

'DIDN'T THEY DO WELL?'

EMMER GREEN CLUB SUCCESS

THE RE-OPENING

The reopening of the Emmer Green Club last September under the new leader, John Jenkins, brought a flood of new members.

Everyone involved was amazed at the number of people coming to the club and expressing a need for somewhere to go in the evenings. It was thought, however, that this was only an initial reaction to the club's reopening and a desire to see what was going on, but as the weeks went by and the numbers remained at well over 100 per night, it became clear that these numbers would not decline.

The present staff are heavily involved in building relations with the young people, but they are still desperately short of staff for such high numbers. There have even been times when there has only been one member of the staff on duty to work with 150 young people, which would be considered completely impossible in any other educational situation.

There is, then, a great need of adult help from anyone who feels that they can talk to young people. If you are interested, will you please ring John Jenkins at 476794 any morning or evening or call in at the club when it is in operation?

All items for inclusion in the March Edition of the Caversham Bridge should reach the Editor at Church House by Tuesday, January 29th.

BROWNIE GOOD TURN

1st Caversham Brownies recently raised £20 as a Christmas good turn for local pensioners. The money was used to purchase club cards which were presented to the pensioners by the manager of Oakeshott's at a gathering in Balmore Hall.



—Walton Adams

PRICE OF GLORY

Ceri Price, aged 14, of Tower Close, and a member of the 1st Emmer Green Guides, with the Queen's Guide badge and certificate which she recently received at a presentation in St. Barnabas' Hall.



— Walton Adams

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The Editor's Column

SOMETHING DEFINITE

In many circles to-day it is held to be unfair, or indeed almost immoral, to say nothing definite. "Everyone" we are told "should think things out for themselves and reach their own conclusions." Now there is a truth here but it is not possible to reach conclusions as to what is right without knowing what Christian teaching is; and on some matters Christian teaching is quite explicit.

And Christian teaching maintains, without any hesitation, that adultery is wrong. Too often however such a statement is made without giving any reasons as to why this is so.

WHY ?

Adultery is wrong because sex is not only a fact of life but a gift of God. Sexual intercourse has about it something of a sacramental nature, because it is the act which brings two people together into a relationship which cannot be achieved in any other way. It is not therefore to be debased into a toy for the sake of immediate pleasure. The modern attitude to sex debases both man and woman and destroys their humanity, bringing them down to the level of animals. But the Christian attitude treats every man and woman as a responsible individual. So sexual intercourse becomes the means of expressing the deep personal growing lifelong love which can only belong to the married state. And just as Holy Communion is the centre of our lives and worship as Christians in our relationship to God, so physical love expressed through the sex act is central to the relationship of husband and wife. It is Christianity which takes a real view of sex and which recognises its importance, and it is the world of the gutter press and of so many films and TV programmes which endeavours, often only too successfully, to debase men and women to the animal level.

FOR ONE PERSON ONLY

We have therefore a precious gift saved up for the one person to whom it belongs, and that can only be our partner in marriage. In marriage the sex act makes sense; outside marriage whenever the sex act takes place it is bound to have a degrading effect on those concerned. And I feel bound to say that Christian parents do not always realise their responsibility in this way. I have in mind the parents who go away for a weekend, or are out till very late at night, leaving the run of the house to young folk to have a party. Too often such parties become the occasion for experiments in sexual relations. It is not only the street corner, but also the home with the parents out, that can be a dangerous place.

Our Lord lifted marriage on to a nobler plain, and incidentally changed and raised the whole status of women. When we talk of Christian chastity it is a chastity that enables us to enter into a true relationship with our married partner. So the teaching of the Church is the teaching of Jesus Christ "The two shall become one flesh—what God has joined man must not separate."

COMPASSION NEEDED

We have however to remember the compassion of our Lord and also to realise that sadly to-day a great many marriages do break down. Let no one who is happily married imagine that the process of getting divorced is painlessly or lightly undertaken. And if we are familiar with the Gospel words "What therefore God has joined together let no man put asunder" we have also to recognise that Jesus gave the Church power to loose as well as to bind. To-day it frequently happens that a monk or nun is released from life vows which have only been made after a far longer period of preparation than normally precedes marriage; they are released from them because those concerned are convinced that it would be neither for their good nor the good of the religious community for them to remain bound by those vows. In the same way it needs to be recognised that there are sadly cases where the marriage relationship is totally dead, and where it seems only proper that the Church, which has been given authority to bind, should exercise the other side of its authority and loose them. In such a case the man or woman who has been the cause of the breakdown may expect to come under the judgment of God ("Let no man put asunder") but the Church may rightly as with the case of a monk or nun, release a person from their vow. I know that this suggestion is not easily accepted by some members of the Church of England, but the Church of England has till now taken a stricter view of marriage than any other church. The Orthodox Church and the Protestant Churches have, given careful safeguards, allowed the remarriage of divorced persons, and the Roman Catholic Church has a system which makes it possible for a marriage to be declared null.

HAPPY SECOND MARRIAGES

My experiences over more than twenty years has taught me that there are many people, who have remarried after divorce, who are bringing up children in Christian homes. I could not possibly deny that such unions have been blessed by God, but such couples have had to turn either to another church or to the civil authorities for their marriage. I hope such people will not have to do so much longer. To say this in no way changes the teaching of the Church that marriage is meant to be for life and adultery is wrong, but it does recognise the misery that is caused in marriage breakdowns, and so stretches out the compassion of Christ to those who are so much in need of it. Let all Christians see it as their duty to uphold Christian standards of marriage, and to do everything possible to help others to see what is good and positive in such standards; at the same time we must never be censorious to those whose marriages have gone astray. To do so is to forget how much compassion Our Lord showed to those in need.

John Grindall

TOWNSWOMEN'S CELEBRATION TREE



Walton Adams

Mrs. Elsie Weaver (left), President of Emmer Green Towns. women's Guild, adds the finishing touches to a tree planting ceremony to mark both the guild's 21st birthday and the "Plant a Tree in '73" campaign. The tree, a red chestnut, was planted near the pond in Buckingham Drive. Chairman Mrs. Josephine Smith assisted.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

As a regular reader of the 'Caversham Bridge,' I was interested in "The Noble Voices of the Past," which mentioned F. G. Saunders, Chairman of the G.W.R. It was Captain George Saunders, his neighbour, who came home from the South African War. I was one of them who unhooked the horses and drew the carriage to the steps of the house, which is Highdown School now. As far as I know most of the others have passed along.

