



CORONA NEWS

Spring 2010

Edited by Janet Rucker

Chairman's Report



WOW, we are 60 years old. How wonderful is that. 10 years ago there were doubts that Corona would continue after 50 years! Now, with the encouragement and support of ALL our Branches & its members, whether in UK or Overseas, we have reached this milestone. **THANK YOU TO**

EVERYONE!

Of course over the many years several of our HQ related services have disappeared....one day courses for women going overseas, seminars, our unique escort service of meeting children at airports etc. The Briefing Service still exists but with the information now made accessible on the www, we do not get as many enquiries however we still maintain people need more personal information which we can still offer.

I would like to thank our Overseas Branches for helping & giving guidance to new arrivals into a strange environment & for all their own fund raising projects within their Branch. Of course our UK Branches are equally

just as important, again welcoming newcomers who have recently returned home (not as smooth as you would like to think!) & continually giving support to their members.

I am pleased to announce that Walk the World raised just over £4,000.00 and that we have made donations to 3 Overseas Branches who have worthy projects to support. You can read a fuller report inside this Newsletter. A big thanks to everyone who took part in various 'walking' events to raise this money over the last year or so.

We are all looking forward to our **Anniversary Lunch on 29th July** and even if you are unable to join us that day, I want you all to raise a glass to Corona and reflect on how your being a member has helped you in some way. Let's make 29th July a truly **CORONA WORLDWIDE DAY.**

Lastly I would like to say a personal Thank You to the Trustees, Executive members and all our volunteers who give their time and support to Headquarters in so many ways.

Kathy Cracknell

President's Message



Another six months of activity is behind us and another six months ahead until we publish our 60th Anniversary Magazine! We are relying on everyone to come up with some brilliant and different offerings for this. Every now and then I have occasion to thumb through past issues and am always amazed at what I find. Did we really do/say that??? Another delight is coming upon names that perhaps were not familiar in the past but are now! And trying to recognise the photos of some of us in our younger days – well that is another, but nevertheless fascinating story! We really are a family in so many ways.

Please put on your thinking caps and try and come up with something different, thought provoking, funny, memorable and that will bring a smile to the face or a tear to the eye in future years. In other words please amaze me yet again! With my thanks for all you are and do. *Pam Cowan*

Corona Worldwide, Southbank House, Black Prince Road,
London SE1 7SJ, Telephone/Fax: 020 7793 4020
corona@coronaworldwide.org www.coronaworldwide.org
Registered Charity No. 204802



DIAMOND JUBILEE ISSUE

Instead of the normal Autumn newsletter we are publishing a special booklet to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. Please let us have any interesting stories you have by (an absolute deadline) 18th October.

We would particularly like to hear about

- **Mothers, Daughters, even Grand-daughters who have all been members of Corona**
- **How, When and Why your branch started**
- **Memories of times past and distant places**
- **Old and interesting photographs**

We can't promise everything will get in—but the more material we get the better it will be.

Editor

CORONA JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS PLANNED

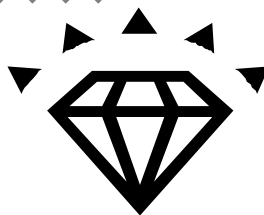
Overseas Branches

All three branches in Mauritius are holding a joint lunch to celebrate our 60th Anniversary on 7th May.
Riyadh will be holding a Ball on 13th May.
Zimbabwe are planning a lunch on 29th July.

UK Branches

Bath: 15 May BBQ Lunch, 9 June Summer Lunch
Bristol: 12 May Coffee
Cheltenham: 6 May Founder's Day Lunch
Cotswold: 26 June Celebration Lunch
Devon: 20 June Celebration Lunch
Edinburgh: Garden Party on 12 Aug
Oxford: Joint Lunch with Cotswold 26 June
Sevenoaks and T Wells: 18 June Lunch
South Hants: 8 September 25th Anniversary Lunch
West Surrey: 18 June Celebration Lunch
Jubilee: 10th Anniversary Lunch

Let us know what you have done, with photos, so that we can put it in our special Jubilee issue.



Diamond Anniversary Summer Lunch

Booking Information

Thank you to all those who sent your slips in after the last mailing, as it helped us with the planning of this event. The Summer Lunch has now been organised and full details are on the enclosed flyer. Please ensure that you retain the first page of the flyer for your information.

