

# ONE WORLD WEEK: 17 - 24 October 2004

## Your move! Water of Life

As recently as mid-August the World Water Symposium in Stockholm drew attention to the world water crisis of dwindling supplies for an increasing population and the desperate need for clean water and sanitation. 'Moving Stories' was the theme of last year's One World Week; this year it is **'YOUR MOVE!'** Caversham's focus is on water and we challenge you to make a difference. Specifically we re-visit Chiaquelane, the community of 82,000 people in Mozambique with which Caversham is linked through the charity Reading3000. A group of our young people had a working visit there last summer and a party of their young people will visit Caversham next year.

Chiaquelane continues to have a desperate need for an adequate supply of clean water. Last year Caversham raised £2,000 towards the installation of a well and water pump; this year we hope the people of Caversham will be moved to raise a further £6,000 to complete the installation. **YOUR MOVE!** is to support three fundraising activities. Two will be held on Saturday 16 October: there will be 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); in the evening Caversham's Young Musicians (young people with talent from our churches) will give a Concert in Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30 pm (Tickets, including refreshments, £6 [£5 concessions, £15 family]). Prior to One World Week there will be a Water Quiz, for which there will be a prize of a parcel of Fairtrade products. Quiz papers (price £1) are available from Church House and in the churches from OWW representatives. The schools have been invited to participate in separate quizzes. During One World Week itself there will be an exhibition in Caversham Public Library.

### Targets and achievements

It is estimated that over one billion of the world's population of six billion do not have access to clean water and 2.4 billion are without sanitation. In 2000, as part of the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations agreed to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people in the world without access to clean water. Subsequently, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002, the UN adopted the target of halving by 2015 the proportion of people in the world without access to basic sanitation. The estimated annual cost of an extra US\$ 16 billion to reach these targets is less than North Americans and Europeans spend on pet food each year. A 'Scorecard', produced jointly this year by seven aid agencies including Water



Our pictures from Reading3000 show the old well in Chiaquelane and women raising water by a hand pump from the well, others carrying water on their heads are in the background.

Aid, shows that out of 52 developed and developing countries assessed only 30 may meet interim targets set for 2005 by WSSD. Unbelievably, both donor and developing countries are failing to prioritise water and sanitation. China, India and Pakistan are among countries that face absolute water scarcity, unable to meet their water needs by 2025.

We take for granted a clean and plentiful water supply using the phrase "on tap" for an instant uninterrupted supply, but only 15% of the world's population have the luxury of water on tap for drinking, cooking and washing. Others may have to fetch it from a distant source. In Africa and Asia the average distance people walk to collect water is six kilometres (3.75 miles) and the weight of water that women and children carry on

Cont'd on page 6



Chiaquelane Old Well - Reading 3000



An Ethiopian woman is shown carrying water on her back (with acknowledgement to Christian Aid/Jenny Matthews).



Privatisation of water leads to the sale of water from central disposal sites (with acknowledgement to Christian Aid/Judith Melby).

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

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

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

**TALKING POINT**

By

**Eric Chappell**

**KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES**

A recent report in a national newspaper highlighted the fact that sales of most newspapers are in decline, some more so than others. It mentioned that older rather than younger people are more likely to buy a paper regularly. Another interesting factor was that it has been possible to read all the content of some papers on-line at no financial benefit to the publishers. Several of the papers concerned have altered their web-sites to give daily headlines only and others are making a charge for on-line viewing.

We are in the middle of an accelerating technological revolution involving the means by which we access information through the media. The availability of information from so many sources is having a profound influence on the fabric of our society. Years ago national and local government could more easily influence what information was released. Today, the organs of government have to accept that information is made public in all manner of ways from all manner of sources, some official and some unofficial. There are still attempts to block the release of information, to massage the message or to stifle debate; the government tries to keep the most powerful purveyors of news on side so that what is published is not uncomfortable for them.

Public awareness of what is going on leads to a greater desire to participate in decision making. There have been several recent events in Caversham and Reading, which have made the members of the public seek to influence or overturn policies proposed by local bodies. We have seen the outcry over proposed redevelopment at Caverham Lock (now back to square one). There are proposed consultations with interested parties about selling part of Mapledurham playing fields to finance improvement of the pavilion. Recently there have been reports of the possibility of sale of land at Highdown School to pay for an assembly hall. The bringing of such issues, particularly where public assets are concerned, to public attention before they are resolved is a legitimate function of the press. Where inadequate information is available, rumour and gossip can blow a simple matter out of all proportion.

No doubt there will be different ways in the future by which such matters become known locally but at the present we still have to rely on newspapers as the effective medium. I would further suggest that local communities need a strong local press.

Community papers, such as this one, can reflect on the happenings in that community and act as a notice board for local societies, groups and even pressure groups. Such a paper is the eyes and ears of the locality - this is something the latest technology has yet to provide. Until this happens we must hope that both young and old take the trouble to read local papers and be adequately informed.

*(Eric Chappell is a member of the Editorial Board)*

**CAVERSHAM BRIDGE**

Contributions for the November 2004 issue of this paper should be sent to the Parish Office, Church House by noon on Wednesday 6th October. The date for submission of items for the December 2004 issue will be Wednesday 3rd November.

All advertising copy for the November 2004 issue should be sent to Mrs Lobley, 15 Albert Road, Caversham, by Tuesday 5th October. For the December 2004 issue the date will be Tuesday November 2nd 2004. Advance Notice: The dates for January 2005 issue are 23rd & 24th November 2004.

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

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

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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.

Published by Caversham Christian News Ltd, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX Tel: 0118 947 1703.

Typeset by Seven Ash Printing & Graphics Co. Ltd, 25 Millard Road, Reading RG1 8LG Tel: 0118 956 8569 Fax: 0118 956 1339 ISSN: 0118 956 1340. E-mail: service@caversham.demon.co.uk  
Printed by Newbury Weekly News (Printers) Ltd.