I was about seventeen then and worked for Mr. Saunders.

Yours faithfully

L. Hunt

8 Grove Cottages,
Emmer Green.

WEEK OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

WEDNESDAY, 23rd JANUARY at 8 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION

in

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St. Andrew's
9.30 a.m. St. Peter's
St. Andrew's
10.00 a.m. St. Barnabas

SUNG EUCHARIST
8.00 p.m. All Churches

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HOME FROM HOME

If I were to tell you of a children's home in Caversham which needs your interest and your gifts but does not want visitors, I wonder if you would understand.

I'm sure most of our readers have the imagination to understand, but some explanation is, of course, only fair; let me tell you a little about the Church of England Children's Home at Emmer Green, a familiar building to many readers.

There is today an air of realism about St. Benets which one cannot help finding refreshing and which is certainly indicative of a great deal of new thinking in the field of child care. The boys, eighteen of them, aged between 9 and 16, by their own choice prefer to address their guardians as Mr. and Mrs. Butlin; after a day out they talk about 'going back to St. Benets' rather than 'going home.' There is no pretence, no talk of 'home' or 'auntie and uncle,' for these boys are neither too young nor too unintelligent to understand. They realise that, for some reason or other, they are unable to live in the kind of family which most of their schoolmates enjoy—they realise it and they accept it and in doing so—it seems to me—they are no longer open to the kind of jibes from schoolfriends which were once all too familiar to children 'in care.'

Some advantages

A great many of us, at some stage of our lives, may find ourselves having to be cared for by others than our own family, and the boys realise this. But, having made this perfectly clear, it seems to Leonard and Jean Butlin (and probably to many others) that within these obvious limits, the boys must have the same advantages as other children and live as naturally as possible. And this, in turn, means that casual, usually very well-meaning, groups of visitors who just want to 'look round' are not welcome. As Jean Butlin herself put it: "When I gave money to help the Biafran children, I had no desire to go along and stare at them."

Does that sound reasonable—I hope it does because, though it may hurt the feelings of some interested people, it is, after all, the children themselves who matter. Of course they are encouraged to bring their schoolfriends home to play (in the very large grounds; indeed, most of them with only small gardens or none at all, are delighted to share the benefits of St. Benets. In fact, one of the problems the Butlins have to face is that of encouraging the boys to join in outside activities; as they say, the boys have all the entertainment they need on the premises and it would be all too easy to encourage them to live in an isolated world.

Realism

Some boys do have what are known as P.I.'s, or Personal Interest friends whom they visit; but even here the sense of realism is maintained and with few exceptions these visits are treated as visits would be by children from normal family homes. But, in general, St. Benets, though it may not be called 'home' by the boys, is and will remain their permanent base for many years to come. It is one of the proud boasts of all the Church of England Children's Society homes, that a child once in their care never ceases to be their responsibility and years after leaving is always welcomed back on a visit and a bed always ready and waiting. In this way they are given the kind of stable background which is vital to growing children.

This is not to say, naturally, that all children's homes should be run on these lines; cottage homes and short-stay homes require a very different approach. But the more one talks to the Butlins, the more one becomes convinced how very much thought has gone into the running of the home both

by them and by members of the local committee who, of course, are the main exception to the rule about casual visits.

Needs

But the home does, of course, have needs. It is probably not realised that though these homes are known as Church of England homes, they receive no direct grants from the Church as a whole or from the government, and are very dependent on voluntary subscriptions. It should be mentioned here that Mr. D. Snell of 148 Galsworthy Drive is the Treasurer. There is an allowance for birthday and Christmas presents, but with toys and books the price they are, gifts are always welcome providing they are perfectly new. On



—P. Handford
Mrs. Butlin with her own youngest child



—P. Handford
St. Benet's

the other hand, good cast-off clothing, particularly for teenage boys, is always welcome; like all normal youngsters, they enjoy the opportunity to wear 'way-out' gear, and anything of this kind would be welcome.

Are you big enough to give without asking even to see what happens to your gift? Are you big enough to rely on the local committee and the visiting authorities to do any 'checking-up' you might feel necessary? It's asking a lot, I know.

And if you still want to take some practical part in the running of the home, do telephone Mr. or Mrs. Butlin to discuss the matter with them first.

W.D.



—P. Handford
Decorating the Christmas tree

AMETHYST TOURS, 1974

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THE FIRST BRIDGE



CAVERSHAM'S FIRST BRIDGE AND ITS CHAPEL OF ST. ANNE

The first written record of a bridge at Caversham comes in a document dated 1231 and which mentions the Abbot of Reading and William the Marshal, second Earl of Pembroke, who lived at the Manor of Caversham.

Henry III spent much of his time at Reading and made many contributions to the building of the bridge in the early part of the thirteenth century. During his minority he constantly crossed the river here on his way to visit his Regent, William Marshal, first Earl of Pembroke who held the Manor of Caversham and died there in 1219.

WINDSOR OAKS SENT TO CAVERSHAM

It was by no means easy to find out upon whom rested the burden of repair if a bridge fell into decay. The Craven and Wyfold estates were both called to assist in keeping Caversham bridge in good order till quite recent times.

The chapel of St. Anne, on the bridge, must have been there before 1376, for in that year it was acquired by Nottley Abbey in Buckinghamshire and began to exhibit relics. Travellers were expected to give contributions to these bridge chapels and some of the money was no doubt meant to be used for bridge repairs. Tolls were also exacted from wayfarers to help pay for upkeep, making the use of a bridge costly for the ordinary folk of the district. On July 8th, 1231, an order was made to the keeper of Windsor Forest "to deliver to Andrew, Serjeant of Caversham, one good oak to make a boat for ferrying poor people over the water of Caversham (sic)."

An oak from Windsor Forest was also delivered in 1240 to make shingles for the roof of the chapel. Perhaps this was when the actual building took place.

