

IT'S YOUR FESTIVAL



**PLANS ARE NEARING
COMPLETION FOR THE
LAUNCHING OF
CAVERSHAM'S
FAMILY FESTIVAL**

The first event is the three-day Flower Festival in St. Peter's Church, which starts on Friday, June 28th. The final event in the programme is the open-air service of Holy Communion which is to take place in Caversham Court on Sunday, July 14th, at 10 a.m.; this replaces the services normally held in the Anglican and Free Churches of Caversham at 9.15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

But the Festival will have failed if it does not lead on to fresh thinking about the Christian Family and fresh action to strengthen family life and to help those with problems and difficulties. Forthcoming editions of the Caversham Bridge will be announcing future plans in this connection.



**For full details of
Festival events
see pages 6 and 7**

**ART AWARD FOR
CAVERSHAM PRIEST**

Stephen Bartlett, one of Caversham's Church of England team of clergy living at Caversham Park Village, recently distinguished himself by becoming joint winner of the Marie Dyson award for a work of outstanding merit at the Reading Guild of Artists' annual exhibition. His painting, "God's Fool," shared the top award with "Overtaking," by D. W. Ferguson.

Clown Theme

Stephen's highly praised picture, which shows a clown holding a gleaming ball in one hand and a diamond symbol in the palm of the other, is an exploration of a very old idea in the Christian tradition—that the wisdom of God is foolishness to man. The fool or court jester or clown, that is the man who used humour, sadness and pathos to point to the truth, which clowns and comedians still do, soon came to be seen as the embodiment of this theme in Christian thinking. St. Francis, for instance, was known as God's juggler. Stephen even has a theory, reflecting this tradition, that people have a need to have 'dressed up' clergymen. He also points out that the joker in some packs of playing cards has the stigmata in his hand: another aspect of the theme from which the idea for his painting grew.

Insight

Painting has always been a part of Stephen's life, on and off. But surprisingly, perhaps, he doesn't see it as a way of relaxing. It's more a way of praying. "This means," he explains, "that for me a good picture is not merely a nice picture. A



Admiring "God's Fool" are (left to right) Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, Mr. Robert Gillmor (president of the Reading Guild of Artists) and Mr. D. W. Ferguson, who shared the award with Stephen Bartlett. The picture will be exhibited in St. Peter's Church during the Flower Festival, June 28th-30th.

Picture—Reading Chronicle

good picture is one in which the painter communicates to me his vision of or insight into God. If someone says to me, 'I can't paint or draw,' they are saying something to me about technical ability. But I'm not interested primarily in technical ability. If someone says to me, 'I have an idea or an insight which I can't express in words but I will try to express it in paint,' then that is good."

Sharing

Stephen is keen to explore further, with other interested people, this way of sharing insights through painting. While words have always been important in searching after truth, they have never been enough. Art has occupied an equally important part in religion. Clearly for Stephen Bartlett it is an important part of his way of trying to be a Christian.

AUGUST EDITION

All contributions for the August edition of the Caversham Bridge must be sent to Church House, Caversham, by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 3rd. Pressure on space often makes it impossible to publish all contributions that are received, and it is also impossible to publish any contributions that are received after the stated time.

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The Editor's Column

FAMILY FESTIVAL IS YOUR FESTIVAL

All of us belong to the family of Man, and all of us who have been baptised belong to the family of God, the Christian Church; all of us are also in some ways involved in family life.

Perhaps too often we are inclined to think that unless there are parents and children there is no proper family. To think in this way is to think far too narrowly. It is the intention of those who have been involved in the planning of Family Festival to see that as we follow it up this autumn we give more thought to the needs of the many widows and widowers and single people in our community, and to the needs too of those who belong to one-parent families.

Cruse and Gingerbread

A number of organisations exist to give advice to those who fall into these different groups but local branches do not seem to exist at present. There is Cruse, which concentrates its help on those who are widowed. It gives advice on such problems as housing, loneliness, spare-time activities and welfare.

More recently there has come into being an organisation known as Gingerbread. This association covers any parent who is bringing up a family of children single-handed: forty groups are functioning in different parts of the country and members are able to give help and support to each other at times of stress and difficulty.

But we need also to realise that a sister keeping house for a brother, or two sisters living together may well be the basis of a family. There are also many single people running a home of their own: they entertain other lonely people and as a result succeed in creating a real family atmosphere. Yes—all of us with very few exceptions are involved in some form of family life.

After July 14th

So Family Festival is YOUR Festival. We aim to raise money for the four charities whose work we featured in last month's Caversham Bridge. But we aim to do more than that—to deepen our understanding of the many problems of family life today, and to see how practical help and encouragement can be given by one member of the community to another.

I ask you, then, to support the Family Festival events. But do more than that. Do not see the Festival as an end in itself which finishes when we leave Caversham Court after the service of Holy Communion on July 14th. As we end that service we shall say together these words:

"Almighty God, we thank You for feeding us with the Body and Blood of Your Son Jesus Christ. Through Him we offer our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory. Amen."

The Festival will begin to bear fruit when we take those words, and see that they are really meaningful. The service on July 14th is designed not to mark the end of a fortnight of special events, but the beginning of a new understanding about family life which must be shared by all of us in Caversham and Mapledurham.

John Grindall

THOUGHTS OF AN M.P. by TONY DURANT



Minority Government has both good and bad points from the country's point of view. The advantages are the avoidance of extreme policies, the increasing importance of the individual Member of Parliament and the strengthening of Parliament, representing the people against the Government and executive. The bad points are a lack of will of the Government to deal with the underlying problems facing the country and an uncertainty as to how long the Government will last.

A new Member of Parliament is able to look at the political scene at Westminster with a more critical eye, particularly at the way Parliament works; after four months I admit that I have mixed views on its effectiveness. There is no doubt that the work in Committee and on non-party matters is very important and a great deal is achieved; however, the party dog fight so often looks irrelevant and tedious.

Relevant

I am pleased to report to the people of Caversham that I am involved in work in the House of Commons which is very relevant to Reading. During the February election and since, I met people and traders who felt strongly and bitterly about their rate increases and since I have been in Parliament I have been taking up the need to change the rating system. I spoke about the problem in my maiden speech and subsequently was appointed Secretary of a Back-Bench Committee on Local Government, and asked to join a working party on rate reform under the leadership of Margaret Thatcher, MP. This is a matter on which some urgent action must be taken and I shall keep at it until something positive is done.

Four years on a planning committee of a local Council proved to me the need to improve the planning powers to retain the character of an area. I am sponsor of a Bill put forward by a colleague of mine, the Member for Uxbridge, called the Town and Country Amenities Bill. This will provide local planning committees with increased powers to deal with conservation areas. A visit to a meeting of the

Caversham Residents' Association held before I was elected proved to me the strength of feeling about Caversham and the maintenance of a great deal of its character. This Bill passing through the House will enable such areas to be designated and protected.

