

ST PETER'S AND ST MARGARET'S CHURCH FETE

The fete committee anxiously listened to the weather forecast as Saturday, 3rd July approached. It was very mixed. In the event the day dawned sunny and bright... but would it last? Tables and chairs were delivered to Caversham Court, tents and gazebos were erected, stall holders and goods arrived, and still the sun shone. St Peter's church bells rang out and by 2pm there were

already crowds of people to hear Canon Richard Kingsbury declare the fete open – the sun shone and the temperature rose! The Berkshire Young Musician's Trust Orchestra played and gradually more and more children were transformed into assorted strange creatures as the ever popular face painters practised their skills. Raffle tickets and lucky programmes were sold and at the end of the afternoon delighted winners collected their prizes, the top one being a crate of champagne! Bargains were to be had at all the stalls, the home-made cake stall was soon denuded of its goodies and treasure hunters eagerly searched the bric-a-brac and book stalls for...who knows what hidden gem? The lucky bottle stall and tombola were, as ever, popular and when the going got tough, the tough found refreshment in the tea area or treated themselves to a drink of freshly squeezed lemonade (generously provided by the Rotary Club) or an ice cream. The Bouncy Castle bounced, balloons were launched...which would go the farthest? Punch inflicted traditional abuse on Judy, to the delight of the many children in the audience, wooden balls were hurled at the coconut shies, and various other games were played. The children's sports were competitive, and all the better for it! A traditional good time was had by all, church funds swelled and still the sun shone.

Meanwhile, in St Peter's Church, there was an art exhibition. Local amateur artists showed their work and Caversham Primary School displayed examples of arts and crafts from each primary school age group. Four prizes were chosen. (See separate report on page 4 regarding Caversham Primary's prestigious art award). The exhibition was also

open on Sunday; donations received were given to the charity for bereaved children, Daisy's Dream.

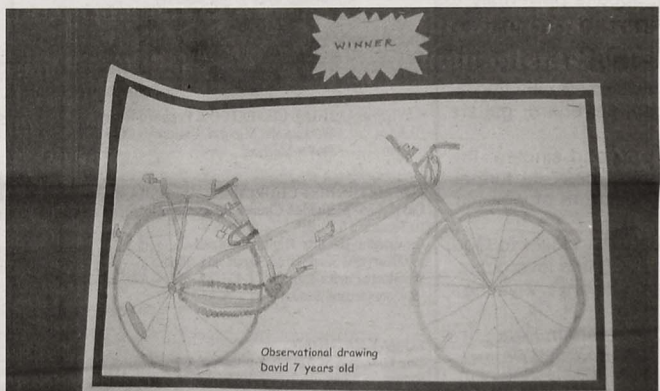
Altogether it was a most successful and enjoyable fete afternoon and art weekend.



And the winner is...



Just bouncing



7 year old David's winning drawing.



Hook that Duck.



Plants a plenty.

Photos by David Collis

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Contributions are welcomed if they are
relevant to community matters or church
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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.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Contributions for the October 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to
the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 8th September.
The date for submission of items for the November 2004 issue will be
Wednesday 6th October.

All advertising copy for the October 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs
Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 7th September. For the
November 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday October 5th 2004.

TALKING POINT

By
Lynne Davis

Worship and Sacrifice

Some time ago I read a newspaper article by Rev Dr Denis Duncan in
which he quoted the "perceptive, profound and stimulating
identification" by Mahatma Gandhi of what he called 'Seven Social Sins'
politics without principle
wealth without work
commerce without morality
pleasure without conscience
education without character
science without humanity and
worship without sacrifice.

Duncan comments that these seven "seem to probe deeply into
contemporary business, political and ecclesiastical life" and he
concludes his 'Meditation', "As for the Church itself, the last of Gandhi's
seven social sins should be pondered regularly, namely the irrelevance
of worship that does not involve personal and sacrificial commitment."

In the life of today's Church, indeed in today's World, the idea of
'sacrificial commitment' can be quite daunting – it sounds like hard
work, time consuming, very demanding, and to attach it to 'worship'
and 'personal' makes it even more challenging.

Worship has been described as "the response of the creature to the
Creator" but that response is only because God has first shown us who
He is and what He does in our lives and in the life of the world. As we
realise more and more of the greatness of God, we worship with more
commitment and become increasingly aware of His closeness. In this
way worship becomes a spiral of revelation and response – at least, that
is the theory in the books! But worship has become in many of our
Churches an area of real difficulty.

(Overheard on a Sunday morning.....

"I didn't enjoy the worship much."

"How can anybody worship with those drums on all the time?"

"I got nothing out of the worship today."

"Our worship isn't the same since we had the new hymn books.")

These comments, and others like them, indicate very little personal
commitment and rather more of personal preference. When we are
stuck in the mindset which sees worship as singing a few hymns and/or
choruses (plus or minus organ, keyboard, guitars, flute, drums etc!) we
miss out on a lot of what God wants to show us, and what He invites us
to offer to Him – the very heart of worship.

Ronald Allen, in his book, 'Worship: Rediscovering the Missing
Jewel,' writes:- "What, then, is the essence of Worship? It is the
celebration of God! When we worship God, we celebrate Him: we extol
Him, we sound His praises, we boast in Him.

As a thoughtful gift is a celebration of a birthday, as a special evening
out is a celebration of a life, as a sexual embrace is a celebration of a
marriage – so a worship service is a celebration of God"

In the Old Testament, and still getting lots of mentions in the New,
worship, celebration of God included sacrifice – animals, birds,
produce, but also of thanksgiving, obedience, righteousness, a broken
spirit and praise. The New Testament, however, speaks powerfully to
the individual Christian of personal sacrifice: of self – body, mind and
spirit, of time, and talents, pay, pension, pocket money, enthusiasm,
personality and anything else we are prompted to offer. This certainly
sounds a lot more interesting, fulfilling and worthwhile than singing a
few hymns and/or choruses (plus or minus organ, keyboard, guitars,
flute, drums etc!)

Maybe for some of us, for our worship to be true and sincere, the
sacrifice that is required is our preferences, our prejudices, our tunnel-
vision at whatever point we may be on the wide spectrum of worship
style.