Assizes were held on the bridge in the reign of Edward I as they were at Wallingford.

At the dissolution of the Monasteries the chapel of St. Anne came into the possession of Henry VIII who sold it to Anthony Brigham, cofferer to his Majesty. A large field on the Reading side of Caversham Bridge was known as Brigham's Mead and Brigham Road, opposite the Caversham road post office is an ancient link with the past. The Brigham family remained at Cane End from 1537 till 1742, when Thomas Brigham last male in the family died, leaving two daughters as co-heiresses, one named Elizabeth.

MARRIED AN HEIRESS

In the entourage of William of Orange there came over a courtier named Vanderstegen who married, had a son and sent him to Oxford. There this young man struck up a friendship with the Powys family of Hardwicke and whilst visiting there met Elizabeth Brigham whom he married in 1750. Until

about fifty years ago the island upon which the chapel was built remained in the Vanderstegen family when it was sold to the Reading Corporation for the erection of the new bridge begun in 1924.

Some time between 1537 and 1714 the chapel disappeared. It may still have been standing when Queen Elizabeth crossed the bridge in 1602 to visit St. Francis Knollys, her Comptroller, at his home in Caversham and it may or may not have vanished by 1613 when Queen Anne made a similar journey to see the same great man. One possible reason for the chapel's final disappearance may have been the Civil War.

THE FIGHT FOR CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

Caversham Bridge was a pivotal spot during the long struggle between Roundheads and Cavaliers. After the battle of Edgehill in October 1642 Charles marched to Woodstock on October 23rd and on the following day went with his whole army to Oxford intending to proceed to Reading via Benson and Caversham Bridge. On November 3rd a letter reached Reading addressed to the Mayor from the King. It ordered the re-building of the bridge by 8 a.m. the next day so that the royal army and artillery could cross the Thames. No doubt the bridge had been broken down at the instance of Henry Marten, the Parliamentary leader in Reading. It was an act of self-protection by the town. As at Wallingford, there may possibly have been a drawbridge somewhere on Caversham bridge, and it may have been this part and more that was deliberately destroyed.

From November 1642 till spring 1643 Reading was in a ferment, many finding it difficult to know with whom to side. Then on April 15th the Parliamentarians marched against the king from Windsor. Charles slept at Wallingford on April 24th and marched next day to Caversham. The two armies met at the partially destroyed bridge on April 25th. The diary of one Roundhead soldier reads "They (the Royalists) fell upon a loose regiment that lay there to keep the bridge and gave them a furious assault both with their ordinance and men, one bullet being taken up by our men which weighed 24 pounds at least. This was answered with our muskets, and they were forced to retreat leaving behind 7 bodies . . . besides others which fell in 3 or 4 miles compass as they retreated. It is said that within five miles were 500 hundred hurt men drest in a barne . . ." There is an old saying in Caversham "Balmayer's (Balmore's) field ran blood." Then followed the surrender of the garrison. Colonel Aston, who had been wounded at the siege of Reading came first and was borne across the bridge on a horse litter "covered with red and lined with white, followed by coaches and wagons. The horse and foot beate a march and so departed with colours flying towards Oxford by Casum Church."

King Charles' final crossing of the bridge was in 1647 when he left Lord Craven's home at Caversham House (now the B.B.C.) having there said a final farewell to his children.

Soon the bridge was once again repaired and remained in use till 1868. It is said that Turner painted local scenes depicting this ancient crossing. Certainly it was far more attractive than the erection opened in 1869. This construction was completely of iron. During the building of this second bridge it was decided to move the Waterman's cottage, three storeys high, en masse to a new site about twenty-five feet away. This was done successfully on January 29th, 1869, the furniture and family of Waterman Piper remaining in the house throughout the operation. The house weighed one hundred and fifty tons. So, with a final flourish, the ancient bridge of Caversham, which had served the neighbourhood for almost seven hundred years, finally passed into history.

WHICH ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION?

During December communicants in the parish of Caversham were asked to give their opinion about which order of service for Holy Communion should, in their opinion, be used: the choice lies between the service in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer or the revised services known as Series 2 and Series 3.

Three hundred and fifty-eight replies were received and many of those who answered wrote at considerable length and it was evident that they had given much thought to the matter. The Parochial Church Council has to take a decision in the light of these replies. In doing so they have no easy task as it is quite obvious that there is no clear-cut preference. About 70 people suggested that more than one form of service should be in use. About 18 per cent. favour the 1662 version and the remainder were almost equally divided in supporting either Series 2 or Series 3. While many felt that the language of Series 3 was mediocre and lacking in flow and dignity others argued that the language brought home to them the meaning of the service in a new way just because it was so much easier for them to understand. Many lamented the loss of familiar music that had stood the test of time, while others wrote enthusiastically of the new music for Series 3 written by Mr. Hugh Rowe.

One interesting factor which emerged was the age structure of those who replied from the different congregations. Twelve per cent. of the replies came from those under the age of 21, 13 per cent. from those between 21 and 40, while 38 per cent. came from the 41-60 age group and 37 per cent. from those over 60. If the replies are representative, St. Peter's would appear to be the youngest congregation in so far as it had only 24 per cent. of its replies from those over 60 and 15 per cent. from those under 21. St. John's had the highest percentage of "Over 60's." St. Barnabas had 27 out of 51 replies favouring Series 3, the only district with a majority for the latest service. At St. Peter's 50 per cent. favoured Series 2. At St. Andrew's slightly more favoured Series 3 than Series 2, but in all districts there was a substantial minority who did not approve of either of the modern versions.

THE FLOWER CORNER

(Mary Hooper and Patricia Collins)

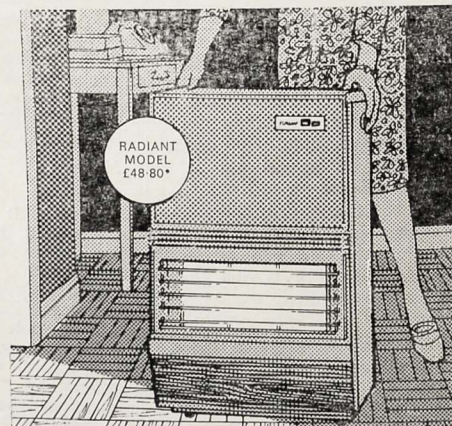
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... BUT NO THIRD BRIDGE

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL GO OUT OF EXISTENCE IN APRIL AND BE REPLACED BY A LESS POWERFUL DISTRICT COUNCIL, BUT BEFORE THE OBSEQUIES ARE PERFORMED, IT HAS BEQUEATHED TO CAVERSHAM THE LEGACY OF A DECISION ABOUT A THIRD BRIDGE.