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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 (part  
from 2nd Sunday)  
9.30am Family Service (2nd Sunday only)

**St Margaret's, Mapledurham**

11.00am Parish Communion

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All Age Worship (4th Sunday)

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Woodcote Parish Church

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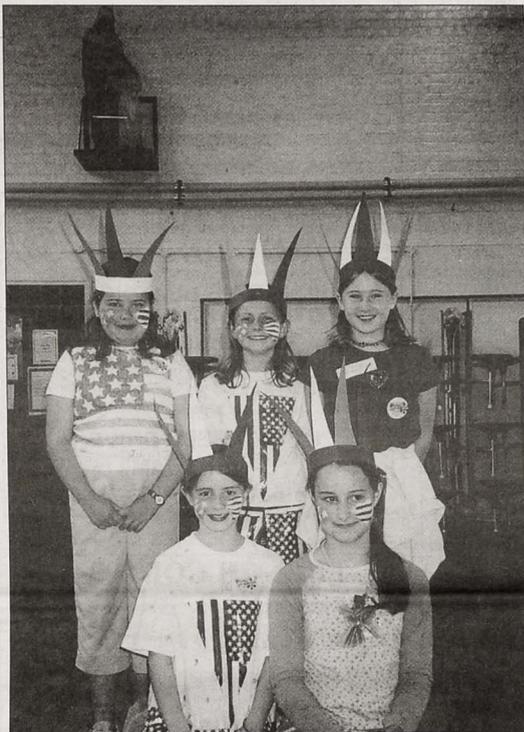
6.00pm Evening Service

# YOUTH

## A 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

**By Elisabeth Rutherford**

Young Leader, 5th Caversham (St Peter's) Brownies



Brownies in fancy dress.

Photos Caroline Smith

On Sunday 4th July, Brownies from every corner of Caversham, Emmer Green and Caversham Park gathered together to celebrate the 90th "Brownies Birthday". The hall of St Anne's Church was filled with over eighty Brownies dressed in variations of "stars and stripes" to reflect the theme based on American Independence Day. There was a wide range of activities from Statue of Liberty headdresses to face painting as well as games and dancing in the party room. The day drew to a close with everyone joining together to release ninety balloons, one for every year of the organisation. (The balloon that travelled furthest made it to Roden in northern Holland). The Brownies then each took a cup-cake which they had decorated earlier in the day, with a lit candle in it and sang "Happy Birthday To Us" to celebrate the birthday. All left with their many crafts and lovely memories of the day. They were also given a rosebud to remind them of the original 1914 name of the organisation, Rosebuds.

*Girlguiding in Caversham is always looking for adult assistance. If you can spare some hours to help a unit or to help with administration please contact Caroline Smith on 0118 949 2382 (daytime only).*



Brownies Party!

### Anyone for Breakfast?

This is the intriguing title of the next play to be presented by Caversham Theatre – a farce, written by Derek Benfield, involving secrets, mistaken identities and .....breakfast! Come and find out more on November 11th, 12th and 13th at St. Anne's Hall, Washington Road, at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £5 (£4 concessions) and will be available from the middle of October from group members or by phoning 947 7372.

### Morning...and how was Saturday?

I cdnuolt blveie taht I cluod aulacity uesdnatnrd waht I wdranieg. Aocodrnig to rsreeach at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht ore dr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olrny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can stil raeed it wouthit porbelm. Tihis is bcuseae the huamn mind deos not raed ervey lteer by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Laura Smith  
Researcher  
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6th Floor

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# From the Lookout Post

## Summer Festivals

As our Indian summer draws to a close, we have been reflecting on the festivals that opened and then closed the summer holiday period. WOMAD was blessed this year with glorious weather and seemed more than ever to be a celebration for each and every generation. Young people who came as children with their parents went along with groups of friends and everyone seemed to mix with courtesy and good humour. From the pressure on reduced price tickets for 'Passport to Leisure' and the number of familiar faces, it was evident that this is established as an important event for local people as well as those who travel from far and wide.

The Borough Council delivered information to homes in the event area giving details of the WOMAD festival and contact numbers should problems arise. From comments received, it appears that the specified time schedule of the performances was adhered to and the event was well organised with ample numbers of stewards, whose services appeared to be benefiting Oxfam. It was impressive that a major event with some 27,000 visitors caused so little disturbance.

The Reading Festival was a much larger event than WOMAD. It does not attract such a wide age range and sadly did not enjoy such fine weather. The sea of mud was a sight to behold and the range of Heath Robinson devices to survive it was entertaining to see.

There is no question that an event on that scale is a major invasion for this area. I had occasion to pass frequently through Caversham and past the festival site and I was struck this year by the extent of the good humoured tolerance from local people towards the festival goers. With the number of years the festival has been running, more of us have had family and friends attending the festival and having a wonderful time. Has this tempered our feelings? Certainly, a little inside knowledge helps you to know when to venture out to the shops and when to stay safely out of the way.

Nevertheless such an event can be no one's favourite neighbour. Whilst an advisory leaflet, including contact phone numbers, was distributed to the impact area, the stewarding was insufficient to prevent numerous unofficial fireworks and smoke from bonfires. Compared to WOMAD, the music was much more noticeable and the background noise and music extended into the wee small hours.

## Pipers Island

It is disappointing that this prime location remains such an eyesore for a protracted period. Also disappointing is that, given the original planning application was for a number of modest works (repositioning entrance, conservatory, etc), the RBC authorities are, at worst, not on the case or, at best, not sharing their discussions with the developer with the public. For example, has the building footprint, as indicated by positioning of new foundations, been enlarged? We accept that the developer may not have foreseen the scale of rebuilding measures required. However, now that major building works are underway, in this most visible and environmentally sensitive location, the public should be advised of RBC negotiations with the developer. It would be irresponsible to allow the developer to rebuild with no controls and rely on retrospective approval.

## St Peter's Hill/St Peter's Avenue

There are now three planning applications under consideration, for housing development of areas at the top of St Peter's Hill, on the west side of the road. TA Fisher has two applications with access off St Peter's Hill. Atterbury Homes have an application with access from St Peter's Avenue. These add to traffic loading in an already congested road, including the dangerous intersection of Highmoor and Woodcote Roads.

## Reading Borough Council Street Care Team

It was gratifying to hear the RBC Street Care Team giving their commitment to tackling a range of problems including abandoned vehicles, litter, dog fouling, graffiti, needle disposal and general dirt on our roads and paths. I have certainly noticed a greater effort on their part. Their terms of reference focus on public property, and including private property is sometimes problematic. The Safer Caversham Forum asked that the Street Care Team resources should also be available to assist in private situations, such as graffiti on utility facilities and needles on private property. Do contact RBC with information and suggestions to help them enhance the Caversham environment. For example, they can position litter bins where needed and provide advisory signs in areas of dog fouling. (Abandoned vehicles 0118 939 0243, discarded needles 0800 626 540 and general refuse queries 0800 834 035.)

