

CAVERSHAM CHURCHES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Family Festival Not Just A Flash In The Pan

"THE RECENT FAMILY FESTIVAL WAS NEVER THOUGHT OF AS AN EVENT IN ITSELF, IN ISOLATION FROM THE DAY-TO-DAY LIFE OF CAVERSHAM. THE FESTIVAL'S AIMS, UNDERSTANDING, HELP AND ENJOYMENT, ARE NOT ACHIEVED IN A FORTNIGHT," SAYS THE REV. STEPHEN BARTLETT, SPOKESMAN FOR THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE. THE HOPE AND INTENTION WAS THAT THE FESTIVAL WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF SOME LONG-TERM ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT, NOT JUST A FLASH IN CAVERSHAM'S SUMMER PAN."

IMPORTANT MEETING

The committee has therefore arranged a meeting at St. Andrew's Hall on October 23rd at 8 p.m. for everyone who was involved in the festival to discuss what long-term projects might be undertaken within the community. The committee believes that this will be a vital meeting. To those who would prefer to be left in peace Stephen Bartlett says, "Today's church cannot be left in peace. We do not exist for ourselves. We exist for Christ and our fellow human beings. Today's church has to go on a long journey of change and development. Jesus Christ does not call us to rest in a comfortable rut."

BARRIERS

Asked about the agenda for October 23rd, Mr. Bartlett gave the following outline:

1. "We meet prepared to question any kind of boundary or barrier because Jesus Christ was concerned with breaking down barriers. Family Festival was partly an attempt to break down barriers between the Church and the wider community, by working alongside other groups. How can this be developed? What about the church and its relations with those in need in the community—the widowed, divorced, homeless and one-parent families? As for the scandal of remaining denominational barriers, the meeting will want to discuss the function of the Caversham Churches' Co-ordinating Committee. Are people satisfied with what it is doing? Is there a need to appoint a clergyman whose sole job would be to break down denominational differences?"
2. The charities. Family Festival raised nearly £3,000. But the needs of these charities are going to escalate. How can on-going support be given?"
3. The Family Workshop day in May with Dr. Dominian raised many questions about parenthood and family life. Is there a need to carry on the debate in a series of weekly discussions?"
4. The Festival Shop achieved more than just the cash it raised. Is there anything here to be explored further?"
5. Artistic events took place—concerts, drama and exhibitions. There is a tremendous opportunity here for the church to draw together people from the whole community in celebration of the arts. Have you any ideas? Will you help?"
7. The Open Air Eucharist. How about a Christian Family Day once a year in Caversham Court? Music, worship, picnics, sideshows, discussion lasting a whole day?"
8. The Festival Fete. Could all the Caversham churches give up their own fetes and have one united fete and present the church to society as one body?"

GREAT FUTURE

Stephen Bartlett says it is exciting to be a Christian in 1974 because he believes there is a great future for the church. "Family Festival was based on a belief that we shall not find it within our impoverished denominational ruts. It was based on a belief that if we are big enough and brave enough to throw caution to the winds and trust the Holy Spirit we shall be led into a future which is glorious because it is Christ's."

Don't forget the meeting:

ST. ANDREW'S HALL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 8 p.m.

THE CHAPMANS' LAST ROUND

NOT SO MUCH A BUSINESS, MORE A WAY OF LIFE—that is how the greengrocery round of Mr. and Mrs. Syd Chapman, of Halls Road, Tilehurst, was conducted on Caversham Heights. The scene is, however, changing in that they have at last decided to retire and it will not be the same without them. They have plied their 'spuds' and 'snips,' their cabbages and 'cues,' their 'caulies' and carrots, their oranges and lemons in fair weather and foul with unflinching cheerfulness. Many housewives are eternally grateful for not having to carry these necessities home—orders were taken at the door and delivered there with a smile and a friendly chat, no gossip, no tittle-tattle, just a genuine concern and interest in all. It was on this very personal service that their little business, conducted from their green van, was built and thrived. Their vans, for there were two, were veritable Aladdin's Caves. Their former van, an old Bedford seven-hundred-



weight, seemed to have modious Ford of twice the been thoughtfully designed capacity but sadly with no by the manufacturers with front wings on which to attach counterweights to stop the Chapmans' interests at heart—the front wings were specially contoured to the shape of a sack of potatoes. Had that vehicle been a donkey it could not have carried more—in fact had it been one the R.S.P.C.A. would have had a field day with Sydney on the grounds of cruelty. Alas, it surrendered some ten years ago to the Ministry of Transport's vehicle testing scheme. It in their well-earned retire-

was replaced with a comment. The Chapmans' business around the houses was a joyous—yes, a 'happy-go-lucky affair' and their disappearance will bring to an end an era which started before the war. It is with a twinge of sadness that the 'Caversham Bridge' bids them health and happiness.

The Editor's Column

MARRIAGE
ENGLISH
STYLE

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE CREED OF THE ENGLISH IS THAT THERE IS NO GOD BUT IT IS PRUDENT TO PRAY TO HIM FROM TIME TO TIME. Odd beliefs certainly tend to produce odd behaviour—like the story recently reported from Bristol. A clergyman was passing his own church and outside it was a couple in full wedding finery posing for photographs outside the beautiful, ancient porch. They had just been married, but the clergyman didn't know them—they had married in the local register office!

The paradox is that in a society as apparently secular as ours the demand for church weddings should remain so high. The last year for which figures are available, 1967, shows that civil weddings reached a record level of 34 per cent., but that still leaves a considerable number of non-churchgoing couples wishing to avail themselves of the church's services at this crucial moment in their lives. Is this due to some residual religious sense? Perhaps. But a more likely reason is a sociological one.

SENSE OF OCCASION

Many couples with little or no religious belief say they just wouldn't feel married if the ceremony took place in a register office, even when it is pointed out that such marriages are equally binding and valid. But perhaps here is a clue to what may be happening. Bryan Wilson, an Oxford sociologist, in his book, "Religion in Secular Society" some years ago, pointed out that the loss of ritual in life is particularly felt at times of change in personal status. He also suggested that "the tension, idealism and anxiety of the occasion are lost" in civil weddings. The reason church weddings remain popular may be simply that at present only the church can provide the setting and sense of drama and occasion apparently necessary. This means, of course, that large numbers of young people, by getting married in church, are having to make statements and subscribe to Christian doctrines which they may have difficulty in believing—all for the sake of feeling properly married.