Don't get the wrong idea: we aren't actually getting a bridge. The general idea is that we don't really need another one at all, so (cheers) there won't be one between the two existing bridges. Instead Reading Bridge will be widened (how?) and will then be able to send its traffic faster into the congested area south of the river. And remember, that will be altered quite a bit. There will be the valley road, its associated roundabout, and the third stage of the Inner Distribution Road. Gravelly Hill will have nothing on it. (Who said something sloppy about historical associations and a town's character?) To the north, the traffic will be dispersed... well, where? Actually the Borough Council admits it hasn't made up its mind on this point. With only weeks to go before its demise, this will have to be a problem for its successors to solve.

Well, do Caversham people like these proposals? To judge from the support coming in to the Residents' Association for the idea of a third bridge to the East of the Borough boundary, they will need a lot of persuasion to be convinced that widening Reading Bridge is a better proposition. And if they are not convinced, they must insist on their voice being heard. People are getting a little tired of being told what is good for them.

POSTS

Posts are popping up again all over the place. After the culling that took place a year ago, a new crop has appeared, particularly in long suffering Hemdean Road. The worst one, which whilst purporting to announce the new 'bus lane, lurked round a blind corner on the south side of Rectory Road waiting to assault law abiding citizens as they went about their business, was dug up and put in a safer place after the Residents' Association had drawn the Borough Surveyor's attention to it. But there are many others almost as badly sited.

BOUQUET

How pleasant to see the island at the junction of Kidmore Road and the Mount restored to its former appearance. It has been tarmaced, the attractive old style handpost has been repainted and a seat has been placed there again. Would it be permissible to mention that this was due to the Residents' Association who drew the planning Offices attention to the dilapidation into which it had fallen? Would it also be too much to ask local dairies to refrain from leaving their empty crates there for any longer than the short period required for a lorry to collect them up.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Caversham and District Residents' Association Annual General Meeting, Monday, 18th March, 8 p.m. at Church House.

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COMING TO EMBLEY PARK?

See Page 9

STREET NAMES OF CAVERSHAM

by F. MALPAS

Many people will realise that Cawsam Gardens (off Chiltern Road) revive an old spelling of Caversham, but why do we have Chazey Road and Gurney Close in Mapledurham?

There were formerly two manors within Mapledurham, Mapledurham Gurney and Mapledurham Chazey. The former was always the bigger, with the parish church. The latter is represented by Chazey Court at the end of the made-up part of the Warren; it had its own chapel and reached up to what we now call Chazey Heath. The two manors were united in 1580.

Amersham is another place name which we have as a street name—and there is a local connection. The older buildings of Queen Anne's School were built in 1861 for Amersham Hall, a Baptist boys' school under the Rev. Ebenezer West which had been at Amersham since 1829. It was a very successful school with high academic standards, but bad luck led to a decline, and it closed in 1892; two years later Queen Anne's opened there. The West Memorial Hall on Gosbrook Road is named after the Rev. Ebenezer.

Amersham is in Buckinghamshire, and so is Brill—but is there any local connection this time? No; it is merely that Brill and Oakley are adjacent villages, and Brill Close is very close to Oakley Road!

Caversham Park Village has many streets named after places, but here it is the associations that count. The Englishman's home is his castle, and here we have fourteen streets named after castles—Corfe, sited so dramatically in the Isle of Purbeck; King John's favourite castle of Odiham; the splendid pile of Dunster in Somerset; Edward I's Merioneth fortress of Harlech; and so on. Or do you prefer stately homes? If so, perhaps Chatsworth Close or Osterley Drive is for you. Or perhaps you just want to get away from it all? Then you can dream in Kendal, Lomond or Quantock Avenues or Devon Drive.

Perhaps the most sensible name of all is the one that simply says where it is: Hilltop Road, the highest road in Caversham Heights or the adjacent part of Mapledurham.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE
SCHEME OF
SOCIAL SERVICE
See Page 11

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FOOTPRINTS FROM THE PAST by Zoilus

If your home is in Silverthorne Drive, Buxton Avenue or the Henley Road you may well be living on top of a load of buried treasure. Not the silver coins or golden doubloons of a freebooter's hoard, but the invaluable evidence of prehistoric man in this region many thousands of years ago.

Geologists tell us that the ice field covering the larger part of these islands in the Paleolithic Age stopped north of the Thames, and a primitive form of human life was supportable over 10,000 years ago. Axe heads, scrapers and bones have been found in the Thames Valley, together with animal bones and traces of extinct animals such as the mammoth, and Iron Age pottery.

RIVER BEDS

Way back in antediluvian times the River Thames flowed in a more northerly direction than its present course and entered the sea somewhere in the area of Clacton. River beds are a prolific source of archaeological finds, many of which have been unearthed in the gravel subsoil which is a predominant feature of this locality. The estate of which Silverthorne Drive is a main artery, for instance, is built on an old gravel pit which has yielded some interesting specimens. By the same token fossilised mussels have been found in the chalk pits near the Flowing Spring Inn in Henley Road, which would show the presence of salt water at one period.

FOG

It has been suggested that the original northerly course of the Thames could explain a local phenomenon, that sudden fog bank that can make driving along the Woodcote Road an occasional hazard. Most of us have at some time encountered an unexpected bank of fog near the Pack Saddle turn, when the evening is otherwise clear. This is said to be caused by alluvial deposits, possibly clay, at a bend of the ancient channel.