Waterways are of course another subject important to Reading, particularly in this year, Reading Waterways Year. I was invited to become Secretary of the All-Party Committee for Inland Waterways in the House of Commons and I am intending to do all I can to obtain help from the Government to get more waterways open and improved.

Attitudes

Housing and Education are the other two subjects on which I am spending my time and energy both in Reading and in the House. Moral issues are perhaps the most difficult to express a view on as a politician. Views expressed are personal, but an MP must try to reflect the many attitudes taken by the electorate.

Abortion is one such subject. There is no doubt there is strong feeling about this issue. I have my own personal reservations and believe that we should reconsider this whole matter; meanwhile I am supporting a Bill introduced by the Member for North-West Surrey to curb the excesses allowed under the present legislation such as airport touts and clinics of doubtful reputation. Lack of integrity and corruption in public life, another moral issue, has been concerning us recently. I feel that this subject, while important, has been overplayed. I deplore the fact that Parliament spent seven hours in May discussing this topic

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Council Meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council took place on Thursday, May 9th, 1974, when a new Chairman was elected. Mr. E. J. Sell was appointed Chairman of the Council and Mr. W. H. Wheeler Vice-Chairman.

After several meetings over the past few months the Parish Council has now prepared its statements of counter observations to the proposals put forward by Oxfordshire C.C., Berkshire C.C. and Reading B.C. The Parish Council's general view is that without any reservation it entirely opposes the suggestion made by the three major authorities that Mapledurham shall be absorbed into Berkshire.

The Council considered correspondence received from Oxfordshire C.C. and the S. Oxon District Council regarding the severe rate increases that have affected all householders. The letter from Oxfordshire, where the rate has increased by over 50 per cent., itemised the reasons for the increases. Inflation appears to have accounted for 15 per cent., while the loss of the rate support grant from the Government has accounted for nearly 30 per cent. of the increase. The large urban areas have benefited to Oxfordshire's disadvantage, as it is primarily a rural county.

In view of apparent staffing difficulties affecting the Chiltern Queen Bus Company, a letter is being sent to the County Council asking them to try to prevent a complete breakdown of the service in south Oxfordshire, having regard to the statutory powers that the County Council now possesses under the reorganisation of local government.

The Council have accepted a modified form of development for the building of the new pavilion, and it is hoped that building will commence soon.

10th BIRTHDAY COMPETITION

The first number of the Caversham Bridge appeared in October, 1964, so that the September number sees the completion of ten years of Caversham's own newspaper.

Caversham has changed a great deal in those ten years. What will it be like in 1984?

The Editorial Board offers a prize of a £2 book token for an imaginary article which might appear in the Caversham Bridge in October, 1984. Entries, which must not exceed 200 words, may be parodies of one of our regular features or can be entirely original. They should be sent to the Editor at Church House, Caversham, by Thursday, August 15th, and the prize entry will be published in our October edition.

when there is so much else you in Parliament to the more urgent to consider. I best of my ability; this I trust that this has now will do—let me have your dropped out of discussion, views on issues. If you have and we can return to what any personal matter which matters to people—prices, you feel I could help to homes, schools and the solve, please write to me at quality of life. the House of Commons My duty is to represent and I will try to serve you.

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RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT

by WATCHDOG
JUGGERNAUTS

It is quite a common sight to see an enormous lorry struggling up St. Peter's Hill and not infrequently coming to a grinding halt before, groaning and spluttering, it manages to drag itself to the top. The scars and damage to the church wall presumably commemorate the occasions when one of these giants has failed to make it and rolled backwards, mercifully so far without injuring a following motorist or pedestrian. This, one feels, is bound to come sooner or later.

Dismay consequently filled many hearts when it was learned that Oxfordshire County Council had designated Woodcote Road as a suitable route for lorries, when for nearly its whole length it is manifestly unsuitable. These points were taken up at a recent public meeting in Caversham with a representative of Oxfordshire C.C. and he replied that it was not so much that Woodcote Road had been recommended as being suitable as that most other roads in South Oxon had been classified as unsuitable and barred to heavy lorries.

With this one can but concur, thinking of the many roads in this area where it would be sacrilege or murder to take a heavy lorry.

What then to do? Build a new lorry route at great cost through an area of outstanding rural beauty? Reduce the size of lorries, when transport operators say that the large ones are less costly to operate? (Question: less costly to whom?) Confine heavy lorries to motorways? Take all heavy goods off the roads and put them on the railways? Cut down on the amount of goods we trundle about the country?

There is no simple answer. The Residents' Association has often been asked to deal with this matter but finds the questions it raises outside its scope. But individuals should contrive to press for a solution and support any group or organisation which they feel is seeking for a solution. The Residents' Association itself is a group member of the Conservation Society because so many of the problems it is confronted with belong to the wider field of conservation and survival.

BIRD MAN OF KINGS ROAD

Nobby Clark of Kings Road has lived in Caversham all his life. As a boy he attended St. Anne's School. Yet he is known for miles around for one thing—budgies!

At present he has more than 80 of them. He breeds them in his aviary in the back garden of his home. Ever since leaving school one of his main interests has been breeding creatures of one kind or another: pigeons, rabbits and budgies. A miller at Cork Manufacturing Co. in Mill Green, Nobby Clark spends about £3-£4 weekly on his hobby.

Perhaps there is nothing very remarkable about all that, but Mr. Clark is a very generous man. Not only does he care about his birds, he also cares about people; young people, old people, lonely people.

He doesn't keep his love of budgies to himself. He shares it by giving them away. He gives them to old age pensioners, like the two old ladies who came from Theale and Wargrave to see him, or to children who want a pet.

Last year he helped a young man from Whitley, Mr. Malcolm Clark, by giving him six of his budgies to replace those that had been destroyed when someone broke into Malcolm's aviary. He is just one of many who have reason to be grateful to Nobby Clark.



Nobby Clark (right) handing over six of his budgies to Malcolm Clark last summer.

—Reading Evening Post

SCOTLAND COMES TO READING

at
SCOTTISH SUMMER FAYRE
at
CAVERSHAM COURT
SATURDAY, JULY 20th
Admission 10p

Evening Barn Dance — Separate Admission

EMMER GREEN BOYS WIN COUNTY SCOUT TROPHY

Two teams from the same North Reading Scout troop won first and third places at the movement's recent annual county two-man cycle-camp competition for the Mount trophy, held at Aldermaston.

Winners were Peter Fisher and Anthony Pierce, both aged 14, of the 89th Reading (Milestone Wood). They received the trophy from Sir William Mount, president of the Berkshire County Council. In last year's competition Peter and Anthony came 12th.

In third place were fellow troop members Jonathan Allen and Darryl Hobson.

