

FINANCIAL CRISIS HITS PARISH

Inflation threatens work of the Church

The Church of England heats three of its churches and two of its church halls in the parish of Caversham by oil. Even though oil consumption is being cut it is estimated that the steep increase in costs on this item alone will cost the parish £1,000 annually. Until recently oil cost about 9p a gallon. The cost is now over 23p.

The Parish Finance Committee met recently to consider the budgets of the four districts for 1974. The Parochial Treasurer, Mr. Eric Smith, had already informed the Committee that he would need an extra £1,000 from the districts: this is because the parish has an obligation to contribute an additional £300 to the diocese this year, to give small pay increases to the assistant clergy and to meet rising costs from many other quarters. When the district treasurers prepared their budgets and took into account the extra £1,000 needed by the parochial treasurer and the extra £1,000 for oil and made allowance for other rising costs it became apparent that there was likely to be an overall deficit through the parish of about £2,500 in 1974.

BUDGET HIT ALL CHARITIES

The budget of 1973 was a bitter pill for churches and charities. Not only has V.A.T. added considerably to costs but the change in income tax

means that there is a substantial reduction of income because less money will be obtained through repayment of tax on covenants. So while congregations continue to be of the same size the 1973 Budget reduced income and inflation has increased expenditure.

URGENT ACTION

The Parish Finance Committee has realised that urgent action is necessary. It has informed the Diocesan Board of Finance that although the parish intends to pay its diocesan share in full in 1974, it will be unable to consider paying an increased share in 1975. The Parish of Caversham pays a larger diocesan share than any other of the other 600 parishes in the diocese of Oxford. The Diocese itself is unable to help as it expects only to balance its budget this year by drawing on its small reserves, it is also known that a number of Reading parishes have already announced that they will be unable to pay their full share this year.

REVIEWING TOTAL RESOURCES

The Finance Committee of the Parochial Church Council has appointed a small working party under the chairmanship of Mr. F. C. Moore, Churchwarden, to investigate the total resources of the parish in buildings and manpower in relation to the needs and the financial resources available and to make recommendations. The Working Party is to report in May.

During March a letter is being sent to everyone in the parish who is a member of the Stewardship Planned Giving scheme, explaining to them the seriousness of the situation and asking them to make a supplementary pledge. A similar letter will be sent to everyone on the electoral roll asking them also to increase their giving.

The last Christian Stewardship Campaign was held in October, 1971 and the Church Council was intending to hold another one in October, 1975. It is now thought that it may be necessary to bring forward the date to the spring of next year.

BIGGER INCOME OR . . . ?

The Working Party will hope to have replies by early Easter to the letter that is being sent out. Unless they can be assured of an immediate increase in income of £50 weekly they will have no choice but to recommend drastic and unpopular economies. Over 2,500 houses have been built in the parish in the last twelve years and another 1,000 will be built by 1978. It is therefore imperative that the number of clergy should not be reduced but this unpopular decision may have to be taken. Another option may be for the parish to dispose of some of its halls or close one of its churches.

CAVERSHAM IS A PARISH OF WEALTH. IT WILL BE TO THE ETERNAL SHAME OF THE PRESENT GENERATION IF GOD'S WORK HAS TO BE CURTAILED BECAUSE WITH OUR CARS, COLOURED T.V. SETS, AND FOREIGN HOLIDAYS WE CANNOT SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE SAME WAY AS AN EARLIER BUT LESS PROSPEROUS GENERATION DID.

HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND ON PERSONAL PLEASURES LAST WEEK? HOW MUCH DID YOU GIVE TO THE WORK OF GOD'S CHURCH?

FIRST LESSON



Photo: DENYS WILLAMSON

The Editor's Column**What sort of Church?****What sort of Community?**

The financial crisis that has hit the Anglicans in Caversham is more than an Anglican problem. It really compels all of us to face up to the question "What sort of community do we want?" Or put in another way we must ask if the Church is to be involved in the total life of the community or to be an inward looking body caring just for its own members.

I for one have no hesitation in taking my stand alongside Archbishop William Temple when he said that the Church is the only institution that exists primarily for those who are not its members. If we look at Caversham, although Church members may be in a minority in the population, yet the influence of the Christian Church permeates our community life. Take for example the question of halls. If the Church had not built halls and spent money on their maintenance the community would be unable to carry on many of its activities. St. Andrew's Hall is the best in Caversham. It was built in 1962 and the final loan repayment on the building was made only in 1972, at a heavy cost to the parish over that decade. In the past few years considerable sums of money have been spent by the parish on improvements to Balmore Hall and St. Barnabas Hall. Yet the number of hours that the Church uses these halls for its own purposes each week is very small. In the mornings they are used mostly by different playgroups, and then during other parts of the day by branches of the Townswomen's Guilds, Women's Institutes, Red Cross, Darby and Joan Club, and many other local organisations and societies. They are also used by a number of non-church Scout Troops and Guide Companies. The annual income from bookings suffices to cover normal running expenses but not for the heavy capital expenditure that is periodically necessary. Balmore Hall for example is now seventy years old and needs a new floor. Would the parish be wiser to dispose of the site, and use the proceeds for improvement at St. John's and to adapt the interior of St. Peter's for a wider variety of purposes?

THE ROLE OF THE CLERGY

After nearly twelve years in Caversham I am increasingly aware of how much of my time gets devoted to community affairs, and I value this. One of the staff of the parish has together with the Rev. Laurence Stevens been able to spend a considerable amount of time recently at Highdown School, another has for several years devoted time to chaplaincy work at Heelas, while another visits the cork factory in Caversham weekly. By buying a house at Caversham Park in 1969 the Church, first through the Rev. John Crowe, and now through the Rev. Stephen Bartlett, has been closely involved with the life of a growing community and Mr. Bartlett is turned to for help by many who would certainly not subscribe to any Christian creed.

The Church is responsible for this newspaper which has become the voice of Caversham in a very real way: at the same time we have inaugurated the extremely valuable Bridge scheme of social service which so many of the statutory social workers repeatedly turn to for aid: we have launched the valuable lunch club for social workers. In 1970 came Mayday week and now this summer we have Family Festival, events that have originated from the Church but have affected the whole community and indeed helped to build up an awareness of community in Caversham that so many newcomers comment on with pleasure on their arrival.

These various undertakings have of course been made possible because the Anglican clergy work as a team, and not in isolation from each other as in so many small parishes.

MEETING THE COST

The Anglican Parish Council has had the vision to recognise the importance of these projects, and has provided a parish office with proper secretarial assistance without which so much of this work would be impossible. The parish office in Church House has indeed grown into a place where all sorts of people go for miscellaneous information or which they phone with an astonishing variety of enquiries. But if the Church is to continue to serve the community in the way that I have suggested it is doing at present, it urgently needs a larger income. If this income is not forthcoming immediately, it will have no option but to withdraw from many of its undertakings. If that happens the consequence will be that we will soon discover that our community prefers materialism and is in danger of losing its soul.

John Grimwade

Unscrambling the Easter Egg

Although I am writing this in February, the shops already have large displays of chocolate eggs. Obviously this is a commercial necessity but it is strange that all these eggs will be sitting in the shops throughout the season of Lent, traditionally a time of fasting, when eggs, among other foods, were totally forbidden.

The tradition of giving eggs in the spring is in fact older than Easter itself. In ancient Persia and Egypt specially coloured eggs were exchanged at spring festivals; containing the seed of new life they symbolised the new life which began each spring. With the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter, the eggs conveniently became a symbol of new life in Christ.

by ANNE ATKINSON

DYEING ART

The practice of dyeing and decorating eggs was popular for many hundreds of years. Originally, old ladies prepared beautiful eggs for decorating their churches, and young girls prepared more simply for their admirers. The various methods used included using onion skins or dyed cloth wrapped around the eggs and then scraping the patterns with a sharp object. In some countries particular patterns were traditional and the art was particularly well developed in Eastern Europe.

By the nineteenth century the eggs were becoming

more sophisticated. The Victorians introduced the chocolate egg and also cardboard eggs which could hold small gifts. However, the ultimate in Easter eggs was reached in the Russian court at the turn of the century when Karl Faberge created exquisite jewelled eggs for the Czar to present to his wife.