INVESTIGATION

Moving on to comparatively modern times, there is evidence of settlements in the valleys of South Oxfordshire dating back to the Roman occupation, and there are hopes that a team from Nottingham University may mount a large-scale investigation in the area. Thanks to numerous programmes on television and articles in the Press, the discovery of the past has become a popular science, so it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a local enthusiast combining a Sunday afternoon's walk with leisurely research may come up with a discovery that will write another chapter in the history of local origins.

ROMAN ORIGIN

The signs are there to be noticed. A friend of mine who is a keen amateur archaeologist and who kindly provided much of this information, was strolling through a meadow above the river near Whitchurch when he

noticed a fragment of pale blue plaster half-hidden in the scuffed up dust of a rabbit hole. Poking away with his stick he unearthed a couple more pieces, which he took to the archaeological assistant at Reading Museum, and was told that they were probably of Roman origin and might well be the signs of a site worth exploring. At any rate, the discovery was noted and in the summer an investigation will be made by experts. It could be that there was a settlement or even a Roman fort built in the meadow, which might yield important historical evidence. Equally, the specimens may come from the cast-away belongings of a travelling legionnaire, who passed that way on a routine march during his tour of duty in the Dismal Isles.

But in such conundrums lies the fascination of archaeology. And for the part-time enthusiast the possibility of a discovery that may find a place in the records is a welcome challenge.

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OBITUARIES

ERNEST ESSEX

It is not surprising that so many local people attended the funeral of Ernie Essex, who died after a short illness at the end of December; not only was he a member of an old Caversham family, but he had always taken a keen interest in many local activities during his lifetime and made many friends.

Born in Caversham, Ernie came to live in Cromwell Road as a very young boy; he attended St. Peter's School, where he once obtained a medal for never having been late. A member of St. Peter's Scouts—he became a King's Scout—he was a belleranger there for many years until the outbreak of war put an end to these activities and, instead, he became an ARP warden.

Apart from his service in the Fleet Air Arm during the First World War, Ernie spent all his working life, nearly 50 years, at Elliotts, retiring some years ago. He was a keen sportsman but was probably better known for his great interest in gardening and, as a member of the local horticultural society, became well known for the beautiful chrysanthemums he grew and which, it should be added, he generously gave to friends and neighbours.

He will certainly be much missed in the community and the 'Bridge' would like to extend its sympathy to his wife Daisy, his son and daughter-in-law, Leonard and Audrey, and his two grandchildren.

DOROTHY BERNARD

Dorothy Bernard, known to her friends as Dolly, collapsed and died suddenly in Prospect Street just before Christmas, to the great sorrow of her friends and neighbours.

The youngest daughter of an old Caversham family—she and her husband had been friends with the Essex family for many years—Dolly was born in what was then Gosbrook Street, and she and her husband moved back to Caversham from Lynmouth Road just before the last war.

Dolly and her husband, George, who lost both legs in the First World War, had been married for more than 42 years. She was devoted to him and to her son, John; but there was nothing of the martyr about Dolly, who was always happy and cheerful as she trotted contentedly around Caversham doing her shopping. More than one person remarked on the fact that she was never known to say an unkind word about anyone and that, probably, is the greatest compliment anyone can ever have.

The 'Caversham Bridge' offers her husband, her son and his family its sincere sympathy and hopes that, in time, they will take some comfort in the thought that Dolly will always be so lovingly remembered in this district.

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WITH KATY IN CAVERSHAM

Heaven knows what kind of bleak mid-winter we shall be having by the time this reaches the public if, of course, it ever does. But there is nothing like a crisis for sorting the sheep from the goats and the attitude of the local people to recent events certainly varied enormously.

It is a bit late for a New Year's Honours List, but this would seem a most appropriate time for thanking, on behalf of Caversham people, all those, particularly the shopkeepers, who kept going so cheerfully under such difficult conditions before Christmas. I think especially—and I know there are many others worthy of mention—of the lady in the local Co-op who, in reply to a word of thanks for her help in difficult conditions, replied, "Well, that's what I'm here for." I think, too, of the half-frozen staff in the local greengrocers, our friendly staff in the local butchers, and many others.

'The Bridge'

And if any of you have complaints about recent copies of the 'Bridge' (or, for that matter, other church material), you'd better not let me hear them. After seeing our secretary trying to type in an icy cold room—I discovered she'd been doing this for weeks—I had second thoughts about conducting a one-man strike at work should the heating be cut off.

And, among others, I'd like to mention those, mostly unhonoured and unsung, who forgot their own troubles to go and search out the lonely, the old and the sick to check up that they had fuel, candles and so on.

It's the thought that counts

Again, it seems to me that there is nothing like a crisis for reminding us of this fact when buying gifts. Unfortunately those famous (or infamous) words are often the excuse for hastily wrapping up that old box of hankies that has gone the rounds for years and bunging it off to someone 'for the look of the thing'. Going through my own gifts this year, I'm amazed at the number of people who've really taken the trouble to find out what I need or, perhaps even better, what I would like. Many of us, I guess, are going to have at least minor economic difficulties this coming year, so it really is going to be the thought that counts and 25p spent on something a friend would really like is quite literally worth far more than several pounds spent on something to impress, or just to please the giver.

Local shops

I've been trying to discover what plans local shopkeepers are making if the promised power cuts materialise. Frankly it is impossible, but it would seem that the small shopkeepers at least intend to carry on as far as possible and as well as possible, in spite of lack of heating and lighting and the difficulty of getting supplies. So give them a try before setting out to find out which of the bigger stores are open and when. Shop early—or not at all if possible—and for heaven's sake try to change your library books while it is light as the library, like most shops and other establishments, will be closing early.

Road Signs

I've been asked to remind people that road signs outside schools are put there to **prevent** parking, and not, as some people think, vice versa. There are few children, I'm sure, who are too weak to walk fifty yards to the school gates.

Best wishes to our MP

With so many constituencies suffering from absentee representatives, it is a great pleasure to read in the local Press that our MP, Dr. Gerry Vaughan, maintains a keen interest in everything that goes on in Caversham and is the first to come to the defence of anything he thinks is important to his constituents. Even those of us who don't always share all his political views cannot help admiring his energy and interest and I'm sure many of our readers would like to join me in thanking him and wishing him all the best for his work in the coming year.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 13th December, 1973. Mr. B. A. Fowles, chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

The Council were informed of the possibility that it is likely the Boundary Commission may soon be considering the boundaries of the new S. Oxon District Council area, and the Parish Council therefore considered it necessary that a definition of the parish boundaries should be clearly stated. Concern was expressed that the fringe areas of the parish, particularly those adjacent to Reading could be transferred to Berkshire, and the Council reiterated their previously expressed view that the parish should remain undivided. It would therefore vigorously oppose any attempt to divide the rural part of the parish from the urban area.