Twenty-three teams of two took part in the competition in blustery, wet weather, during which they cycled 35 miles, examined the amenities of a village, completed reports of rural investigations, pitched camp and looked after themselves.

"We found it much harder this year than last," said Anthony Pierce, "although Peter and I did very much better and secured top marks."

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CHURCH NEWS

YOUNG PEOPLE COULDN'T CARE LESS

While it is an undeniable fact that so many young people in our affluent society are indifferent to the needs of others, are bent on fermenting trouble or can find no better outlet for their abounding energy than to beat-up someone or smash up something, it is refreshing to learn of those who do care and care intensely for others.

The young people of the Baptist Church would probably be the last to admit to being paragons of virtue but it must be said that their hearts are in the right place and their minds tuned to the right wavelength. They think seriously about the needs and well-being of others and demonstrate their concern by channelling their energies to good purpose, as is instanced by two 'escapades' upon which they have embarked recently. As their contribution to Christian Aid Week they organised a Famine Lunch following morning service on Sunday, May 19th. The lunch, which was at-

tended by over 80 members and friends, was preceded by a showing of the Christian Aid film 'The Long Short Cut' and raised nearly £15 for the fund.

The second effort, which was undertaken with their friends from Grovelands Baptist Church, was to cash in on the vogue of sponsored walking. They walked to Pangbourne and back and raised in excess of £70 on behalf of the Baptist Ministers' Superannuation Fund which, due to the eroding effects of inflation, needed topping-up to the tune of £300,000.

Who said that young people couldn't care less?

ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN'S GROUP

The annual general meeting was held on April 25th and was well attended by some 40 members. The Rev. Brian Gardiner, as president of the Group, took the chair. On the occasion of her retirement as chairman Mrs. Daisy Manser was thanked for all her effort and presented with

a bouquet and some stainless steel. Mrs. Pamela Keetch was welcomed as the new chairman for the usual two-year term of office. Mrs. Shepherd was also given a bouquet of flowers as retiring chairman of St. Andrew's Play Group—which has close association with the Women's Group. After the coffee break a most successful beetle drive was held.

At the May meeting a very interesting talk on "Foot Care" was given by a representative of Scholl's. On June 27th there will be a display and talk on knitting and sewing crafts by Coates and on July 25th Mrs. Goriup will speak on the art of Yoga. New members will be very welcome at any of the meetings.

ST. BARNABAS' NEWS

Mrs. Vivien Philpot has joined the Sunday School teachers in place of Miss Ryder, who has kindly agreed to share in the work of the Post-Confirmation Group.

ST. PETER'S AND ST. BARNABAS' M.U.

The Rev. L. Burn gave a talk on the New Testament. Owing to illness Mrs. Ackroyd could not come to the May meeting.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH FAIR

St. Andrew's of London Road is once again holding a Scottish Summer Fayre at Caversham Court on Saturday, July 20th. The St. Andrew's Pipe Band will parade through Caversham to open the Fayre at 2.30 p.m. During the afternoon there will also be a dance display by the Scottish Junior Dancers from St. Andrew's. Other attractions include a miniature steam railway, croquet, stalls, sideshows and, of course, Scottish teas. In the evening, weather permitting, there is to be an open-air Barn Dance to the music of the Reivers.

ST. MARGARET'S DAY

at
MAPLEDURHAM
Saturday, July 20th
5.30 p.m.
FESTAL EVENSONG

Preacher:
The Rev.
John Macdonald Smith
Vicar of Kidmore End
Tea will be served from
4.15 p.m.
in Trench Green Hall

ROUND THE ANGLICAN PARISH

The Rev. Michael Kitchener will be joining the staff of the parish of Caversham at the end of September with special responsibility for pastoral work at St. Margaret's, Mapledurham and, like his predecessor, the Rev. John Stevinson, he hopes to devote part of his time to work with the Reading Council of Churches.

After a distinguished academic career at Trinity College, Cambridge, Mr. Kitchener trained for ordination at Cuddesdon Theological College; he was ordained in 1971 and since then has been curate at Aldwick, near Bognor. Mr. Kitchener is married and he and his wife Christine have one small daughter, Clare, who is nearly a year old. Mr. Kitchener hopes to start his ministry at St. Margaret's on Sunday, September 29th.

Confirmation Anniversary Service. The Bishop of Reading visited Caversham on May 29th to meet again those whom he had confirmed on May 29th, 1973. The service was held in St. Barnabas' and there were over 100 communicants. The Bishop used his pastoral staff to illustrate the work of the Church—to point people to Jesus, to support them, to reprove and to bring back the lost. Refreshments were served in the hall afterwards, and the Bishop was able to talk to many who attended.

ST. PETER'S NEWS FROM THE TRANSKEI

Dr. Guy Daynes, medical superintendent of St. Lucy's, the U.S.P.G. hospital in the Transkei, will be the preacher at the Parish Communion at St. Peter's on Sunday, July 7th. The work of the hospital has for some time been supported by the congregations of St. Peter's and St. Barnabas', and he will be able to give a first-hand account of life at St. Lucy's. Dr. Daynes will be accompanied by his wife, who is a sister of St. Peter's sidesman Mr. Rex Justham.

ST. PETER'S WIVES

The May meeting of St. Peter's Wives took the form of a visit to the Berkshire Agricultural College and Miss Vowles gave a two-hour demonstration to members and friends on the theme "Entertaining at Home." She showed how to prepare a well-balanced and reasonably priced meal and gave all present the opportunity to buy the food that had been prepared.

July will be another full month on the Wives' calendar, starting on July 2nd with the annual coffee morning in the Rectory Garden with play group children and mothers. On July 5th the Wives meet socially at Chiltern Chase Lodge for a dinner dance and the regular monthly meeting takes the form of an evening ramble on July 16th.

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WE RECORD . . .

BAPTISED
St. Peter's

May 12 Lynne Jenner
Victoria Bertram
May 21 Sally Graham
Peter Graham
Karen Stoddart
Sonia Peacock
Sophia Peacock
Benjamin Batley

May 26 Nicholas Ford
St. John's
May 5 Paula Quilliam
St. Andrew's
St. Barnabas'

May 19 Nathan Smith
May 26 Rebecca Shaylor

CONFIRMED on May 21st

St. Peter's

Michelle Aisbitt
Benjamin Batley
John Bowcock
Pauline Bowcock
Sally Briggs
Nicholas Brown
Deborah Pulman
Susan Reynolds
Rachel Steer

Julia Betteridge
Mark Betteridge
Heather Collins
Hugh McQueen

Sarah Boon
Christopher Boulding
Jacqueline Gardiner
Sally Graham
Michael Kent
Graham Kitcher

Rachel Brain
Susan Carter
Peter Cox
Peter Croft
Andrew Dove
Stephen Foran
Neal Stanley
Alison Walker

Peter Graham
John Meadows

May 11 Clifford Jacobs and Monica Jewell
June 1 Adrian Mayo and Ruth Steer
Brian Pickers and Pauline Smith.