For worship is not for us. It may make us feel 'better' – closer to God,
more 'at peace,' but ultimately it is not for our benefit. It is a love gift to
God Himself, involving 'personal and sacrificial commitment'. Anything
less is unworthy of Him.

Rev Lynne Davis is Minister at Caversham Park Local
Ecumenical Project.

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Rev'd Derek Chandler, 20 St Barnabas Road. Tel: 947 8239.

Fr Philip Dallaway, The Vicarage, St John's Road. Tel: 947 1814

Rev'd Margaret Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road, Caversham Park.
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Rev'd Alveen Thoresen, Flat 1 Roschill House, Peppard Road,
Emmer Green., RG1 5SJ Tel: 946 4786

Rev'd Keith Kneeb-Robinson, 8 Hewett Close, Caversham, RG4 7ER
Tel: 947 7868

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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
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CAVERSHAM HILL CHAPEL, Old Peppard Road

10.30am Worship and Ministry, Children's Church
6.30pm Prayer Meeting

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Caversham Heights, Highmoor Road

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Woodcote Parish Church

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NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD, Church Street, Caversham

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11.00am Divine Worship

6.00pm Evening Service

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

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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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YOUTH

WHAT GIRLS' BRIGADE MEANS TO ME

Hannah Jackson has been awarded her Brigadier Brooch, one of the highest badges she can obtain as a member of Girls' Brigade. Hannah has written about what she feels she has achieved as a member. 2nd Caversham Girls' Brigade meets at Caversham Heights Methodist Church on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm. New members are always welcome.

I can't remember ever not going to Girls' Brigade. I have been a member since I was 5 and I am now 17. Girls' Brigade has been a major influence in my life. I appreciate more now the huge benefit and fun GB has been.

Explorer and Junior years are a bit fuzzy but I can remember cooking biscuits and tiffin, which disappeared very quickly when it was taken home to my family; also doing lots of craft with Mrs Herbert. Playing Ladders and Parachute games were also favourite activities.

Every Thursday evening I go down to the Church, meet my friends and just hang out, while doing some badge work. However, as the years have swept by there have obviously been some of my friends who have dropped out. A good friend and myself have stayed loyal and have been members for 12 years. I can remember looking up to the older girls when I was little and never thought that one day the little ones would be looking up to me. You never know, I may be in charge of the Company one day!

I have to stress how much I have actually achieved thanks to GB and now I am writing my CV it's not a question of looking for things to fill it up but trying to condense all I have done.

One of my favourite moments was when I choreographed and took part in the dancing for the pantomime, Aladdin, in 2002, which raised money for the children of Afghanistan.

Each week we spend some time listening to a Bible story and taking part in a Prayer session and this has taught me a great deal about the Bible and the Christian Life. Each badge is made up of a Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service subject and they cover a broad range of activities.

More recently I have learnt about the background of GB, not just in this country but all over the world. Did you know there are Companies in Malawi and Zambia and that they follow the same 4 square programme as we do? They are much less privileged than we are and I feel proud that I have contributed towards helping their groups.

I was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme two years ago and have completed my Bronze and am now working towards my Silver Award. To complete my Bronze for my Skill I chose Drama. I completed the British Red Cross Babysitting course for my Service and Aerobics for my Physical. Each activity lasted for 3 months. The Expedition was a 15-mile hike over 2 days carrying all of our sleeping bags, tents, food, cooking equipment and spare clothing. This was achieved on the two hottest days of the year last August. Since 1999 I have been taking part in Young Leader Training and I am now working towards my Grade 4. Training takes place over a weekend and we always join up with Companies from the Southampton area. Each Grade involves learning more about Christian Life and Witness, Relationships, practical work in the Company and completing a booklet for assessment. To complete my Grade 4 I am holding a 'Looking Good' class each week, a girlie evening of hair and make up.

I can't believe I forgot 'Camp'. Girls' Brigade is known for its fun and exciting weeks away to Devon or Wales etc. where tent inspection is a ruthless experience at 8am each morning. May I say that my tent usually won! The Boys' Brigade joined us each year and it would be a week of games, trips out, crafts, learning new skills, talent shows and much more plus getting away from parents.

I don't really know what I would do without GB. Apart from the many close friends I've made, including my two leaders, I have achieved so much from my experiences in Brigade. I hope to be part of GB in one way or another in years to come.

Hanna Jackson, 2nd Caversham Company.



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Cycle, run or walk will be back with us again on Saturday, 11th September 2004. Participants can be sponsored to visit as many churches in the Reading area as possible during the day, the money raised being split between the church of their choice and the Berkshire Churches Trust. The aims of the event are:

- To raise money for Berkshire's Churches of all denominations;
- To promote interest in our churches, many of which are of historical importance and great beauty; and
- To involve people of all ages, including families, in an enjoyable social occasion.

The Trust uses its funds to help those Churches in Berkshire that have applied for grants towards the renovation of their buildings. Helpers can also be sponsored for signing the forms of the people when they call in to our churches. Everyone is really pleased to see a friendly face to sign their forms and to have the chance of a drink and biscuit. If you would like to participate, sponsor someone or help man your church for an hour on the day, please contact your Church CROW representative.

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SCHOOL NEWS

CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDED ARTS MARK GOLD

In June we were told that Caversham Primary School had been awarded ARTS MARK GOLD! This award comes from the Arts Council England and is given to schools who show a commitment to the full range of arts – music, dance, drama and art and design. It is a national award and to receive gold, rather than bronze or silver, was a huge thrill and surprise! What did we get? Well, no money but a very nice certificate, an award ceremony, but best of all the public recognition of how hard the staff work and just how good they are at teaching the arts. The children, of course, did us proud and produced work of a very high standard in terms of creativity and quality. Previously when our school was inspected we had a short inspection, which did not enable the inspection team to look at the arts at all! We were very disappointed as our ethos is to provide children with very broad and balanced education – not only maths and English.

Arts Mark Gold was awarded after an application (this felt like doing an A level!), an assessment and a validation process. This was all extremely thorough and included a visit from an external assessor. The entire process was very

useful though, as it does encourage you, as a school, to self-evaluate your own provision, highlighting areas of particular strength and those for development. So, for example, although our music is excellent overall, it did highlight for us that we needed to promote our choir more among the junior boys. We have also developed an excellent relationship with a professional artist, and discovered that we have some very talented parents – they held an exhibition of their work in the library, which all the children visited as a change from seeing displays of children's work! We were fortunate enough to attract funding for an Arts Week from 'Awards for All', which enabled a variety of professional artists to work in school. These artists are normally beyond the limits of a school budget and so this was a real treat. We were also invited to display our work at St Peter's Church in Caversham, alongside other local artists, including our own pottery experts, Jane Kane and Penny Kaye. The church organisers were even kind enough to award some prizes. Now of course we have to maintain this excellence and even do better..., but what fun we will have!