## Mapledurham Playing Fields and Pavilion

The July meeting of the RBC Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet that a fresh consultation of all parties be undertaken, including further details of the four original options, and the location of compensatory land. Whilst an autumn consultation concluding before Christmas was discussed, it is questionable if the information will be available in that timescale. The consultation will indicate the preferred option of land disposal for residential development to yield funding for new pavilion construction and maintenance. The Warren and Caversham Residents' Associations will assist in getting wide consultation to residents and in providing insight into the aspects of the roles of the Charity Commission and National Playing Fields Association as well as the planning permission requirements for both the residential development and the new pavilion.

## And finally - Traffic Lights

Have you noticed that the traffic lights by the Prince of Wales, at the top of Prospect Street, no longer have a left filter leading into Peppard Road? Whilst some people may admit to frustration while sitting at the head of the line unable to proceed despite no oncoming traffic, it must overall be an improvement. Prospect Street is too narrow to safely allow a total of three lanes of traffic.

The new traffic lights on Henley Road, giving access to the Kingsoak development and All Hallows Road are a cause for concern. Coming towards Caversham from Henley, you have to keep left at the first set, then immediately swerve right to continue on Henley Road. A friend told me he first met this on a double decker bus and the swerve made would not have disgraced Jensen Button navigating a chicane!

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## HALL FOR HIGHDOWN

Dear Editors -

### Re: From the Look Out Post

It was with real disappointment that I read the short piece in "From the Lookout Post" about Highdown's plans to "sell the tennis courts." Please allow me some space to correct these misconceptions.

Highdown is indeed looking for ways to fund a much needed school hall and land sale is our last resort option, one which has yet to be reached. There has been much false propaganda put out about a sale but I can make the following clear. No decision has been made to sell land and there are no plans to do so as I write - we are waiting for word on other alternative sources of monies that would secure the building without land sale. We hope to hear by January 2005. There has been no building application made and if land sale was our only option there is no certainty that the tennis courts would be the preferred area.

There is also concern mentioned about the physical health of our students. Be clear, there is no way that we would sell off physical resources without replacing them with more appropriate and better facilities. No land sale could take place without the permission of Sport England and they have made it very clear they would support land sale if our physical resources were improved and indeed have indicated where they would like the new amenities placed. It is our intention to improve Highdown's facilities - we have 30 acres of land of which 15 acres is used. Any land sale therefore would not be to the detriment of the students' health but would actually enhance the health of our students.

Finally, please do contact me if you wish any information - or you hear of any rumours! - on either Reading 954 6883 (home) or via email: tkeable@hotmail.com

*Trevor Keable  
Chair of Governors of Highdown School*

## VETERANS BADGE LAUNCHED BY MOD

The August issue of "Legion", the Royal British Legion's magazine, reported that the Minister for Veterans, Ivor Caplin MP, launched a new "Veterans Badge" in May as part of the continuing commemoration of 60th anniversaries associated with World War II.

The badge, designed to be worn on the lapel of civilian attire by former Services personnel, has been developed in association with veterans' organisations, and is intended to help the wider public recognise veterans and the contribution they have made.

The first batch of badges is being given to veterans attending the various 60th anniversary events running up to the commemoration in 2005 of the end of World War II.

Veterans of World War I are also eligible to receive the badge, and if there is sufficient demand consideration may be given to extending eligibility to veterans of more recent campaigns.

Applications should be sent in writing to Terry Marsh, Ministry of Defence, Ground Floor, St George's Court, 2-12 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SH.

Applicants should include their Service Number, and their Heroes Return application reference number where applicable. For more information call the Veterans Agency's helpline on 0800 169 2277.

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## CAVERSHAM WAR MEMORIAL - NAMES OF WORLD WAR II FALLEN

Our War Memorial in Caversham, in its beautiful setting by the Thames in Christchurch Meadows, was erected by public subscription in 1927. The 'Caversham Traders Association' (a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce) organised raising the money to honour the Fallen from World War I.

Over the years since the end of World War II many people have wanted the names of the Fallen from that War added - but, as with any such action, money (or the lack of it!) is always a problem.

Members of Caversham Royal British Legion, during its recent activities to mark the 60th Anniversary of 'D-Day', were approached by many people suggesting that the best way of marking 'D-Day' and, just as importantly, the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II in 2005, would be to 'get something done about the War Memorial'. What at first seemed to be a relatively simple task has turned out to be quite complicated to achieve. The Council, whilst it has a power to maintain or upgrade a War Memorial, does not have a duty - again money is the problem.

After being told by the Council that it is not a scheme that meets the criteria to be considered for a grant from the Council's Grant Committee, and after much to-ing and fro-ing about who could fund the adding of the names (which is still going on), two Legion

members decided to launch a War Memorial Fund and again involve Caversham people in raising the money.

The fund was launched on the 60th Anniversary of 'D-Day' and Ron Jewitt and Pauline Palmer are determined to raise enough money to get the names inserted, and the Memorial rededicated, to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II in 2005.

As always the response from the public of Caversham has been magnificent. In the three months since the launch, the Fund has reached £2000. Pauline has organised various events and a grand raffle and Ron has cajoled people in Caversham to part with their money!

Pauline says "The people and businesses in Caversham have been very generous. We have, of course, thanked them all and will compile a public list by the end of the project. In the mean time an advance public thank you to AB Walker and Son Ltd who have offered to do the work at cost.

A list of the names gathered so far follows this article. Do you know of someone else? - Is there someone listed on a plaque in your church who is not included? Do you perhaps have only part of a name but know the Service in which they served?

Give Pauline a ring (0118 947 5345) and she'll get it checked out.

K C Agnew	P E V Buswell	G J S Farthing	E P H Heckman	A D Mackintosh	K J Purnell	N H Wheeler
A G Allwright	L R Butler	F H Faulkner	M H Hewlett	F M Mackay	D P F Rhatigan	S H Wheeler
J T Amor	W P Cambridge	F J Fletcher	W J Higgs	E W Mansell	A G Rogers	H J Williams
F W Annell	T W Christopher	G D R Fones	A A Hills	W C Marshall	J R Wilson	W H Whitchole
F J Arslett	D. Coffee	T E Fowler	R A Hodges	A F May	C E Rudd	F W White
	W A Cooke	L W Fuller	LG House	T J Meehan	H G Sherwood	
G B M Baker	E F Davall	F E Gaze	P Hunt	A Meredith	P W Shepherd	<b>MAPLEDURHAM</b>
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L A Bale	G Deacon	P H Goodchild	R K Impey	F L Oldland	S P Smith	L W Walter
G B Barratt	J F V De Gruchy	A J Greenaway	P N Jones	W T Parsons	W J Snow	<b>CIVILIAN DEAD</b>
K A Bateman	J N Dixon	B G Groves	F J Lanning	J D O Peet	E H Strong	W E Hickey
R S Beckett	G S Donald	H C Grubb	C J Lewington	D F Perren	W C Tyner	H J Jackson
C R I Besley	G H D Druce	W R Haines	G Little	C W F Pilley	W L Vincent	G Nunn
A Booth	D F Dunn	V Hastings	P C Lovegrove	L J Pinnock	D Warwick	J M Puleston
E H Boumphrey	F C Dunster	P Hayward	K Lunn	C H Pratt	G G Warwick	H L Sikes
W L Bradford	P M P Eppstein	V C D Hayward	S A Mace	H Price	F J Webb	W H J Temple
L R B Bruhl	A F Fagg	E J H Heather			A E Wheeler	M J Thackery
V R Buckley						E G Waldeck
A R B Bunny						