EGG ROLLS

Of course for our ancestors who had abstained from meat and eggs throughout Lent the very fact that eggs were permitted in their diet again was cause for pleasure. The decoration was simply gilding the lily. Parents would hide eggs in and around the house for children to find on Easter

morning. Then, in the Midlands and North of England, on Easter Monday, the children rolled their eggs down grassy slopes. The eggs thus used were called pace eggs; possibly a corruption of "paschal" signifying the rolling away of the stone from our Lord's tomb.

So this year, don't just purchase those elaborate chocolate offerings. Try colouring the eggs at breakfast on Easter morning, if you don't already do so, and remember as you eat them the miracle of rebirth that we witness each year, both in nature and in our spiritual lives.

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, 14th February, 1974. Mr. B. A. Fowles, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

Bearing in mind that the Boundary Commission will be investigating local boundaries later this year, the Parish Council have discussed this matter very fully, and a statement of the Council's views as they affect the parish of Mapledurham has been prepared. The statement has been given to the Chairman of the South Oxfordshire District Council, with whom the Parish Council have already had a meeting.

The Parish Council are to inform Oxfordshire C.C. that they are unable to support an application for

the development of three houses at Warren Court, Upper Warren Avenue, as they regard it as an example of backland development. They also opposed a proposed development for the same house to be converted into five flats as this is considered to be an over-intensification of the site.

Arising from comments that were made about the lateness of the school bus in the mornings at Micklands School that brings children from Mapledurham, a letter is to be sent to the County Education Officer asking him to make investigations.

The Annual Parish Meeting for the residents of Mapledurham will take place on Thursday, 21st March, in The Memorial Hall.

CAVERSHAM BRIDGE

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

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With Katy in Caversham

I'm far too old to worry about the direction of a young man's thoughts in the spring, to quote the old adage but I'm pretty certain that a woman (whatever her age) looks on spring as a time to turn to thoughts of refurbishing her wardrobe.

BELLE BOUTIQUE

Normally I'm able to withstand the temptation to some extent, being still in the throes of recovering from Christmas expenditure, electricity bills, etc., but a visit to see Mrs. J. Bushnell at Belle Boutique the other day proved very tempting. Most of us are familiar with the very attractive window display she always has at her shop in Church Street, but perhaps not so many realise just what a lovely display she carries inside the shop. Handbags, scarves, hats, dresses, and—most tempting to those of us on smallish budgets—a good selection of separates.

More than this, there is the slightly old-fashioned atmosphere so much missing in the larger stores. Almost one expects Mrs. Bushnell to bring up a chair and invite her customer to sit down and discuss the smallest items—younger readers, of course, won't remember this kind of service.

Mrs. Judy Bushnell herself is actually a person who will go to endless trouble to match up and to advise and she makes many a trip to London to try and match a missing item from an otherwise complete wedding outfit. With her assistant, Mrs. Wilkinson, she is ready to do practically anything to help, even to the extent of taking a selection of dresses, for instance, to any housebound person in Caversham who cannot get to the shop.

DO-IT-YOURSELF

In the meantime, Vera Fletcher, our old friend in Prospect Street, is concentrating very much on the new enthusiasm for such things as tapestry, crochet-work, embroidery, etc., and is now stocking almost everything that one could wish for in that way. Few women shoppers in

Caversham can have failed to notice the beautiful wedding dress in her window, crocheted for her daughter two years ago, by her assistant, Mrs. Crook. Nor will they have failed to notice the beautiful tablecloth crocheted for the same event.

PILLOW LACE

Shortly Mrs. Fletcher will be displaying an exhibition of pillow lace in the window and she asks me to tell readers that if anyone is interested in taking classes, she will be glad to hear of them and to arrange them if enough people are interested. Tempting, isn't it?

PLEASE COLLECT

Still on the subject of shops, I wonder just how many people would walk into a local shop and take £2 out of the till. I like to think nobody in Caversham would. Yet that is exactly what one does when one takes in an item for repair and then forgets to reclaim it. Many Caversham shops, in particular jewellers, shoe repairers and cleaners, are subject to a very heavy loss in this way. And there really is no excuse because in almost all cases the price of the repair is clearly given on the ticket, so you can't say you didn't know it was going to cost that much. Furthermore, there is a great deal more flexibility on the subject of lost or mislaid tickets. Mrs. Corp, our local jeweller, for example, tells me that as long as a customer can produce means of identity and ownership of a particular article, a missing ticket can usually be overcome. So please, please, don't leave something for repair unless you are prepared to collect and pay for it in a reasonable time. It just isn't fair to our shopkeepers, who themselves have very heavy bills to meet these days.

STREET FURNITURE

After our seemingly successful campaign against so much unnecessary street furniture, one finds it a little odd to find two posts apparently doing absolutely

nothing at the end of South Street. They appeared there some weeks ago, with no notice to say what was their purpose. It would be interesting to know. So far the only thing I can say is that they are a darned nuisance when walking through the alley way on a night when the street lamp isn't working.

LET'S RAISE HELL

Honestly, if one thing really makes me mad it is the way we are quietly conned. Some time ago some very firm action in different districts resulted in the withdrawal of non-returnable milk bottles. Now, alas, they are quietly creeping back. Last week a friend of mine took back her plastic milk bottles to the shop where she purchased them. "I don't want them," said the assistant. "Neither do I," said my friend firmly, and walked out, leaving them on the counter. I wish we all had that kind of courage.

OUR M.P.s

By the time you read this the February election will seem miles away. Right now having stayed up till 4 a.m. and been pretty well glued to the box ever since, perhaps you will forgive me for introducing the subject. Actually, I don't know why I'm apologising because I think this is an admirable opportunity of once again thanking Gerry Vaughan for the very keen interest he has taken in our community—we are sorry to lose him, whether or not we agree with him politically. But our loss is Reading South's gain. In the meantime, welcome to Tony Durant, and if he takes half as much interest in our problems as his predecessor, we shall consider ourselves lucky.

Now for some sleep!

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A Dog's Life in King's Road

MRS. KATHLEEN BOTTING OF 93 KING'S ROAD, CAVERSHAM, comes from a family of dog lovers. Her father had a great dane and entered it many times at various shows. As a little girl she was quite used to grooming and washing it for these great occasions. However she herself has become interested in dogs at the other end of the size scale, for she breeds Japanese Chin. This will be a new one for many people.

HALF DOG, HALF CAT

The word Chin is Japanese for half dog, half cat, and

these dogs got their name because they clean themselves by licking their paws and wiping them round their face just as a cat does. To look at they are like pint size Pekinese and although they have the same long coat they keep themselves remarkably clean. They are very gentle and have never been known to bite. As for their growl well that too, comes in miniature. Highly intelligent, they are lively little creatures and very good company.

In this country they have never been common. Years ago a British Viceroy's wife, living in Japan saw them.

They were often kept in a new breed standard. She is baskets which hung from also a judge. Mrs. Botting walls. She managed to buy has six dogs at the moment one and became one of the and has won a first at Crufts first British owners of a this year and also a reserve Chin. Later a pair were given challenge certificate. Her to Queen Victoria as a gift. stud dog, Tan'Yu (Japanese Even Mrs. Botting found it for undaunted courage) has hard to obtain one. She had sired twenty-three puppies. several Japanese friends in this country yet none could help her get one till at last she found a breeder in Norfolk.

Soon she became a committee member of the Jap Club and is now one of six appointed to help work out Botting.



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WEDDING AT HOME PASSPORT

FUND RAISING FOR FAMILY FESTIVAL

IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A FESTIVAL THAT LASTS FOR TWO WEEKS you have got to have some money behind you to get it off the ground. Caversham and Mapledurham will be holding a Family Festival from June 28th to July 14th and with this in mind several ladies in Mapledurham held a cheese and wine party at the Parish Hall, Trench Green, one Friday evening in February. In every way it was a huge success. Firstly, because of the very happy occasion enjoyed by over 70 people, and also because of the encouraging amount of money raised. Over £83 has been handed over towards the Festival. Special thanks to Mrs. Beacroft, whose energy and enthusiasm made the event such a rewarding affair, and to members of the South Chilterns Lions Club, who provided the music. M.K.



"The Family in Modern Society"

The Family Festival Conference and Workshops. "The Family in Modern Society," on Sunday, May 12th, beginning at 1.30 p.m., at Highdown Comprehensive School.

We have booked the school (including swimming bath) from midday so that families can come straight from church with picnic lunches.