St Anne's School

The children of Year Six attended a Mass of Thanksgiving at Douai Abbey in the company of other Year Six children from the Greater Reading Catholic Cluster schools. It being the custom for each school to have a different role each year, St Anne's children led the opening prayer, having served Mass last year.

Many of the children had already met at other functions, such as the Activity Week at Kingwood last October, and this was an opportunity for them to meet for the last time as primary school children. No doubt many of them will meet again when they join their secondary schools next school year. The Mass was followed by a picnic lunch and games on the field.

The Leavers' Mass at St Anne's was held on the last Tuesday afternoon of term in the school hall. It was conducted by Canon Tom Farrell who made "Light" the subject of his homily. Each of the leavers had brought in a lighted candle. All the candles were different as were all the children but each child also had an inner light to share with others in the world.

The leavers led the final assembly on the following Friday morning. Each pupil had contributed a few lines to a poem about their years in the school from Reception to Year Six, mentioning all the teachers they had had and also memories of Kingwood. In conclusion there was a "Thank you" to all the staff.

Refreshments for the leavers' parents were served by Year Six in the soon to be no longer "their classroom" and, as the tears started to flow, people began to leave.

Report by Norman Shaw



Year Six children at Douai

Photograph by Angela Fung

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SCHOOL NEWS

ST MARTIN'S SAY GOODBYE TO HEADTEACHER

After eleven years as Headteacher at St Martin's school, Helen Fletcher has retired or, as she prefers to say, has moved on to the next stage of her life.

On the evening of July 9th there was a mass at St Michael's church to celebrate her contribution to education in Reading. This was followed by refreshments in the church hall where many tributes were paid to Helen including one by Michael Taylor from the LEA who has known her for many years. The arrangements were made by the school staff, led by Maria Smith in the office, who invited many people associated with Helen over the years to attend.

The next day a meal was held in a transformed school hall for present and previous staff. Among other presents given to Helen was a quilt made up of panels decorated by members of staff and others, representing their memories of Helen and stages in her teaching career.

A school assembly was held during the following week when prizes and certificates were awarded and leaving presents were exchanged. On the last day of term, the Leavers' Mass was celebrated by Fr Ellis and attended by the whole

school and many visitors. Year Six pupils gave the readings and in the offertory procession carried in reminders of their days at St Martin's including a school tie as a token of the leadership the top class has shown. After Mass they were anointed with Holy Oils and then presented with their Leavers' Certificates which this year included a picture of the whole Year Six so that each child had a record of his or her classmates to look at in the years to come.

Mrs Fletcher spoke to the children, saying what a wonderful group this year's Year Six had been, and wished them all well in the future. She thanked children, staff, helpers and parents for making her time at St Martin's such a wonderful experience. In return Mrs Fletcher was thanked for all she had done for St Martin's.

The rest of the children went out for an extended play-time while the Year Six pupils rearranged the hall and then served refreshments to their parents and visitors.

Another school year ended, another group of children said goodbye to their primary school years and Mrs Fletcher left for a holiday that would not end in September.

Report by Jane Shaw



Photo by Jane Shaw
Helen Fletcher after the Leavers' Mass with photos provided by staff past & present.

A Tribute to Helen Fletcher – Retiring Head of St Martin's Catholic School

At the end of the academic year, Helen Fletcher retired as Headteacher of St Martin's Catholic School, Caversham Park Village.

Helen trained in Newcastle and taught in Liverpool for three years before marrying Paul. She then moved south and taught for a while in Crowthorne before departing for Canada where she taught for three years. During their time in Canada, Paul and Helen became proud parents of their daughter, Lisa. On their return from Canada the family settled in Caversham. After the birth of their son, Daniel, Helen became involved in the local playgroup and developed her interest in working with young children. She combined this with supply work at Newtown and Oxford Road schools for the next two and a half years.

I was teaching at St Martin's when Helen was appointed to the staff in January 1978. She had responsibility for teaching our youngest pupils and her flair for art resulted in the most exciting, attractive learning environment. She was loved by all her pupils and during story time they would fondly gaze and admire and stroke the colourful outfits that she wore, always accompanied by impressive earrings. Helen spent ten years teaching infants and during that time produced colourful and imaginative displays for a wide variety of school events. Her artistic skills came to the fore in designing and making costumes and props for dramatic productions.

During that time, Helen and I were members of the School Association committee and I have many happy memories of working with Helen to plan and organise such events as the annual summer fete and transforming the hall for dinner dances.

In 1989, Helen and I both left St Martin's for promoted positions. Helen spent four terms at Caversham Primary before her appointment as Deputy Head of English Martins. We kept in touch

through our parish church of Our Lady and St Anne and often met on courses.

I was delighted at Helen's appointment as Headteacher of St Martin's in 1992 and we became Headteacher colleagues. During the years we have worked together, Helen has been a very good friend and a trusted colleague. She was an inspirational teacher who was always willing to share her expertise with others.

Over the recent years, we have maintained professional links through the Catholic Schools Cluster. In particular, I remember many a damp day spent in Wales and the Isle of Wight, getting to grips together with the finer points of canoeing, high-ropes, archery and the like, with our Year Six children on their Activity weeks away from school. I am delighted that Helen will be joining us on next September's trip and so continue the tradition of having whispered conversations in dark corridors, as we wait for sleep to overtake our charges.

Helen has had an extremely successful Headship at St Martin's School and her staff and pupils will miss her greatly. Under her leadership the school has acquired Beacon Status, Investors in People recognition, and Artsmark and Healthy Schools Silver Awards. The building itself has been transformed and Helen has initiated more changes for the future.

I know she will miss many aspects of her life in school, but a new, exciting time lies ahead and she deserves a very happy retirement. She is looking forward to an Interior Design course, learning Spanish, taking up painting again, tending her garden and doing "Granny duties".