Disabled parking will be available for all those who really cannot walk a short distance and go up the stairs. However, if you have a passenger/passengers who are disabled, but you, as the driver, can walk from the car park, please drop off your passengers at the disabled parking area, where they will be looked after by one of our members and shown the way to the reception area.

We do hope to see as many of you as possible. If you have difficulties with getting there, please contact your local branch which may be organising transport or a car-share scheme. If you are an overseas member on leave in the UK, we would really love to share this special anniversary with you.

Susan Mole

Around and About the Branches

Members of the **Harare Branch**, Zimbabwe, below, admire the lovely cakes collected for their Corona Cakes for KidzCan Party, Christmas 2009. KidzCan is dedicated to increasing the survival rate of children with cancer in a loving and caring environment. As the organisation says 'We believe KidzCan survive. There is a future.' The cakes were received with great delight. For Kidzcan members also knitted colourful woolly hats and are currently knitting squares for blankets for the children in readiness for our winter..



Photo names from left Lucy Lloyd, Zimbabwe's youngest member, Jenny Dykes, Reenie Ager, Jean Simons, Margaret Shiel, Wendy Heaney and Muriel Jennings, Chairlady.

Mid-Sussex Branch

Our Annual General meeting was very well attended. This year we have said goodbye to Sylvia Blair one of our original members. Sylvia was our Minutes secretary and we shall certainly miss her at our meetings. Sonia Bradley has gone to live in Qatar where her husband Gordon is working. We hope she will soon return to England when we can have her back in our Branch. Both ladies are really missed.

We have had a fulfilling year with many activities arranged by our Social secretary Anne Frost. These have consisted of the Founders Day Coffee Morning, Georgina's Pot Luck Lunch, Sheffield Park Gardens, many different Lunches at all sorts of venues, a handicraft day when members shared their expertise, and our Christmas Lunch which was excellent, and was held at Pilgrim Hall. The best part of our branch is the friendship which we all receive from all our members.

We are looking forward to the Head Quarters 60th Anniversary Lunch to be held at the Royal Holloway College. We have hired a coach which will help our members get to the venue. We are looking forward to meeting other members of Corona Worldwide from all over the world at that celebration.

Our committee produces a good newsletter which keeps our members informed of local events together with Head Quarters news, which is so important. We look forward to another friendly and productive new Corona Year.

West Surrey Branch It was a special occasion in November when the Mayor of Guildford came to join members at the International Hospitality Meeting. Set up initially to welcome and help women from overseas who accompanied their husbands to Surrey University posts, or came as nurses or au pairs, the Tuesday mornings continue as a meeting place for women from diverse countries, many of whom have become Corona members. These have taken place in the Quaker Meeting House for 35 years, and Cllr. Pauline Searle was particularly pleased to talk to Daphne Cunningham, who has been involved since the beginning, and to talk to many members. For the Autumn meeting there was a fascinating talk by the Director of School Music at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and an insight to life in the Castle. New Year came rather late to West Surrey, as snow disrupted earlier plans, but a very enjoyable New Year lunch was finally held on February 1st - and it snowed.

Alison Latter

BATH BRANCH. We are proud to announce that we have 33 of our members attending the Diamond Jubilee Lunch. We have booked a coach to take everyone and will try and pay for it out of extra fund raising. We have several events planned; a BBQ, a Bring & Buy at the summer lunch and Bridge days. Our Chairman had some key rings made in South Africa in the Corona Logo design which are also being sold.

At our February meeting we celebrated our 18th birthday, with a delicious cake baked by Jo Cartwright.

We are also proud to announce that we have a representative on the Executive Committee again; our Chairman was voted on at the AGM. Rosemary Brown, Chairman

Nassau, Bahamas. Carolyn Wardle, Membership Secretary, thanks outgoing Chairman, Caroline Greenaway, at the branch's AGM, held at Government House On 4th February. Shelley Wagner-Schaerer and Joan Moss will share the responsibility of chairman in the coming year.



CORONA WALKS THE WORLD

It all started with Stefa Urquhart challenging Kathy Cracknell to do a walk from Dumfries to Gretna Green and asking our members to sponsor them, which they did. Then from that, came the idea that Corona members could Walk the World and pay an amount for each mile that they walked. Behind that idea was that the money raised would be distributed to worthwhile causes that our Overseas Branches suggested and also an amount would go towards the publication of our Anniversary Magazine.