St. John's
May 18 Paul Fox and Sandra Taylor
St. Barnabas'
May 11 Clive Green and Dawn Trotman
FUNERALS
St. Andrew's

May 31 Katie Hounsom
St. Margaret's
May 13 Eileen Mullens.

St. John's

Penelope McQueen
Gillian Phillips
Sally Smith
David Werrell

St. Andrew's

Pamela Matthews
Susan Payne
Robert Price
Christopher Shepherd
Digby Stringer

St. Barnabas'

Nicola Fowler
Stephanie Fowler
David Holloway
Jonathan Miles
Sonia Peacock
Sophie Peacock
Carol Walker

St. Margaret's

Carol Thompson
Caversham Park
Freda Meadows

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A LIFE BESIDE THE THAMES

by M.K.

NAMED BY THE BARGEES

Only those who come down to within sight of the water at Mapledurham and really take the trouble to look around will see Mapledurham Lock, for it lies on the opposite side of the river and is approached through fields from the Berkshire village of Purley. One might be forgiven, in fact, for thinking it was Purley Lock, but lock names on the Thames originated from the mills along its banks. In the days of water transport barges would say they were going to Mapledurham mill or Caversham mill with the corn. There was no mill at Purley so when the lock came into being it took the name Mapledurham. Caversham Lock is a similar case, being on the Reading bank, and further side of the river from Caversham mill. It might interest readers to know that the last barge to Sonning mill with grain was around 1950.

Comes from a family constant watch night and day.
of lock-keepers

For 17 years Mr. Len Overy has been lock-keeper at Mapledurham. He comes from a family of lock-keepers. His grandfather had Blake's Lock, the first on the Kennet, and his father was in charge of Temple Lock, near Marlow. The usual way to qualify for the job is to start as a summer assistant, possibly becoming a relief lock-keeper and so getting the "feel" of the work. Obviously someone has to be in on duty every day, so each lock-keeper does a six-day stretch then has two days off. To every three locks there is a relief, each having his own house in the area. During peak summer time a day's duty will be 11 hours or more. The weirs have to be cleaned daily and in times of heavy rain, such as last January and February, regulation of water requires the lock-keeper to be on

A county lock
Without doubt Mapledurham lock must be one

of the most attractive locks on the river, set against the backcloth of the Chiltern Hills on the Oxfordshire side. Certainly it is one of the more isolated. Wild life abounds. Canada geese nest locally, kingfishers seem even more in evidence during the winter months and all species of wagtail can be seen. Mr. Overy says the river is full of fish, though fishermen might possibly not believe this.

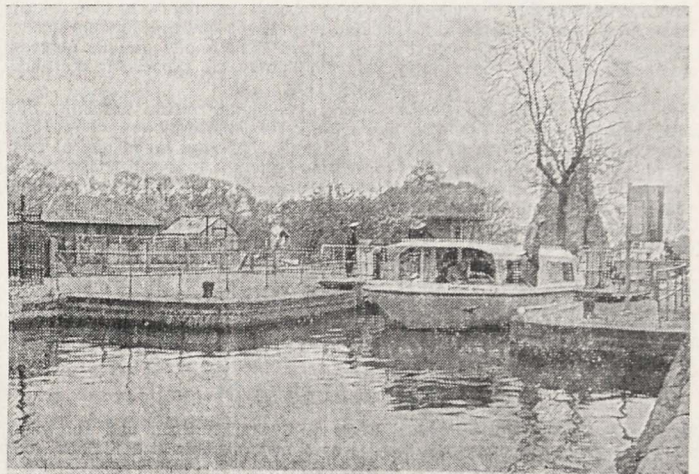
Like many other lock-keepers, Mr. Overy finds time to keep the lock gardens attractive and gay. His efforts gained him awards in 1970, 1971 and 1973. He also held the City Challenge Cup for the best-run lock in 1969.

All this is probably news to many local people. Being way across the river from the rest of Mapledurham, it is easy to be forgotten. In many ways it must be far more insular today than it was years ago when the lock came into being in 1776. Perhaps this article will help to bridge the gap.



Mr. Len Overy

—Reading Chronicle



—Walton Adams

A cabin cruiser leaving Mapledurham Lock.

HOLLOWAY'S

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CAVERSHAM COURT

SATURDAY,
JULY 13th

2.30 p.m.

FAMILY

CONFERENCE LOOKS AT MARRIAGE TODAY

AFTER A PICNIC LUNCH MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE SPENT THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, MAY 12TH, at Highdown School discussing the family in modern society, as a preliminary to Caversham's Family Festival.

While the children were involved in their own projects in other parts of the school, the adults listened to an opening talk given by Dr. Jack Dominian, psychiatrist, marriage counsellor, author and broadcaster, before breaking into four groups to explore particular issues.

NEW TRENDS

Dr. Dominian examined the problems and opportunities facing married people today. The changing role of women in society, longer life expectancy, the growing separation through birth control between sexual intercourse and procreation and the expectation of greater personal fulfilment in marriage, represented a challenge to married life today. Such great changes were creating uncertainty and confusion and many marriages came to grief under the strain. But he was not pessimistic. He believed there was the opportunity to develop an understanding of marriage as a relationship fostering personal growth, healing and sustaining for each partner. Dr. Dominian also believed that Christianity had the unique responsibility of making a positive contribution towards understanding the meaning of new trends in society. Preparation for marriage was not something which should stop before the ceremony. It was up to every church community to give priority to helping married people to understand themselves and the different phases of their marriage. This would require discussion, family groups, personal counselling services and a liturgy that highlighted the changes in marriage.

WORKSHOPS

The four groups pursued a variety of subjects related to family life. One became actively involved in exploring feelings and how they affect communication between members of a family. Another made use of role-playing to look at changing roles in marriage today. In one marriage in five in this country the wife is the chief wage-earner—how did this affect personal relations within the family? The place of religion in the family was also discussed and questions related to prayers, the Bible, stories and TV programmes were examined. The fourth group was concerned with authority and conflict in the family at a time when society's attitudes towards authority is changing.

The conference was intended as the beginning of a longer process of discussion and exploration. The interest which it stimulated and the questions it raised will be taken further in the autumn after Family Festival.

THE SHOP

- Come along to the Festival Shop at 6 Church Road and see what marvellous opportunities there are to buy presents and restock your larder.
- At the shop — which will be open from Saturday, June 29th, to Saturday, July 6th, inclusive (except Sunday, June 30th) — you will find produce of all kinds, home-made cakes, sweets, biscuits, preserves, fresh fruit and vegetables and also toys, household goods and good second-hand clothes for all ages. Everybody is welcome to come and see and, of course, buy from the attractive range of goods.
- Information and posters about the four charities being helped by the cash raised will also be on display.
- The ladies of Caversham and Mapledurham are combining to run the shop and many individuals are taking part, making this a truly Family and Community effort.
- They have produced many of the articles on sale and will be manning the shop during opening hours, which are 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each day, except Wednesday, July 3rd, when it will close at 1.00 p.m.
- The display and decor in the shop has been carried out by Kent Studios, of 42 Highmoor Road.