At 1.30 p.m. the children's projects and creche will begin and the adults and teenagers go to hear our main speaker, Dr. J. Dominian. After this we divide into four workshops:

- 1—Changing roles in marriage and parenthood; alternatives to accepted patterns. Led by Dr. Una Kroll.
- 2—Non-verbal communication in family relationships; unspoken forces and feelings. Led by the Rev. Richard Craig.
- 3—Authority and conflict in the family; the place of discipline. Led by a member of the Grubb Institute of London.
- 4—The family and religion; prayers, the Bible, worship. Led by Mrs. Rita Tylor.

After tea we shall have a final session with Dr. Dominian. We plan to finish at approximately 5.30 p.m.

If you want to come to all, or part, of the event, and have not yet sent in a registration form, please contact the Rev. Stephen Bartlett (475152) NOW.

"PLANT A TREE"

On behalf of the Caversham Heights' Townswomen's Guild Mrs. V. W. Kitcher, founder chairman and past president, officially 'planted' a white thorn in the car park of St. Andrew's Church Hall. As all the Guild's monthly meetings have been held at this hall the venue was agreed by the majority of members to be appropriate. So with the kind offices of Mr. Rowe, who purchased the tree and supervised the planting, a small ceremony was conducted on the eve of election. Mr. and Mrs. Brian Gardiner very kindly attended and now it is hoped that both Guild members and St. Andrew's congregation, together with all regular users of the hall, will enjoy this flowering plant for many, many years to come. About 30 members and friends turned up in the cold and were fortified with tea and biscuits afterwards.

DOES YOUR FAMILY 'SCRAP'?

Does your family scrap? Get them to work together. Join together with ALL the members of your family to make a FAMILY SCRAPBOOK — record family events, outings, hobbies, interests, and perhaps win YOUR family a prize!

START NOW — the more time you have, the more your family scrapbook will contain!

The prize — fun for everyone, and for the winner, a gift voucher for the family to spend at Heelas, Reading.

We suggest four headings for the scrapbook:

- 1—Members of the family.
- 2—Family Interests — hobbies, outings, holidays, worship.
- 3—Family Surroundings — friends, the area and surrounding countryside.
- 4—Those outside the family who help us, and those who the family can help. This could include details of any family projects for the Festival.

Entries can be in the form of descriptions, photographs, models, drawings, samples of work, souvenirs — in fact anything which a member of the family can contribute. Bring in relatives, neighbours, friends to help you — age does not matter, so start scrapping now!

And don't forget, in the judges' eyes a family picnic in Kings Meadow and an African safari are equally interesting!

Full details of the competition and entry forms can be obtained from Mrs. Doreen Bennett, 157 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel.: 473096.

FESTIVAL FUND RAISERS

The Family Festival organisers wish to thank everyone who has raised or donated money towards the Festival expenses so far.

Many people have been holding events such as coffee mornings, and St. Margaret's, Mapledurham, ran an extremely successful "Wine and Cheese Party."

Please keep the money rolling in as we need every penny to ensure that the Festival is a success.

HOUSE COMMUNIONS IN CAVERSHAM PARK

April 3rd: Margaret Bullock, 84 Galsworthy Drive.
April 10th: Penny Christison, 2 Mallory Avenue.
April 17th: Vera Wilson, 63 Kingsway.
April 24th: Cath Pynn, 158 Lowfield Road.

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IT'S ALL HAPPENING ON THE CORNER



Don Johnson and his cup

— Walton Adams



Woodcote Way Post Office

— Walton Adams

The Corner lies at the junction of Woodcote Way and Fernbrook Road and it always seems a busy spot. People are either coming or going to one of the two shops right there and in either you are sure of a cheerful word and a helping hand. It's a place where you are pretty certain to meet someone you know.

Don Johnson and his family have had Woodcote Way Stores for years and now Don has recently won a cup. For four months he is the holder of a superb trophy, over five and a half

pounds of solid silver, but it just can't be kept around for anyone to see for obvious reasons. It is the Woolton Challenge Cup presented by the Retail Fruit Trade Federation Ltd. and was presented at their annual conference when a competition was held for the best fruit window display.

Teams of three retailers competed against each other, each team representing one area of the country. Everything used was supplied by the various British and overseas producers at the conference and the teams allowed one and a half hours in which to work with no practice beforehand.

Don is most modest about his achievement. "I gained my experience through working in the family business," he said, "and I really do enjoy handling perishable goods such as fruit and vegetables. When arranging you seldom start with any concrete idea, the whole thing just seems to happen."

It certainly seemed to happen the right way for Don. Congratulations!

WOODCOTE POST OFFICE GETS A NEW LOOK

RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO DON JOHNSON'S STORE IS WOODCOTE WAY POST OFFICE AND SHOP.

In recent weeks it has been going through quite a transformation, but it has been business as usual throughout all the alterations. Mr. Fussell and his partner Mr. Hanna, decided to extend the premises. Their sole reason was to improve the service which they give to the locality and to widen the range of products on sale, as it is becoming increasingly costly to get into Reading.

FIRST CLASS PAPER BOYS

They have tried to keep it the family shop that it always has been and to retain the happy atmosphere that has always existed. With the improvements they hope to extend their news delivery service. This depends on the availability of boys. The present team is of a very high standard and deliver the papers to everyone faithfully through fair and foul weather and dark winter mornings.

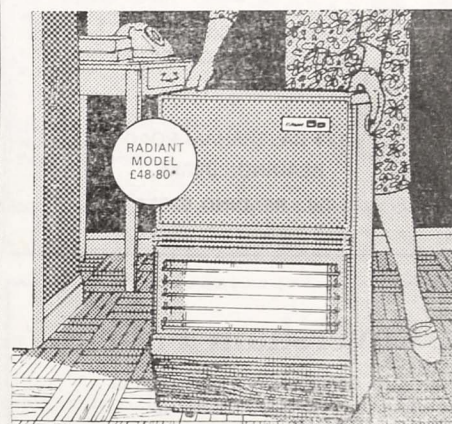
The Post Office section is now much larger with a ramp fitted to the floor rather than a step, making it easier for local Senior Citizens. The hours are Monday to Friday 9 till 1 and 2 till 5.30 p.m.

Wednesday is half day in this part of the shop and the Post Office closes at 1 p.m. On Saturdays it closes at 4.30.

The rest of the shop opens from 8.30 till 1 and from 2 until 6 p.m. every day: Sunday 8.30 till 1. Customers will now find torches, batteries and bulbs for sale,

also a Chemist sundries section and light reading in paper-backs. It is all much more spacious and should prove a very satisfactory enterprise. Thank you Mr. Fussell and Mr. Hanna for your part in serving the community.

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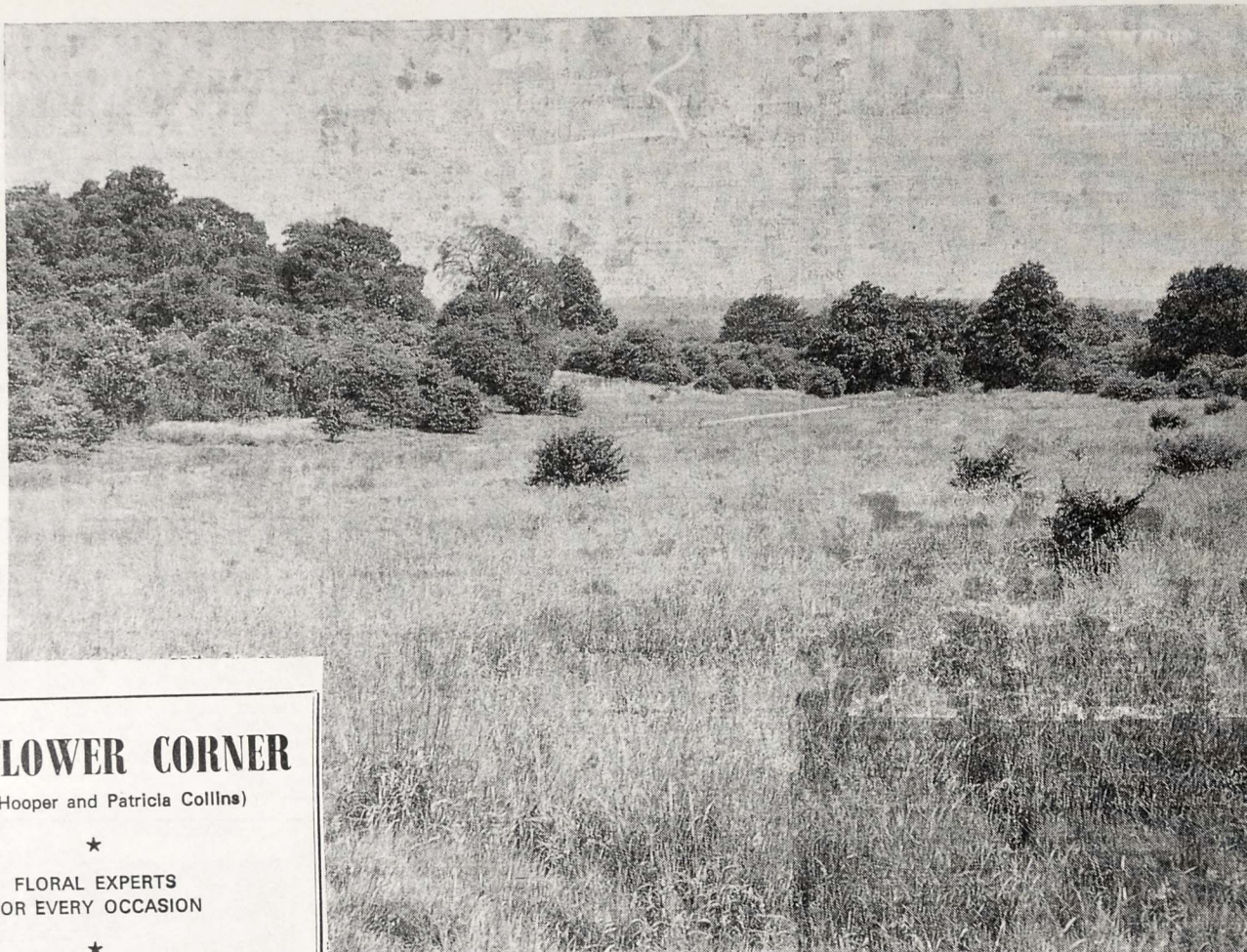
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TALKING POINT

