

Sept 181

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WHICH ART IN HEAVEN 

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Copy for the October issue
should reach 48 St John's
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Society of Friends

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

As newcomers to the area (Ruth and I moved to Manuden in December of last year with our three young children), it has become apparent to me how much I have previously taken for granted my home surroundings, perhaps going elsewhere on holiday and enthusing on what I saw there. I have felt like a "holiday-maker" in our first few months here, and want to record some "first impressions" before everything becomes familiar and I begin to take it all for granted. Alternatively I hope this sense of wonder about my new environment will continue indefinitely!

We have had a variety of walks around the Stansted area; the villages are all lovely, with their thatched cottages, historic churches and village greens. However, it has been some of the simpler sights which have been the most impressive, perhaps brought more alive by their discovery by our daughters, Lucy aged 5 and Anna aged 3. The hedgerows have been full of interest, and the profusion of colour has been notable. Poppies, buttercups, speedwells, wild roses, campion, vetch and bedstraw to name but a few. Fine trees, like oaks, beech, chestnuts and sycamores, grace the countryside, particularly the tops of the low lying hills around. We have also seen plenty of animals; the morning walk to school passes a field with two, well fed, donkeys, as well as cows in the summer months. The sheep that graze near Bentfield, and the horses often seen about, are other features. Mark, our 7-year old son, and I participated in the recent SACC sponsored walk, and although the dramatic yellow of fields full of rape was gone, the ripening fields of wheat and barley were a sight.

These impressions, and reflecting upon them, have led me to "Christian faith and practice in the experience of the Society of Friends", an anthology of Quaker history, and full of prose which expresses spiritual experience better than I can. Our emphasis on personal experience of God in ourselves and others as the focal point of our beliefs, with our consequent lack of a formal creed, make writings of this kind important and helpful. One extract, written by Rufus Jones in 1920, seems to develop my "first impressions" appropriately -

"Perhaps more wonderful still is the way in which beauty breaks through. It breaks through not only at a few highly organised points, it breaks through almost everywhere. Even the minutest things reveal it as well as do the sublimest things, like the stars. Whatever one sees through the microscope, a bit of mould for example, is charged with beauty. Everything from a dewdrop to Mount Shasta is the bearer of beauty. And yet beauty has no function, no utility. Its value is intrinsic, not extrinsic. It is its own excuse for being. It greases no wheels, it bakes no puddings. It is a gift of sheer grace, a gratuitous largesse. It must imply behind things a Spirit that enjoys beauty for its own sake

and that floods the world everywhere with it. Wherever it can break through, it does break through, and our joy in it shows that we are in some sense kindred to the giver and revealer of it."

Richard Bush

United Reformed

PASS THE CUCUMBER SANDWICH

Over the years there has been much talk and discussion amongst Christians of all denominations into the causes of falling numbers of folk attending Church Services, and many theories have been put forward as to why this should be.

Some forty years ago Ernest Gordon, author of the best-selling book "Miracle on the River Kwai", attended as a young man a number of Churches in the hope of finding some sort of fellowship and guidance in the troubled days just before the outbreak of World War Two. Unfortunately, he had always come away with the impression that to the vast number of Church people Christianity was only for nice people who had been brought up in nice homes and gone to nice schools where they had learned to do all the nice things. Heaven, for this group, was a kind of perpetual tea-party with thin cucumber sandwiches and smoky-tasting tea served in fine bone-china cups. It was all eminently respectable but rather hard on those who were on the 'outside'.

Although some progress has been made in the last few years, have we as Churches and Church Members changed so dramatically in 1981? We are I am sure to many on the 'outside' still not easily approachable; the very people that we want to attract into our fellowships remain unconvinced because the Church is very often not willing to comment or take any positive action on the many problems that ordinary people are experiencing in these days of high unemployment and social unrest.

And then of course we have to let folk know what our Church can offer them in the way of fellowship and services. It was sad recently to visit a United Reformed Church in a town not too far from North West Essex. The Church Notice Board was completely empty, no information of any kind regarding mid-week activities or where one could contact any officer of the Church. On one corner of the board in very small letters appeared the legend "NO SERVICES SUNDAY".

If the "No Services Sunday" is not to become a permanent fixture on Church Notice Boards in future years, we must all strive to make our Churches more friendly and caring; to encourage newcomers to join us; to offer them the fellowship that they will expect. Let's not disappoint them.

Peter Trundle.