I wish her great joy in what Helen herself calls, not retirement, but the next stage in her life.

*Report by Julia Feeney,
Headteacher of St Paul's School
in Tilehurst*



Photo by Jane Shaw
A Huddle of Heads: Helen Fletcher with some of her head teacher colleagues.

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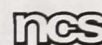
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ONE WORLD WEEK

Is still seven weeks away!
but not too early for this diary entry

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BYSTANDER

The Caversham Festival

At this time of the year we have, in 2002 and 2003, anticipated spending a pleasant Saturday afternoon at the Caversham Festival. Blessed with wonderful weather in both years, plus a wealth of activities and exhibitions, this highly successful event has already become a unique Caversham occasion. Sadly, this year, the Festival will be missing. For whatever reasons, the original organising Committee has folded and there are no funds available for the continuation of the project. But hopefully, this does not mean that the Festival cannot re-surface. There are hopes that a new planning and organisation team can be assembled, who, besides bringing fresh ideas to the show, could draw on the experience of the original Committee. The immediate need is to build up sufficient funds to enable the event to proceed, followed closely by making a decision about the date of the event and confirmation of the availability of the Festival site. Later, details, such as publicity, services needed, car parking and a thousand and one other things all need to be considered in the planning process. It is a real challenge but we look forward to news of progress in regard to both the funding and the planning that could lead to a re-launch of the Caversham Festival in 2005!

When does a sound become a noise?

Many years ago, Bystander arrived at the railway station of a busy Midlands town to join a couple of other young candidates hoping to land a rather special job. The workplace was located in the heart of the countryside some 20 miles from town and the firm's car was on hand to provide the necessary transport. The first part of the journey took place in an atmosphere of uneasy silence, each candidate no doubt rehearsing replies to possible interview questions. At length, the road became an underpass, running beneath a four-track main line railway, a two-track branch line and a canal, a distance easily equal to twice the length of the combined Cow Lane bridges. At this point, the car driver asked the silent interviewees, 'When does a bridge become a tunnel?' This ice-breaking question started a discussion among the candidates which continued up to the moment the interviews began.

The same sort of question can be asked in many forms; 'When is a plant a weed?' or 'When does a spell of high wind and heavy rain become a tempest?' and, to take up the initial question, 'When does a sound become a noise?'

By the time you read this, the Reading 'Pop' Festival will have come and gone and we hope that it has given trouble-free pleasure to the many who attended the event. At the same time it would be particularly pleasing if the sound of music drifting in the direction of Caversham turned out to be of an acceptable quality and quantity. In late June, a similar, but much smaller festival took place at the Abbey RFC grounds on the outskirts of Emmer Green. The organisers of this event took the trouble to deliver leaflets to nearby residents giving the times of each day's sessions and explaining that some of the proceeds would be donated to charity. A contact number was also quoted in case the acceptable loudness level was exceeded. It is understood that Womad made somewhat similar details available. Perhaps the organisers of the next Reading Festival could give this sort of information to the nearby residents in Caversham who, according to their location, are most likely to conclude that the festival sounds have become a noise.

Of course, noise nuisance is not limited to outdoor music festivals. Motor vehicles too can annoy. From time to time, a noise that could well be generated by several tractors has been heard on some roads in Caversham. The loudness grows as the source nears and finally materialises as a tiny motor bike - a mouse that really roars! A final gripe is aimed at those parties that end (usually at or after midnight) in setting off incredibly loud fireworks. Do spare a thought for the neighbours please.

Step this Way

It is said that to get to know a place one should explore it on foot. With this in mind, Caversham and District Residents' Association arranged, some years ago, an informal walk round View Island which was followed up by a questionnaire asking for suggestions for improving the area and a successful outcome was achieved. Recently, the CADRA committee has discussed the idea of repeating this venture realising that it would provide a chance to explore a particular area of Caversham, besides affording the participants an opportunity to meet and get to know each other. We learn from the 'Bugs Bottom Action Group' that they are seeking ideas that could lead to the enhancement of the Hemdean Valley, including Balmore Walk. The Action Group and CADRA, jointly, are hoping to arrange a walk in this area towards the end of this month, to be followed, as in the case of the View Island walk, by suggestions about the possible enhancements that could be funded. If this walk can be arranged, then the local press will carry further details.

A Present Day Samaritan

One evening recently an elderly Caversham lady was walking by herself in a quiet Reading street. Stepping forward, she caught the heel of her sandal on an uneven patch of paving and fell heavily to the ground, sustaining a badly bruised face and a double fracture of her right arm. Fortunately, our present day Samaritan came along and helped her to her

feet. He called for an ambulance on his mobile phone and insisted on staying with her until she was taken to hospital. The injured lady would like to thank him for his kindness, but, unfortunately, she did not get his name.

This episode illustrates the danger presented by uneven paving and kerbs, especially as they can easily remain unnoticed until an accident happens. Perhaps we should all be more vigilant in reporting poor paving to Reading Borough Council. The telephone number is 0800 626 540.

GOSPEL CONCERT

Tuesday 21st September

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8pm

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METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

September 5	10.30am	Holy Communion Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
September 8	7.45pm	Circuit Welcome Service for Rev'd Dermot Thornberry and his wife Charlene at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road - Preacher: The Rev'd Tom Stuckey, Chair of the Southampton District and President Elect of the Methodist Conference
September 12		Racial Justice Sunday -
	10.30am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
	6.30pm	Holy Communion - Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
September 19	10.30am	Mr Henry Stroud
	6.30pm	Big Sing at Greyfriars Church
September 26	10.30am	Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Mr Chris Evans

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

September 4	10am-12 noon	Coffee Morning to meet Rev'd Dermot Thornberry and his wife Charlene
September 5	9.00am	Holy Communion - Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	10.30am	Rev'd Dr John Ogden
	6.30pm	Mr Henry Stroud
September 12		Racial Justice Sunday -
	10.30am	Sunday Starters Prize Giving - Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
September 19	10.30am	Holy Communion - Rev'd Dermot Thornberry
	6.30pm	Big Sing at Greyfriars
September 26		Harvest Festival -
	10.30am	All Age Worship/Parade Service Mr David Munns
	6.30pm	Rev'd Dermot Thornberry

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, WOODCOTE -

September 12	9.45am	Mr David Beck
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Caversham Heights Methodist Church:

Contact: Mrs Janet Offord 947 0903 or (Wesley Lounge)

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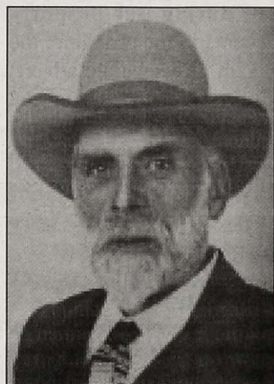
THE YATTENDON HYMNAL

Have you noticed, when singing hymns, that quite a sprinkling of them owe their origin to the 'Yattendon Hymnal'? Now Yattendon is not so far from Caversham, in the Newbury direction, so a few weeks ago I decided to pay it a visit. Fortunately, the church was already open though the phone numbers of key-holders are displayed on the notice-board outside.