SCHOOLS FAMILY FESTIVAL

Seven primary schools in the Caversham area have become involved in the project theme "Family."

Children of a school, a class or a group, under direction of an adult, are busy exploring this idea of "Family" — either their own, their local community, the national or the world aspect. They are expressing their findings in many ways — through models, art and crafts, music, poetry and so on.

An exhibition of their work will be on display at Church House, Caversham, on Friday and Saturday, July 5th and 6th. You are invited to visit the exhibition to see that children, too, are concerned with the theme of the whole Festival — the Family of Man.

The exhibition will be open from 3.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, and from 9 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free, but any donations for the charities will be gratefully received.

IN FOR A PENNY

"In for a penny, in for a pound," to coin a phrase, but in this case it should read "In for a half-penny, in for over £470."

For on Saturday, July 6th, as part of the Family Festival, that is the sum that the young people of St. Peter's hope to raise when they attempt to collect a mile of halfpence and, by doing so, set up a new record.

Please bring all the halfpence you can find to St. Martin's Precinct on that day and help the youngsters towards their target. If you are unable to get to the precinct, please give your coins to your church Festival representative, who will see that they reach the precinct.

WHAT'S IT IN AID OF?

Last month we featured the work of the four charities who will benefit from Family Festival. These are the Reading Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, the Reading Council of Churches Housing Trust, the Simon Community, and Help the Aged.

But what do you know about their work? To find out more about them, and also about future plans for the follow-up of the Festival, come to the Teach-in at St. Andrew's Hall on Wednesday, July 10th, at 8 p.m.

This is an important meeting. Please do your utmost to attend.

WANTED For sale in the shop

Household goods; knitted garments; toys; glass; china; jewellery; toiletries; clothes (these must be new or almost new). These non-perishable items would be gratefully received as soon as possible.

Wanted DAILY from June 28th until July 6th: home-made cakes, sweets and biscuits; garden produce and plants; preserves.

All these items can be taken at the following collecting points:

CAVERSHAM: Mrs. D. Vincent, Church House, Church Street (471703).

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS: Mrs. H. Barnett, 310 Kidmore Road (473904).

Mrs. E. Crutchley 41 Matlock Road (472959).
Miss M. Kift, 2 Darell Road (471143).

EMMER GREEN: Miss E. Hawthorne, 11 Highdown Avenue (473849).

MAPLEDURHAM (COUNTRY): Mrs. J. Beacroft, Lilley Farm (Kidmore End 2218).

Mrs. A. Martyn-Johns, Greendene Farm (Kidmore End 2198).

MAPLEDURHAM (TOWN): Mrs. M. Sholl, 139 Upper Woodcote Road (473627).

FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY JULY 3rd

FULL HOUSE

at Highdown School, Emmer Green, at 8.00 p.m.

An evening of theatre, poetry, singing and folk music organised by St. Barnabas' Church. Features will be the World Development Movement Action Drama Group and sketches from the Scout Gang Show.

Tickets: 30p (Children and Senior Citizens 20p)

SATURDAY, JULY 6th

CRICKET MATCH and CHILDREN'S SPORTS at Mapledurham Playing Fields, Upper Woodcote Road

Start of play at 2.30 p.m.

This event will be a not too serious confrontation between two teams, which will include members of the clergy. At the same time there will be races and games for the children.

Teas and refreshments, provided by Caversham Heights Methodist Church, will be on sale.

SATURDAY, JULY 6th

FESTIVAL CONCERT

at 7.30 p.m. at Caversham Baptist Free Church, Prospect Street.

Choral and musical evening from the pupils of Thameside and Highdown Schools.

Tickets: 30p (half-price for children and Senior Citizens).

FRIDAY, JULY 12th

DUSK-TO-DAWN

at Emmer Green Youth Club

An all-night event from 7.30 p.m. until dawn.

Featuring live groups such as "Parchment," discos, films, skits and happenings. The ticket cost will include breakfast, for those who can stay the course. There will be a break at 11 p.m. so that all under the age of 16 can leave.

SATURDAY, JULY 13th

COMBINED CHURCHES FESTIVAL FAIR

In Caversham Court at 2.30 p.m.

Caversham Boys' Brigade Band will lead a cavalcade of decorated cars to Caversham Court, where the Festival's patron, Lady Elizabeth Brunner, will open the event. There will be stalls and sideshows for everybody to enjoy and Stoneham School Band and a team of Morris Dancers will provide entertainment during the afternoon.

Admission: 5p

At St. Andrew's Hall, Albert Road, at 8 p.m.

"GASLIGHT GAETIES"

Organised by Caversham Park Church and Drama Group

Tickets: 30p

FESTIVAL

FLOWER FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th — SUNDAY, JUNE 30th
9.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th

8.00 p.m. Recital of Medieval and Renaissance Music by the Clerkes of Oxenford.

Programme tickets, price 65p, obtainable from Western Tower, Station Hill; Messrs. R. Kitcher, 5a Church Road; Belle Boutique, 8 Church Road; the Family Festival Shop and all Family Festival ticket distributors.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th — ST. PETER'S DAY

7.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

11.30 a.m. The Parish Communion.

Preacher: The Rev. John Crowe, Vicar of Hampton, Evesham, and formerly curate of Caversham.

The kneelers that have been embroidered for the Lady Chapel will be dedicated at this service, and the Reigate Liturgical Dancers will dance.

All Christians who are communicant members of their churches, and are able to do so, are invited to share in this act of worship and receive Holy Communion.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

9.15 a.m. Parish Communion with Public Baptisms.

Preacher: The Rector.

11 a.m. Matins. Preacher: The Rector.

3.30 p.m. Ecumenical Service for the Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Keith de Berry, Rector of St. Aldate's, Oxford. The service will be conducted by the Rector, the Rev. T. Harris and the Rev. L. Stevens.

6.30 p.m. Evensong sung by the choir of St. Mary's, Redbourn, Herts.

Preacher: The Rev. Alan Cole, Vicar of Redbourn.

Teas will be available each afternoon in Caversham Court.

The flowers at the Festival are being arranged by the Thames Valley Flower Club.

Come to the Festival — then come back and bring a friend with you.

FAMILY FESTIVAL WORSHIP
SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 10 a.m.
in CAVERSHAM COURT

UNITED SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Bishop of Reading

Preacher: The Rev. L. Stevens

N.B.—If wet this service will be held in St. Peter's.