What could be done to safeguard the integrity of both couples and officiating ministers, and at the same time meet a deeply felt need? Well, perhaps it is time that registrars were permitted to hold civil weddings in church buildings—redundant or not. There are many town churches admirably suited to this purpose. Or why shouldn't the clergy, if they so wished, be allowed to offer a non-religious ceremony in their own churches for those who wanted it? Either way the sense of occasion would be maintained and nobody would be saying anything they didn't believe.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Congratulations to Paul Fox, of the 'Reading Chronicle,' for his recent excellent and thorough series of articles on the problems of community life in Reading. His researches into questions related to violence and leisure facilities raised issues fundamental to the health of any community; questions which may well relate to the agenda proposed for the Family Festival follow-up meeting at St. Andrew's Hall on October 23rd, which is reported on the front page. If you have any comments to make on the issues raised the 'Caversham Bridge' will be glad to print them.

Peter Atkinson,
Assistant Editor.

TENTH BIRTHDAY COMPETITION WINNER
RESIDENTS' VIEWPOINT by Watchdog

Great indignation was felt in Caversham at the news that yet another of its oldest buildings was to be demolished to make room for another office block. St. Martin's precinct, with its mellowing brick and low profile, has stood on the same site for nearly two decades, a reminder of the historic battle to establish the right of public participation, a battle whose last stages are still being fought.

The pedestrianisation of Church Street, promised at that time, has now ceased to be a burning issue, but nevertheless, cyclists intent on getting into Reading in record time must not ignore the safety of pedestrians. Furthermore, we must

Winner—Mrs. M. Casey

appeal to cyclists to park their machines in a socially responsible manner. It is no fun to find oneself unable to cross the street because of a barrier of bicycles parked at the kerb. Even though half the old car parks have been transformed into adventure playgrounds, there is still room for all the cycles likely to be in 'the village' at the same time.

THIRD BRIDGE

The third bridge, opened earlier this year and a boon to cyclists and pedestrians alike, has now made possible the circular 'bus route, which maximises the public transport fuel allowance and provides a welcome service.

MAPLEDURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Mapledurham Parish Council was held on Thursday, August 1st, 1974. Mr. E. J. Sell, Chairman of the Council, presided at the meeting.

In view of the poor refuse collection service that many parts of the parish have received over the last two Bank Holidays, the Parish Council are to ask the S. Oxon District Council to rectify the situation at the August Bank Holiday collection period. Requests are being made to the District Council to ensure that wide coverage of collection arrangements are advertised in the local Press in advance of the holiday.

As there are many residents in the parish not on main drainage, inquiries have been made concerning sewerage charges, bearing in mind the charges that have been made this year. Householders not on main drainage will not be liable to pay charges for sewerage and sewage disposal services to water authorities. However, because of the time-scale of water services reorganisation, it is not possible to make the transition immediately to a system of direct charging for the services. It will therefore be necessary to continue for a short time the previous system by which sewerage services are financed by all ratepayers, whether or not they received a service. It is hoped to terminate these arrangements quickly, but it is regretted that no change and no retrospective adjustment will be possible for this year.

The Council expressed its concern at the continued problem relating to misbehaviour that occurs on the playing fields off Upper Woodcote Road, and the Council are proposing to meet local police representatives to see what methods can be adopted to prevent the damage and vandalism that frequently occurs to equipment.

The need to restrict bonfires to the minimum was again stressed, particularly as there have been several complaints from many residents about the frequency of some of these bonfires. It was pointed out that there is a site adjacent to the parish where any resident can take his garden or any other domestic rubbish.

The Council were advised that the proposed school development off Shepherd's Lane was still being held up because of the question of a suitable site.

POST
BAG

Dear Sir,

When the 'Caversham Bridge' collector called she found my wife not well, so a few minutes later she returned and left a lovely basket of fruit at the door, and vanished before we could thank her. We both thank her very much as we are pensioners.

Yours, etc.,

Mr. and Mrs. Shipway,
2 North Street,
Caversham.

REG BRIND
PRESENTATION

After more than 25 years as organist and choirmaster at St. Peter's Church, Reg Brind retires at the beginning of October. The whole parish is tremendously indebted to him for his years of service to the church's musical tradition.

As a tribute to all he has contributed to music in Caversham he will receive a presentation after the Parish Dedication Festival Evensong at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th at St. Peter's.

BLAGRAVE W.I.

At the August meeting of Blagrove W.I. members were distressed to learn of the sudden death of one of their members and a minute's silence was observed in her memory.

After the birthday posies had been presented Mrs. Wilkie read a letter from the Rev. Stephen Bartlett thanking members for their help and support at the very successful Family Festival Shop, and details were discussed for the Harvest Supper to be held in October.

The guest speaker was Miss M. Kift, who gave a delightful

talk on the Natural History of Caversham. As Miss Kift has known the area all her life, her knowledge of the changing pattern of the animal and bird life locally was immensely interesting and in spite of increased building the number of different birds still to be found includes many fairly uncommon varieties.

Mrs. Bartlett won the Flower of the Month competition with a beautiful white gladiola which she had grown from one of the bulbs presented to her last year by the Institute for being the

over-all winner for last year's competition.

ANGLICANS PLEASE NOTE

Oct. 6th—Dedication Festival Evensong at St. Peter's at 6.30 p.m. Also presentation to Mr. R. Brind.

N.B.—There will be NO Evensong in the other districts on this date.

Oct. 13th—Harvest Thanksgiving.

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Embley Park Revisited

EMBLEY, VINTAGE 1974, A GOOD YEAR BY ANY STANDARDS—FABRIC AND FURNISHINGS MUCH IMPROVED. After the usual panic to find one's room, make one's bed and unpack, the first dinner loomed pleasurably, with old friends meeting and children excitedly greeting people they know will be fun to be with. Great feats of sporting endeavour are eagerly discussed by young hopefuls and first night notices are given out by the Rector. "Children under 12 will not swim alone" (sensible) and "There will be no visiting between dorms" (Oh dear, how else will all the beer be consumed in the men's dorm and, far more important, how will the ladies get their early morning tea?).

ACTIVITY

After dinner there is a rush to enter names on tournament lists—squash, bowls, tennis, table tennis, croquet, clock-golf AND chess. Dormitory living becomes surprisingly agreeable. After years of sleeping with one husband apiece the ladies find it pleasant to chat with room-mates. It is comforting to find that other women also pin their hair up at night or paddle off at 2 a.m. in search of a glass of water, and judging by the guffaws emanating from the men's dorm they are enjoying life also. As for the youngsters—well, one mum read the riot act early in the week, thus ensuring peace for the rest of the week, and if some of the little angels tripped over their halos everyone was too relaxed to care.

A strictly adult event on Tuesday evening found four teams playing skittles at a Romsey inn. Competition was fierce and thirsty, but "The Victors" (thus they had modestly called themselves), ably captained by Charles Lorenc, won the day, while the "Invincibles," taking their name from their leader, were second. A somewhat Woolley team knitted their way into third place under their eminent captain (a purl before so many plain men) and, finally, panting their way doggedly (if not dog-collared) into last place a certain ecclesiastical team under the Rector. The same evening two mums took the juniors ice skating in Southampton.