Inside I discovered a wall-plaque in Latin (with English translation), telling me that the ashes of Robert Bridges were buried outside, under the Cross that he had had erected in memory of his mother.

Evidently Robert Bridges, when choirmaster of the church, was dissatisfied with 'Hymns Ancient & Modern' so in 1899 he compiled the Yattendon Hymnal. It was issued in instalments, and eventually contained 100 hymns. It led to the compilation of the 'English Hymnal', and was used in the hymn-books of several other denominations, including the 'Methodist Hymn-book', the BBC Hymn Book, and later editions of 'Hymns A & M'. Some hymns were actually written by him, and others were fresh translations from Latin or German, including 'Happy are they, they that love God', and 'All my hope on God is founded'. It is his version of 'Ah, Holy Jesu, how hast Thou offended' that we sing at Easter.

The music was arranged by Henry Ellis Wooldridge, one of the Pre-Raphaelite painters, who was also a distinguished musicologist; quite



a polymath!

Bridges was born in 1844; after Eton and Oxford he trained for medicine. He practised medicine for about 10 years, including working at Great Ormond Street Hospital. He retired to Yattendon, in 1882, married Monica

Waterhouse, of the famous firm of architects, and they had three children.

As well as church music, he devoted himself to poetry, and was one of the founders of the Society for Pure English. In 1913 he was made Poet Laureate; apart from hymns, he penned some very moving love poems.

I spoke to a lady who was watering flowers in the graveyard, and she told me that the son of Robert Bridges was Sir Edward Bridges, who was civilian head of the Cabinet during World War II. His son is the present Lord Bridges.

This 15th Century church of St Peter and St Paul had several other points of interest. A doorway at ground level, now securely padlocked, led to a narrow staircase. At the top, high up, is the doorway originally leading onto the walkway over the Roodscreen, long since demolished.

Outside the church I found an ancient Scratch-Dial, a circle about 8 inches in diameter etched high up on the wall. In the centre was a small hole for inserting a pointer. These were used as primitive sun-dials, to give service-times, I learned, and also to give workmen the time when they were due to return to work.

Happily I found an excellent hotel, the Royal Oak, in the village at lunch-time, which served superb, if not cheap, food, prepared by the French chef. The service was genteel and civilised.

The proprietress told me that she has in her house in the village four paintings by Robert Bridges; another polymath, he!

Robert Bridges died in 1930, but his work lives on in the Yattendon Hymn-book; the village of Yattendon is an oasis of tranquillity, and amply repays a visit.

Sylvia Chumbley



THE SOUNDS OF BELLS – AND VOICES

The ringing and singing in this most successful concert in the evening of July 3rd in St Margaret's church, Mapledurham, was given by the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (ringing hand bells) and the New Elizabethan Singers. Over £850 was raised for the St Margaret's Tower Appeal Fund, a wonderful result. Thanks must go to everyone who helped reach this great achievement, many of whom had already spent the day helping with the fete for St Peter's and St Margaret's in Caversham Court, but our special thanks must go to our noble band of bell ringers at St Margaret's. It is wonderful to have such an enthusiastic team ringing for us in our little church.

Six bells have been ringing in St Margaret's since the 1660s and three of the existing bells were made in Reading by the Knight family who had a foundry there circa 1550-1725. Now the bells need major work done on them and the sum of £30,000 must be raised. Already over half this amount has been found through donations, grants and fund raising.

Readers may be interested to know that both St Peter's and St Margaret's had sets of hand bells in the eighteen hundreds. A photograph shows the team at the former with twenty-two bells and the box in front dated 1876. One of the team was Mr Eynott, a local blacksmith. St Margaret's still have five of their six bells; sadly, one is missing.

If you can help with our appeal, please contact the Parish Office tel: 0118 9471703.

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AROUND THE CHURCHES

New Ministers for Caversham

In September both the Caversham Baptist Church and the Methodist Churches will be welcoming new ministers.

The new pastor of the Baptist Church is Rev Paul Rhodes. He, with his wife and two children, come to Caversham from Bristol, where he has spent the last four years training at the Baptist College. While he takes his first services on Sunday 5th September, his formal welcome and induction service will take place on Saturday 18th September at 3pm at the Baptist Church. All are welcome to this service.

The new minister of the two Methodist churches, Revd Dermot Thornberry, takes up his duties at the beginning of September. There will be a service on Wednesday 8th September at 7.45pm at Lower Caversham Methodist Church when he will be welcomed formally to the Reading Methodist Circuit. Before that, on Saturday 4th September, there will be a coffee morning at Caversham Heights Methodist Church to welcome Dermot and Charlene Thornberry to Caversham. This event takes place between 10.00am and noon.

To introduce both ministers to its readership, *Caversham Bridge* will publish a profile of each one in a future issue.

FAREWELL TO ROSEMARY AND JAMES

Several events were planned at the end of July to mark the departure of the Rev Rosemary Fletcher from her post as Lead Minister in the Caversham Methodist churches. She was responsible for the Methodist Churches at Caversham Heights and Gosbrook Road, as well as the Methodist input into the churches at Caversham Park Village and Woodcote.

These events culminated in a social evening at the Gosbrook Road church on 24th July when the recently extended building overflowed with friends from many of the local churches and other organisations with which Rosemary was involved. During a buffet supper, several

people spoke movingly about many of Rosemary's achievements in Caversham. The speeches were littered with amusing stories of a very organised and dedicated minister who nevertheless had problems with losing keys, sending emails and setting burglar alarms! We also heard about the work that James, who became Rosemary's husband just after she came to Caversham, had done, particularly in producing several theatrical presentations. A number of presentations were made to Rosemary and James, including a digital camera – particularly apt as Rosemary is a keen photographer.