It was also agreed that the Council had no inclination to be 'taken over' by Berkshire, and they wish to remain in Oxfordshire under the control of the S. Oxon District Council.

Warning signs are to be erected at the junction of the A4074 and the Old Woodcote Road, near the 'Pack Saddle' public house, because of accidents that occur in that vicinity.

Details of a recent meeting that had been arranged by Sonning Parish Council concerning the need for a third bridge over the River Thames were reported, as a result of which Mapledurham Parish Council are to make a further investigation into the routing of the A4074 from the Greendene Hill area to a point that could link up with the Henley Road.

HE BRINGS YOUR 'BRIDGE'



—Walton Adams

MR. IAN McCALL

Ian McCall and his wife Jean moved to Caversham four years ago with their two daughters, Susan (15) and Jane (12), from Hamilton in Scotland. He came to work at Barclay's Bank in the Property Division. He is keen on golf and cricket. Nevertheless, being a busy man does not stop him from delivering the 'Caversham Bridge'. They are members of the Methodist Church and attend regularly as a family. Susan is a Sunday school teacher.

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CHURCH NEWS



—Walton Adams

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

Members of St. John's Mothers' Union presented the Nativity story in tableau form in Caversham Hall just before Christmas. Gosbrook Road Methodist Church's Women's Meeting also joined in the act of worship which was devised by Mrs. Anne Atkinson.

ST. BARNABAS NEWS

The choir once again sang carols at Springfield St. Luke on Christmas Eve and then toured Emmer Green singing for elderly people.

The children's worship for Christmas was celebrated in the round in the church hall. It was devised by the Sunday School teachers with the children taking a full part and ended with everyone having tea.

AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Rector of Caversham will be installed as an honorary canon of Christ Church in Oxford Cathedral on Saturday, 26th January at 6 p.m. during Evensong. Anyone wishing to attend will be very welcome and Mr. F. C. Moore, 52 Highmoor Road (Tel. 472694) is arranging transport.

ST. PETER'S NEWS

News has been received recently of some former members of St. Peter's congregation who are now living abroad. Gillian Tondeur (nee Bowden) writes cheerfully from Belgium having just given birth to Marc Steven, her second child. The Price family who went several years ago from Kelmscott Close to Perth are all well and flourishing. Ted is churchwarden at St. Andrew's Riverton and has been busy with a stewardship renewal campaign. He is working as terminals and stevedoring manager for the state run shipping service which serves the north west ports of Western Australia. Peter, their eldest son is working for a firm of suppliers to mining companies, and Olive is kept busy looking after Julie and Susan who are at school, and James, now three years old. They miss the Reid family, who as reported recently in the 'Bridge,' have now moved from Perth to Singapore.

Christmas collections. It is good to be able to record that collections at Christmas amounted to £185. Of this £77 was received at the children's service and Midnight Eucharist and was sent to Christian Aid. The balance was received at the morning services and given to the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

Mothers' Union. A musical afternoon was enjoyed at the December meeting. Mrs. Grimwade played lovely duets with Mrs. Metcalfe who also accompanied Leonard Burn's flute recitals. The afternoon finished with everyone singing carols.

A CHOIR GIRL AT CHRISTMAS

We are glad to print this report from Sally Wright, a young member of St. Margaret's choir, who writes about her carol singing evenings.

On 23rd December Mapledurham choir and friends set off from 222 Upper Woodcote Road to sing carols to the people of Chazey Heath, stopping at various houses on the way, accompanied by three recorders and a violin. This pleasant evening was ended back at 222 Upper Woodcote Road with mince pies, and coffee and squash. On Christmas Eve there was carol singing by a group of villagers; we started singing at Mapledurham House, where we were greeted with refreshments. Then we made our way to the White House, stopping in the village to sing. At the White House we were again invited in, this time for hot punch.

We were even merrier when we left the White House and made our way to Park Farm along the Warren. We were invited in again to sing carols. Then finally we went back down the Warren to the accompaniment of flute, clarinet, tamborines and a recorder. Still singing, we made our way home. On 28th December there were seven choir members at the party. I thought it was a jolly good party and I think everyone else did too and I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Stevinson for arranging it for us.

ITALIAN CONNECTION

The wedding on 27th December of two members of St. Barnabas' was a truly international occasion. The bridegroom, Michael Lloyd, though British, has spent most of his life in Germany where his family lives, near Salzburg. The bride was Gennoveffa Tropeano, from Milan. The service was conducted in English and Italian by the Revd. L. Burn.

Guests and family present represented a variety of nations including Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Greece and Poland. Coming straight after Christmas, the wedding posed several practical problems, but these were overcome by members of St. Barnabas' church who helped with transport, and Mrs. Cox, daughter of Mrs. Green, made the bouquet for the bride.

CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas highlights at Gosbrook Road

The Gosbrook Road Methodist Church members had a very busy time at Christmas with a whole host of meetings. There was the Christmas lunch when the church young wives served a three course lunch including Christmas pudding to approximately 70 people. There was the Toy service when Mr. Gregory of the Berkshire Children's Department received a car load of toys donated by the children of the church; these toys were to be given to underprivileged children in Berkshire. Another entertaining evening was when 60 folk attended "Coffee and Carols" hour in the candle-lit church hall, to listen to readings, to sing carols and finally to enjoy coffee and mincepies.

But probably the highlight of the Christmas period occurred when children from Micklands County Primary School sang and played at a carol service. A packed church, filled to overflowing with church members and parents enjoyed songs and carols sung by the Micklands School upper junior choir and recorder group both led by Mrs. E. J. Phillips.