The normal Anglican and Free Church Sunday morning services held at 9.15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. are cancelled.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

CRADLE ROLL SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th, 11 a.m.

EXHIBITION OF ART IN CAVERSHAM

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Examples of the following will be welcome:

Paintings

Drawings

Collage

Sculpture

Pottery

Woodcarving

Tapestry

Jewellery

The organisers hope that some items will be offered for sale. For details of how to enter see the pamphlets which will be distributed in Churches, Schools and other public places, or contact:

Mr. L. Cooper, 41 All Hallows Road. Tel. 478607

or

Mr. P. Tipton, 73 Southview Avenue. Tel. 474076

What contribution can your family make to this exhibition?

N.B.—THIS IS NOT A COMPETITION

TICKET DISTRIBUTORS

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mr. K. Bennett, 157 Upper Woodcote Road (473096)

Caversham Free Baptist Church

Mr. Kenneth Shield, 27 Albert Road.

Caversham Methodist Church

Mrs. E. Chambers, 19 Morecambe Avenue.

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

Mrs. R. Lascelles, 37 Conisboro' Avenue.

Caversham Park Church

Mrs. K. Pynn, 158 Lowfield Road, Caversham Park.

St. Andrew's

Mr. R. Kitcher, 8 Blenheim Road.

St. Barnabas'

Mr. M. Matthews, 11 Wetherby Close.

St. John's

Mrs. I. Bickford, 47 Grosvenor Road.

St. Margaret's

Miss J. Martyn-Jones, Greendene Farm, Mapledurham.

St. Peter's

Mr. D. G. Aisbitt, 45 Queensway, Caversham Park.

Mr. K. Bennett, 157 Upper Woodcote Road.

GALLERY VIEWPOINT

by ZOILUS

POLITICIANS, LIKE ALL PERFORMERS, WANT TO BE LOVED. AND WITH PRESENT-DAY EMPHASIS ON OPEN GOVERNMENT IT SEEMS THEY WANT ALSO TO BE UNDERSTOOD—THOUGH WHETHER THE TWO DESIRES NECESSARILY ARE COMPATIBLE IS ANYONE'S GUESS.

Going along with this trend, Reading District Council have set up a working party to examine the areas in which community relations between the governors and the governed can be improved. A questionnaire is to be sent to all the established media of opinion—the churches, Rotary, youth clubs, sporting organisations, Darby and Joan clubs—all the bodies who should have a stake in the running of the town, and it is hoped that the answers that come in will be a guide to the extent that people want to be involved with their local government.

This, of course, is all very splendid. But what about the great big silent majority who may not belong to any particular organisation, but who grumble to each other in the pubs, the coffee-bars or the buses? It is that supernatural figure, the celebrated "man in the street," whose opinion is sought above all others. But how to get it?

Here we might show some sympathy with our elected representatives. In spite of an almost continual barrage of persuasion, cajolery and even downright bullying, the ordinary chap continues to be resolutely uninterested in municipal affairs unless they affect his own particular street, so why should he grumble if local government doesn't always run the way he thinks it should? There

are seven councillors looking after the two Caversham wards, but it is highly doubtful that any one of them has been approached by as much as 5 per cent. of their electorate for help or advice in a year. Maybe this is evidence of a contented and grateful state of mind, in which case an exercise to improve community involvement with the Council is hardly necessary. The formal meetings of Council, and most committees, are already open to the public and there has been no difficulty in finding accommodation for the half-dozen or so townspeople who bother to come at any one time.

Nevertheless, it must be a good thing that everyone in the town, from the Chamber of Commerce to the little old lady around the corner, should be able to let the Council have their ideas on the sort of place Reading should be, and it is hoped that they will all take the opportunity of giving their views on any topic relevant to town government to this newly formed working party investigating community relations in local government. Members of the Working Party on Community Relations are:

George Robinson, 84 Kidmore Road, Caversham;

John Huntley, 13 Valentine Crescent, Caversham;

Peter Pratt, 4 Kirton Close, Tilehurst.

Mayor's Day has come and gone once more, a little irregularly this year as the Mayor had already been at his civic duties for six weeks before he was officially installed. A further break with tradition was the decision to hold the ceremony in the evening instead of at midday, which meant an end to the usual municipal service in St. Laurence's Church, which has always preceded Mayor-making for centuries. Perhaps the new District Council does not regard itself as needing divine guidance in its deliberations, but the truth of that time alone will tell.

Determinedly progressive, two-thirds of the Council eschewed the conventional robes for the ceremony in the Town Hall, and appeared in motley array ranging from Sunday best to Carnaby Street, giving the affair more the air of a commercial travellers' convention than the annual meeting of an ancient municipality. From these strictures we must except the ladies for, having more sense of occasion than most of the men, they appeared in civic regalia, and very charming they looked!

But enough of carping, let us say that on the credit side it was a real pleasure to welcome one of Caversham's

TALKING POINT

by Laurence Stevens

THE KISS OF THE SUN FOR PARDON

AS A SMALL CHILD I REMEMBER VISITING A HOUSE WHERE, INEXPLICABLY IN THE SMALLEST ROOM, THERE HUNG A CALENDAR, SEVERAL YEARS OUT OF DATE, WITH THE VERSE:

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth.

One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

As a well-brought-up, Sunday School attending child, I often wondered about that verse, especially the second half. If one was nearer God's heart in a garden, then perhaps that explained why I didn't see these particular householders in church very often. I had encountered my first "alternative" theology! An apparent knowledge of God through natural religion rather than that revealed in Jesus Christ.

On revealing such hesitations to my parents, they very properly told me that they considered the verse, in effect, to be sentimental rubbish. One was near to God anywhere, but a church was better than a garden any day if you wished to be "near His heart." You could worship in a garden—yes—but how many people did, regularly? Whereas we had a routine which helped us to remember to be thankful and to praise God.

In more recent years, as a fully paid up member of Caversham Horticultural Society, I hasten to add, I think that I would see the basic flaw in the "nearer to God's heart in a garden" apocrypha. I enjoy being in the garden. There is an immense satisfaction in

seeing things grow—a satisfaction that more and more people are discovering as they take up gardening, and as more and more allotments are brought into use. Yet while this joy and wonder at natural things is a component part of religion, it is certainly not the whole. For our basic problems, which religion must deal with or be cast aside, are problems of human nature and human behaviour. And this is where Christianity is unashamedly a religion about human life: first and foremost a particular life, lived by Christ Jesus, and then about our human relationships.

As the children's hymn puts it, the story of God's dealings with man "begins with a tale of a garden, but ends in a city of gold," with many joining in worship and fellowship.