The next afternoon, a packed congregation joined in a united farewell service at Caversham Heights. In recognition of Rosemary's commitment for all the churches to work together, this was an ecumenical service of praise and thanksgiving. The sermon was preached by Father Tony Jones, the local Roman Catholic priest. Other clergy and church leaders took part in the service. A combined choir presented several items. A retiring collection was taken for the Sudan emergency appeal.



Jean Beau

Rosemary Fletcher and James Rowley with Senior Stewards Catherine Scott (Gosbrook Rd) and Myra Fowler (Caversham Heights) at the Farewell Social.

CAVERSHAM (Gosbrook Road) METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Hail and Farewell! And so we say farewell and God bless to Rosemary Fletcher and James Rowley as they leave Caversham after eight lovely years. We wish them well in their preparation for their work in Sri Lanka. A daunting task most of us would think, and we therefore have great admiration for Rosemary and James as they undertake this new work. Their time in Caversham has been a good one and our church has benefited from Rosemary's ministry. James has been a great asset to Gosbrook Road and the place will be the poorer for his going. James has many talents and they

were certainly put to good use in the past few years. From drama to giant posters, from stewarding to property development, James will be missed. They will be leaving behind a happy church full of great expectation and, with that in mind, we look forward to the coming of Rev Dermot Thornberry and his wife Charlene. We pray that they will be happy amongst us and we hope

they will receive many blessings as they live and work with us. Those of us who are dog lovers also look forward to meeting two new canine arrivals in due course!

As most of you know, we are still fund raising to pay back the loans we accrued during our property development. There are two events in the pipe line; the Fashion Show on November 12th (see separate advert) and, in 2005, an Arts and Crafts weekend during the Spring bank holiday. We will be looking for exhibitors and demonstrators for this weekend extravaganza, so get your paint brushes out and your pottery thrown!

The "Big Sing"

Greyfriars Church – Sunday 19th September, 6.30pm
GIA Composer: John L Bell

This event – the John Bell (Iona) Big Sing Sunday – is organised by Churches Together in Reading. The meeting is open to everyone; it is a worship event and a learning about worship.

Multicultural expressions in liturgy are still in the infancy stages. The use of African-American music and Hispanic music at the Anglo liturgy often appears to be the only avenue pursued in the mixture of hymnic styles. That direction is changing, and it is because of the efforts of John Bell, music leader of the Iona Community in Scotland. An ordained minister in the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), he joined the Iona Community after five years of working as a youth pastor. It was there that he cultivated his interest in generating music and texts that were able to express a new way of speaking about God to the people or about the experience of the people to God. His efforts have brought about several collections of music, which GIA has made available to the United States. Among the sources of the items contained in the dozen volumes are countless texts and tunes of his own along with the music traditions of Brazil, Peru, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Czechoslovakia, Russia and Korea.

His ecumenical and inclusive approach to music or worship is only half of the reason for his success as a church music leader. The other half is his remarkable power as a leader of song. Relying only on his voice, John Bell compels the assembly to sing by the sheer force of his charisma and singing. No sound tracks, concert grand pianos, "mood" lighting, or fog machines – just unadorned song and the ability to unleash its power. No one escapes. John Bell transforms an ambiguous gathering of people and shapes them into one body, one voice, one song. His respect for the various traditions of the world has brought about an understanding of tapping into the musical roots of other cultures. He states: "I do think it's helpful to sing the songs of other cultures. By singing their songs, we can stand, to some extent, in deeper intercession with these people. And through that experience our understanding of mission and evangelism and the reign of God and the Trinity is enlarged."

Nigel Hardcastle

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH GOSBROOK ROAD

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JOIN THE "FEAST OF LIFE"
ON SATURDAY
25TH SEPTEMBER 2004

For its Harvest celebrations this year, CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH, in Highmoor Road, is planning to host a musical evening when there will be an opportunity to sing the musical "The Feast of Life", by Garth Hewitt. This will be an informal event for all ages, with the aim of raising funds for our twin church in Zambia. Participants will be invited to make a donation of £5 (£2 for children), with all proceeds going to Zambia.

We will meet to familiarise ourselves with words and music on Monday 6th and Monday 20th September 2004, starting at 7.45pm, at Caversham Heights Methodist Church. We'd love to see you at either or both of these practices – but don't worry if you can't make them. We will hold another practice on the day of the event (Saturday 25th September) from 3-5pm, which will be followed by a bring and share tea. The performance will start at 7pm.

If you prefer NOT to sing, please come along to the performance to support this fund-raising evening. There will be a retiring collection for Zambia.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

PATRONAL FEAST AT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY AND ST ANNE

26th July is the feast of Saints Anne and Joachim and thus is the Patronal feast day for the parish of Our Lady and St Anne. This year, it was decided to celebrate with a sung evening mass followed by a party. The choir led the singing during mass and the congregation joined in with enthusiasm. At communion, a four part Latin motet, "Cibavit illos" by the little known early English composer Christopher Tye, was beautifully sung by the choir. In his homily, Father Tony used the analogy of St Anne preparing Our Lady to cope with the different life she was to have after the birth of Jesus with the way that we all have to learn to live in a world that is changing. We cannot wring our hands and lament the way things have changed, even if for the worse, but we must go into the future and make the best of things as they are.

After mass, most people went into the Cenacle to enjoy the food and drink that they had brought to share. It was also an opportunity for them to talk to other parishioners whom they did not already know or even just to learn the names of people whom they had known by sight, perhaps for many years.



Jane Shaw

Jane Shaw

Parishioners enjoy refreshments and a chat in the Cenacle.

THE DEAF CHURCH CELEBRATES

The Reading Deaf Church (which meets at the Deaf Centre in Cardiff Road) recently joined the Deaf congregations from Oxford, Wantage, Newbury, Banbury, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Wycombe and Slough, at the Oxford Deaf Centre at St Ebbes to celebrate and give thanks to God for the 25 years of Ministry as Priest of their Diocesan Chaplain, the Rev Roger Williams.