Well, after 18 months Corona members have collected just over £4,000.00 Thank you to everyone who took part in this and give yourselves a pat on the back!

Some of our overseas branches opted to spend the money raised on projects in their own countries i.e. St.Helena are supporting an organisation that facilitates the setup and growth of small craft businesses, Bahamas are supporting a breast cancer charity although they did send half the money raised to HQ.

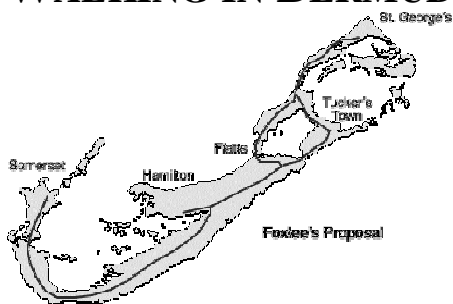
Three Branches put in requests for funding charities in their areas and after the Trustees researched these projects we were in agreement to help. Tanzania are supporting the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation Hospital in Dar-es-Salaam in particular their programme of corrective orthopaedic surgery for children. Malawi (Blantyre) will use the funds to add to their existing support of two secondary-aged students of 13 and 16 and to assist the food-aid support they give to ten elderly ladies in Mpembe Village. Mauritius North nominated the Gonzague Pierre Louis Special Learning Centre in Rodrigues, which offers special learning to 35 children with physical disabilities and severe learning difficulties. Each Branch has received £500.00 sterling. This will leave a further £500.00 for allocation later in the year.

The balance of £2,000.00 will be made available for the printing of our Anniversary Magazine in the Autumn.

The Trustees would like to say how much they have appreciated the efforts all our members made in partaking in this challenge and thank you to Stefa for thinking up the idea.

Kathy Cracknell

WALKING IN BERMUDA



Linda Searle, Mid-Sussex Branch, Walked the World in

Bermuda last year. The photo shows her sitting at the topmost point of the track illustrated. She writes: 'Bermuda once had its own railway system. It operated from the 1931 to early 1948, a total of 17 years. When it was built it was the most expensive railway in the world, per mile of construction. Bermuda is a series of islands 22 miles long but only 1 mile wide at its widest. The railway ran from St. George's (now a World heritage site) in the east to Somerset Parish, near the old RN dockyard in the west. As an aside, the main Dockyard building has 2 towers one of which is reputed to be the eastern most corner of the fabled 'Bermuda Triangle'; Bermuda itself is therefore not actually within the triangle! The railway, including the rails and the sleepers was taken up and in the 1950's sold in its entirety to British Guiana. What remains of the track now provides a public path which is very popular with walkers, joggers and cyclists. In many places the course followed the coast and the pillars can still be seen. Unfortunately such sections cannot be walked. I have walked quite a few stretches of the track. They take you through country and areas not normally seen by visitors to this lovely colony, the first and oldest of British possessions. Unfortunately I have not been able to find any Corona members resident in Bermuda.'

Generous donation from Corona Worldwide

Thanks from Tanzania

On 18th February 2010 Corona Worldwide UK made a generous donation of over TSH 1 million to the orthopaedic department of CCBRT Disability Hospital. This donation benefits the Poor Patients Fund, which helps by subsidizing the treatment of children from poorer background who could otherwise not afford it. Some people are treated for free and others make a contribution according to their capacity to pay. Each day, hundreds of patients arrive at CCBRT for consultations and treatment. All patients are entitled to and receive the same standard of quality care regardless of any fee paid. Patients requiring hospitalization discuss with the Social Service Department and the doctors the causes of the condition and the treatment necessary and together they establish what contribution the patient is able to make. As most patients cannot afford to pay for full treatment, CCBRT is very grateful to generous donors who are willing to help these people.



At CCBRT, as well as treating disabilities such as eye conditions, clubfoot, bow legs, cleft lip/palate and fistula, there is also help to rehabilitate our patients back into their communities after treatment and follow-up care in their own homes. Increasingly, CCBRT is supporting children with disabilities in schools.