Methodist example in energy crisis

At a recent meeting of Trustees of the Gosbrook Road Methodist Church it was decided to economise on power for heating and lighting by using the smaller Church Hall for evening worship, instead of the much larger Church building. This was started on the first Sunday in January, and will be reviewed each month until an improvement in the energy situation.

After a most encouraging financial report by the Trust Treasurer, it was decided that the Trust should embark upon a planned programme of improvements and redecorating, a plan that would extend over the next seven years taking in all buildings and facilities on the site. It was deemed necessary to do this to comply with conditions of the Trust, and also because of the extensive usage by the activities with a very lively church.

The trust was pleased to hear reports of growth from departments within the Church, and look forward to seeing the Gosbrook Road Church continue to be an essential part of the community life of Caversham.

WE RECORD . . .

BAPTISED

December 30 St. Andrew's
Rona Barber

MARRIED

December 15 St. Peter's
Graeme MacDonald and
Julia Graham

December 27 St. Barnabas'
Michael Lloyd and
Gennoveffa Tropeano

December 22 St. Margaret's
Graham Francis and
Gabrielle Barnett

FUNERALS

December 11 St. Peter's
Ian Annesley
January 3 Beatrice Hackett

January 2 St. John's
Christina Anger

St. Andrew's
December 31 Percy Allen
January 3 Florence Butler
January 7 Jack Wilson

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

HISTORIC EMBLEY PARK

by
PAUL GORIUP

The Manor of Embley has a famous history. Up to the 11th century, the Manor's name was Emelei and the Lords of the Manor included King Alfred (849-901) and his daughter Ethelfleda, the Abbess of Romsey. The name Ealey appeared in the 17th century and the "b" (Embley) appeared in the following century. Some other Lords of the Manor were Earl Godwin, Barnard Pauncefoot (at the time of the Domesday Book), John Shotters of Romsey, Sir William Heathcote, Major Spencer Chichester, and John Joseph Crosfield (the last Lord of the Manor in 1921). The Manor is best known, however, by William Edward Nightingale, who was the Lord of the Manor from 1825 to 1889. His daughter Florence, "the lady of the lamp," thus surnamed after her heroic performance as a nurse in the Crimean War, lived here from the age of five until her father's death.

The Nightingale's family grave is at East Wellow, a ten minute car drive from Embley Park. Father, mother and their two daughters are buried here and a bunch of flowers is placed regularly every year on the 13th August on the tomb in memory of Florence's death in 1910. Inside the Church of St. Margaret of Antioch at East Wellow there is also a cross made from bullets which Florence apparently brought back from Crimea.

At Embley Park itself there are several pictures of Florence and her father's study is now being used as the headmaster's office. There are three approaches to it of which one is through phoney bookshelves in the small library. The "books" on the shelves bear delightful titles such as "Entrance to the Caves . . .", "Horrors of the Middle Passage," "Chinese Law I-IV," "Tales of the Coorway," "Optical Delusion" and others.



House and Grounds —P. Handford

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SOLVE PETROL PROBLEMS— HOLIDAY THIS YEAR AT EMBLEY PARK

The Caversham Parish Holiday is to be revived, and returns this year to the deservedly popular Embley Park. No holiday was held in 1973 but hundreds of people from Caversham have enjoyed a holiday at Embley Park in the past and YOU can do so for a week beginning Saturday, 10th August. Over fifty people have already booked so do not delay.

Set in wonderful grounds on the edge of the New Forest Embley Park provides the ideal setting for a family holiday. It has its own open air swimming pool with squash and tennis courts and other games facilities.

This is the holiday for all ages. The cost will depend upon the numbers who attend—the larger the party the less the cost, but it is expected to be about £13 for full board for adults, with reduced rates for children under the age of eight.

If you wish to join the party write to the Parish Office or phone 471703 and ask for a registration form.



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SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
4.00 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday).

St. Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
6.30 p.m. Evensong

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST
11.00 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday).
6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday).

St. Margaret's, Mapledurham

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION
(4th Sunday, Matins)
10.00 a.m. Family Service (2nd Sunday)

NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service.

METHODIST CHURCHES

Caversham Heights

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).

Caversham

11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St. Anne's

8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.

Our Lady of Caversham

8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.

CAVERSHAM PARK

SUNDAY SERVICES

Every Sunday in Caversham Park School Hall at 11.15 a.m.

February 3rd — Family Service.

February 10th and 17th — Family Service with teaching groups for the children.

February 24th — Family Communion Service with teaching groups for the children.

WEDNESDAY COMMUNIONS at 10.30 a.m.

February:

- 6—Betty Bartlett, 2 Blackwater Close.
- 13—Rosemary Maybury, 116 Lowfield Road.
- 20—Pat Gray, 20 Osterley Drive.
- 27—Ann Darlington, 5 Kendal Avenue.

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Superintendent: Miss R. Eves, 6 Wrenfield Drive. Balmore Hall, tel. 476494, 11 a.m., age 7 upwards (not 3rd Sunday of the month).

St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's Hall, 11 a.m., age 4 years and upwards.

St. Barnabas' — Church Hall, 11 a.m. (1st, 4th and 5th Sundays).

Methodist

Caversham Heights — In Church, 11 a.m., age 3 years and upwards.

Superintendent: Mrs. P. Court, 3 Woburn Close. Tel. 471445.

Baptist

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Secretary: Miss I. Marshall, 16 Albert Road. Tel. 474478.

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Enquiries to Miss K. Harris, 4 Valentine Crescent tel. 472084; or Mrs. S. Holley, 41 Briants Avenue, tel. 477142.

Age 7 upwards, Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11 a.m. to noon (in Methodist Church for first 15 minutes). Enquiries to Mrs. J. Trevis, 40 All Hallows' Road.

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The Rev. John Grimwade, The Rectory, 20 Church Road. Tel. 471703.

The Rev. John Stevinson, Mapledurham Church House, 222 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471605.

The Rev. Peter Atkinson, St. John's House, 9 South View Avenue. Tel. 471814.

The Rev. Brian Gardiner, St. Andrew's House, Harrogate Road. Tel. 472788.