**ONE WORLD WEEK**

Is only two weeks away!  
but not too early for this diary entry

**SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2004**

when a car boot sale and a concert by young people  
of Caversham will bring clean drinking water closer to  
the people of

**CHIAQUELANE IN MOZAMBIQUE***Continued from page one*

their heads is normally 20 kg, the same as the average UK airline baggage allowance. The need to fetch water and the consequences of diseases, either water borne or through lack of sanitation, mean that many millions of children miss school or never complete their education. For every 10% increase in female literacy there is a 10% increase in life expectancy and a 0.3% economic growth in that country. Fetching water also uses time that would otherwise be spent on growing food and other economic activities to support families. Imagine daily walks from Caversham Heights or Emmer Green to the Thames for one's water supply.

**Health Aspects of Water Supplies**

Access to water does not guarantee that it is safe to drink. Unsafe disposal of excreta is the main cause of diarrhoeal diseases of children; contaminated water is a major health issue in many countries. World Health statistics show that 80% of all illnesses in developing countries are caused by water related diseases eg cholera, diarrhoea, intestinal worms etc. Comparative statistics reveal that, whilst in the UK and the USA there is 100% access to clean water and to sanitation, in Mozambique these figures fall to 60% and 43% respectively. In Haiti, the scenes of recent major floods and resulting related water borne diseases, only 46% of the population have access to clean water and 28% to sanitation. In sub-Saharan Africa only 51% of the population have access to clean drinking water so it is not surprising that water borne diseases play a major part in the health, or rather ill health, of nations.

Where contaminated water is used, diseases such as diarrhoea flourish. UNICEF statistics reveal that annually there are over 4 billion cases worldwide resulting in 2.2 million deaths from diarrhoea. Children under 5 form the majority of these deaths. On average a child dies every 15 seconds from water-related diseases; this is nearly 6,000 deaths each day, the equivalent of 20 jumbo jets crashing every day. (Some estimates of deaths triple these figures). Medicines can be used to treat such diseases, but prevention through the provision of clean water for drinking and better hygiene is more efficient.

**Water Privatisation**

There is a move to open service sectors to the free market in the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) negotiations. Some argue that this would improve water supplies but there is much evidence to the contrary. In Ghana, for instance, the cost of water is already equal to the daily earnings of some workers; if privatised it would cost considerably more and so be unavailable to a greater proportion of the population.

Many developing countries have debts they cannot pay and the World Bank lays down conditions, including the privatisation of services, that must be met before any relief is given. If service sectors are sold to private companies the country has more money to use, but as well as the services costing more to the consumer there are considerable job losses and people go hungry. There is no security system to fall back on so health deteriorates. HIV/AIDS is rampant in many developing countries and undernourished people easily fall victim to the virus; there is little money for the medical system so there is less treatment. Privatisation of water and other public services is bad news for those in developing countries.

**Water Poaching**

In the Middle East, access to water has always been a key environmental factor in the region's politics. Water issues affect relations between Middle Eastern countries even more than oil. The predominance of trans-national rivers and aquifers in the region limits the extent to which water problems can be resolved at intra-state level. The most serious water conflicts have centred on control of the tributaries and groundwater reservoirs of the Jordan - Yarmouk River basin.

In 1948, the newly established Israel's aspiration was to "make the desert bloom". Since then Israel has maintained policies to increase its water resources and to overcome environmental constraints. With the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 came the intention to secure the waters of the Litani River, and they later sought to harness water from the

# ONE WORLD WEEK

## Water of Life

Euphrates in Turkey and from part of the Nile. In 1991 55% of Israel's total water supply was imported.

In 2002 Israel made fresh threats against Lebanon in a dispute over the tapping of the Hasbani River that also supplies water to Israel and flows into the River Jordan. Lebanon maintained that it was within its rights to use water from a tributary of the Hasbani to supply 20 villages in southern Lebanon which were desperately short of water.

At about the same time Turkey agreed to supply Israel with 50 million cubic metres of water annually for the next 20 years. Turkey is one of the few countries in the region with reserves, but their Southeast Anatolian Project, a new system of 22 dams and 19 power plants on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has been criticised by their downstream neighbours Syria and Iraq. Anything less than a just distribution of the region's water would be considered to be "Water Poaching".

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## NEWS FROM TRADCRAFT AND OTHER AGENCIES

This year Traidcraft has celebrated its 25th anniversary; some of the first products it sold came from Bangladesh and it has remained a place of special interest. It was therefore a matter of concern when the news broke, in late July, of flooding in the area, a month before the usual start of the rainy season. The floods covered two-thirds of Bangladesh and killed 700 people; more than 30 million people were marooned, left homeless or displaced. Initially it was hoped that the producer groups would have been little affected, but with such widespread devastation it is inevitable that Traidcraft suppliers have been affected, the homes of workers flooded, workshops closed and transport and communication disrupted.

### Aid to Bangladesh after the floods

As the waters subside, the enormous task of rebuilding homes and livelihoods begins, but at the beginning of September the World Food Programme said it had received less than a fifth of the US\$74 million it needs to help victims of the floods. Under the agency's emergency programme, flood victims would receive food aid in return for repairing damaged roads, dykes and embankments. Christian Aid partners are providing emergency relief to over 500,000 people. They have been distributing emergency food supplies, water purification materials and oral rehydration salts, often travelling in small boats to reach the worst affected villages in 21 provinces. The floods devastated the summer harvest and the rice seedlings that would have been planted for harvest this winter. Few people have spare cash to purchase food, so they need to restart their agricultural



activities as soon as possible. Christian Aid is funding the immediate distribution of a variety of seeds to 82,500 families. Traidcraft is working with local agencies to develop new ways of building the economic strength of the producers and their communities so that while the natural catastrophe of the floods may be unavoidable, they will be in a better position to recover and rebuild.

