with her husband James Rowley (left) and Canon Richard Kingsbury.

congregation that Christ built his Church on the foundation of the apostles and ordinary people. "What an extra-ordinary image. We are all part of the living stones to pass on the faith". Race was celebrated in Peter's day; today we have no room for complacency: we are told that the average Anglican is now under 30, black and female. Also Christian unity has existed in India for over 50 years, whereas in this country we have only just signed a Covenant.

Rosemary Fletcher said that today the task for us is to keep the faith and proclaim the kingdom. We are people on the way and we must be prepared for self-sacrifice and have a sense of mission. Despite the weaknesses we need to build on reconciliation and forgiveness. We, like Peter was, are part of the foundation stones of the Church of today. We need to give God his worth with our whole lives. Rosemary concluded by saying: "May we become beautiful stones on which Christ may build his continuing Church".

After the service, during refreshments at the back of the church, Canon Richard Kingsbury gave a speech of appreciation and a bouquet of flowers wishing Rosemary Fletcher and her husband James well as they prepared for their future ministry in Sri Lanka.

### Become beautiful stones on which Christ may build his continuing church

Rosemary Fletcher in her sermon reminded the congregation that only Christ can build the Church but he had given that task to humans. Peter, who denied Christ, was rescued and became the rock. He showed no partiality, where today there are barriers. "Are we still in our chains?" Rosemary questioned. At Pentecost people were saying, "What on earth are all these people doing here today?" Now there is faith but also doubt and reticence in owning Our Lord. Rosemary reminded the

## ST JOHN'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries, was the special preacher at the Patronal Festival at St John's on 24 June. Within the context of the coming of John the Baptist as part of God's purpose for the salvation of humanity Bishop Richard said that God's purpose and love could not be frustrated. Christians are called into a relationship with Jesus Christ and we should not be shy about affirming God's purpose of love. He challenged the congregation at St John's, the Parochial Church Council, the churches in Caversham and in Reading to discern God's purpose. He acknowledged the present abyss between the Christian culture and that of the world today and agreed that it is difficult to communicate the faith in a culture far from the Church. He questioned how we could discern what God's purpose is and suggested that this would be revealed in God's own time. While this remained unanswered we are all

called upon to wait upon God in prayer and by doing what is right.

### Reading Male Voice Choir

St John's celebrations continued two days after the Festival Service when the Reading Male Voice Choir, under the direction of Gwynn Arch and accompanied by Clive Waterman, gave a concert in aid of church funds. The concert was graced by the presence of the newly elected Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillors Richard and Sue Stainthorp. The 60-strong choir, who had not long returned from a tour of Latvia, gave a varied programme including music from the church, folksongs, songs about longing and from around the world; many were special arrangements by Gwynn Arch. Both halves of the programme were supplemented by soprano solos by Joan Passmore, including Mimi's Aria from Puccini's La Bohème. Choir and soloist gave an excellent evening of vocal entertainment, the quality of which was enhanced by the very good acoustics of the church.



The Bishop of Oxford at the St John's Patronal Festival with (from the left) Father Philip Dallaway, Churchwardens Ann Deane and Richard Purkis.



The Reading Male Voice Choir at St John's Church with the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading, Councillors Richard and Sue Stainthorp on the left next to Father Philip Dallaway. Gwynn Arch (Conductor) and Joan Passmore (soprano soloist) are on the right of the picture and accompanist Clive Waterman is at the piano.

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# TURKISH DELIGHT

At the end of April a group of eleven, mostly Methodists and from the Reading area, went on pilgrimage with Deacon Glenda Sidding to Turkey. We were to visit the seven churches of the Revelation described by St John following his vision on the island of Patmos. Our whole experience was mind-boggling. Not only did we see the sites of those ancient churches, but we travelled on into central Turkey to Cappadocia and stayed at Konya (ancient Iconium) passing on the way names like Colossae and Pisidian Antioch. They are mostly just green mounds now, but think what lies underneath the soil!

St John's messenger's first port of call was Ephesus. It was on the seaboard in ancient days, but it is now at the head of a boggy silted up area. The main street, of Roman construction, almost looks modern. There is a central road for wheeled vehicles and side walks for pedestrians, with an array of shops on the verges, and even a set of loos! It was the first place in the world to get street lighting – hence the interesting reference in Revelation 2 verse 5 to the removal of the lampstand if the church does not repent and come back to its first love of the Lord. We walked on to the great theatre (the size of the Madejski Stadium!) where Paul was saved from a lynching and accused of decimating the silversmiths' profits.



Ephesus – main street towards the library of Celsus.

We were privileged to visit the house of Mary, a green and peaceful spot up a steep hill out of Ephesus. The yellow fennel was in full bloom adding to the beauty. Although now a little church, the place is reputed to have been where St John brought Mary when he visited Ephesus, and was the place where she died. There seems to be no reason to believe this is not true, considering that Jesus, from the cross, asked John to care for Mary as though she was his own mother (John 19, verse 27).