BACK TO THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

by Laurence Stevens

IF CURRENT TELEVISION OFFERINGS ARE ANY GUIDE, Alexander Solzhenitsyn should hasten to get signed up quickly with the programme sellers, for his crime is one that is being committed constantly on television: he has dared to remind people of their 20th century past.

In expelling Solzhenitsyn the Soviet authorities have shown their fear of a man who, among other faults, has dared to have a good memory. His books "August 1914" and the forthcoming "Gulag Archipelago" expose the cruelty and suffering unjustly inflicted on so many of his fellow-countrymen. For that he is rejected.

What a contrast to life in the West. Not only is his every doing investigated by Western journalists, but we seem to revel in films and programmes about war. Perhaps he could write a suitable follow-up series to "The Great War," "All Our Yesterdays," "History of the War," "Colditz" and even

"Dad's Army." Quite recently the German Press carried complaints that Britain was having an excessive diet of programmes about the war. These were answered by showing that France was an even worse offender!

But the question remains. What is the attraction of these war-based programmes? Do they do harm by constantly reminding us of things best forgotten, or do we need to be reminded of the unpleasantness of war, lest we ever forget? One would certainly rather have an excess of these programmes than the censorship of expression which has victimised Solzhenitsyn, yet what do we know of the effect of these programmes on people's attitudes? Are the Germans right to complain that we are continually opening old wounds which should be allowed to heal? Is the Colditz series enjoyed by millions because it is implicitly anti-German, or rather because, in spite of all the odds, it shows us the quality which the war could not crush, namely the resourcefulness and resilience of the human spirit?

Does Dad's Army suggest that war is just "one big laugh," or is it really showing that humour and humanity need not be victims of the dehumanising process of war? Perhaps we cannot know with any certainty, but one hopes and suspects that the second answer is the true one.

Nevertheless, it would be good to have a serious inquiry into the effect of television on our attitudes.

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Remember Caversham House?

ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT MANY YEARS SINCE ST. MARTIN'S PRECINCT OPENED IN CAVERSHAM there must be many people who have come to live in the area since it became a focal point of shopping and have no idea what was there before. Looking at the fine trees left standing between the shops a good guess would be that they were once part of a large garden. That would be correct, for just where the Green Shield shop now stands there used to be a large square white house with a walled garden at the side, opposite the junction of Hemdean Road and Church Street.

In the nineteen thirties and twenties Caversham House, as it was called, was owned by a lady who had connections with the West Indies and had a West Indian family looking after her. In those days it was very unusual to see a dark face in Caversham and probably the family had a very lonely existence, so far from the gaiety, warmth and sunshine of their West Indian homeland.

By the end of the second World War Caversham House had become very dilapidated. Around 1950 part of it became a shop selling lampshades, furnishing fabrics and the like. Antiques could be seen stored in the large hall. Then came the end and all that remains as a link with the past are the chestnut and evergreen oak trees rising from the paved way between the shops.

BUILT ON AN OLDER FOUNDATION

It seems that the house was erected on the site of a much larger and older mansion around 1760. In the fifteenth and sixteenth century there is mention of Caversham Park and Caversham Lodge. In an old map dated 1827 Caversham House was mistakenly called Grove House. There are definite references to it in 1793, 1795 and 1810. It is also mentioned in the will of Thomas Stevens proved in 1796.

On Tuesday, August 17th 1849 it was put on the market by Messrs. Dodd of London: desirable freehold property for sale known as Caversham House and premises including eight cottages in the village, two fishermen's cottages and two small plots of land in the area. There is no reference to where the eight cottages stood but six of them could be the ones still standing by the traffic lights near the junction of Priory Avenue and Church Street. The two fishermen's cottages were rented by a Mr. Freebody and a Mr. Champion. The Freebodies were an ancient Caversham family connected with river transport and their cottage was probably Willow Grotto that was demolished when the flats beside Caversham Bridge began to be built.

AN ACADEMY FOR BOYS

The whole property was bought by a Mr. Knighton who had a school in Friar Street, Reading. Presumably he wanted to expand and needed larger accommodation. With the coming of the railway Reading's population was expanding fast and between 1851 and 1891 the number of people in Reading almost trebled.

By 1852 there were 100 boarders and 60 day boys at Caversham House Academy, as it was called. In 1872 a tunnel was made under Church Street to connect the main building with a playground and classrooms across the road. The Public Library now stands in the former and the Glendale and Caversham Men's Social Club are where the classrooms once stood—in fact part of the Club is an original old classroom.

An ancient hollow tree stood close by on the corner of Hemdean Road and Church Street and when this was cut down around the mid eighteen hundreds stolen silver was said to have been found in it. A picture of this tree can be seen in the library. The whipping post and stocks were still also on this corner about this time. Obviously it was, as it still is, a focal point for the local Community.

More playing fields were on the left hand side of the allotment path which still leads down to the river and there was a small cottage at the side of these meadows which was used as the school laundry. The house itself had beautiful gardens at the side and rear and an imposing front on to Church Street with an impressive porch and handsome iron railings which bordered the road.

Mr. Knighton must have been keen on music for he trained 30 boys as musicians and they played regularly at the Town Hall, Corn Exchange and St. Peter's Church. Once they gave a concert at the Crystal Palace.

His son also helped in the school and also his two daughters, but in 1860 the two Misses Knighton opened Hemdean House, their own establishment for young ladies.

The following copy of the School brochure may interest readers:

Caversham House Academy, Nr. Reading

"This Academy has been conducted by Mr. F. Knighton many years with great success. The pupils experience the kindest treatment, their health and comfort are at all times objects of unceasing solicitude, whilst every exertion is made to advance them carefully and expeditiously in those branches of education essential to the commercial or scientific life. Anxious attention is also directed to cultivate correct habits and to instil into their minds right principles of Morals and Religion.

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Board and Education under 12 years of age	22 guineas p.a.
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Washing and mending linen	30 shillings p.a.

These terms include books and stationery, except those used in French and Latin classes.

The course of instruction includes French (by a resident Parisian) Latin, Geometry, Book keeping, Mensuration, Geography, etc.

Situation

Mr. Knighton has purchased the premises and in the arrangements no expense has been spared to make them conducive to the health and comfort of his pupils. The House is delightfully situated on a very dry soil and commands extensive views. The playground is very large in which commodious and airy classrooms are built, there are also pleasure grounds and a meadow of about 3 acres altogether so compact and suitable that for such a purpose they cannot be excelled.

Drawing, Dancing and Music Masters attend the Establishment.

Specimens of improvement may be seen; and the more respectable references to the pupils' friends may be had at the Academy.

References from strangers will be required.

Accounts settled quarterly, or (at the farthest) at Mid-Summer and Christmas."