### Traidcraft has gone GeoActive

Traidcraft now has a GeoActive Community whose main organ of communication is the Internet. It is for those people who not only buy fair trade products and like to get more involved in fighting global poverty but also believe that actions speak louder than words and feel they have the energy to make a difference. Among its activities it is encouraging those who are fit to take part in the Great North Run in September and the Great South Run in Portsmouth on 10 October. In each event, over 10-mile courses, it has secured 300 places, runners being expected to raise a minimum of £250 in sponsorship money. Traidcraft as a result stands to gain at least £150,000 to develop its work. While the *Caversham Bridge* has no knowledge of local participants it wonders whether it will see the involvement of some of its 'Fairtraders' in future years. It seems that some of these activities are sustained by a plentiful supply of Geobars, the ingredients for which come from local Fairtrade co-operatives around the world. Geobars may be purchased in most of our local supermarkets as well as at Traidcraft outlets in our churches.

## RIDGEWAY MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE



Paul (on right) with friend before bike ride

Paul Kelly, a parishioner of the Church of Our Lady and St Anne, recently went on a sponsored bike ride for the Gateway Appeal, which is to pay for the extension to the church and to build a Church in Mpoza in South Africa. He raised about £150 for the appeal. He reports as follows:-

My friend and I joined 150 other mountain bikers at Princes Risborough on a glorious Saturday morning on the 24th July. The aim was to cycle 85 miles across country on the Ridgeway Trail over the next one and a half days.

The first morning was relatively easy, with the trail passing below Bledlow Ridge and the southern section of the Chilterns and finishing in Goring, where refreshments were enjoyed by all. The afternoon started with a climb onto the elevated section of the Ridgeway and continued with a grind against the wind and various sections of gravel and chalky, rutted tracks.

After what seemed like several hours, we finally arrived at Wantage Youth Hostel which has a magnificent location looking down over the town and surrounding countryside. The evening's highlight was a shower, followed by a BBQ and then a night listening to a fellow rider roaring in his sleep - I vowed never again to set foot in a Youth Hostel in 1984 - I renewed my vow several times in the course of the early hours.

Beary-eyed we set off on the last 30-odd miles of the ride at 10 am, stopping for lunch just past Barbary Castle. The last 10 miles into Avebury dragged on a bit, but before long we were cycling past the famous stones and sweeping into the car park to be greeted with a Mars Bar, a drink and a soft grassy landing for our poor posteriors. There - it wasn't too bad after all!

Paul Kelly

### FAIRTRADE DIRECTORY

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The Henley Wind Ensemble will be playing a selection of tuneful music ranging from Handel and Beethoven to Percy Grainger and Scott Joplin. This popular group consists of professional and amateur musicians playing flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns. The Choir will be singing a mixture of sacred and secular music.

Proceeds will be divided between Henley Wind Ensemble and St Peter's Church.

Tickets: £6 (Concessions £5, children £2) available in advance from the Parish Office, Church House, 59 Church Street, Caversham (0118 947 1703) Tues, Wed, Thurs 9.30am - 12.30pm, or at the door.

### John Branch

The Editors of the *Caversham Bridge* are sorry to learn of the sudden death of John Branch, the husband of Dianne who is the Postal Subscription Manager of this paper. They extend their deepest sympathy to Dianne Branch on her sad loss.

## AROUND THE CHURCHES

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## News from St Barnabas . . . . FREEMASONS' SUPPORT FOR DROP IN CENTRE

The Churches-in-Reading Drop-in-Centre (CIRDIC) is very grateful for the publicity given to its recent financial crisis through these and other columns following the withdrawal of a number of grants and a subsequent fire. CIRDIC has a difficult time meeting its running costs; after the fire it needed to install a new security system and bring the building up to health and safety standards, improvements it could not hope to make out of its own budget. After reading the article in the Caversham Bridge and hearing about the desperate financial plight of CIRDIC from other members of the St Barnabas congregation, Robin Kent, a local Freemason, made a request for assistance to the Berkshire Masonic Charity (BMC). This charity enables the Freemasons of Berkshire to assist worthy causes in the local community; after careful consideration the BMC Trustees were pleased to make a grant of £1,000 to CIRDIC. This grant was part of the Freemasonry in the Community Initiative through which Berkshire Freemasons have donated nearly £450,000 to over 650 local causes in recent years.

CIRDIC has a continuing need for financial support; grants only account for about 20% of its income; most of the remainder comes from churches and individuals. In this respect CIRDIC hopes to increase the support from individuals through Gift Aided Donations. The Centre also has a continuing need for support from volunteers and through prayer. The contact at CIRDIC, which is open between 10 am and 3.30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and on Saturday evenings, is Verna Makins, the Manager: tel. 0118 950 2536.

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH BIDS FAREWELL TO THE WILSON FAMILY



O. Jewiss

Clive, Joanne, Ellen and Sue Wilson were photographed after their last service at St Barnabas, during which presentations were made to the family.

One consequence of the re-location of the Meteorological Office from Bracknell to Exeter has been the loss to the churches in and around Berkshire of a number of key people who have had to move from the area because of their work. In early September St Barnabas Church bade farewell to the Wilson family who have been faithful members of its congregation for the last 19 years. Clive has been a Sidesman for many years and Sue a member of the Parochial Church Council, in which capacity she has been the church's Child Protection Officer, a responsible role ensuring that all those dealing with young people have been cleared by the Criminal Records Bureau. Joanne and Ellen have been active members of the Junior Church; their acting and musical skills have been much appreciated. Together with Clive they have been key members of the church's music group. We wish them well in their new life in Exeter. Joanne is now at Sussex University and Ellen is moving to a Sixth Form College.

## Christ the Healer

**Come and see God's Healing Love and Grace in Action: November 13th 2004**

Which of the following sentences do you think are the product of an overactive imagination? (a) "And as we watched, the lady who originally came in a wheelchair pushed it out to the car park with her things loaded on it". (b) "The lady priest who had been unable to kneel for years suddenly dropped to her knees praising God, stood up, and then repeated the process several times over". (c) "The man who was deaf after a lifetime's work in blast furnaces said "I reckon I've got about 98% of my hearing back"."