The ruins of Smyrna (now inside modern Izmir) were exciting. It is the only one of the seven churches where there is still a Christian witness. In a 99% Moslem land, the little church of St Polycarp holds services regularly on the same spot as where Polycarp made his courageous witness and died for Christ in AD156 (approx).

At the top of a steep hill, the Acropolis at Pergamon was impressive – as was the view. It was moving to pray and read John's words there. Later we saw the ruins of the famous library – second only in the world to the one in Alexandria – with its double outer wall to keep the books dry. There was also an early medical centre with its

auditorium and emphasis on the value of music therapy. Is there anything new under the sun?

Further inland is ancient Thyatira. The ruins are contained in the middle of a town square, surrounded by the modern bustling commercial city of Akhisar. We remembered this was where Lydia, the seller of purple cloth, came from (Acts 16). Paul met her in Philippi, and her heart was "opened by the Lord" there. This site made me very sad – there is no Christian witness at all now, just broken columns and stones amidst totally worldly surroundings.

On again to Sardis, a magical place, amidst the mountains on a bright and sunny day with lizards and tortoises basking in the heat. The temple of Artemis and the restored gymnasium testify to the city's past splendour – but the letter to Sardis had to remind the Christians of the way they had belied their early promise. One of the most severe letters of the seven!

The Philadelphian church received a reminder of the open doors set for Christ's people. There was little to see here, and once again just a little square set in the midst of a town, with vast arches from the 6th century AD in a pleasant rose garden setting.

Then on to Laodicea, where we saw old water pipes which reminded us of the polluted and insipid water supply piped from the hot springs of Hieropolis. Mixing with cold water, it pointed to the lukewarmness of the church that needed to open its doors afresh to discover the riches of Christ. We'll always remember Laodicea in Caversham when we descale our kettles!

As we travelled onwards into central Turkey, we saw much wildlife through the minibus window. There was a great salt lake with wild flamingoes. As we went on, the agriculture of olives, vines, pomegranates and cereal crops became sparser. After an overnight stop in Konya (old Iconium) we received a better welcome than the stones that greeted St Paul. The great salt Obruk plateau went on for miles. We visited wattle and daub houses and made friends with the inhabitants. Later, nearer Aksaray, we visited a primary school of happy children in their blue uniforms. The school and staff rooms were clean, but almost devoid of any teaching equipment. It made us think!

All this time, Orhan, our Turkish guide, gave us much useful background on Turkey and its culture, history and politics. Arriving in Cappadocia, it was a thrill to inspect the cave churches with fantastic wall paintings and frescoes. We had a short service ourselves in one of these wonderful old places.

Horse ploughing, camels resting, a pottery and a carpet factory provided us with more central Turkey delights.

And so back to Istanbul, where the great bridge spans the two continents. Our guide lived in Asia, and came across to Europe for the day. She led us round the Topkapi palace. We were amazed at the opulence of those old sultans, and especially the treasury jewels with one of the hugest diamonds in the world (our Queen's Koh-i-Noor is slightly bigger).

A fish lunch and a gentle boat trip on the Bosphorus brought us nearly to the end of a wonderful pilgrimage (and holiday!).

Sorry, I nearly forgot – we DID buy some Turkish Delight in Istanbul's spice market. It was laced with pistachio nuts – DELICIOUS!

Meryl Beek



## the CLUBS

### Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

The June meeting of the Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild was a busy one with the competition for the Nora Pollard Vase (won by Shirley Gudgion) and voting for the National Council Meeting resolutions. Both resolutions, "Children Sexually Abusing Other Children" and "Rights For Fathers", were carried unanimously. We look forward to hearing the debate at the Bournemouth meeting later this month.

The gardening group enjoyed a visit to "Clematis Corner" at Shillington to view a National Collection of Clematis. The arts and crafts members are continuing with their embroidered landscape, and the words and music group's "Victoriana" afternoon was a great success, providing a wide and varied picture through music and literature.

Sheila Hobbs and Lisa Klein were guests at Rosehill WI's birthday party and had a most enjoyable afternoon, receiving, as always, a very warm welcome.

Notice was given of forthcoming outings, coffee mornings and party invitations to provide a very busy summer.

Our speaker was Elaine Blake, whose subject was the Craft Collection at Reading Museum. She gave a very interesting talk showing slides and bringing objects for members to handle not always on display at the museum. She spoke of local craftsmen and women, some known to the Guild personally – potter Alan Caiger-Smith, the father of a one-time local doctor, Jan Messant and Audrey Ormrod, working with textiles – to name but a few. There is an important collection of Delft Ware, largely donated by two people, and a fine embroidery collection from the 1950's onwards. There is no room to display the costume collection but a project is in hand to provide better textile storage. An extensive loan scheme has been in place for the past eighty years providing a great service to local schools, and items are frequently on loan to overseas museums, for example, the William the Third charger was recently loaned to the International

Horse Museum in Kentucky. Margot Sutherland gave the vote of thanks and hopes to arrange a visit to the museum to view some of the items not currently on display.