SPECTACLE!

The week's high spot was the swimming gala, coupled with the "Miss Embley 1974" competition. In quiet corners all over the building costumes of almost unbelievable finery had been created and the "ladies" paraded along the poolside catwalk. Carmen Grimanda, statuesque in turban, beads and long clinging skirt; the curvaceous Regina Justham, mincing magnificently on five-inch heels but unfortunately omitting to remove hair rollers; Martine Baby Doll Thorpe in short, short nightie, mob cap and curls. Disdaining vulgar cries of "Roll on autumn," a Hawaiian maiden in flower-covered bra and leafy grass skirt undulated by, followed by many other contestants. As might be expected, most of the competitors ended up in the pool, Regina bewailing the loss of two oranges which mysteriously floated to the surface as she dived in. Interviewed by our reporter she simpered shyly, "I owe it all to my mother." A lovely girl indeed!

LIVING TOGETHER

On Friday, after a delicious turkey dinner, prizes were presented to tournament winners. Presentations were also made to the housekeeper for the excellent catering and to the Rector for arranging another splendid parish holiday. A truly memorable party ended the festivities with games and a concert. Long remembered will be the operatic rendering of "Little Jack Horner" by Barbara Justham and Martin Thorpe and "Three Little Maids from School," performed by Wilfomenia, Charlotte and Petronella, was something to be heard and seen.

Looking round the room at the rapturous faces of children still not in bed and the pleasure in simple home-made fun being enjoyed by everyone, this particular Embleyte reflected that here perhaps in a most fundamental way Christianity was not only at work but could be seen to be working. All the touchiness of the workaday world had gone, not because we had had a week of idleness but because for that short time we had lived as people were meant to live—in community, enjoying each other's company, tolerating each other's faults and offering help whenever need arose. In a fraught and hectic world it is indeed good to be able to take a holiday at Embley!

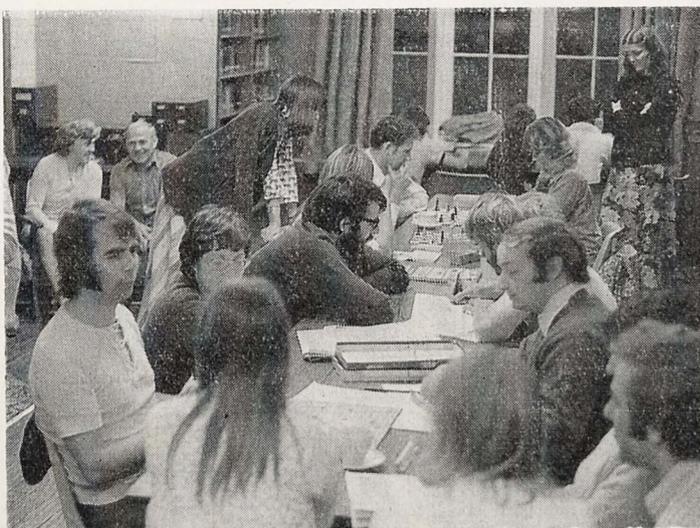
ISN'T LIFE A DRAG!



No prizes for guessing who's in this line of Embley bathing beauties.

Photo—Peter Handford

by
M. HILL



Relaxing after an active day.

Photo—Peter Handford

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THE HOUSE THAT WAS



CAVERSHAM COURT—DEMOLISHED IN 1933

LAST MONTH OLD CAVERSHAM RECTORY OR CAVERSHAM COURT, AS IT WAS LATTERLY CALLED, WAS MENTIONED IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT ST. PETER'S CHURCH. READERS MAY LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS INTERESTING DWELLING PLACE, WHICH STOOD INSIDE THE ENTRANCE TO CAVERSHAM COURT GARDENS AND WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1933.

Come and see us at Play

OPEN DAY/COFFEE MORNING

The Caversham Heights Methodist Playgroup is to hold a grand Open Day/Coffee Morning on Tuesday, October 29th, from 10 a.m. till noon. The annual coffee morning has been a highlight in the calendar for many years, but this year the playgroup would like you to see them in action.

CHILDREN WELCOME

After running very successfully for over ten years, the playgroup now has many facilities, bright new decor, a wealth of equipment, trained helpers and extra toilets, and is now in the happy position of being able to enrol more children. The sessions are from 9.15 to 11.45 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Although it is connected with the Methodist Church, children of any denomination or none are made very welcome at the playgroup.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES

All the voluntary supervisors and helpers have either attended or are attending training courses. They work hard and effectively, and full of enthusiasm, they have a strong desire to provide the right platform and happy atmosphere for constructive and imaginative play. Come and see for yourselves on the 29th. Many stalls, including home-made cakes, handicrafts, Christmas goods and sideshows, will be available. Come and enjoy yourselves. Your support will be very welcome.

OLDER BUILDING

There is very little doubt that the house which was pulled down 41 years ago stood on the site of a much older building. As already mentioned, the Abbey of Notley was not long in leasing the rectorial property of Caversham when they were presented with it in 1162. Their tenant, known as the lay rector, took the profits accruing from the living provided he found a suitable priest to serve the village and its church. This seems to have continued until 1799, when the incumbent was still living in a small half-timbered cottage in Bucksidge, which was pulled down in 1866.

ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILIES AS TENANTS

Before elaborate rebuilding and extensions in the 19th century, Caversham Court was a black-and-white timbered dwelling. Around 1585, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the tenants were a Roman Catholic family named Alexander. The property then had a brewhouse, malthouse, dovecote, barns and stables. The latter still remain and can be seen beside the entrance to St. Peter's Churchyard. Glebeland, orchards and a large garden also surrounded the house. It is the garden, with its ancient trees, which now forms the attractive public riverside park. The Alexanders were supposed to have added an elaborate plaster ceiling over a handsome staircase dated 1638, carved with armorial bearings and the initials W.I.A.

By 1662 the house and grounds were rented to another Roman Catholic family and Francis Browne and his dependants were in residence. At this time the house was the second grandest in the village, Caversham Park being the most important. The Brownes were Royalists and John Browne, probably a son of Francis, was made a baronet by Charles the Second.

Somewhere before the coming of the next century the Lovedays took over the property and they remained there till 1780, when the Blackall-Simonds arrived on the scene, to stay until 1908. It must have been for the last-named family that the architect Pugin designed the elaborate fake which many Caversham folk remember, before it vanished in 1933, with its statue of Cardinal Wolsey over the main entrance.