The writer of this article had a grandfather who attended Mr. Knighton's school when it was in Friar Street. Later, when it moved to Caversham, the young boy walked daily from Reading along Caversham Road and over the first Caversham Bridge. At that time there were no houses on either side of the Caversham road, only deep ditches and then fields. Many streams abounded in the area, often causing serious flooding.

M.K.

PARISH COUNCIL'S VIEW'S ON BOUNDARY CHANGES

Mapledurham Parish Council understand that following the announcement that the Boudary Commission are shortly to review boundaries between Oxfordshire and Berkshire—it is likely that Berkshire will seek to absorb parts of South Oxfordshire and that Oxfordshire may agree to transfer certain areas of South Oxfordshire in order to reach an amicable settlement. It is further understood by the Parish Council that any change of boundaries between the counties could affect Mapledurham.

The Parish Council are completely unanimous in stating that any change in our parish boundary would be both detrimental to the parish and to South Oxfordshire and must be resisted at all costs. The Parish Council are further unanimous in stating that the interests of Mapledurham and its inhabitants will continue to be best served by being administered as part of the South Oxon District Council. In reaching these conclusions the Parish Council would add that very minor changes of the boundary in the Hilltop Road district would be desirable, providing the occupants of houses affected by any change are in agreement.

The Parish Council have taken the following matters into consideration in arriving at their conclusions:

1. The Parish of Mapledurham forms a natural rural barrier between the north-western limit of Reading's residential development and the southern end of the Chiltern area of outstanding natural beauty. Development in the parish since the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Acts has been strictly controlled within well-defined limits, resulting in the formation of a green belt around Reading.

It would be disastrous to the whole of South Oxfordshire if any change in planning policy should affect this green belt.

2. The South-East Strategic Plan makes it quite clear that future development should take place south of the River Thames. The completion of the M.4 and the projected line of the M.25 linking East Berkshire with the South-East and Europe all indicate that Berkshire should be contained south of the River Thames which should remain, as at present, a natural boundary line.

3. In conclusion, it is considered that retaining the parish of Mapledurham within its existing boundary will perpetuate a most desirable rural area between the Chilterns and Reading for the continued enjoyment of all those inhabitants of both Mapledurham and South Oxfordshire who do not wish to see an urban sprawl creeping northwards.

14th February, 1974

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PARTICIPATION

IT WAS A UNIQUE EVENT IN CAVERSHAM'S HISTORY, INDEED IT WAS A UNIQUE EVENT IN ITSELF. GATHERED TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF WERE THE CHAIRMEN OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEES (OXFORDSHIRE, SOUTH OXON, BERKSHIRE, READING BOROUGH AND THE NEW READING DISTRICT), MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT STAFFS OF THESE BODIES AND NEARLY ALL THE COUNCILLORS FOR THAMES AND CAVERSHAM, BOTH DISTRICT, COUNTY AND OLD BOROUGH. IN ADDITION REPRESENTATIVES OF FOURTEEN LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WERE PRESENT, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION — OH YES, AND SOME STUDENT OBSERVERS FROM THE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

And what was the purpose of this august gathering? The reason was the presentation to the aforesaid chairmen of the statement setting out the principles which, in the opinion of fourteen local organisations, should guide future planning for Caversham and the rural areas north of the Thames.

The statement has by now received wide publicity, though if anyone has failed to see it, a copy can be obtained from the secretary of the Residents' Association, (14, Albert Road, Caversham) on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

The chairmen and councillors listened carefully and commented equally carefully. Naturally to be

RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG

listened to is not necessarily to be heeded, but all the local planning committees are now in no doubt as to what kind of development will be acceptable to the electorate and which will be met with opposition. Further, the fact that these councillors were prepared to come together to listen is an indication that more than lip service is being paid to the concept of public participation in our town and county halls.

IMPORTANT PLACES

Meanwhile, several matters have arisen to which the principles set out in this statement can be applied. Planning applications are being considered for major developments in Church Street and Bridge Street which would considerably alter the appearance of the area. No one is likely to mourn the disappearance of the neglected and untidy old Regal cinema: the question is, what will go in its place? And again, are we going to welcome the tall high density complex of buildings planned for land behind Bridge Street and adjacent to the river?

BOUNDARIES

As the borough boundary, which after April will be the county boundary, meanders on its apparently illogical course through the built-up area of Caversham, it gives rise to obvious anomalies and causes many people a waste of time and money. Some tidying-up is needed, but the question is, how far should it go? One

point on which everyone is agreed is that Berkshire's boundary should not go beyond the present limit of the built-up area. But whether it should go as far as that is a matter which should be decided in the light of what the people who live in the areas affected think. It is not something to be left to officials sitting in a distant county hall or in Westminster. What seems to make sense there could be highly offensive to people who live on the spot. There seems however, no cause to fear that the people concerned are not well organised to express their opinions and let them be heard in the right quarters.

HELICOPTERS OVER CAVERSHAM

Aerial photographs soon reveal where two or more gardens meet out of the sight of roads, and a certain property company is going round making attractive offers to the owners of such pieces of land. It will be a pity when all large gardens disappear, replaced by an unplanned mass of tightly packed closes. It is easy to say that in-filling is necessary to provide much needed houses but the price of these houses is going to be far beyond the reach of those who most need them. Further, this tight packing together of houses, with no room for play space, is likely to bring serious social problems in its wake. It is not the homeless who are going to benefit, but the property developer who is prepared to deface anywhere for the sake of private profit.

GRAVEL EXTRACTION

The raw materials for all this building and for road building must come from somewhere, and one place which provides more than its share is the Thames Valley. Land not lost under concrete is lost under water where gravel has been extracted. Some of these become the haunt of waterfowl and others can be used by water sports enthusiasts, but locally we have far too many of them. The latest applications will bring the almost unbroken stretch of water between Sonning, the Thames and Henley Road right up to the borough boundary.

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SCOUTS REWARD YEARS OF SERVICE

A coffee set and silver salver were recently presented to Mr. Jack Houghton of St. John's Road, Caversham, in recognition of his years of service as chairman of Reading's Y.M.C.A. Scout Group Council. But he will continue his involvement with the Y.M.C.A. where he was a leader and is still an advisor to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Also at the presentation Mrs. Houghton received a bouquet and a pot plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Houghton are members of St. John's church.



— Walton Adams

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Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

The speaker at Caversham Afternoon Townswomen's Guild was Major Dolby, who showed a selection of slides illustrating the Highlands of Scotland. Major Dolby also presented the prize for the best design for a jumble sale poster to Mrs. Fitzcarrald. Although their 12th birthday party began in a somewhat cold atmosphere due to the power crisis, the temperature soon warmed up when, after a display of Scottish dancing everyone was invited to join in with a Scottish Reel. A toast was given to the President, affectionately known as 'Brownie', who unfortunately was unable to attend due to ill-health. At least four founder members were present, and after cutting the birthday cake, made by Mrs. Gray, the party ended with Auld Lang Syne.

Caversham Heights Townswomen's Guild

"Crime Prevention" was the heading for the talk given at the Guild's last meeting by Sergeant L. Wilkey, a Crime Prevention Officer of the Thames Valley Police. After burning the cakes one is left with the impression that King Alfred had nothing else to recommend him to historians, but he it was who originated law and order in this country. He split the country into Shires, each with their own head man, Sheriffs, to keep the

ROUND THE CLUBS

peace. The shires were too big for any one man to look after so they were split again into groups of 100 families and then again into 10 families, tithings. One man was appointed responsible for the rest. Each man over the age of 15 was called a freeman. If any freeman had committed a crime the others in his group were expected to leave their work and set up a hue and cry in pursuit. If they did not catch the offender then they all had to pay a fine. Therefore it behoved every citizen to watch his neighbour to see that they did not step out of line. This system lasted with little change until the 18th century, when the idea was put forward for a policing force in each county, but it was not until Sir Robert Peel's New Police in the Metropolitan area of London were such a success that the Police force as it is known today was started. Although the British police are excellent it has been felt that the general public have been very much inclined to leave the complete onus of the job on their shoulders, therefore the Crime Prevention department has been organised to involve everyone and to enlist help where possible. There are two main areas where the public at large can assist in crime prevention. In the home—people

should lock all outer doors and windows when going out and not leave the key in the lock. Many people leave a key in the inside lock but this means that any would-be thief only has to cut or break a small portion of glass to put his hand through and turn the key. This also means that they can carry large objects out of a door. Some thieves have found it impossible to take for example coloured televisions out through windows and have been forced to leave them. Secondly, everyone can be a great deal more careful about leaving objects of any value in full view of the windows. If things have to be left in the car they should be put in the boot and that locked. Most law breakers would not consider breaking open a boot which may or may not have anything worth stealing in it. The police welcome any information regarding things considered suspicious and ask people to overcome their dislike of appearing officious or silly, as in many cases if the law had been able to be on the scene earlier many more crimes could be solved or prevented. Altogether Sergeant Wilkey brought home to members how clever the criminals are and that they should not be prepared to be so trusting with those who come to our doors and perhaps from now on the gasmen, electricity men, Council officers and others who regularly call door to door are going to have to produce their cards of authorisation a great deal more often in this area! Mrs. Marion Kitcher gave the vote of thanks.