### Caversham Ladies Club

The club were pleased to welcome Mrs Cleare for an illustrated talk entitled "Yorkshire Dales in Winter". Mr and Mrs Cleare and their dog Trixie travelled to Wensleydale, famous for sheep, wool, cheese, waterfalls, walking and dry stone walls. Their tour started in Middleham, the racehorse headquarters of the North with many famous racing stables around the town. Next stop was Swaledale to see cheesemaking and the Buttertubs, deep pits carved out of the rock face by nature. Harrogate, an elegant Spa town with Harlow Car, the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, was followed by visits to Aysgarth and Hardraw waterfalls. Their holiday finished with visits to Richmond to see the Norman Castle, Hawes to a rope factory and Semerwater Lake.

This was another very interesting visit from Mrs Cleare, much enjoyed by members.

### Caversham Women's Institute

Jean Shepherd, our WI advisor, made an unexpected, but welcome, return to Caversham WI. The expected speaker was unwell and unable to come so Jean stepped in at the last minute. She showed superb slides of the gardens of Cornwall featuring Heligan and the now popular Eden Project. Many members felt they would like to visit the area to see for themselves.

The competition for a small vase of wild flowers was won by Doreen Beard. Information on the summer garden parties was given and the evening ended with the raffle, with our visitor from Israel winning one of the prizes.

### Caversham Community Association

June began in the usual way with an informal games evening. The following week preparations started early for a fund-raising fair. Several stalls and a raffle were open to the public and fellow members and a useful sum made for funds. Next came another games evening and an evening walk for the more energetic.

The month ended with a popular bingo session, the prizes having a summer theme.

## CAVERSHAM BIRDS AND THE LOCK



### Scops Owl

Seasonal changes will have occurred through July and August to garden songsters.

Listen for the fluty notes of the Blackbird. It will probably be unrecognisable. Once it has reared young there is no more need to hold territory against intruders.

The Wren and Robin have gone into "sub-song" mode too. Migratory Warblers will have their attention upon a long return across the Sahara to Africa, Swifts and Swallows with them. A few may over-winter, due to our less cold temperatures, such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff.

A walk along the Warren is always interesting, with less disturbance than the "Prom". Further it is truly IN Caversham.

Always listen for birds with perhaps a late Warbler beyond the chalk-pit. Take the next open lane up to the level of the Golf course. Walk back alongside the fence and listen for Skylark and Meadow Pipit, once regular along here. Soaring Sparrowhawk, Red Kite and a hovering Kestrel have also been seen above Chazey Woods.

The latter has been out of bounds because of War Games. A pity really as it has fine bluebells in season and potential to sustain several bird species too.

Continue to the end of the footpath and turn right to Blagrove Lane. Go down to the next path to the Warren

and "return to base".

I have always felt a relationship with Balmore Walk, still a pleasant and now more arboreal park with passing years and still beloved of dogs with their owners, as it was ours.

Warblers sang as Nuthatches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers held station near Balmore House. The line of bushes between Rotherfield Way and Balmore often held a singing Chiffchaff.

The indecent haste of the RBC's approval of the destruction of Kings Meadow, in the face of so many daily users and twenty-two healthy, London Plane trees speaks for itself.

Goodbye my elegant, yellow, Grey Wagtails, Kingfishers and many species which inhabit this area alongside your fast, weir-waters which played host to Red-throated Diver, up from the sea. When this FLOOD PLAIN overflowed, water birds of all kinds would arrive, particularly ducks. With global warming, dangers must increase. One is unable to conceive the carnage of heavy diggers, bricks and mortar at this environmentally sensitive location. For so many wonderful years it was our home ground for cricket net practice, sports kites and preferably reliable, single liners, then as we walked home in a setting sun, all was as it should be.

### British Legion

It has been a busy time for the Branch. The usual monthly suppers and socials are continuing to be well supported and enjoyed.

A boat trip has been organised for August. Celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II in 2005 are being thought through.

The Branch has just received its final total for the Poppy Appeal in Caversham last year from the 'powers that be'. The Caversham Poppy Appeal Organiser, Pauline Palmer, is pleased to say that Caversham people have again been great and the total is £22,147.39p – another record! The increase over 2003 is even more pleasing as the national overall total has stayed just about the same.

Pauline says 'Thanks to all of you, collectors, shops, pubs, businesses and especially all those who gave – see you all again this year!'

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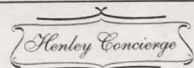
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