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AROUND THE CLUBS

Mapledurham Blagrove W.I. Emmer Green W.I. Townswomen's

Guild

The wind howled, the roof sounded as if it would lift off any minute but Mapledurham W.I. thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas party. There were visitors from neighbouring W.I.'s and members played real 'party' games — musical chairs, pass the parcel, pass the orange (by feet!) and a quiz. An excellent tea was enjoyed by all, the raffle won by Mrs. Stacey and then they braved the icy wind to wend their way homewards.

Maplewood W.I.

In spite of a cold evening and the heating shortage some 80 members and friends attended the December guest night at St. Andrew's Hall. The main theme was "Gardeners' Question Time" when a very able team answered the varied questions. After refreshments some of the members gave a rendering of old time songs dressed in appropriate costumes.

The combined 11th Birthday and Christmas Party was held on 4th December. The President welcomed members from other Institutes and some elderly guests.

A most enjoyable entertainment was provided by songs and readings given by Mrs. Bensley with Miss Leach at the piano. This was followed by community singing of old tyme songs and carols. Mrs. Price organised an amusing panel game.

The committee provided an excellent tea. The cake was made by Mrs. Wright and iced by Mrs. Sholl and was cut by Mrs. Plumridge, one of the first presidents.

A stall of produce and handicrafts was well supported to raise funds to provide Christmas parcels for the housebound.

The competition for a home-made Christmas cracker was won by (1) Mrs. Bartlett, (2) Mrs. Waite, (3) Mrs. Messent.

The draw for five presents went to four members and one visitor.

In spite of having to change the meeting place for the December meeting to a cold Church Hall a large number of members put on their 'woollies' and went to hear Mr. M. J. Fairburn, give them a talk on 'Jewellery.' The sparkle from the rings warmed them up and they went home dreaming of what they might get on Christmas morning if they were very lucky.

To mark the 21st Birthday of the Guild and Plant-a-Tree Year the President, Mrs. E. Weaver, planted a Red Chestnut Tree by the Pond on Thursday, December 13th.



FUNDS FOR FAMILY FESTIVAL

Family Festival needs a basic fund of money if it is going to fulfil its aim of making more money for the charities concerned. Already the churches have each contributed a basic sum. But more is needed. Certainly this is true if there is to be an illustrated brochure as there was in Mayday Week.

The present economic situation may well make it impossible for many small firms in Caversham to support the brochure to the extent they did last time although they are being

asked to do so. And then there is the increased cost of paper and printing.

So the production of a brochure needs to be supported from the outset by more than optimism about sales. It will cost almost £700 to produce this brochure. It would be foolish to go ahead without at least £200 in hand. And we need this by mid-March when the brochure is due to go to the printer.

So please start now. Doing what you can as individuals and groups. Start raising money for the four charities we are going to help. Help the Aged, we shall raise for them.

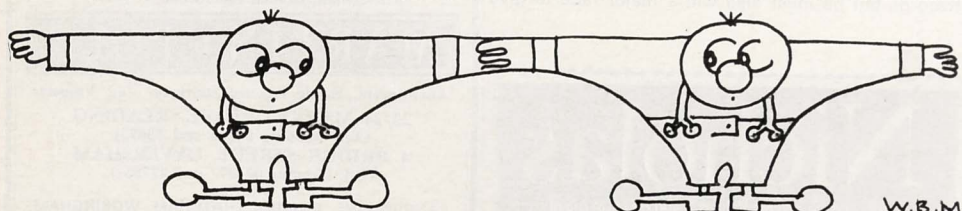
The Simon Community. Reading Council of Churches Housing Trust.

Reading Society for mentally handicapped children. Coffee mornings or any other ideas you may have.

Your church has some one on the Family Festival committee. Have a word with them. They can provide you with information and posters.

And don't forget; there

will be an opportunity during the festival fortnight to meet representatives of the raising money for the four charities and find out how they spend the money support. Help the Aged, we shall raise for them.



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SPORTING LOOK INTO '74

by **STAN ELDON**

THIS YEAR WILL PROBABLY BE ONE OF CONSIDERABLE CHANGE IN THE SPORTING WORLD.

Towards the end of 1973 football was suffering badly from falling gates and indeed a general lack of interest, probably at least partly due to the fact that England failed to qualify for the World Cup in Munich. It is surprising just how much enthusiasm success in a major competition such as that can create.

After England's victory in 1966, soccer pulled in millions more fans both to the grounds and as television audiences, including in particular youngsters, women and non-sporting adult males. This enthusiasm

has, unfortunately, been declining during the 1970s and with other factors such as Saturday working in the early part of this year, football clubs face very serious financial difficulties. Obviously League teams drawing gates of only 800 to 1,500 people cannot survive but it could be just as serious for some of the best clubs in England. Because of this I think we will see some drastic changes in our Football Leagues with a much smaller, very élite First Division and a reconstruction of the lower leagues back to a more regional arrangement with part-time professionals. However, some good might well come out of the present situation and that is the end of the ridiculously high transfer fees which clubs on their reduced income will not be able to afford. In addition, with the need for fewer full time professionals, some of the pampered, over-paid 'stars' may have to work harder for their clubs or leave football.

Professional Athletics?

Athletics starts the New Year with the Empire and Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand. Amongst athletes this is the favourite major athletics championships because whilst the competition is good it does not have the tensions of Olympic or European Games. In this situation Dave Bedford might well win his first Gold Medal in a non-domestic event. He has proved that he can break World Records but he must also win a major race to give

himself the confidence for the next Olympics.

In preparation for the Games, Bedford left these shores nearly two months before the competition was due to commence in Christchurch and as a result his amateur status was questioned. Quite rightly so under the present rules—could any true amateur be away from his employment for three months unless he was being paid his normal salary? The fact is that in athletics, as in all sport, it is impossible to be an amateur in the true sense of the word and for years the rules have been flouted and broken. I hope that 1974 will be the year when a realistic approach will be made to the whole question of amateurism in sport.

Whereas football and one or two other sports are having their problems, several sports will continue to grow in popularity in 1974. The first of these will be the Firemen's sport of volleyball. This was played very little in this country until recently but is now gathering more and more enthusiasts, in particular amongst our firemen. It is played at fire stations all over the country to keep the men fit, the great advantage being that it is one game that can be played in the limited space available.

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