Answer; none of them. They are just a few of the healings due to God's grace and love that I have seen with my own eyes! The lady with the wheelchair was healed two years ago and is still dashing about. The lady priest was healed in Henley United Reformed Church in November last year and is happy to demonstrate to anyone that her knees are working well. As for the man from the blast furnace, I haven't seen him for a couple of months, but no doubt he can still hear clearly without any artificial aids.

Despite this, if anyone mentions that they were "healed by the Lord" we find it difficult to believe - or we immediately switch off, thinking that they must have an overactive imagination! Probably this is because such healing is beyond our normal experience and beyond our understanding. However, the fact remains that many people do get healed by the Lord as a result of prayer ministry. Christian healing is part of the mystery and power of God!

Jesus passed His own gift of healing on to the early church, but as the centuries went by the evolving church seemed to gradually lose the

ability to tap into this healing power. But if God is the same yesterday, today and forever, then it follows that the same healing power, flowing through Jesus, must still be available to us. What an exciting prospect! So why don't we see more people healed today?

The Revd Mike Endicott is a priest of the Church of Wales who has been working in the healing ministry in South Wales for many years. Because of the depth of his experience in this ministry, about six years ago he was asked by his Bishop, Rowan Williams (now Archbishop of Canterbury) to form and to lead the Order of Jacob's Well. His remit was to teach and train those who feel a calling to the Ministry of Healing. Since then, he has gained deep insights into how and why people do (and do not) get healed.

On 13th November this year Mike Endicott and his team will again be visiting Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames for the day, between 10.00am and 4.00pm. So do come along and join them on this very special occasion. We don't know what might happen, but it will be surprising if we do not see more signs of God in action - blessing and healing many of those gathered there to worship and praise Him.

There will be a registration fee of £5.00 on the day to cover costs. Soup, sandwiches and drinks will be available at the Christ Church Centre, or you may like to bring your own packed lunch. For more details of the above visit - or of the Order of Jacob's Well - please contact: David Males (0118 947 5293) or e-mail David.Males@tesco.net.

## AROUND THE CHURCHES

## St Andrew's enjoys another visit by Bishop Philip from Tanzania

Our Church has been linked with St Francis' Hospital and the adjacent Polio Children's Rehabilitation Hostel, Kwamkono, in the Anglican Diocese of Tanga, for more than 20 years. During that time, the link has been cemented by personal visitors from the Diocese; this was Dr Philip Baji's third visit to St Andrew's since he took over from Bishop John Ramadhani.

At the July Family Service, Bishop Philip brought greetings from the staff at St Francis' and the Polio Hostel and thanked the congregation for all they had done to fund the vital and on-going water supply project which means that staff can now collect clean water from borehole 2 at no cost to their meagre budgets. Bishop Philip had us all singing a hallelujah chorus in Swahili and then spoke to the children and adults about the very varied work undertaken by all the churches and three Christian hospitals in his Diocese - young people's Bible and literacy classes, pastoral training, medical work in Aids and malaria prevention and care of terminally ill cancer patients as well as a nurses' training school. After the service, members enjoyed an informal 'pot luck' garden lunch with Philip - thanks to a break in our rainy weather!

Fundraising to complete the water project is continuing so that water from borehole 3 can be piped up the hill into a tank in St Francis' compound. This is a substantial challenge for a small parish church! The water is also shared with patients' families, the villagers and the staff and 30 children with polio next door. Their rehabilitation from crawling on the ground to standing upright - and eventually walking, albeit with callipers or crutches - commences with surgery 'next door' in St Francis' to straighten their legs. Depending on the degree of paralysis, their whole rehabilitation may take from two to five years during which time they are taught to read, hear the Good News of Jesus, go to school and receive tailoring or other training. Most go home in the school holidays. This is the only children's hostel in Tanzania giving such comprehensive loving care. The doctors and hostel manager often tell us how much the clean and reliable borehole water means to them.

Jan Blakeley



Bishop Philip with St Andrew's friends.

Photo: J Blakeley



Photo D. Collis

### CONGRATULATIONS...

to the Revd Canon Richard Kingsbury and his wife, Angela, on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Their 40 years of married life were marked at the end of a recent service at St Peter's church by the presentation to them of a bouquet of flowers.

## ARCHBISHOP NICHOLS' VISITATION TO SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

When, in March 2000, Bishop Vincent Nichols was appointed Archbishop of Birmingham, he became head of a diocese which stretches from industrial Staffordshire to rural Oxfordshire. Archbishop Nichols decided that there could not be one grand plan to cover all the people under his care and, instead, he has set out on a series of visitations in which he can meet the priests and people in smaller groups on a deanery basis.

The diocese is divided into nineteen deaneries and the South Oxfordshire deanery, comprising the parishes of Caversham, Dorchester, Goring-on-Thames, Henley-on-Thames, Sonning Common, Thame and Watlington, has Father Tony Jones of Caversham as its Dean. Caversham, having been absorbed into Reading, is actually in Berkshire, but the diocesan boundary is the Thames and the bounds have not been rewritten, so Caversham is deemed part of Oxfordshire for diocesan purposes.

Archbishop Nichols, accompanied by his Auxiliary Bishop, Philip Pargeter, and Canon Tom Farrell, the Episcopal Vicar for Oxfordshire, is visiting these parishes between September 15th and October 12th to meet priests and parishioners and to find out, at firsthand, as much as he can about the spiritual life of the Church in this part of the country.

The South Oxfordshire deanery visitation began with the Archbishop and his team hearing presentations given by each parish describing the Catholic life of its community, at a meeting held at the Oratory School, near Woodcote, on Wednesday 15th September. Canon Tom Farrell will spend the whole of the weekend of 2nd/3rd October in the Caversham parish and the visitation will end with a deanery Mass to be celebrated at Our Lady and St Anne's on the evening of Tuesday 12th October.

When all the visitations are over, the Archbishop should be in a much better position to decide what needs to be done to further the spiritual well-being of his diverse flock.

### ANOTHER VISITOR FROM ZAMBIA

We were disappointed in May when teacher, Lyato Lumai, was unable to come to Caversham Heights Methodist Church with Mary, Dave and Wilson (see July issue) but very glad that he was able to come during his school holidays in August.

Lyato had a very full programme with day trips to London, Oxford and the seaside, trips locally to Henley, Marlow, Windsor, Basildon Park and Ewelme as well as bowling at Calcot and the church walk. Lyato also visited Christian Community Action with Henry Stroud and Myra Fowler and spent two days working with Chris Evans.

And then there were the meals...! These were opportunities not only to sample such specialities as Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, Fish and Chips and Lardy Cake but also for discussions, questions, some answers and generally getting to know some of the church members here.