The contribution from Corona Worldwide towards the rehabilitation of 15 children will enable CCBRT to provide a comprehensive service package including consumables, mobile costs (community mobilization), consultations, X-ray and laboratory, fitting of appliances, hospital stay and free follow-up services after discharge, which is needed to ensure quality results. One of the beneficiaries of the Poor Patients Fund is Amina who was born with no legs and only one arm. Two prosthetic limbs have been made and carefully fitted for her. In time, the young girl should be able to walk confidently, go to school and live a full and independent life.



Above (top) at the project and (below) Jean Glover, on behalf of Tanzania, receives a cheque for £500 from CWW Treasurer Jennifer Atkinson.

Cornwall Branch We have been delighted to welcome Delphine Moffett, ex Riyadh, (pointed our way by both Barbara Chalk and Marion Homes) who has recently moved to Cornwall to be nearer the grandchildren. Our numbers keep growing as members bring along friends and newly met neighbours. Cornwall is very popular as a retirement destination and many have said that it is every bit as difficult to settle in here as in any foreign country! We have hit on a winning formula of a lovely lunch, alternate months, at a smart hotel in Truro and one of our own members talks about somewhere she has lived. Some of the stories are amazing, especially when told by seemingly Ordinary Women! Our membership comes from a very wide background of husbands' callings - Foreign Office, British Council, the Armed Forces, the oil industry, to name but a few as well as women born and or raised overseas but now living over here. It makes for wonderful conversation round the luncheon tables, each headed by a committee member and we know it works as newcomers return and bring a friend! Some have been Corona members overseas, but they have all willingly joined once they have discovered us.

Abigail Kirby-Harris

LONE MEMBERS

We held a Lone Members' Lunch in Sherborne on Friday, 16th October 2009, which Susan de Boehmler arranged. Twelve of us attended & had a delightful day. The sun shone, Sherborne has great character; with super little 'old fashioned' shops selling meat, bread, vegs etc., amongst the boutiques.

We mustered at The Green, a restaurant at the top of the town, which had a lovely ambiance and very attentive staff. Chairman Kathy Cracknell proposed a toast to Susan for arranging it all - unfortunately Susan was unable to come at the last minute - & we vowed to make it a regular affair.

We had all sat next to folks we didn't know & after the first course Kathy suggested we all move round, so we had a really good social meeting with folks exchanging addresses etc., which is one of the points of the exercise. It was a great success and a very happy friendly time was had by us all. **Rosemary Brown, Bath Branch**



AGM

President Pam Cowan (above) with Mary Risso from Malta at the AGM of Corona Worldwide. Mary has become our Elected Overseas Member. We were delighted to have her at the AGM. Two new trustees, Rosemary Brown and Vicky Pitcher, were voted in at the AGM. They replace Connie Topping, whose turn had come to resign, and Sonia Bradley who has moved to Bahrain with her husband. Kathy Crackwell was voted in for a second term as Chairman, and Jennifer Atkinson, who as Treasurer has to be elected annually, continues in the post. Lynda Prys-Roberts (Deputy President), and trustees Alison Latter, Marsha Nicolson and Janet Rucker also continue on the board

Westminster Abbey

On 8th March a group of Corona members was privileged to attend an Observance for Commonwealth Day 2010 in Westminster Abbey. Members gathered beforehand in the café of the Westminster Central Hall, and were afterwards ushered into seats in three different sections of the Abbey. The colourful ceremony started with a parade of flags from 54 Commonwealth countries and was attended by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. The scientific theme of the service ended with the Queen laying a wreath on the grave of Sir Isaac Newton.

Below, in front of Westminster Abbey, are Janet Rucker, Jennifer Atkinson, Pam Cowan, Lindsey Hemlsey, Patricia Farrant, Connie Topping and Betty Davison. Kathy Cracknell who took the photo was there, but not in the picture.



Corona Worldwide 100 Club

Recent draws:

February 2010

1st	Mrs Anne Elvin	£150
2nd	Mrs Linda Odell	£100
3rd	Mrs Marsha Nicolson	£50

March 2010

1st	Mrs L.W. Froom	£150
2nd	Mid Sussex Branch	£100
3rd	Mrs C Miller	£50

The last 100 club draw took place at the Head Quarters AGM on Thursday 18th March 2010. We were very sad to hear that Mrs Froom passed away just before the draw took place. Her family requested that the money was to be added to the Corona Memorial Fund, for which we thank them.