Members were reminded of the Family Festival week and asked for economical recipes for a book to be sold in the shop and also for Regional Recipes for a Federation Cook Book.

HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

A new group of the National Housewives' Register has been formed in Caversham and would be pleased to welcome new members. This is an informal organisation of women which meets regularly to discuss topics not connected with domesticity. If any reader is interested, please telephone Clare Palmer: Reading 473117.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

The February meeting was held at 139, Upper Woodcote Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Sholl. Nominations were invited for committee and arrangements made for the March A.G.M. Details for the Group Meeting were discussed and names taken for two outings. The speaker, Mr. Guppy, gave an interesting talk on "Fire Prevention in the Home." The competition for Dressed Wooden Spoon was won by Mrs. Day and the raffle prize was won by Mrs. Benham.

CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

The Institute was successful in obtaining alternative accommodation for their January meeting, which was a Members' meeting and very well attended. Mrs. Knight gave a very interesting demonstration of soft toy making and the competition for minicups was won by Mrs. Colley.

ROSEHILL W.I.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Sansum. Two new members were greeted, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Oddy. Fund raising was discussed and a

repeat of the theatre outing was arranged, "Coppelia" having been much enjoyed. Member Mrs. Ellingham's son Jonathan's appearing in the cast added much interest.

Alderman Stansfeld-Taylor gave an enlightening talk on many aspects of the new local government. Mrs. Combes was competition winner.

MAPLEDURHAM W.I.

At the meeting on 8th February there was a speaker with a most unusual and interesting subject—"What hands can tell." Mrs. Crowther told members about the ancient science of Palmistry which was first discovered about 200 years B.C. in the foothills of the Himalayas. At one time it was so much frowned upon that the punishment for practising it was 24 hours in the pillory! Most members discovered they had some hitherto unknown and not always desirable traits! Mrs. Benet gave the vote of thanks—and she was almost convinced that she had the hand of a criminal.

READING WRITERS' CIRCLE

A most interesting and instructive evening was laid on by the Chairman, Mr. Coles, of Reading Writers Circle. He conducted an exercise in the use of dialogue—reading various extracts from well-known books and discussing various methods of using dialogue in writing. Then members wrote some dialogue, illustrating a particular incident and read it aloud.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

Mrs. B. Osbourne the President, took the February meeting when members own holiday slides of Britain were shown. Nomination forms were completed for the new committee. Voting will take place at the March meeting. A coach party will attend the Spring Council meeting in Oxford in March.

STREET NAMES OF CAVERSHAM

by F. MALPAS

TOWER CLOSE SOUNDS ROMANTIC; it seems a pity that it's only a water-tower (however useful that may be). But nearby Cherry Close backs on to a cherry orchard, and that really is a fine sight in spring.

Not far away is Kiln Road; brick-making stopped here in 1939, after three centuries or more of production in this angle between Kiln Road and Peppard Road. All that is now left is the holes where the clay was dug—and you can see at the end of Russett Glade how deep they were.

The kiln had to close because of competition from the big firms; only a few years previously Caversham Mill had had to close for the same reason. The premises are still used industrially, and we can stand on the brick footbridge on the Clappers footpath and look down at the mill race—but it's not the same. There was a mill here when Domesday Book was compiled, and in the 16th century Caversham had four mills. At least we still have Mill Road and Mill Green.

At the end of the latter is Paddock Road, named after a riding establishment at the end of it which was auctioned in 1920; it had an indoor riding school and 55 loose boxes, so it must have flourished until cars gradually became more numerous. There seems to be a revival of interest in riding nowadays, and The Ridings at Emmer Green is presumably named after the riding school at Rosehill nearby.

Since Caversham was independent of Reading till 1911, it is natural that names such as King's Road, Queen's Road, etc., should occur in both places, but within Caversham itself we have two School Lanes. The one opposite the bottom of Prospect Street is named after St. Peter's church school, which was built in 1863 and closed down in 1932; the premises are now enjoying a new lease of life as the Caversham Adult Centre. School Lane at Emmer Green goes off Grove Road and turns into the footpath past the pond to Buckingham Drive; here the school in 1933. It now looks a sorry sight, boarded up and overgrown.

These articles have covered most of our street names, and I hope they have been of interest. May I now ask a favour of any reader who can help me? The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, issued in 1957 by the then Ministry of Housing and Local Government, includes 174 Gosbrook Road; can anyone say what building this refers to? Caversham Lodge and The Firs, which stood behind the present Elizabeth House, were both mid-19th century and are unlikely to have been listed by the Ministry. If anyone who can help would ring me at 475168 in the evening or write to meet me at 6 Priest Hill I should be very grateful.

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WHO, WHEN & WHERE

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH OF CAVERSHAM

Palm Sunday, April 7th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (all churches).
 9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist, with distribution of palms (all churches).
 11.00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter's).
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (St. Peter's, St. Andrew's, St. John's).

Monday, April 8th

- 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).

Tuesday, April 9th

- 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's, St. Andrew's).

Wednesday, April 10th

- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Barnabas').
 8.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).

Maundy Thursday, April 11th

- 6.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).
 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. John's).
 7.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist (St. Andrew's).
 8.00 p.m. Sung Eucharist (St. John's, St. Barnabas').
 8.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist (St. Peter's).

Good Friday, April 12th

- 9.30 a.m. Litany and Ante-Communion (St. Andrew's).
 10.00 a.m. Morning Service (St. John's).
 12.00-3.00 p.m. THE THREE HOURS' DEVOTION (St. Peter's), conducted by the Rev. R. Packer, Rector of Sandhurst).
 12.00-3.00 p.m. Good Friday for the Children (Caversham Primary School).
 6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer (St. Peter's).

Holy Saturday, April 13th

- 8.00 p.m. Evensong and lighting of Paschal Candle (St. Andrew's).

Easter Day, April 14th

- 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's, St. Andrew's).
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (all churches).
 9.15 a.m. Family Eucharist (all churches).
 11.00 a.m. Matins (St. Peter's).
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (St. Andrew's).
 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (St. Peter's).
 6.30 p.m. Festal Evensong (all churches).

CHURCH OF ENGLAND—ST. MARGARET'S, MAPLEDURHAM

Palm Sunday, April 7th

- 9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.

Good Friday, April 12th

- 9.15 a.m. Morning Service.

Easter Day, April 14th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. Parish Communion.

CAVERSHAM FREE BAPTIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 7th

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

Good Friday, April 12th

- 10.30 a.m. United Service.

Easter Day, April 14th

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

CAVERSHAM PARK METHODIST CHURCH (Gosbrook Road)

Palm Sunday, April 7th

- 11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
 6.30 p.m. "Objects of the Cross." A service of music and drama in preparation for Holy Week and Good Friday.

Maunday Thursday, April 11th

- 8.00 p.m. United Free Church celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Easter Day, April 14th

- 11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
 6.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 7th

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

Easter Day, April 14th

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service—Holy Communion.
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (Caversham Park Primary School)

Palm Sunday, April 7th

- 11.15 a.m. Morning Service.

Easter Day, April 14th

- 11.15 a.m. Morning Service.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CAVERSHAM

Church of England

St. Peter's Hemdean House School, 11 a.m., aged 4 to 7 years.

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: Mr. D. Tutty, 5 Carlton Road. Tel. 477384.

Baptist

11 a.m., aged 3 years and upwards.

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

East Caversham—Age 3 to 7, Ardler Road Schoolroom, 11 a.m. to noon.

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.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

There is no United Reformed Church in Caversham. The nearest is at York Road, Reading.

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Clergy & Ministers of Caversham

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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.