The Church was beautifully decorated and the signed worship, led by the Rev Roger Williams and assisted by the Rev Vera Hunt and the Deaf Lay Ministers in the Oxford Diocese, was most inspiring. The hymns were signed by the Oxford Deaf Choir and the London Deaf Choir. Signing adds an extra dimension to worship for hearing worshippers, so that the hymn 'I the Lord of sea and sky...' took on a new meaning when one choir signed the verses as 'the Lord' and the other choir signed the answering choruses.

The preacher was Canon Euros Thomas of St David's, Pembrokeshire, who had been a curate with Roger Williams in the early days of their Ministry. As it was the Feast of St James the Apostle, he preached on the call of James (and John).

"In the village where I live, the fishermen fish for salmon in boats made of wood and canvas, called coracles. Two boats move along the river carrying the net between them until one boat comes near the other, closes the net and traps the fish. This is depicted in the stained glass windows in the church. Sometimes they have races – and when they pull up the net, there is always a fish in the net. The secret is that they have caught a fish earlier and tied it into the net! One year there was no fish in the net! The fish had escaped! Now the fish is the prize in the raffle, so someone had to rush to Tesco to buy one!

"Peter, James and John have been out fishing and they have caught nothing all night. On their return they find Jesus on the beach and he jumps into the boat, like a pulpit, to teach the people. When he has finished teaching, he tells them to cast out again – and this time there is a huge catch of fish! Then he calls James and John to help him, saying, 'From now on you'll be catching men.' This is a special day, the Feast of St James. This is a special day for Roger! 25 years ago today he became a fisher of men! Let us share the joy of this special day!

One of the proudest titles in the Old Testament is 'servant of the Lord'. St Paul calls himself 'the servant of Jesus Christ'. Jesus said, 'I am among you as one who serves'. The priest cares for the people of God – and it's not easy! We admire Peter, James and John who went back to fishing just because Jesus said so! When he called them to follow him, they went immediately!

"God takes a big risk! We are weak and fragile – like the clay jars in the day's reading (2 Corinthians 4: 7-15), easily broken! But God gives us the strength to continue and draws others into the net. There's a big

cake over there to celebrate Roger's special day, but Roger is a clay jar like the rest of us. It's what is inside the jars that matters. God's love is the treasure inside the jars! The jar may be valuable but it is what is inside that is the most valuable! The beauty of the jar comes from the treasure inside it!"

The service ended with the Eucharist, signed by Roger, who also officiated. Lay Ministers, Ken Dyson and Janice Palmer, who both live in Caversham, offered chalices to the participants. The signed Eucharist was deeply spiritual, lifting our worship into the realm of 'angels and archangels and all the company of heaven' so that we all caught a glimpse of the glory of God.



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One World Week is your chance to join an international movement of people making a difference to the world. This year the theme of One World Week, 17 - 24 October 2004, is to build on the 'Moving Stories' of last year when we in Caversham focused on San Francisco Libre, Reading's Twin Town in Nicaragua, and Chiquelane, the community of 82,000 people in Mozambique with which we in Caversham are linked. This link is fostered through the charity Reading3000 in association with which a group of our young people went on a working visit to Chiquelane last summer and from where a party of young people will be visiting Caversham in 2005.

A desperate need of Chiquelane is for an adequate supply of clean water; last year we raised £2,000 towards the installation of a well and water pump. Probably the most desperate need in the world today is also for clean water and sanitation. This year we are drawing attention to that need while, at the same time, trying to raise a further £6,000, enough money to complete the

One World Week Preview

Your move!

installation of a well and water pump in just one community. This will be a very practical way of Caversham's making a difference. Your move is to support three One World Week fundraising events.

First, there is a One World Week Quiz on this topic for which there will be a prize of a parcel of Fairtrade products. Quiz papers (price £1) will be available in September from Church House and in the churches from OWW representatives. The schools are also being invited to participate in separate quizzes. Then there are two events on Saturday 16 October: in the morning a Car Boot Sale at the Hill Primary School between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm (Entry: £5 for a car; 50p per person); and in the evening a Concert presented by Caversham's Young Musicians (young people with talent from our churches) in Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30 pm (Tickets including refreshments £6 [£5 concessions or £15 family]). There will also be an exhibit in Caversham Public Library during One World Week.

**Scops Owl**

Someone recently asked what has happened to the Blackbird. The answer is that the young have flown "Holding territory" no longer required.

The garden was once ideal for studying common species, but we are losing them to approaching extinction. Great-spotted Woodpeckers, sometimes seen on the bird-table, may be heard "drumming" on tree-bark in woodland.

As Autumn approaches, migrant wildfowl arrive on inland waters. Henley Road pits will have Wigeon noisily arriving, with their "Whee-oo" calls. More unusual species such as the "saw-bill" Smew, Pintail, Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser have all been seen in recent years.

Cormorants will be "drying out" extended wings like washing on a line, high up in the trees, after diving for fish. Anglers are unimpressed with the competition, yet well-stocked waters must surely allow for this excess, to satisfy ALL "fishermen"!

It is true that telescope and tripod are required for any long-distance viewing. The study of birds is the Science of Ornithology. Watching birds is anyone's prerogative - as long as the venue is NOT private.

These stories have been written during many years and have always remained relevant for all who are interested.

BIRDING ON THE PATCH

Birds and ALL wild creatures who share life alongside us should just as surely be protected with their needs understood.

Henley Road pits, only three hundred paces from Caversham Park, have a specific environment, with minimal disturbance. These are STILL waters which encourage several species, seldom seen on the Thames. All rivers have interesting visitors from time to time and it is good to know that Caversham's swan flock receives a professional check twice daily.

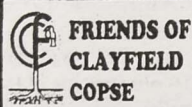
At Henley Road, all birders must first seek permission from the gravel pit Authority. Wear binoculars, or your request may well be denied.

Gravel pits are dangerous with crumbly banks. View birds from a respectable distance, well away from gravel workings.

It would seem that delay to King's Meadow proposals are quite properly being taken to a much higher authority. For the sake of so many regular users, we trust that a reversal is surely due.

If this Summer does ever settle for a few days, we may take a long awaited return trip to Henley, on Salters Steamer from Caversham Bridge. We hope to see Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Cormorants, a wader or two and maybe Common Tern.