AN APPEAL TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

We have some Extra Corona prizes in our Special Diamond 100 Club. The draw for these extra prizes, together with the normal money prizes will be at the Diamond Anniversary Lunch at Holloway College Egham.. Do try to give Corona your support and make our 100 Club the most successful venture this Year!

Please join, there is a form enclosed with this issue. It will help Corona financially. Thank you to everyone who has helped Corona by belonging to the 100 Club this past year.

Anne Elvin

100 Club Coordinator.

(I find it most embarrassing that I won in February, but it is the first time I have won since the 100 Club began!)

Obituaries

Elaine (Lainey) BERNACCHI died on 13th September in Christchurch, New Zealand aged 86. She married Michael Bernacchi in 1943 in Fiji when he was with the Colonial Service. After being in the services during the War, he rejoined the Colonial Service in 1947, serving in Malaya during the Emergency as a District Officer in a number of locations. In 1952 he was posted to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (now Kiribati and Tuvalu) as the Resident Commissioner, where they remained until the end of 1961. This posting was a challenge for Lainey with the lack of amenities, fresh food and communication, and having to send her two children to boarding school, only seeing them once a year. When Michael retired at the age of 50 because of ill-health they settled in Christchurch, New Zealand. Lainey, who was only 38, embarked on a career of her own working with the Crippled Childrens' Society and Intelletually Handicapped Assn, ending up as the Director of the IHC.

Pam BREWSTER nee Hemsted died just short of her 92nd birthday on Boxing Day. Born in Ottawa she was one of the first to join the staff at Bletchely Park where she remained until VE Day when she enlisted in the FANYs. She was posted to SE Asia command and, after the Japanese surrender, on to Saigon during which time she survived a Viet Minh ambush. She remained with the FO and had various postings, including one to Berlin where she met and married Fred Brewster. Further postings followed but eventually they retired to the village of Beckford in 1982 where Pam continued to lead a full life: loved to travel, adored her dogs, stood as a Local Councillor and was

very active in her local community including, in the last years of her life, the Cotswold Branch of Corona.

Daphne CLARE (sister of Muriel Jennings) died in July 2009 after a fall, aged 69 years. She had been a member of the Harare Branch for 4 years.

Pamela DRAKE loved attending the Jubilee Branch where she could chat (with a glass of red wine) and regale us with her stories of India, coming from a tea planting family, and herself marrying a tea planter (Tim). Although for the past 2 years she has not been able to attend Jubilee Branch, we remember her with fondness.

Eileen FARMER Bahamas She was a wonderful Mother and Grand-mother devoted to her family, church and community. She will be sorely missed especially by the Craft Group.

Lorna FROOM, a loyal member of the Enfield Chase Group, died on 26th February 2010.

Pam GOULDEN, Dorset South, passed away shortly after Christmas and will be sadly missed.

Gwen KEMBLE passed away suddenly on 19th January. *Jose Ridley (ex Lagos) writes:* I met Gwen when she and her husband, Alan, came to Lagos, Nigeria in 1957. He worked for ICI. She was a lovely warm-hearted person with many friends, involved in lots of organisations. After leaving Kuala Lumpur in the 1970s Gwen and Alan returned to the UK where they settled happily in Cornwall. One could always rely on a warm welcome. About 150 mourners, including several ex-Malaysian friends, attended her funeral.

Barbara MONSELL-BUTLER was born in Melbourne in 1925 and died in Enfield on 18th October 2009. Barbara was a stalwart member of the Enfield Chase Group with a determination that the Group should continue, however small. A memorial service was held both in Melbourne and Enfield with her family attending both.

Thelma Monks

Daphne YETTON, formerly of Playford, Ipswich, Suffolk, died on 14th November aged 90. Mother or Rex, mother in law to Jenny, and grandmother of Michelle, Alex and Katie, Daphne was a physiotherapist. She worked in Singapore, Morocco, The Gambia, Aden and Cyprus, as well as the Ipswich hospital. Widowed in 1953, she was a keen sportswoman. Her son Rex remembers being escorted by the Corona Society from boarding school across London to various airports to visit her abroad.

Sadly we also have to say farewell to:

Jean ATTARD, committee member, Malta

Lucy Natalie KNAPP, Salisbury, died 30th December 2009.

Mavis LEVERSEDGE died in New Zealand in September aged 83.