### St Andrew's Healing Service

Our next Full Healing Service, with the laying on of hands and anointing, will be at our Sunday Parish Eucharist when we will be celebrating the **Fest of St Luke, on Sunday October 17th at 10am;** all are welcome.

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## METHODIST DIARY

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH (GOSBROOK ROAD)

- October 3 **Harvest Festival**  
10.30am *All Age Worship & Parade Service* - Mr Chris Evans  
6.30pm Revd Dr John Ogden
- October 10 **Week of Prayer for World Peace**  
10.30am Revd Dr John Ogden/  
Revd Philip Dallaway  
6.30pm Mr David Munns
- October 17 **Church Anniversary/One World Week begins**  
10.30am Revd Dermot Thornberry  
6.30pm *Holy Communion* -  
Revd Dr John Ogden
- October 24 10.30am Mrs Brenda Watson  
6.30pm Revd Dermot Thornberry
- October 31 10.30am Mrs June Hardecastle  
6.30pm *Healing Service* -  
Mr David Beek

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

- October 3 9.00am *Holy Communion*  
Revd Lynne Davis  
10.30am Revd John Dudley  
6.30pm Major Samuel Edgar
- October 10 **Week of Prayer for World Peace**  
10.30am *Youth Workers' Dedication Service* - Mr Chris Evans  
6.30pm *Holy Communion*  
Revd Dermot Thornberry
- October 17 **One World Week begins**  
10.30am *World Church Day* -  
Mr Kevin Fray, Methodist  
Relief and Development Dept.  
Mr Kevin Fray
- October 24 10.30am *Holy Communion* -  
Revd Dermot Thornberry  
6.30pm *Taizé Service* - Revd Joan Hicks
- October 31 10.30am Mr Henry Stroud  
6.30pm *Healing Service* -  
Mrs Liz Aldersley

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, WOODCOTE -

- October 10 9.45am Revd Dermot Thornberry

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Caversham Heights Methodist Church:

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

Judith Higgs 947 4494

## AROUND THE CHURCHES

# METHODIST CIRCUIT WELCOME TO DERMOT AND CHARLENE THORNBERRY

The Caversham Methodist Churches are delighted to welcome Revd Dermot and Mrs Charlene Thornberry to join the congregations as Team Leader in Caversham. They arrived in Reading early in August and are now settling in to life in the south of England for the first time. Dermot and Charlene have come to us via a number of other countries, bringing a varied experience of ministry with them.

Dermot was born in Belfast, but left to travel and work in Australia, New Zealand and, later, south East Asia, Iran and Turkey. This he describes as "a sort of one year life experience as a hippie", before returning to Belfast. He didn't stay long, however, and moved to South Africa, working as a restaurant manager, in management and in local community projects during the apartheid era. It was at this time that he met and married Charlene, through one of these projects setting up blood donation clinics in the townships.

Following a transforming experience of becoming a Christian soon after marriage, Dermot went with Charlene to Namibia, where he tested his call to the full-time ministry, and then on to Pretoria to train. During appointments in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Pretoria, they were very involved in the transition from apartheid to a multiracial society and talk now of the astonishment and relief they experienced when that transition was achieved without a bloodbath, as so many had feared. Churches at the time were able to act as true mediators and peacemakers, bridges between the two sides.

By 1999, Dermot and Charlene felt that there were so many changes happening in South Africa that they needed a change as well. They were sent to North Yorkshire, for Dermot to take charge of three rural churches - a complete contrast to South Africa! This

was a new area to both of them, as now is Caversham. They have enjoyed exploring in the short time they have been here, and are now the proud owners of a caravan to help them indulge their love of travel!

Whilst here in Caversham, Dermot is keen to emphasise the teaching aspect of ministry, to establish a cycle of teaching leading to mission. A teaching ministry can help people to transform themselves, and use the varied gifts that all have been given. He also hopes to get involved in community projects. The Methodist church is very different here to that in South Africa, with different emphases - back in England, Dermot has been struck by the fundraising for others that goes on, whereas in Africa they have to fundraise for themselves, and here too he has learnt about the Fair Trade campaigns. South African Christianity has had to be lived on the edge - literally risking lives to bring peace.

Charlene and Dermot bring various gifts and interests with their ministry in Caversham. Charlene enjoys singing and drama, Dermot enjoys writing plays, cooking - and picture framing! A course in this latter was his response to a challenge from his previous superintendent to all the local ministers to do something totally unrelated to their job. They are joined in the manse by two golden retrievers, Maggie and Paddy, and a cat, Misty, all of whom travelled from South Africa and spent six months in quarantine.

We welcome you to Caversham, Dermot and Charlene, and trust that you will have a happy and fulfilling time with us here, helping us and travelling with us in our own particular journeys. May God bless you and be with you in all your work here in Caversham.



O. Jewiss

The Revds David Ellis (Reading and Silchester Circuit Superintendent), Tom Stuckey (Southampton District Chairman), Dermot Thornberry (Caversham's new Methodist Minister) and Mrs Charlene Thornberry

## EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS

The Welcome Service for the Revd Dermot Thornberry as a new member of the Reading Methodist Circuit Staff was a very inspiring, almost explosive, occasion on Wednesday, 8th September at Caversham Methodist Church, Gosbrook Road. The presiding Minister was the Revd Tom Stuckey, Chairman of the Southampton District, and the prayers were led by the Revd David Ellis, Superintendent Minister of the Reading and Silchester Methodist Circuit. The congregation included members of the 21 churches in the Circuit and representatives of all the other Caversham churches.

"When was the last time that there was uproar in your church?" asked the Revd Tom Stuckey as he began his sermon, then, after a few humorous examples, "When was the last time that the proclamation of the Gospel caused a disturbance? I could talk about all aspects of ministry, all of them important, but I want to talk about the Ministry of the Word. We have a tremendous task ahead of us because there is a crisis of communication. One of the key factors is the neglect of theology! That's a word that puts people off. I could see it in your faces when I mentioned it! But it simply means 'theos' (God) and

'logos' (word) - God's word, and it involves speaking and listening. How do we speak about God's word in a way that is appropriate and passionate? We've lost our ability to talk about God. If the church is to fulfil its mission, we must reclaim that."