And if one must be critical, then "garden religion" is for the most part solitary, and those who seek no more, if they are serious, have missed a whole dimension of friendship and sharing which is part and parcel of the Christian religion. For me, at any rate, I doubt whether I would be a believer but for the reality and warmth of Christian fellowship experienced in the church. For how many others would that also be the case? Thank God for gardens! Thank Him, too, for Christian worship and Christian fellowship!

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POSTBAG

CAVERSHAM CENTRE LOCAL PLAN

MARCH, 1973

Dear Sir,

The public meeting held regarding the above plan will, I feel sure, still be in most residents' memories, as we were all given a typescript on the proposals, together with a map that showed the traffic flow that was proposed, and the new roads.

The main desire of all Caversham residents is to see the traffic by-passing the centre area, and the one-way system on the map gives this hope with all Reading - borne traffic shown arriving at Caversham Bridge in a two-way road between the Crown public house and the bridge.

Anyone who takes a walk that way now will see that the new riverside flats have got laid-out lawns over what to me is quite a bit of the proposed road, and I am wondering if this road scheme has been scrapped or, if it has not, how will it affect the backs of these flats, as it would seem the road will be right up to the wall of the buildings?

Perhaps you may wish to check on this map, and if you agree with what I surmise, will make comment on this in your columns.

Yours, etc.

Ronald C. Horsnell.

37 Hemdean Road,
Caversham, Reading.

THANK YOU!

Dear Sir,

We would like to thank all those who were not in Balmore Hall on Easter Day for the gifts we received. The table tennis bats and balls have been well used already, and when the garage has been cleared still further we shall buy a table and really start playing properly.

We brought very happy memories of our 11 years in "Maplesham" with us to the North-East, and these helped us over the frustrations of the move. Now we are settling down to new work and new schools, learning a new language and exploring a new environment.

We should be delighted to see anyone who can find his or her way to "the exiles" in the N.E. The North Sea is only a few yards away — and sometimes the beach is warm enough to sit on!

Yours, etc.,

John and Jo Stevinson.
21 Park Avenue,
Roker,
Sunderland SR6 9PU

SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR

Dear Sir,

I must take issue with Stan Eldon. While in no way wishing to detract from the young school-master's success in being chosen to play for the Lions, the tour should never have taken place. Stan Eldon disagrees with

using sport as a political weapon, but does he not see that it is South Africa who have already done this by choosing an all-white team to play an all-white game? Alas, the players will not, as he hopes, be free to mix with the African people; at least, not with the majority whose skins are black.

It is quite true that if we had nothing to do with countries with whose political systems we disagreed in whole or in part we should find ourselves cutting out a large number. But South Africa, by treating as second-class citizens the majority of its people because of the colour of their skins, which they neither chose nor can alter, must stand condemned by all decent people. This rugby tour is being interpreted by white South Africa as an accolade of approval. The rest of black Africa has been shocked by it, and on the lowest grounds it looks as if this is going to rebound to our disadvantage.

On the other hand, the refusal of the Olympic Games committee to allow South Africa to participate looks as if it might result in a relaxation of its apartheid laws.

Yours faithfully,

Molly Casey (Mrs.)

Caversham, Reading.

THE HAWTHORNS



— Walton Adams

FIFTY YEARS AGO ON
JUNE 11th LAST Mr.

AND Mrs. E. W. HAW-

THORNE were married in

St. Peter's Church, Caver-

sham, by the Rev. Dr.

Longford. Both are local

people. Mrs. Hawthorne

was a Miss Reading before

her marriage and lived at

18 Peppard Road. Mr.

Hawthorne lived in Read-

ing. Now both retired,

they live at 27 Highdown

Road, Emmer Green, but

for a long time they lived

in Upper Woodcote Road.

To celebrate the great

occasion an informal family

gathering was held on June

16th, when their five chil-

dren, with their wives and

families and other close re-

latives joined Mr. and Mrs.

Hawthorne for a special

party at Henley. Their

eldest son with his wife and

children flew over from

Toronto and their youngest

son and his wife came from

Frankfurt.

Caversham Bridge send

their congratulations and

best wishes for the years to

come.

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Clergy & Ministers of Caversham

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

WHO, WHEN, WHERE

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.

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Minister: The Rev. Stephen Haine, 41 Highmoor Road. Tel. 477490.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

ANGLICAN

St. Peter's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (not 2nd Sunday).

10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
 11.00 a.m. Matins (not 2nd and 3rd Sundays).
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. John's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (not 2nd Sunday).

6.30 p.m. Evensong (1st Sunday only).

St. Andrew's

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (not 2nd Sunday).

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (not 2nd Sunday).
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (not 3rd Sunday).

St. Barnabas'

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST (not 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 (not 2nd Sunday). (4th Sunday, Matins)

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 (not 2nd Sunday).
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)

11.15 a.m. Ecumenical Half Hour Family Service. (not 2nd Sunday).

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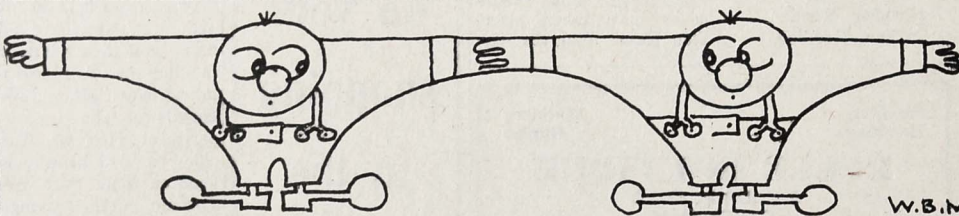
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Round the Clubs

CAVERSHAM PARK W.I.

The well-attended May meeting signified that members were pleased to be back at Micklands. New members and visitors were welcomed by the president, and the A.G.M. resolutions evoked a lively discussion. One of our members, Mrs. Castle, gave a most interesting talk on the collection and drying of flowers, and Mrs. Young's floral buttonhole was awarded highest points in the competition. We have an interesting programme to look forward to, and to work to, in 1974-5.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

There was a very good attendance at the April meeting, at which Mrs. Wilkie presided, welcoming several visitors and old friends and presenting birthday posies to five members. The speaker was Mrs. Hutchings, who gave a delightful talk on the "Kennet and Avon Canal," showing slides which illustrated the beauty of the countryside between Bath and Reading and also the vast amount of work being done to conserve the waterways.

An account of the spring Council meeting was given by Miss Chapman and Mrs. Price reported on the Group meeting. Members had enjoyed the talk on "Hats through the Ages" and some members were asked to help as models. The five-minute plays which had been written by Institute members for the competition were most entertaining and the raffle which was run by Blagrove raised £15.

The outing to Whitefriars glass factory was a great success and it was interesting to see the old methods of glass blowing are still in use today.

The winners of the most number of points for the competition for the past year was Mrs. Bartlett, who also was the winner for this month.