The Rev. Stephen Bartlett, Caversham Park House, 2 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park. Tel. 475152.

The Rev. Leonard Burn, St. Barnabas' House, 33 Grove Road. Tel. 473095.

The Rev. Bernard Metcalfe, 25 Ilkley Road. Tel. 472070.

The Rev. Denis Shaylor, 17 The Mount. Tel. 476988.

BAPTIST

The Rev. Laurence Stevens, 80 Balmore Drive. Tel. 478668.

METHODIST

The Rev. Terence Harris, 17 St. Anne's Road. Tel. 472223.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

The Rev. William O'Malley, The Presbytery, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

The Rev. Plunkett Shannon, 2 South View Avenue. Tel. 471787.

DENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP IN CAVERSHAM PARK

All these services will be in the School Hall and will be adapted to circumstances.

Maundy Thursday (April 11th), at 8.15 p.m.

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (April 12th), time to be fixed:

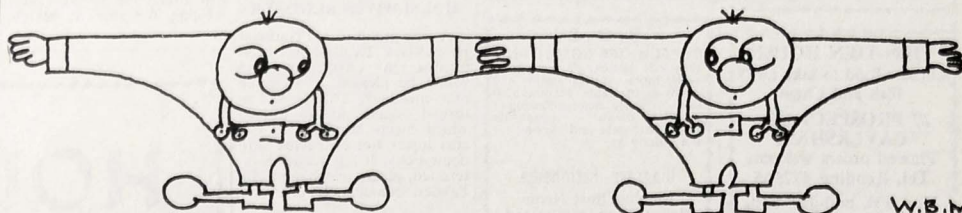
The Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day (April 14th), at 11.15 a.m.:

The Easter Celebration

Another great festival in the Christian year is Whitsun, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church. This seems to be the time to explore the practice of Evangelical branches of the Church in their use of Public Testimonies.

Thus on three occasions in the year worship material from three great traditions of the Christian Church will be used.



W.B.M.

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Mrs. K. P. Besley, 10 Ashcroft Close. Tel. 472374.

Area Organisers:

Dr. E. V. Beale (North Caversham), 1 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green. Tel. 471644.

Mrs. M. Coombs (South Caversham), 5 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472689.

Mrs. E. B. Evans (East Caversham), 50 Grosvenor Road. Tel. 473596.

Mr. D. E. Thomas (West Caversham), 15 Kidmore Road. Tel. 472364.

Mrs. G. Thompson (Mapledurham), 205 Upper Woodcote Road. Tel. 471328.

Mrs. S. Bould (Caversham Park Village), 11 Holyrood Close, Caversham Park Village. Tel. 478906.

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CHURCH NEWS

METHODIST NEWS

Home Missions

A Home Missions evening was held on February 14th, and quite a good gathering of people listened to an intriguing tape recording intended to provoke discussion. Perhaps folk are inhibited, but the discussion was not exactly spontaneous. An absorbing film showing the work of CARE followed and left everyone with much food for thought.

Boys Brigade

Off to North Devon

The 1st Caversham Company of the Boys Brigade will join the Reading Battalion for their Annual Summer Camp at Woolacombe, North Devon. They will leave Reading aboard their own coach on Friday evening 19th July and return to Reading 27th July. It is anticipated that there will be about 35 Caversham boys attending along with 6 Officers and their families. The remaining boys to bring the camp up to strength of about 60 boys will come from the 1st Twyford Coy and 5th Reading Coy. One problem that still remains to be solved is that of finding a person to act as cook for the camp. This year Mrs. Neave of Caversham who has done such a fine job in the past is not available so there is a vacancy to be filled. A spokesman for the Caversham Company has said that the Captain, Mr. A. Champion would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like details of this position. Facilities for cooking are excellent.

Half Term Outing—

Mingle with the Stars

On Tuesday, 19th February during half term 40 boys of the Company Section of the 1st Caversham Coy, along with 6 Girls' Brigade members and 3 staff spent the day in London.

They went to Brigade House which is the International Head Quarters for both the Boys' and Girls' Brigades and were shown around the various Departments by HQ Staff. The Brigade shop was most popular and most returned with souvenirs of the visit. From Brigade House they travelled to the Imperial War Museum where it was hoped to see the Colditz Exhibition but the queue was so long that the party toured only the Museum as they had an appointment at the BBC Television Centre at 3 p.m. so time was short. The arrival at the BBC was punctual and the party was split into 3 groups for a tour of the Centre taking in studios, scenery and props, stores, and news room. During the tour the boys were able to watch Stratford Johns as Barlow rehearsing and in another studio the cast of Colditz were rehearsing and during coffee break the boys were able to examine the prisoners' bunks and to obtain the autographs of each of the principal stars of the series. Richard Whitmore of the BBC news was most popular with autograph hunters especially when he showed

the boys themselves on the monitor screens. The trippers returned to Caversham at about 6.30 p.m. tired but satisfied that it was a day to remember.

New Drums and Bell Lyre

Next time you hear or see the Band of 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade Coy look out for their new drums and Bell Lyre. This represents an expenditure of some £120 with the inclusion of 2 new bugles. A spokesman for the Company said that the Company had to go into debt to buy the instruments, but as the Band increases in size it is a question of buy now and pay later. So if you could afford to offer a small donation to Company funds the Skipper, Mr. A. Champion would be pleased to hear from you.

Womens Fellowship Weekend—31st March

11 p.m. Service, Sister G. Harness. Womens Fellowship Choir to sing Anthem.

Coffee evening—2nd April—with holiday slides.
Jumble Sale—16th March—10.15 a.m.

DENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP IN CAVERSHAM PARK

By Park Resident

On the face of it, it seems a little out of character to talk about denominations in a church which tries to be ecumenical. We have always tried to cross denominational differences. This is certainly true of our worship.

But every branch of the Church has within it something distinctive and valuable. Being ecumenical means recognising this. It means looking within each tradition for that which is good and valuable for all.

So from Methodism we have taken up the practice of Covenant at the New Year. On both the occasions we have used this service it has been welcomed. So we thought we should look within other traditions as well. Within Roman Catholicism the ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter are both ancient and beautiful and seemed to be an obvious choice. We shall try them this Easter-time.

ST. PETER'S AND ST. BARNABAS MOTHERS UNION

The Church's Ministry of Healing. Few members knew much about this until Mrs. J. Doran, wife of the Vicar of Bray, talked on this subject, and they realised the comfort and peace it can bring.

The Reverend Stephen Bartlett explained all about the Family Festival and what can be done to help.

HOLY COMMUNION — WHICH ORDER OF SERVICE?

The Parochial Church Council spent a long time considering the result of the questionnaire which had been answered by 358 communicants about which order of

Holy Communion should be used. In view of the fact that there was no clear preference for either of the two new orders it was decided that for a further experimental period until the end of the year both the Series 2 and the Series 3 service should be used in all churches in the parish: at all other services the present use of 1662 and Series 2 will be retained.

SAINT BARNABAS NEWS

This month the Youth Fellowship had a session on prayer with Fr. Naters from Cowley. During the half term week the Choir Club organised a trip to Richmond ice rink. On February 1st the Confirmation candidates joined with those from St. Peter's and went to a performance of Godspell in London.

On February 23rd Sally Russell, the daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Russell, married Michael Lanigan. Sally's brother John, who works in Leeds in a situation similar to Caversham Park, was able to come and officiate. That day also saw the wedding of Carole Fisher to Andre Jezard. Carole has given a great deal of time to the Guides, Andre is in the Merchant Navy so they will be spending the next few months on board ship.

ST. ANDREW'S NEWS

Overseas News

St. Andrew's main overseas project has been, for many years, St. Mary's Mission, Ovamboland, which included hospitals and schools. Work there, under the U.S.P.G., has been well established and has flourished with the help of European clergy, doctors, nurses and teachers. But the South African government's recent repressive measures have led to the exile of the bishop, and teachers and nurses have also been obliged to leave. Fortunately the Lutheran church has nobly offered to carry on as much of the work as possible.

On Sunday, 5th May, Miss Wilden, matron of the Ovamboland hospital, who had to return to England, will be coming to speak to the congregation. It is hoped that other friends will join them to hear what she has to say.

Lent Project

On Sunday mornings during Lent, after the 9.15 a.m. service, young people at St. Andrew's are selling marmalade and Easter eggs in the hall. The reason? To raise money for Joan Barker's hostel in Maranghada, North India. The hostel, plus a school, have been built by Joan Barker's efforts and now houses seventy girls from poor homes. Please support all you can the young people of St. Andrew's who are trying to help them.