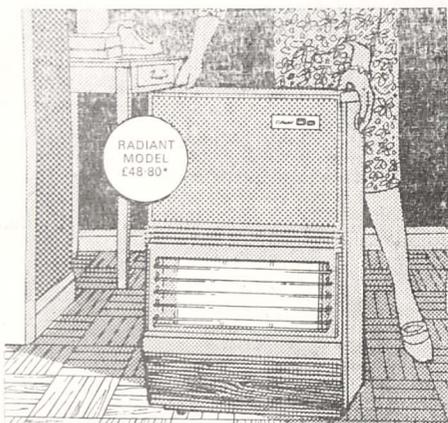
In 1904 the house still had extensive grounds bounded by the Mount and reaching almost to Priory Avenue, with the Thames on its southern side. No doubt the little priest's cottage was on part of the land.

UNUSUAL WALL

Both members of the Blackall-Simonds and Loveday families were buried on the south side of the churchyard overlooking their home and its attractive setting. Beyond their graves the land drops many feet to the ancient vegetable gardens, now allotments. The old wall holding up the south side of the churchyard is of considerable interest as not so many can be seen. Known as a crinkle-crankle wall, it has great curves in it, these becoming smaller as it runs from East to

West. In each hollow, which faces the most warmth, is a fruit tree. Pears, apples and other large fruit trees occupy the bigger shelters, whilst at the western end can be seen the remains of an ancient fig tree needing a smaller space. Whoever built the wall must have laboured long and hard for it is quite a feat. Long may it remain.

M.K.



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The Lady At The Eggs Farm

Milked Cows On

Her Wedding Day

Long before she came to Greendene Farm twenty-one years ago Edna Martyn-Johns was well able to take her share of the work on the land. Coming from a farming family in the Cotswolds, she was quite used to milking the cows by the time she was eleven and often helped with a day's threshing, for combines were still a rarity. In fact Edna really knows what hard work is all about. She actually milked the cows on her wedding day and there cannot be many brides who have done that.

Soon after her marriage Alfred and Edna Martyn-Johns came to Greendene Farm and it was still tough going. The children had to be pushed out with Edna when she went to feed the pigs or help with yet another day's threshing. To begin with they had 50 hens. Times have changed and now they have about 7,500 and Edna spends several hours every day helping to collect, weigh and sell between 300 to 350 dozen eggs. Until two years ago there were always around 300 turkeys reared and the last few days before Christmas were hectic as over 100 birds had to be dressed ready for the table. Most of the turkeys were white, being a smaller breed, but there were always a few of the large bronze.

Even with all there is to do on the farm Edna finds time to take part in the life of the local community. She leads the choir in St. Margaret's Church, helps with meals on wheels and until recently organised twice-yearly parties with members of the Mothers' Union for children under the Reading Children's Department. She also helped to run the Mapledurham Young Wives. In fact Edna is a real farmer's wife, always cheerful and ever ready to give a helping hand if it is needed.

MANY READERS WILL RECOGNISE MRS. MARTYN-JOHNS, FROM GREENDENE FARM, MAPLEDURHAM, IN THE PHOTOGRAPH, FOR A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CAVERSHAM AREA CALL THERE FOR EGGS.



Edna Martyn-Johns

Photo—Walton Adams

WEDDING

Mr. Martin Griffiths, of the Mount, Caversham, with his bride, Miss Lea Margaret Brudenell, recently married at St. Mary's Church, Stratfield Mortimer.



The happy couple

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Residents' Viewpoint by Watchdog**FROM CONCERT
TO CONCRETE**

SURELY ONLY THE BIGOTED AND ELDERLY IN MIND COULD HAVE OBJECTED TO THIS YEAR'S ROCK FESTIVAL. Indeed so well conducted was it that it almost ceased to conform to the traditional view of a pop festival. The sound from it had been reduced to such an extent that the noise from the police helicopter was more noticeable and anyone who lives in the flight path of London airport would gladly opt for that every night of the year in place of what they have to put up with. Richfield Avenue itself had never before looked so clean and cared for and the fans themselves were as law-abiding as any other large crowd of citizens.

Maybe their taste in music and their life style does not appeal to everyone, but their uninhibited pleasure in life and their spontaneity is something that is too often lacking in the rat race too many are caught up in. So if Reading is the site of a festival next year, why not enjoy it instead of enduring it? A welcoming smile is better than a chain link barricade.

RURAL RIGHTS

You can't please all the people all the time, is still a well worn adage, so the Local Government Boundaries Commission has tried to please as many as possible. They have ironed out the existing anomalies in their draft proposals and recommended that the boundary between Reading, Oxfordshire and Berkshire be established along the limits of the present built-up line. This seems a common-sense solution and must be welcomed by those who opposed Reading and Berkshire's proposals to take over the rural areas. Those in the built-up outskirts, and particularly those in Caversham Park Village, who feel their representations have been ignored are fortunately articulate and energetic enough to present all the evidence they can muster to pursue their case.

AREA 8

By now most individuals and organisations will have seen the Central Berks Structure Plan preliminary study, even if they were unable to comment on it in the allotted period of the summer holiday season. Caversham Residents' Association's general view was that if the terms of reference, namely that the Aldershot - Wokingham - Reading - Basingstoke area (chillingly known as Area 8) are accepted, then the plan analyses the issues correctly and comprehensively. But they feel it is rather analagous to preparing a plan of action for when one's house catches fire rather than on concentrating on removing the fire hazards. How much and how far is population growth inevitable and is the A-W-R-B area the best place to contain it? Anyone reading the relevant documents cannot fail to ask these questions.

CONCRETE

And talking of asking questions, who is to pay for reconstructing the ceilings of Highdown School? The sum of £100,000 has been mentioned in connection with a similar school in Berkshire, a sum that would go a long way to building a new school, and when it has been spent, there will be nothing extra to show for it. Whoever pays for it in the end, and we have a strong suspicion as to who it will be, it represents a disgraceful waste of money. In addition to this is the fact that children have been attending a school that was structurally unsafe and have also to be deprived of full-time education. It is fortunate that Highdown parents are also energetic and articulate and are not likely to allow the matter to rest.

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Founded in 1951, the Reading and Henley. Now break during every rehearsal provides an opportunity to make new friends. Additional pleasures have this year included wine and cheese parties, visits to the theatre and the opera and an evening of beer and skittles.

CONCERTS

Highlights from recent years include performances of Beethoven's Mass in C in 1971, and Mendelssohn's Elijah in May of this year. From its early beginnings as a village choir the society has flourished and grown so that members today come from as far apart as Goring, Pangbourne,

Many readers will have attended the society's concerts—there are normally three per season held at Chiltern Edge School. The first, in December, consists of Christmas music and carols for choir and audience. Often a local primary school contributes. The spring concert is the main event of the year and is usually devoted to a single work. In the summer there is an evening of folk songs, spirituals, madrigals and part songs. This concert is often shared with another choir and anyone present at this year's June concert will remember the beautiful singing of Bulmershe Girls Choir, winners in the BBC's "Let the People Sing" competition.