Scops Owl

**September in Clayfield Copse**

The Friends have had a busy summer and thank Emmer Green Residents' Association and Reading Borough Council for their support, which enables us to continue our conservation work.

The ditch/pond adjoining the car park is looking good; we have been advised that as long as there is water there for four months of the year, it will survive. It may not be the attractive traditional village pond (there is one of those just across the road in the Caversham Park Village), but it will attract wildlife and wild flowers, which like the damp. They will move in and make the area more attractive. The grassland planted with wild flowers next to the pond which was planted up on our last Woodland Day is looking spectacular.

The butterfly area, planted with flowers especially for them, is looking well and will be cut in early September when the seeds have fallen.

In the Dell a woodchip path, with terracing, has made

the area safer for walking and looks attractive.

The fields are regenerating with native trees and shrubs and offer a particularly rich habitat for a wide variety of wild life. We shall leave them; natural thinning will take place.

We have a walk around the site on Sunday 19th September for members of Reading Civic Society, but all are welcome; meet at 10 am in the car park.

We are holding our Annual Meeting at St Barnabas Hall on Tuesday 28 September when David Lovegrove of 'Red Kites in The Chilterns Society' will be giving a talk on the red kites with slides. All are welcome to attend.

For information on all conservation groups in Reading go to www.econetreading.org.uk

We are also planning another Woodlands Day in June 2005, subject to grants and sufficient helpers. If you would like to be involved please contact Anne on 948 4454.

the CLUBS

Emmer Green Townswomen's Guild

Prior to the July meeting, Guild members had enjoyed an outing to Brighton and the Chairman thanked Vi Morley for arranging such a successful day.

With no meeting in August, Margot Sutherland had numerous birthday cards to distribute. Members were delighted to hear that one was for a ninety year old, who was immediately applauded and presented with a gift.

Further information was given on summer outings and activities in the area, while members who had been involved in the recent St Barnabas Church fete were thanked for their time and generosity. Early notification was given of the annual Guild garden party on 31st August at the home of Ann Davies.

Marion Cooper read the report on the National Council Meeting in Bournemouth. Delegates had been welcomed by the lady Mayor and greetings were sent to HM the Queen and the Princess Royal. A new magazine called "Look" had been distributed and may become regularly available to all members countrywide. Ninety per cent of Guild closures had been due to lack of committee members.

The theme of "Summer" had resulted in another full house at the Words and Music meeting, even though it had been a wet day, while the Gardeners had enjoyed a visit to Greys Court on a day when the beauty and perfume of the roses and sweet peas had excelled.

Speaking about "Brittany's Hidden Corners", Mr Richard Snailham revealed many ways in which Anglo-French understanding developed over the centuries. Early invasions swept local people into Brittany where, mainly Christian and devout, they were later joined by holy men from Cornwall and Wales who came to settle. His slides revealed a wealth of unspoilt beaches, archaeological sites, medieval buildings and local people wearing traditional dress. Marion Cooper gave the vote of thanks for a talk "to tempt the traveller."

St Peter's Wives' Group

At our June meeting we were entertained by Mr Leslie Moody with a talk and slides entitled "House on the Rock". Some years ago, Mr Moody's daughter went to Wisconsin, USA, on an exchange visit and returned home enthusing

2004 CAVERSHAM CHARITY FOLK FESTIVAL WINTER WARMER

Following the success of last winter's "Winter Warmer" festival in Caversham, which was held at the end of January this year, the event will be repeated this coming winter. However, the date is being brought forward to November 2004, covering the period from 18th to 22nd November, with the main events concentrated on Friday 19th through to Sunday 21st November.

Details of venues and artists will be released nearer the time.

Further information about CCFF and the charities it supports can be found at www.ccff.org.uk

about the 'house on the rock' that she had seen on her travels. Knowing that her father was keen on photography and interested in unusual phenomena, she persuaded him to visit the area.

The resulting slides were amazing to see: huge cavernous rooms inside an enormous rock, a tor left over from the Ice Age. Inside the rooms, which the original owner had excavated himself, were various items he had collected over the years. Amongst many amazing sights in the building, which is now a museum, were full-sized fairground carousels in one room, a collection of dolls in another and also a collection of bells which the owner had bought after the war from bombed-out churches in England.

A spiral staircase had been carved from the roots of a tree, which was still growing through the rock and could be seen emerging from the top. A most interesting evening.

Our next meeting will be held on 21 September at Church House at 8.00pm. Our speaker will be Adrian Lawson, Reading Borough Council Open Spaces Officer.

Caversham Women's Institute

Members welcomed an old friend to the July meeting when Mrs Jenny Moss came to speak about the WI Denman College near Abingdon. The original estate dates from medieval times and the current house is Georgian. Every WI member helped to buy and set up the college at the end of the Second World War. Now, over 500 courses are held open to everyone. Mrs Stallwood gave the vote of thanks.

After refreshments, Mrs Moss judged the competition: four fairy cakes and Miss Cameron the winner. Business followed with reminders of the summer garden parties and the evening ended with the raffle and a special presentation to Daphne Barnard celebrating her Golden Wedding anniversary.

Caversham Community Association

Members began the month in the usual way with an informal games evening. The following week we welcomed Bernie Joyce who told us of her business trip to India. During the ten weeks she was there she was able to observe the local people and their culture.

The following week proved a rather energetic evening when 'school sports day' was held. A competition for best dressed schoolgirl was won by Margaret Cameron. Two teams played some rather bizarre relay races and a tense hockey shoot out resulted in the yellows winning. The month ended with more exercise, but this time for the mind, with a quiz evening. This involved word and picture games and prizes for all the winners.

Exhibition at Emmer Green Art Gallery

Recently there was an exhibition of pictures painted by young people for a competition at the Pictures Art Gallery in Emmer Green. The pictures, on a theme of 'world wildlife', were the result of a competition organised by Cherry Thompson, the proprietor of the Picture gallery. This competition was in memory of Tom Osbourne, Ms Thompson's late partner who had died from cancer. Its purpose was to give young artists the opportunity to gain recognition - something Mr Osbourne had not achieved during his life - and the subject of the competition was one in which he had a deep interest.

The young winners, who came from Caversham, Tilehurst and Wokingham, received prizes of artists' materials.

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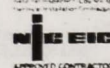
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