STANSTED URC CALENDAR

- Saturday 12 September - Garden Party at the home of Mr and Mrs Gerald Little.
Tuesday, 15 September - Group Church Meeting 7.30 pm
Sunday 20 September - Group Harvest Thanksgiving at Widdington 6.30 pm
Sunday 27 September - Harvest Thanksgiving, Stansted 11.00 am.
Saturday 3 October - Group Harvest Supper

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Church of England

CURATE'S NOTES



For the first time this year, Janice and I have seriously tried to grow some of our own vegetables. We're by no stretch of the imagination, experts, but we do try to make the best of the land and resources that we have. Some things seem to do very well indeed, whilst others wither and fade. But we have been lucky enough to have one or two mentors, who are well versed in the art of cultivating the land (and to whom we are very grateful). And so, now, towards the end of the season, we are able to say what a joy it is to be able to pick and eat vegetables grown on your own land. Somehow, 'new' carrots and fresh greens taste much better from your own garden... just as 'new' potatoes taste so much better, from the shops, than vegetables bought at the other times of the year. And it's with this in mind that I want to share some thoughts with you about Harvest.

The first fruits, the golden harvest ripe apples, lemons, dates, pomegranates to the Jews, all of these things were like so many smiles from God, upon the earth. They all told of his great goodness. Man sows the seed and tends the plants, but it is God, they told us, who is Lord of the Harvest! I expect that anybody who works closely with the land will share this strong feeling that God is the source of life, and, in fact, man has always offered back to what he saw as God, the fruits of the harvest..... but it was the Jews who, for us, enshrined this thanksgiving into an offering back to Yahweh which is what we continue to do every Harvest Festival.

God is the Lord of the Harvest but that doesn't mean that farming and gardening is a soft option; far from it. God

creates life and keeps it going, but we, if we are to benefit from a good Harvest, must work jolly hard. If you want to grow tomatoes seriously, you don't just chuck a handful of seeds haphazardly across the soil, but you have to nurture them, strengthen them, plant them out, tend them, water them, and so on. And then, when that's over, it's the first fruits, the prime of the crop, that you offer back to God to say 'thank you.' If you don't grow your own vegetables, don't worry! The same thing applies to the whole of our lives; and so Harvest is also a time when we can take stock of the many gifts that God has given us... cultivate them and tend them, so that we can offer them back to him, as the first fruits of the Spirit in us.

For Harvest, then, ... take stock ... recognise God at the centre ... cultivate ... give back in thanks. And then, yours shall be a rich reward in heaven.

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Harvest This year we are celebrating Harvest over the two week-ends. At St Mary's, the Harvest celebrations are at 9.30 am on 27th September, followed by a Harvest Supper on Monday 28th at 8.00 pm. Then, on 4th October, the celebrations are at St John's at 9.30 am, followed by a Harvest lunch.



Junior Church

We would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Heather Jones for all that she has done in the past for us in the running and co-ordinating of our Junior Church. Heather, her husband and children, are moving to Cambridge shortly and we wish them every happiness in their new home. Mr Brian Wallis of 37 Chapel Hill, has kindly agreed to take over Heather's post, and is now organising the Junior Church.

GRAND FETE

.....Life in Stansted's Fun, Too!

Just when you've sampled the delights of foreign parts, why not come to our SEPTEMBER SPECTACULAR, which will run for the whole afternoon of 6th September? In aid of the St John's appeal fund, it's possible that all you've ever wanted to see in a village fete will be there - and maybe more!



PARISH DIARY

September

- 5th SEPTEMBER SPECTACULAR. All afternoon.
7th PCC
8th St Mary's Patronal Festival. Sung Eucharist 8.00 pm; coffee.
10th PCC
13th Unity Service. 6.30 pm URC
14th S.A.C.C. AGM in St John's
15th Prayer Group
21st St Matthew, Apostle
27th Harvest. St Mary's 9.30 am
28th Harvest Supper
29th St Michael and All Angels

October

- 4th Harvest. St John's 9.30 am, followed by Harvest lunch
Also, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

St Mary's Patronal Festival ... A red-letter day. The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be a Sung Eucharist at St Mary's that evening at 8.00 pm followed by coffee in the Church.