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MUSIC AND MORE

The success of the society may be attributed to Gwyn Arch's inspiring yet informal leadership. There are no auditions, nor need members be able to sight read. Social activities play a large part in the S.C.C.S. The coffee Any interested men should therefore contact the secretary, Mrs. Ann Burton, Jasmine Cottage, Whitchurch. Tel. Pangbourne 2807, or come along on a Monday evening.

**Brownies at
Bournemouth**

The venue of this year's pack holiday for the 11th Caversham Brownies was Charminster, near Bournemouth. Following Brownie custom, the holiday was arranged around a theme — Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs this time. This not only meant that each Guider present could be named after a dwarf and the Brownies themselves be split into three groups, Snow White, Dwarfs and Prince, but also had the advantage of rendering fairly painless the daily task of cleaning their church hall accommodation—it was known as the Dwarfs' Cottage.

Good weather made a number of visits possible. The swimming pool and the beach proved to be very popular but there were also successful outings to Hengistbury Head in an open-air bus and Christchurch for a visit to the museum and a chance to buy presents.

One evening was spent in entertaining another Brownie pack from Charminster; a programme of dancing and singing made for a happy time for all.

More fun and games on the beach and in the swimming pool brought a memorable week to a close.

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The Shape of Things To Come

by Zoilus

HALF A LIFETIME AGO ONE OF MY MORE CHERISHED SCHOOL BOOKS WAS A RED-COVERED COPY OF PHILLIPS' 'ATLAS OF THE WORLD.' NOT ONLY WAS THIS A LARGE TOME, VERY HANDY DURING PREP PERIODS AS A CAMOUFLAGE FOR 'THE MAGNET' OR 'BOYS' MAGAZINE'—OFTEN PREFERRED READING TO THE MORE PEDANTIC SET TASKS—BUT IT WAS ALSO A GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE IN IMAGINATION. After a series of maps of the world, splattered with a very satisfactory plethora of red, which in those days denoted the British Empire, there were maps of each country—that on the right-hand page being styled as 'physical,' showing the mountains, plains and rivers and looking for all the world like the X-ray of a varicose vein-infested leg, and that on the left 'political' geography, showing the countries or states in various colours. My almost total lack of appreciation of the delights of trigonometry or elementary physics is probably due to the times I had one eye on the map of Sumatra dreaming dreams of the South Seas and copra culling expeditions instead of concentrating on the blackboard and the vital problems of calculus.

DWARFED

But it was among the end pages of Phillips' Atlas that there was a set of figures which always fascinated me. It was a list of the principal towns of each country, in order of population. No doubt for the best of chauvinistic reasons the list for England was much more comprehensive than for the teeming millions of the United States, and way down at the foot of the league table was Reading (92,000). Though admittedly slightly more imposing than Oxford (88,000), it seemed dwarfed in importance by Nottingham (160,000) and even by Walsall (96,000). At all events, it seemed a serious slight that my town should occupy such a lowly position in Mr. Phillips' list, and my hope was to live long enough to see Reading past the magic one hundred thousand mark, and even become a city, which would surely be a grand and glorious achievement.

Well, that day has come and gone and although not a city, Reading has now some 135,000 inhabitants. According to a recently published survey most of us will still be here when the population is knocking on 200,000, which should surely secure it a block capital marking on Mr. Phillips' map. The Government has designated this area, combined with part of Hampshire and Surrey, as a growth area in the recently formulated strategic plan for the South East. A recent meeting of the District Council's Environment Committee was told by the civil servants who are preparing a study which will provide the basis of a report to the Minister of the Environment that Reading has three options. The first is to accept its projected role as a dominant town in Planning Area 8, which would mean a 45 per cent. increase in population up to 1981 so that by the turn of the century the greater Reading area would have to cater for nearly a million residents.

DIFFERENT

The second choice is a system of more regulated growth, to some extent controlled locally, but based on Reading's ideal position in the country's communications network, and the certainty that the town must still enlarge and by that very process become a different entity.

The third option has been offered, but only as a matter of form. It is for Reading to voluntarily relinquish the leading position that history and geography has mapped out for it. At the Council meeting one member asked the Minister's emissaries what would happen if our representatives said to the Minister—"Well, thanks very much, Mr. Crosland, but we'd much rather stay as we are, or even get a bit smaller. Why not let these thrusting new towns like Basingstoke or Bracknell take all this new population, as it seems they are quite prepared to do? We may have to put up with a lower status, less productive activity and decline in growth, but we will keep our town one that is nice to live in!"

The predictable answer to that was more or less—"It's up to you. You pay your money and you take your choice. But in the long run it is for your masters to decide which decision is best for you."

RIGHT DECISION

And perhaps they do know best. For they are our masters, the mandarins of Whitehall, not a largely important District Council. If they advise us "bigger is better" maybe we should take their advice, and our descendants will thank us for it. But now is the time for every townsman to think hard and come to a decision. For what is to be decided in the next two years will be as vital as any that has faced the people of Reading in the last thousand years. Let us make sure that the decision is the right one.

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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.
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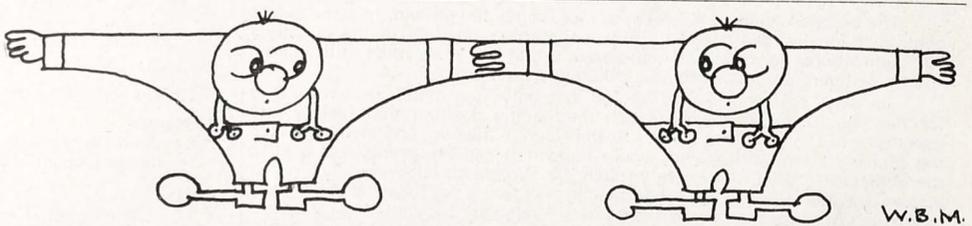
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SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER
ANGLICAN
St. Peter's
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION.
 10.30 a.m. Family Service (3rd Sunday).
 11.00 a.m. Matins (not 3rd Sunday).
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion (3rd Sunday).
 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion (1st Sunday).
 6.30 p.m. Evensong.
St. John's
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
St. Andrew's
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
 6.30 p.m. Evensong
St. Barnabas'
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
 9.15 a.m. FAMILY EUCHARIST.
 6.30 p.m. Evensong (2nd Sunday).
St. Margaret's, Mapledurham.
 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd and 4th Sundays)
 9.15 a.m. PARISH COMMUNION (4th Sunday, Matins)
 10.00 Family Service (2nd Sunday).
NORTH CAVERSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
 10.45 a.m. Morning Service.
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.
CAVERSHAM BAPTIST FREE CHURCH
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.
CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH (The School)
 11.15 a.m. Family Service (1st, 2nd, 3rd Sundays).
 FAMILY COMMUNION (4th Sunday)
METHODIST CHURCHES
Caversham Heights
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service (not 3rd Sunday).
Caversham
 11.00 a.m. Morning Service.
 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.
ROMAN CATHOLIC
St. Anne's
 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 7.00 p.m. Mass.
Our Lady of Caversham
 8.30 and 10.30 a.m. Mass.