WHERE IS IT?

The photograph on page 6 was taken at Caversham Park before building began. Now there are about 1,500 houses here.

ST. MARGARET'S PARISH SOCIAL

Saturday, 23rd February found Trench Green Hall full and everyone ready to enjoy themselves.

The food laid on tables along the centre of the hall was plentiful and looked most attractive.

The choir gave a first performance of St. Margaret's own newly discovered Psalm! Various games were enjoyed by children and grown-ups alike. The handbells proved very successful and inspired the youngsters to try their hand.

The evening ended with some well known tunes with new words added to suit the last Parish Social that the Stevinson family would be with us. A small gift was given in appreciation of their time spent in Mapledurham. A very happy evening was enjoyed by all.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

"A Policewoman's Duties" was the title of the evening for February's meeting of St. Peter's Wives and a most successful and enjoyable evening it proved to be. A police sergeant from Thames Valley Police outlined her six and a half years in the police force and was obviously very happy in and dedicated to her job.

This evening will have an interesting sequel when the Wives, for their meeting on the 23rd April, welcome a local magistrate to talk on her work.

Another date to look forward to on the Wives' calendar is the 4th April. In order to make a contribution to the funds for the forthcoming Family Festival, they are arranging a Fashion Show on that day at St. Andrew's Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets, to include coffee, will be 25p and will

be available at the door. The clothes for this show are to be provided by Janette of Caversham Road.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

Concert by the Henley Singers

The Henley Singers are giving a concert at the Caversham Heights Methodist Church on Saturday, 27th April at 7.45 p.m., when the main work will be Fauré's Requiem. This beautiful work will be accompanied on the organ by the conductor of the choir, Mr. Fred Rogers, the choir being conducted by the assistant conductor Mr. Gordon Siveter.

Started over 35 years ago as the Remenham Singers, the choir is quite small, but well balanced, and well known for its quality of per-

formance. A Carol Concert in aid of charity is given each year in Henley Town Hall and over the years many thousands of pounds have been raised for various charities in this way.

The baritone solo in the Fauré Requiem will be sung by a young professional singer, Graham Trew, a Gold Medallist of the Guildhall School of Music. The concert will include some other solos and organ music.

This promises to be a very fine musical evening that should give much pleasure to all those who enjoy good music even if their taste is not "high-brow."

Programmes will be available from any member of the Henley Singers or from members of the Caversham Heights choir. Proceeds are for Overseas Missions.

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NOT ENOUGH EXERCISE

In recent years a lot of publicity has been given to the problem of overweight and unfit middle-aged men and women.

Special Keep-Fit clubs have been formed for corpulent businessmen and overweight housewives. With the coming of more sports facilities such as swimming pools, squash courts and sports centres, a large section of the population has been able to take part in good healthy activities, with the result that many people today must be a lot fitter and healthier than ever before, despite the ever-increasing reliance on the motor car for transport on even small journeys.

In one age group, however, there is every opportunity to play sport, and yet the general physical condition of most is probably declining. This is the youngsters, the school boys and girls and those fairly fresh from school or college. Surprisingly, it is this group

with all its opportunities which is less concerned and does less to keep fit and healthy than the older generations.

NO VIGOUR

Over the past few months I have observed and discussed this problem with teachers, coaches and parents and although all would agree that there are exceptions — there are those who are dedicated to their sport and train for it but it is not these who give cause for concern — it is the average boy or girl who by normal activities would be reasonably fit.

To give an example, I saw both the Reading and Berkshire Schools Cross Country held at Prospect Park and although it was obvious that the first five to ten runners took running seriously, the standard below that was, I am quite sure, lower than say ten years ago. To see gaps of 1½ miles between first and last over a 2½ mile race between youngsters of the same age and

physical size is quite staggering. Instead of being full of vitality they seem to be overweight and lacking in vigour.

WHO TO BLAME?

There are three main reasons for the unfitness of our children. Firstly they have so much opportunity to play any sport they choose and in particular there has been increasing pressure on many of them to take sport far too seriously at far too early an age. Secondly, I think that they get far more interested in sport on television and become greater armchair supporters than the older generations, thus becoming more enthusiastic and interested in watching instead of playing. This leads on to the third and probably the most likely reason and here it is the parents who are to blame because the youngsters do not get enough natural exercise.

I have always thought that natural exercise was vitally important to everyone, even a top sportsman who can train as much as he likes needs to walk instead of drive wherever possible. A lot of people who play squash once or twice a week, for example, would get much more benefit from walking two or three miles a day than the occasional burst of energy required to play squash.

Because of changed road conditions very few youngsters use a cycle to move about these days and fewer still walk if there is a car in the family. They are driven to Scouts, Guides and Youth Club and School then collected but what is probably worse, expect to be taken to their local sportsfield to play their game of football or hockey. A friend of mine who was a very good athlete and now does a lot of coaching for the local athletic club lives only a few hundred yards from the athletic track, however, on asking his own children to accompany him to the track for a training session found they were quite shocked to be told they were going to run the few yards and not take the car.

SO PLEASE, IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE FIT, MAKE HIM OR HER WALK MORE OFTEN.

YOUNG CAVERSHAM

by Peter Shock

A lot of my time is spent among the younger inhabitants of Caversham Park Village. Something that particularly fascinates me is the variety of dialects one encounters everywhere.

In the early 60's when the Village Scheme was first envisaged, Caversham Park really was to be a park, in the true English sense. To quote the developers' prospectus, planning was to be "full of variations in level and perspective and to be provided with an unusual number of fine old trees. It's dells and banks and areas of woodland will remain part of the landscape . . . This vivid description of a new community life would inevitably attract people from many corners of the British Isles to take up residence in the new Caversham.

MELTING POT

So it happened. From near and far they came. If anything had to be left behind, it could hardly be their regional accents. The family with the "furr-hurred" girl from Liverpool; the Geordie household who settled in at the top of the 'Village', as it was nearer Newcastle; the sound of the beautiful Blarney was soon heard in Jordan Close, and indeed to goodness, man, that ginger-headed boy from Taffyland must stand up and be counted. Then came the Barnsley 'British', (very patriotic they are in Barnsley, everything is prefixed or suffixed with 'British', except apparently the football team!); and oh aye! From north of the border to the banks and braes of Galsworthy Drive came piping the tartanned Turttons. Varying shades of the London tongue could be detected as immigrants arrived from Southall to Saffron Walden. Caversham Park was rapidly becoming an exciting young community.

INVASION

Why has this small country of ours so many dialects? The

reason is that so many warriors were keen to invade us. The English language in the form we know it today was brought to Britain by the Anglo-Saxons between the 4th and 8th centuries, and is mainly of West Germanic origin. The Thames Valley was a much-frequented area and used by the tribes as an easy route across Southern England to the Welsh border. The history of Reading borough was first recorded in 871 AD in a predecessor of the 'Caversham Bridge', the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle'. The Danes were in occupation of the district then, but there is evidence of earlier settlements, as the 'Reada' people from which Reading owes its name probably came from Holland about a hundred years before. Caversham is also an Anglo-Saxon place-name and could denote the homestead or estate of Cafer's people. Subsequent conquests by the Scandinavians and Normans failed to submerge the English

language, although French was widely used in parliamentary and official business. Until the 16th century there was no standard spelling system, and those who were able to write put their words on paper in a phonetical manner exactly as they were spoken. Eventually, as the majority of the educated and upper classes resided in the London and south-east Midlands, there was pressure to adopt the speech of that area as the standard pattern of pronunciation. (It was considered that the English spoken there was "better" than other areas). After years of battles between the early Dictionary printers, the Standard English Dictionary finally emerged.

There could never be a Battle of the Accents in Caversham Park Village, but heaven preserve the young community from the modern pressures towards standardisation of speech. This enchantment of the regional dialects must live on!

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St. Margaret's

January 6 Michelle Wright

February 10 James Beville

Caversham Park

February 10 Duncan Crawford

Sally Douthwaite

Alexander Kerr

Andrew Patterson

Sarah Hibbird

Caversham Methodist Church

January 13 Lianne Rolfe

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

December 16 Mark Lascelles

MARRIED

St. Andrew's

February 9 Roger Ford and Penelope Mesquita

March 6 Kevin Mercer and Angela Gacasa

St. Barnabas'

February 23 Andre Jezard and Carole Fisher

Michael Lanigan and Sally Russell

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