After the sermon, the Revd Tom Stuckey presented the Revd Dermot Thornberry to the people and, as a newly appointed presbyter, Dermot made several solemn promises to serve God here and to ask God's help in the work. He was further welcomed by the Revd Derek Chandler, Deputy Chairman of Churches Together in Caversham. In reply, the Revd Thornberry said that, until about a year ago, he knew nothing about Reading. Then he remembered, from his school GCE exams, Oscar Wilde and his 'Ballad of Reading Gaol!' Someone said to him, 'so you won't be the first Irishman to set foot in Reading!' He said how good it was that friends who had been in his church in Praetoria had travelled up from the South Coast especially for this ceremony. The service ended with that wonderful Charles Wesley hymn:

*'My heart is full of Christ, and longs  
Its glorious matter to declare.'*

# the CLUBS

## St Peter's Wives' Group

At the August meeting, Matthew Williams, Senior Curator at Reading Museum, who specialises in social history and museum development, came along to talk about the history of Huntley and Palmer's in Reading.

He told how the company was started in 1822 as a bakery by Joseph Huntley with his son, Thomas, in London Street, opposite the then Crown Inn. They ran a thriving business selling biscuits to travellers on the stage coaches travelling from London to Bristol. A distant cousin, George Palmer, bought into the business. It became known as Huntley and Palmer's in 1881 and gradually grew into a very large enterprise covering 37 acres by 1898.

The company went from strength to strength and by 1922 half the working population of Reading worked for Huntley and Palmer's. It was a very paternalistic company which organised outings, teas and day trips for its employees, and also provided them with a sports ground and a sick club. One of the traditions of the company was that each employee received a 1lb bag of broken biscuits every week.

Eventually, the company amalgamated with Peek Freans, then with Associated Biscuits. In 1970 it moved to Huyton, Liverpool, where costs were lower, and the link with Reading was broken. The film 'Bugsy Malone' was filmed in the factory before it was demolished.

The 'Huntley and Palmer's Collection' at Reading Museum is well worth a visit, with various commemorative biscuit tins, etc on show.

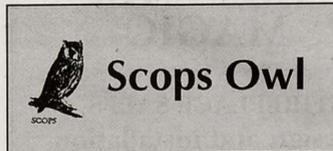
The next meeting will be held on 19th October at Church House at 8.00pm, when the speaker will be Mr Callan, with a talk on "The English Silver Spoon". Members are requested to bring a silver spoon with them, if possible.

New members always welcome.

## Caversham Community Association

August found members meeting for the usual informal games evening. The following week was another popular evening with prize bingo to enjoy.

It was rhymes all round when local lady, Mrs Wendy Huntley, gave a reading of several of her own poems and then invited members to make up a topical poem.



## Scops Owl

With the loss of some garden birds, we have good reason to be saddened - for what would a garden be without its superb song-birds?

Since the introduction of Red Kites to the Chilterns, they have become a success story story by continuing to spread.

Seen more often above Emmer Green than Caversham, adults, children and other fascinated admirers identify these large, red fork-tails.

I first saw them soaring one to one with Buzzards in the Welsh Cambrian mountains. The latter species is also increasing in range and have been soaring with Red Kites over Emmer Green - a new experience!

Strict laws are in place to protect Kites from the shot-gun and other abuses.

Three to four million television viewers watched a fine series of nightly films in aid of conservation for birds and other wildlife. Bill Oddie OBE and team, presented them on BBC TV. They continued for two weeks. As daylight faded, infra-red cameras were brought into play.

The problem facing wild animals were clearly seen, the programmes being informative and educational. Congratulations to all concerned. Let us trust that more such quality viewing will be forthcoming.

The subject was the Olympics and each person produced one line and we ended up with a 3 verse poem!!

The end of the month brought a "Knit and Natter" evening - squares were made to sew together and make a blanket for overseas aid.

## Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

The chairman, Hazel New, opened the July meeting with a report on the National Council Meeting held in Bournemouth. Among the speakers at the NCM were the father of the Walton sextuplets (on living with seven women) and Bob Geldof (on fathers' rights). Hazel commented how impressed and inspired she and our three delegates had been by the coming together of representatives of guilds throughout the country at this Bournemouth meeting. Hazel then introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr Nigel Snell. Red Kites, tennis balls, wool, teddy bears, knickers and lottery tickets seem a very strange mix, but Mr Snell informed us that Red Kites line their nests with "anything they can lay their beaks on". Mr Snell explained that the reintroduction of Red Kites to the Chilterns in 1989 has been such a success that young birds from that area have been relocated to other parts of England. Fully grown, the Red Kite has a 5' wingspan and these magnificent birds can often be seen circling overhead. After Mr Snell had answered questions from the floor, the meeting closed with coffee and the usual chat.

We meet every third Thursday of the month in St Andrew's Hall, Caversham Heights at 7.30pm, visitors and new members are always welcome.

## Caversham Branch - The Royal British Legion

The Branch has been very busy over the last few months organising events to mark the 60th Anniversary of 'D-Day' and will be even busier over the next few with the Poppy Appeal.

The socials are as popular as ever and a recent trip on the 'Devon Belle', a boat used for many missions in the last war, saw eighty members of Burma Star, MOTHS, RMA, RNA, RBL and other ex-Service Organisations enjoy a much more peaceful and leisurely trip to Mapledurham and back. It was organised to mark VJ Day - we even managed a rather apt monsoon! A big thank you to Tim Deaton of Thames Rivercruise and his staff, who made it such an enjoyable evening despite the rain and for the provision of a very welcome bar!

You will soon be seeing many of our members and friends out collecting for the Poppy Appeal - would you like to help - maybe for just an hour? the more people involved, the better; if so, please phone Pauline on 0118 947 5345.

## THE HOME PATCH

At Henley Road gravel pit, we were 'scoping a Gadwall duck which was sheltering beneath a distant bank. A member of the Reading Ornithological Club standing correctly, well back from the dangerous edge of the bank, had unfortunately failed to see it.

A few days later, an uncommon Slavonian Grebe, slightly smaller than Great Crested, hove into view. We lay prone as it "weaved" towards us, its indirect approach being a peculiarity of this species. Swimming nonchalantly past at barely ten feet, its startlingly red eyes were clearly visible. This was a "first" on our own patch.

The Shelducks in full Summer plumage seen at Dinton Pastures - just up the road, a few weeks ago, although seen many times elsewhere, were as a "new experience". WHEREVER bird watchers may venture, birds will be watched. Even the common ones are recorded in daily notes.

Ornithology is a Science, as comprehensive as any other. Watching birds is only an "off-shoot", NOT confined to the local patch. Migrants fly thousands of miles to reach Britain.

Our involvement with birds implies the greater hope for conservation at a very critical time. We should understand that mankind is at the TOP of the same ecological chain!

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