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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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A GEORGIAN EVENING



A Georgian evening

Photo—Walton Adams

IN TIME WITH OLDE TYME

Olde Tyme Dancing was started at St. Andrew's Hall in February this year for a trial period of a month. So successful was the venture that it was decided to form a club, known as the Georgian Olde Tyme and Modern Sequence Dancing Club. There are now almost 70 members. The club meets every Tuesday evening under the capable guidance of Jim and Margaret Arthur.

"People get the wrong impression of Olde Tyme dancing clubs, all waltzes and two steps," says club secretary Mrs. Doreen Gardiner. "In fact, out of the six new dances we have learned in the past six months, two have been quick-steps and one has been a very natty cha cha cha." In addition, explains Doreen, perhaps contrary to popular expectation, "ages vary from 14 upwards, all there with the sole purpose of enjoying themselves in a warm and friendly atmosphere." The atmosphere is no doubt fostered by the break every Tuesday evening at 9 p.m. for refreshments and the sale of raffle tickets—proceeds towards the purchase of new stereo equipment.

Forthcoming events include a Saturday dance this month and in December at the Grosvenor, the club's first dinner dance. New faces, and feet, are always welcome at the club. If you would like to join the Georgians, or want further information, please contact Doreen Gardiner, 53 Kidmore Road.

Manager Moves

FROM LIVERPOOL

Hamish and Betty Mummé came to Caversham from Liverpool 11 years ago with their three children on Hamish's appointment as branch manager of Brown Brothers.

On the Move

Their stay in Caversham, however, came to an end in August when they moved to Uddingston, near Glasgow, where Hamish is to be manager of Brown Brothers' Glasgow branch. Carole has gone with them. Iain, now married, is a flight lieutenant in the R.A.F. and Heather, who was an active member of St. Andrew's Group and the Mapledurham Players, also married, is living in Melbourne, Australia.

Warmest Greetings

The Mummés were always a welcoming family and Betty served for a while as Mothers' Union secretary. Warmest greetings go with them to their new home.

COME ON DUCK!



Photo—Denys Williamson

Pam Deacon at Caversham Mill

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

OFF TO NEPAL

Off to Nepal in November for two years' teaching under the Voluntary Service Overseas scheme is Marion Parmenter, who has just graduated at Leeds University with a second class honours degree in English and Fine Arts.

Language Course

After a six weeks' language course in Kathmandu with seven other volunteers she will leave for her station at Shri Thakur Ram Campus, near Birganj, 8,000 feet up in the Himalayan foothills. Her job will be to teach students preparing for 'A' and 'O' levels in English. During the two years she will be staying with a local family. Good luck, Marion.

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TALKING POINT

by STEPHEN HAINE

When you read this, almost certainly the outcome of the General Election will be a major "talking point." That is, if there is an election. As I write Mr. Wilson is keeping his cards well up his sleeve; Mr. Heath is putting the final flourishes to the Tory manifesto and Mr. Thorpe is addressing the nation from the beaches of Southern England from an occasionally deflated hovercraft.

It is not for me to forecast the outcome of the election. However, as an industrial chaplain, it is perhaps more appropriate for me to comment on the place of the unions in the current excitement.

SCAPEGOAT

That the trade unions have a place of considerable importance in this election is undoubtedly true. "Jones weighs in to save social contract," read yesterday's headlines—all part of the run up to election day, '74. But the social contract which emerged from the recent Trade Union Conference is not, I suggest, just a trump card for Mr. Wilson to hold out to the electorate, but a major development in the pattern of trade union history.

It is common in church circles agonise over the capacity, or lack of it, of the institutional church to change. The welcome union of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches only took place after 30 years of discussion. But if that is the time scale in which institutions change, then we need to beware of throwing stones at the seemingly slow progress of the trade union movement, to beware of making it a scapegoat for our national ills.

When I first went into industry in 1963, unions were receiving headline attention for demarcation disputes. I was, as a fitter's mate, warned off using a file as only the fitter was allowed to do this. Then there were 176 unions affiliated to the T.U.C. and in the last ten years this has dropped, because of amalgamations, by 50 to 126. This purposeful amalgamation, together with the increasing stature of the T.U.C., has made this kind of dispute rare.

NOT A GIMMICK

Now the unions are in the limelight for a different reason—will they live up to the ideal of a "social contract," a voluntary system of wage restraint, planned in consultation with the Government? Social contract is not just an election gimmick, but part of a much more important on-going debate, precipitated by worldwide economic misfortune. It is a debate which has involved Governments of whatever party at least since the time when Mr. Macmillan said we'd never had it so good. It is a debate which involves not just governments and unions, but all involved in the industrial, economic process, from shopper to international speculator. The unions have a part in the show, but are far from being the only characters on the stage.

One cannot understand the potential triumph of a social contract unless one understands the way trade unionism has been wedded to the principle of free collective bargaining, born out of a long history of injustices and the experience of solidarity. That the potential power of unbridled collective bargaining should now be moderated by some form of social contract is the new development in trade union history.

SWING OF POWER

I have heard one union official describe some of his fellow trade unionists as the "boot and mouth brigade," a phrase which demonstrates the way in which there has been a vast swing in the potential power of some unions since their beginning a hundred years ago. The early cry for freedom and justice has reached the stage where freedom needs to be tempered in the present economic climate by some expression of responsibility. And out of this has emerged "social contract." It has been forged over the past seven years progressively and sometimes painfully on the anvils of "In Place of Strife," the Industrial Relations Act and various Prices and Incomes policies. Even now, if the social contract "faith" is not right, then there may be few "good works" to follow in the pay claims of this coming winter and Government and unions will have to go on beating upon the anvil. However, there is some hope that the T.U.C. will produce a valuable and viable contract.

HYSTERIA

One final observation. It appals me that so often there is an attitude towards the unions as if they were irresponsible and unruly schoolboys, to be treated

with a mixture of disdain and reproof. Thus during the last mineworkers' dispute, Major Frank Britton, controller of the Electoral Reform Society, which supervised the counting of the miners' votes, was moved to say that he was becoming increasingly irritated by the mounting hysteria over rigging allegations. "The National Union of Mineworkers is a private society," he said, "and will run its own polls in its own way. The Royal Society of Architects would not allow the public to tell it how to elect its council."