PARISH REGISTERS

Baptised

- 12th July -- Caroline Esther Genevieve Sherwood, 16 Millside
12th July -- Laura Anne Hobday 42 Blythwood Gardens
12th July -- David Anthony Hobday " " "
12th July -- James Peter Hobday " " "
19th July -- Suzanne Kay Stone 42 Stoneyfield Drive
19th July -- Jeanette Ann Stone " " "
19th July -- Alison Margaret Smith 2 Church Hill Corner
26th July -- Philip Charles Whitehead 44 Gilbey Crescent
2nd August Nichola Margaret Martin 51 Wetherfield

Married

- 4th July Michael James Gray, Moat Hall, Parham, Woodbridge,
Annette Elisabeth Goddard, 26 Maitland Road, Stansted
25th July Noel Clayden, 19 Norfolk Way, Bishop's Stortford
Susan White, 9 Cannons Mead, Stansted
1st August John Trevor Banks, 13 Birchwood, Birchanger
Patricia Jean Orridge, 36 Manor Road, Stansted

Departed

- 15th July Paul Kenneth John Whiffen, 51 Manor Road, Stansted
24th July Jim Turner, 100 Cambridge Road, Stansted
24th July Elizabeth Jane Law, Myrtle Cottage, Burton End,
Stansted

F O R U M

| <u>Venue House</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Speaker</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Mr & Mrs Turner | 9 September | Mr J K Tee |
| Mr & Mrs Snudden | 14 October | Mr & Mrs Roger Poulton |
| Mr & Mrs Honour | 11 November | The Revd Andrew Proud |
| Mr & Mrs Hollis | 9 December | Mr Michael Bland |

All these meetings at 8.00 pm

MOTHERS UNION

The next meeting of the Mothers Union will be a combined Deanery meeting in St John's Hall on 24 September at 3.00 pm. There will not be a service that day. Mrs Mayes, headmistress of a special school, will talk of her work for the handicapped. Tea will be served and we welcome members from Brentwood M.U. There will also be a bring and buy stall. We can look forward to a pleasant afternoon.

YOUNG WIVES

We are starting this term with a White Elephant stall at the SEPTEMBER SPECTACULAR on Sunday, 6th September. We will gratefully receive any good quality jumble (NO CLOTHES) which you may wish to donate. Please contact Christine Stiles on 813172. Could any young wives who will be available to help on that afternoon please also contact Christine if they haven't already done so.

The first meeting of the term is on Tuesday 15th September when we will have a repeat of the very successful Please Swap. Bring a sample of your favourite recipe, and perhaps a few copies of it for handing around. Usual venue, St John's Church Hall, 1.30 pm. See you there!

We are also organising the annual door-to-door collection for the National Children's Homes in the fortnight from 20th September. Could anyone wishing to be a collector for this worthy cause, please contact me, Kerry Brice on 813539, or Pam Hutchison on 812721.

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Our country churchyard is probably the most peaceful open space in Stansted. Unlike many similar churchyards it is still used for interments and so continues to fulfill its original purposes of burial and what we now term 'passive recreation'. Over an acre and a half of local history surrounded by green fields and presided over by St Mary's Church makes for an irreplaceable heritage which many of us take for granted.

To keep a churchyard of this size in good order is in practice a formidable task which requires constant work from several pairs of willing hands. We are therefore fortunate in having several such dedicated people. Mrs Goddard is appointed by the PCC to keep the grass at a manageable height - no mean effort in wet periods such as we had in May and June. Fred Sanders and a few others spontaneously give of their time to keep the otherwise untended graves from becoming overgrown. Other good folk, including Dr Gabb and the late Mr Francis, have cleared rubbish, kept the road verge cut and attended to numerous other jobs which if neglected would soon result in an unkempt appearance.

Even with voluntary work the cost is considerable and we should be grateful that the church and parish councils have agreed to share the expense. Nevertheless, inflation shows signs of out-stripping our slender resources, so we would be glad to hear from anyone who may be prepared to give time to what is one of our lesser known team efforts. The gravel drive to the church is another responsibility for which a cry goes up from time to time. Such a time is nearly upon us for the ruts have attained sizeable proportions. Any offers of brick hardcore or surplus ballast-like material is unlikely to go unheeded. If you have any suitable filling or are prepared to join a working party to spread and roll some from whatever source, please get in touch.

D Honour (813160)
Chairman
Church Grounds Committee

Roman Catholic

KIRCHENTAG - Hamburg, West Germany
16 - 22 June 1981

Kirchentag - a gathering of the German Evangelical Churches organised by the laity. Every two years it is held in a different town for several days of large-scale meetings and events. Its purpose being to rally Christians to strengthen them in their faith and to encourage them to bear witness in the world.