Audrey Millicent PEEL

Doreen STONE

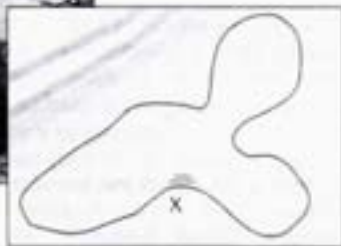
Miss N.K.M WOODS

A tree for Doris at last

We have at last received confirmation that the tree we sponsored to commemorate Doris Dow and her many years of service to the community in Onslow Village, has been planted in the arboretum.



The photograph shows a *Fraxinus Omus* Manna Ash and inset is a map showing its position. We hope everyone who sees the tree will enjoy it and that it will remind Doris's many friends of her indomitable spirit.



London Events

Our October visit was to the Royal Hospital Chelsea where our Guide was a resident Pensioner who enlivened our visit with stories about life as a resident. He was also a very knowledgeable guide who imparted the historical facts with much good humour.

In November we visited the Tower Bridge Exhibition where we also had an excellent Guide. One of the interesting facts we learnt was the great number of empty office buildings we could see from the walkway between the towers.

The year ended with the backstage tour of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. This tour certainly lived up to expectations. We were able to look down on the sets of at least three different shows which were all mechanised as they made their stately way towards the stage. We also visited the workshops where all the props and sets are constructed.

This year we have visited the Wallace Collection where once again we had a very good Guide. I think we all left feeling we should spend several days looking at the exhibits

In February we were able to visit the Speakers House. Unfortunately we were restricted to 10 Visitors. These visits have to be arranged through an MP so if anyone can persuade their MP to sponsor a visit I would be very happy to arrange another visit (s). We saw all the public rooms and admired the portraits of past Speakers and enjoyed views of the Thames. March saw a successful visit to Dickens' House.

I am very happy to tell you that Clare Bartram (Jubilee Branch) has agreed to take over from Jackie Tite and provide much needed email support.

Connie Topping

London Jubilee Branch We meet on the first Thursday of every month, in the restaurant downstairs at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square (very handy for Peter Jones!) We meet at 11am for coffee and then many stay on for lunch, often joined by those who couldn't make the coffee and this often includes those who have been doing stuff at Corona HQ. We will be meeting for a very special Diamond Jubilee Lunch on 15 April at the New Cavendish Club, popular with Corona. We have often been joined by Corona members from overseas, in London for various reasons and we also seem to have developed into the unofficial Returners Branch! Kathy Cracknell, our chairman, used to come when she first arrived in UK and until she and Colin had decided on where they were to settle. Numbers have steadily increased and its always a lot of fun! **Abigail Kirby-Harris**

Patsy Flagg, St Helena.



CWW's new Overseas Executive member, Patsy Flagg, has sent us a long account of her 45 years with Corona, which we hope to include in greater length in the Jubilee magazine. She writes: 'I have enjoyed being an ordinary member, a committee member - Vice Chairman for many years, shadowing the Chairman/President, who was usually the Governor's wife - and for some 9 years until 2009 as the Society's Chairman. The then president, ex Acting Governor's wife, felt she had to step down, due to health problems. She suggested that as the current Governor's wife did not wish to become President, because of my long - standing involvement with the Society - I should be invited to take up the post...so here I am having started at the bottom of the Corona Ladder, I am now at the top as its President. Throughout this 45 year journey I have had to run and address meetings, represent the Society in various walks of life, and ...organise many of our Fund Raising Activities for Charity, to benefit Island needs....Some of our Fund Raisers, involving the public and members, have been CRAZY and HILARIOUS to say the least! A Sponsored wheelbarrow Race down the main Street of Jamestown, brought out the crowds and money! Clutching the sides of my old wheelbarrow - (with a hardhat on!) and being pushed by my gardener/handyman was a hair-raising and unforgettable experience! Howls of laughter from all of us in wheelbarrows and the spectators - who had never seen anything like it!



Happy 90th Birthday

Bunny Adams (Cornwall)
Josie Gillet (South Bucks)

Josie Gillet, left, had her 90th birthday on Feb. 17th and South Bucks celebrated the occasion with a special Corona Lunch Meeting and the now "traditional" cake and basket of flowers.

Please send contributions for **Corona News** to Corona Worldwide. The next issue will be the Jubilee Magazine