How can there be any hope of an abiding social contract if some groups within our society are treated as strange and moronic creatures from an alien world? The general election will come and go, but economic misfortune and the need for social contract may be with us for a long time to come.

EDITOR IN HOSPITAL

As many of you well know, the Editor, Canon John Grimwade, recently underwent an operation for the repair of a detached retina. We are glad to report that he is making good progress but he has had to cancel engagements for some weeks to come.

He wishes to thank all who have sent messages of goodwill. Enquiries about his health should be made to the parish office.

THE FLOWER CORNER

(Mary Hooper and Patricia Collins)

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EMMER GREEN SCOUTS

The new Group Scout Leader of the 89th Milestone Wood Scouts is Mr. Colin Gamble. He succeeds Mr. Dennis Smith, who has recently moved to Scotland.

The collection of newspapers continues to do well; £550 has been raised this year in this way. If you have newspapers for collection, please contact Mr. B. Verrar, Tel. 472162.

The Rummage Sale will take place at Emmer Green Primary School at 2.15 p.m. on October 12th.

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CHURCH NEWS

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October 9th—Paula Andrews, 5 Gifford Close.

October 16th—Rosemary Maybury, 116 Lowfield Road.

October 23rd—Margaret Lauder, 62 Kingsway.

October 30th—Betty Bartlett, 2 Blackwater Close.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Every Sunday at 11.15 in the School Hall.

October 6th—Harvest Thanksgiving Service, followed by a bread-and-cheese lunch.

October 13th, 20th—Family Service.

October 27th—Family Communion.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Saturday, October 19th,
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in **CAVERSHAM HALL.**

Admission 2p.

BAPTIST NEWS FELLOWSHIP AROUND

A PAINT POT

The small hall of the Baptist Church's Institute is extensively used by the Sunday School, youth organisations and a play group. Such activities had, not surprisingly, caused the decoration to assume a delicate shade of grey and it was considered that a coat of paint would have a beneficial effect. The cost of engaging a painting contractor would have been appreciable and so it was decided that the work should be done on a 'do-it-yourself' basis, thereby saving money and providing enjoyment and satisfaction to those taking part. Recently, during the space of ten days, or more correctly ten evenings, over 40 different volunteers, both male and female, were to be found climbing up the walls, crawling round the skirting board dodging the showers of emulsion paint produced by more venturesome types up above. The result—may it be said—a first-class job.

GIFT DAY AT GOSBROOK ROAD

Gosbrook Road Methodist Church look forward to their annual Gift Day on Saturday, October 26th, commencing at 4 p.m. The Rev. Leslie and Mrs. Margaret Griffiths will be joining in their first Gift Day and hope to meet many members and friends on this occasion.

At 7.30 p.m. the Bulmershe Girls' Choir and Reading Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert. Programmes are available from Mrs. Eunice Cooper, Tel. Reading 478607, or Mrs. Julia Hackman, Tel. Reading 473107.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

The members of the Baptist Wives' Group have been concerned for some time about their name, feeling that it may well exclude from the group those ladies of the church who were not married and not so young! (it seems but yesterday that they were known as the Young Wives' Group) In order to remedy the situation a competition for a new name was held. They were hardly overwhelmed with entries but eventually chose 'The Ladies' Friendship Group.' One of the aims of the group is to offer warm friendship and it is hoped that the new name will show that this is offered to any lady who would like to join them.

The Group meets in the homes of members and a bright, well-balanced programme to suit all tastes has been arranged for the coming winter session.

PARISH BARBECUE AT MAPLEDURHAM

A profit of £58 was made on the last Friday in August at a barbecue in Mapledurham Parish Hall. The money will be used for the upkeep of the hall.

The evening was also a successful and enjoyable social occasion, with young and old enjoying the entertainment and the excellent and ample food. It was a delight to see so many parishioners there.

Many thanks to the young people who provided the many side-shows and to all who helped to organise the event.

ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

On September 8th the Sunday School teachers of St. Andrew's Sunday School were commissioned at the 9.15 a.m. Family Service for the start of the new Sunday School year on that date.

For the first five weeks of the new Sunday School year a mission is being conducted by Mr. Norman Kent which the children are enjoying and which is showing signs of increasing Sunday School membership.

The Sunday School children will attend the Harvest Thanksgiving at 9.15 a.m. on October 13th and thereafter they will attend the 9.15 a.m. Family Service from the offertory onwards on the first Sunday of the month.

NEW WINE IN OLD BOTTLES!

New rooms and old rooms of the Caversham Heights Methodist Church Hall are all agleam with new paint, and every other Tuesday evening from October 8th a new society will meet in these cheerful surroundings.

It is hoped that the newly formed 'Caversham Heights Society' will be 'ecumenical plus'—that it will become a venue for those with no present church affiliations as well as for those of all local brands. The only admission stipulation is a taste for variety; the subjects for Tuesday evening talks include the Chiltern Heritage, Haiti, Fiction and Fact, Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and Recollections of the Royal Opera House!

Associated with the evening meetings will be five visits to places including the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, the Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell and the English National Opera at the Coliseum. The first visit, to Sudeley Castle to see the Palisers' costumes at the filming location, will be on Saturday, October 12th.

To obtain a programme of the season's activities, ring Martyn Allies at Reading 472007 or address your request to 26 Woodcote Road. Don't be put off if the Heights Church is beyond walking distance and you have no transport; a car pick-up service is being arranged which may well pass your door.

BOYS' BRIGADE

The 1st Caversham Boys' Brigade Company travelled to Woolacombe in Devon for their annual camp this year. Together with officers and boys from the 1st Twyford Company the total in camp was nearly 100, of whom over 60 were boys.

The weather was fairly good with sun most mornings, and the camp site being close to the sea the boys enjoyed bathing and surfing. Other activities included a coach trip to Westward Ho, a football match with a Northampton company and a very good church parade, headed by the band, to the morning service at the local Methodist Church. On their return the boys said that they considered it a very good camp.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Members of St. John's were saddened to hear of the death, on September 4th at Peppard Hospital, of Miss Clara Morton, Miss Morton, whose home was in Gosbrook Road, was a long-standing member of the church and a regular worshipper at the 8 a.m. communion service, where her contribution to the service will be greatly missed. Even in old age she led an active life and maintained a cheerful spirit which was an encouragement to all who knew her.

Autumn Bazaar

This year's annual bazaar for the work of the church overseas will take place on Saturday, November 9th, in Caversham Hall. Please make a note of the date in your diary and bring your friends to what is always a friendly social occasion as well as a money-raising event.