At the May meeting Mrs. Wilkie welcomed members and

guests and presented the birthday posies. Mrs. Holland, the V.C.O., was introduced and under her guidance the resolutions for the A.G.M. to be held at the Albert Hall in June were very fully discussed, and the link delegate was advised on how the Institute wished her to vote on their behalf.

Arrangements were made for the outing to Wisley, and in response to a call for volunteers to assist at the Family Festival Shop more than half the members present agreed to help.

The competition for a box of candies was won by Mrs. Sholl.

MAPLEWOOD W.I.

At the May meeting Mrs. B. Osbourn, the president, welcomed Mrs. Gillian Stevens, who spoke on the conservation of the countryside which, according to statistics, is rapidly becoming a concrete jungle, and concern is felt by many organisations as to how much fertile land will be left for future generations by the year 2000. Population growth is one of the problems which threaten our water supplies and many other amenities which we now enjoy.

This was followed by a discussion of A.G.M. resolutions to be put before the committee at the Albert Hall on June 6th. The team reading the resolutions was drawn from the Institute. These were Mrs. Lawford, Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Bubb, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Vinal.

The silver bell now in use on the president's table has been purchased by part of the legacy left to Maplewood by the late Miss Margery Cole and is suitably inscribed. Also on display was the silver cup won by Mrs. B. Lawford for her mime of Mrs. Beeton, produced by Mrs. P. Duckworth, with the commentary read by Mrs. B. Lewis, which was held at the Group meeting in Bradford on April 23rd.

CAVERSHAM AFTERNOON TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

British women get the kind of bread they deserve, soft and white, said Mr. A. Tipples, master baker. His talk began with the wheat grain, and he told of the time when there was so much wheat that the Canadian Government was paying farmers not to grow it. Ironically, this came at a time when the Russian wheat harvest failed completely. He concluded with some of his own bread baked in flower pots, which he invited members to taste.

The National Council motions were discussed and Miss E. Baker pointed out that the motion allowing women to get free National Health prescriptions at 60 had already been made law.

EMMER GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Members at the May meeting were held enthralled by Mrs. D. Edwards, "Talking of Books." She spent over 40 years working with books and obviously loved every minute. She went from poetry to novels and even to "Ghosts" with great ease and everyone was sorry when it ended.

The Drama Group are continuing their winning ways with a certificate of merit from the Woodley Festival, the Reading Theatre News Shield for the best comedy and the Phyllis Duckworth trophy for the best play at Shinfield.

THIRD WORLD DINNER



—Reading Chronicle

IN MARCH WE REPORTED THAT MORE THAN 500 MEMBERS OF CAVERSHAM'S

churches had added their names to the World Development Movement's petition for a better deal from the Common Market for the developing nations. A total of 3,276 names from Reading were on the petition recently presented to Reading's M.P.s, Dr. Gerard Vaughan and Mr. Tony Durant, at a Rich World/Poor World Dinner at All Saints' Hall. Both M.P.s promised their support for the aims of the petition.

The picture shows (left to right) Dr. Gerard Vaughan, the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs. R. H. Bristow, Dr. R. Ashman, Mr. Tony Durant and Mr. P. Gerrard, of Caversham Park (secretary of the Reading World Development Group).

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM by PETER SHOCK

MOST LITTLE GIRLS age on April 28th. Catherine is a member of the Reading Royals Swimming Club, and this is the first time the members of the club had taken part in a major event.

A further success story, too, for Philip Nathan, aged 12, of Lowfield Boys' Club. He emerged joint winner of the Berkshire Boys' Chess Championship held at the Y.M.C.A. in April. Following the elimination rounds, the finals were played on a league basis with three winners. The two other county champions were Chris Bunting of Wootton and Robert Humphries of Didcot.

Story Cycle

During the incumbency of the late Canon Nash at Caversham there was a certain parishioner whose daily work took him to London. One morning he overslept, missed his bus to the railway station and, being a conscientious type, determined to catch his usual train. He grabbed his bike and went full pelt to the station. As he arrived he spotted his train just pulling into the platform. There was no time to deposit the machine at the Left Luggage office, and he had forgotten his cycle lock. On his return in the evening he was overjoyed to find his faithful steed still standing there ready to carry him home. As he was about to pass St. Peter's Church he stopped and decided to pop inside and say a little prayer of thankfulness—after all, it was the right and proper thing to do. A few minutes later, when he reappeared to the outside world, lo and behold, his bicycle had vanished!

A Victim

A somewhat amusing episode, perhaps, although the sequel was somewhat less funny. Having quoted this story, I might like to say I was recently a victim of a similar fate. My fire engine-red Palm Beach roadster was 'lifted' from St. Mary's Butts while I was gazing into the shop windows. As I strolled back to the machine a youth of about 20 years made a brisk advance towards it, mounted the saddle and was away. I stood there helpless as he negotiated the traffic lights

(they were green, of course, for this occasion!), and there he went pedalling up the Oxford Road, very contented with his new 'prize.'

Get a lock!

So can I please implore all you readers not to leave your cycles unlocked, even for a few seconds. If you have no lock, go and buy one straight away. It is cheaper to buy a lock than another bike. Fortunately my own cycle was insured, but most insurance companies will not insure cycles nowadays, it being uneconomical for such single items. However, I might suggest that you have a word with your parents, as often it is possible for bicycles to be included on their Home Contents policy for a small additional premium. It is worth a try, anyway. Dad will pay the extra premium.

STAN ELDON'S COLUMN

LOCAL TENNIS

Caversham Tennis Club are continuing to improve the playing facilities at their club in Albert Road. This year they have installed automatic pop-up sprinklers at a total cost of over £3,000. The sprinklers are set in the ground and are set off automatically when the courts need watering, so keeping them in first-class condition whatever the weather. The club received a local authority grant for £1,000 but the rest has been found by the club itself.

Strong Team

The Tennis Club team for this year's County League matches has been strengthened by a new member, Mike Mitchell, who has moved into the

area from Leicestershire. In the opinion of Berkshire L.T.A. and club coach Robin Sharp, he is a very good player.

On the female side, club member Catherine Vigor has been accepted for the National Under 16 Years Championships and we wish her well.

Coaching Scheme

Once again the Green Shield tennis coaching course was very well supported in Caversham, with over 60 youngsters having the advantage of expert coaching during the course held at the end of May.

No Gut!

As the number of people playing tennis increases, one essential part of tennis equipment is in danger of

disappearing. For some years now the supply of natural gut for tennis rackets has been getting increasingly difficult but now it seems that within two years' time there will be no gut on the market at all. At least this is the view of several of the leading racket manufacturers. There are a number of reasons for this but the main one seems to be the fact that the process of turning the crude gut into the quality required for rackets is becoming far too expensive. At the moment there is nothing to equal the playing qualities of natural gut but fortunately they are improving and it is to be hoped that a completely satisfactory synthetic string will be on the market before the gut supply 'dries up' completely.

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