A QUIET DAY

After the hurly-burly of the Festival fortnight last summer you may welcome the opportunity to pause for some reflection. In order to help you do this there will be a Quiet Day at the Anglican convent in Caversham on Saturday, October 5th, beginning at 11 a.m. and finishing about 5 p.m. The day will be led by Deaconess Elizabeth Soutter. There will be addresses in the chapel as well as opportunities for quiet reflection in the chapel and grounds of the convent.

The convent is Springfield St. Luke, in Surley Row, and can be approached from Peppard Row by car or Rotherfield Row on foot. If you are coming please notify the Rev. Stephen Bartlett (Tel. 475152) or your own clergyman.

This Quiet Day is NOT the follow-up meeting on Family Festival—that will be on October 23rd at 8 p.m. in St. Andrew's Hall.

SONGS AND PRAISE

The Methodist Church Music Society is hoping for a full church when it holds its autumn meeting on Thursday, October 24th, at Caversham Heights Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m. The meeting will take the form of a Festival of Praise based on the Royal School of Church Music's

Festival Service book, 'The Christian Year,' and will be led by the combined choirs of the Reading Methodist churches with Mr. John Simpson conducting and Mr. Philip Fisher at the organ. Readings and prayers will be shared by the Rev. Dr. R. Ashman and the Rev. Leslie Griffiths. Anyone wishing to attend will be very welcome.

CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS

When members and friends of Caversham Heights Methodist Church said farewell to the Rev. Terry Harris and his wife, Julia, and family, they said it with flowers. Among the gifts presented were five rose bushes of a variety suitably known as 'City of Gloucester'—Terry and Julia have moved to a new church in the city of Gloucester, which is also Terry's home town.

At the informal farewell, attended by over 90 people, the senior church steward, Mr. Howard Baker, expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of all members and presented two bedside cabinets and a cheque as well as the roses.

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YOUNG CAVERSHAM

THIS MONTH THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT ITEMS OF INTEREST TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE. Firstly, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has formed a local committee, of which Miss Jane Padgham, 119 Hemdean Road, is the secretary. This Reading unit is holding an exhibition, on which the four sections of the Award Scheme will be focused — Expeditions, Service Interests, and Design for Living (girls), or Physical Activities (boys). It is to be held at the Westwood Girls' School, Honey End Lane, Reading, on Friday evening, October 18th, 7.30 p.m., and all day Saturday, October 19th. Through the exhibition it is hoped to give an idea of the scheme and its aims and achievements to employers, parents and young people who may be interested to know more about it.

The other opportunity is the 1975 Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Next

by
Peter Shock

year's Travelling Fellowship is offered to United Kingdom citizens engaged in certain occupations and who wish to pursue projects relevant to their work. The categories of employment for 1975 are: Passenger vehicle crews; women in social and public service; butchers and fishmongers; teachers of the arts and of the deaf, blind and dumb; workers in mental health; naturalists and ecological designers for safety in the home. There is a further classification open to those seriously interested in adventure and exploration. If you fall into one of these categories, and can spare 2 to 3 months abroad (expenses paid) for which the

experience gained would benefit your job and fellow citizens, then do apply without delay. I have a few leaflets available, but please do enclose STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for reply. My address is 131 Hemdean Road, Caversham. Alternatively you may apply direct to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London, SW7 5BR.

Arrived in Caversham on July 26th. Wolfgang Seidl, a small dark-eyed 13-year-old from Austria's romantic capital, Vienna. Like many other overseas youngsters, he came to improve his English and to find out how we insular types live. Coming as he did, privately, he probably had a better opportunity to sort us all out in his own good time. Only a couple of days after his arrival he joined the Caversham Boys' Clubs on their week in North Wales. Snowdon proved no match as compared with the mountain-trekking of his homeland. I had known Wolfgang's family for many years, and was very grateful to his Aunt Aloisia in the days when the Russians occupied the area around Vienna. I had strayed into the Soviet sector, and my only means of escape was to risk passing the guards arm-in-arm disguised as her husband. As local residents they had permits. The plan worked, and I lived to tell the tale. So I promised to repay her or any member of the family sometime in the future. This was her wish, that Wolfgang should come to England. Wolfi, as he was familiarly known, stayed for much of the time with the Elvish family in Kiln Road, Emmer Green, who took him on another week's trip to Devon. Their younger son, Neil, who is about the same age as Wolfgang, hopes to go to Vienna next summer. One of Wolfgang's highlights was a flight on one of the Hovercrafts to the Isle of Wight. He had often watched similar craft speeding down the Danube on their way from Vienna to Budapest, and had always dreamed of a trip some day.

Wolfgang took back with him a scrapbook of his "Englandreise", recording his stay.

SPORTS SPECIAL

by **STAN ELDON**

Popular Sport

During the last two or three years Badminton has been the fastest growing sport in this country and probably throughout the world. Even the official records show an increase of about 300 per cent in the number of people playing and this does not take into account the many small clubs that are not affiliated, or the large numbers playing at Sports Centres around the country.

In Caversham there is one young lady who could well reach the top in this very popular game. A former St. Joseph's Convent girl, Elizabeth Pearce, is now eighteen years old and has already had a good share of success.



Photo—J. Whalley

Elizabeth Pearce

All-round Sportswoman

At school she played hockey, tennis, badminton and also swam, being more than useful at all of them, but it is at badminton she chose to make her mark and she has now been playing very seriously for several years. She is a member of the Reading Country Badminton Club and has the use of the very good facilities at Alfred Sutton Boys School. Elizabeth is the Berkshire Junior Champion and has represented the county for over two years, firstly for the Berkshire No. 2 Team and in the later part of last season for the No. 1 County Team. Not long ago she was seen on television playing in an Inter-Sports Centre competition and at Easter she went with the Berkshire Team to Holland where she played in the Tulip Festival against representatives of five countries.

Future Plans

Her potential as a future International has been seen at National level and this is confirmed by her attendance at a special Badminton course at Lilleshall and also by the fact that one of the leading racquet manufacturers has chosen her as a 'term' player, which means they watch her progress and help supply the right racquets for her game.

As a member of Caversham Tennis Club she still plays a lot of tennis and helped her team win the Junior County Inter-League Competition this summer.

In the next few years Elizabeth is going to find it harder to give her time for her sport as at the end of August she commenced her training as a nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. However, we hope that she will be able to successfully combine her professional training with her sport.

CYRIL BURNSIDE

It is with regret that the 'Caversham Bridge' records the death of Mr. Cyril Burnside and extends sympathy to his family in their loss. An appreciation of Mr. Burnside will appear in the next issue.

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