Kirchentag 1981 was the 19th. It first started as a post-war impulse towards a spiritual reconstruction and a search for a new national identity after the collapse of the Nazi regime.

The theme of the 19th Kirchentag was "Be not Afraid", and it brought together 30,000 people - 30% under 25. It also brought many people from other parts of the world. There were a number of groups from England and ours consisted of 12 people from the Herts/Essex district. Eight Church of England members, one URC, one Pentecostal and two Roman Catholics. During our stay in Hamburg, we lived with German families. 5,000 citizens

of Hamburg had offered accommodation to international guests, the youth were accommodated in schools and hostels.

The concept of Kirchentag seems to have moved slightly away from its original idea. Although still very spiritual, we found strong political tones. We asked several people their thoughts on this and most felt it was sad but nevertheless necessary. 500 action groups were represented in a styled "Market of Possibilities" held in enormous halls adjacent to the vast Congress Centre. These included Charismatic Renewal, Iona Community, Nuclear Disarmament, Chemical Wastage, German Political Parties including Communist etc. We wondered why non-Christian groups were permitted to attend this Church gathering and one of the organisers explained that rather than be selectively Christian, they wanted these groups there to listen to what they were saying. The only criteria imposed was that the group should contain ten active members.

We felt the enthusiasm of the youth who were eager to listen to the many eminent speakers and wondered if this was kept alive when they returned to their respective parishes. However, we found that most of the Churches felt threatened when the youth returned and asked for more freedom of worship and active participation. Because of the lack of encouragement, they formed their own small groups, thereby not attending the traditional services of the Church. Nevertheless, Christian spirituality was very evident when one saw how crowded the Churches were at the special services celebrated. In fact, if you did not arrive early, you could not get in!

My knowledge widened of other forms of worship and I saw more clearly that ignorance of local situations is a hindrance to real understanding and fellowship. It made me aware that we can be too insular in our thinking - we really should think globally and act locally. The exchange of Christian views should stretch not only nationally, but internationally. I know everyone cannot travel to experience personally the movement of the world Churches but maybe we should then take an active interest in what the rest of the Churches are saying.

At Kirchentag, we were privileged to hear many eminent speakers such as Brother Roger of Taize and theologians, Dr Helmut Thielicke, Ernesto Cardenal, etc. Inspiring lectures were given by Dr Konrad Raiser of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. It was gratifying to see the calibre and insight of really humble and sincere men. One felt that with such as these, the World Council of Churches promises to be a way of enlightenment to all who wish to take the pathway to unity, so that we may grow to respect and understand the views of our fellowmen, whether they be Christian, Jewish, Muslim.

This is what Kirchentag meant to me - an enjoyable, tiring, reflective and, above all, HOPEFUL event.

Rita Yates



ANGELS

In this age of planes flying faster than sound, and of nuclear power, we are inclined to forget about angels who are far greater than any of the material elements we may discover.

Angels are also creatures like us; but there the likeness ends, for they are pure spirits with intellects and wills, but not impeded by a body as we are - they are neither old nor young, sick nor healthy, men nor women, infants nor ancients, tall nor short, fat nor thin; they are as bright flames of life, unflickering, unfading, indestructible, flames that are fed by nothing but God.

The princely dignity of Gabriel standing before Mary, the easy competence of Raphael protecting the young Tobias, the majesty of Michael with his flaming sword guarding the gates of a lost paradise, gives us some little vision of the nobility of the angels. We must never forget that these angels stooped down to our limitations in order to communicate; for angels were not created to give life to bodies as are our human souls: so that it is only the appearance of one that they put on whenever they come down to earth to convey a heavenly message, so that we might be put at ease.

The angel's completely spiritual nature in its independence and power, has no need of a body. It can get far more done than any strong man, indeed than any material force. It is free from the barriers that the physical imposes on our knowledge and our love; free from the sluggishness, fatigue and distraction that makes our lifetime harvest of truth so skimpy.

Therefore as close friends of God, we should remember these powerful creatures whom God sends to protect us from evil.

Fr Joe Tuohy

Methodist

A few days ago I received, by post, a booklet called "An A.B.C. of the D.S.R." It was an intriguing title. The "D.S.R." refers to "The Division of Social Responsibility of the Methodist Church", and "An A.B.C." was a list in alphabetical order, of the very many concerns and activities of that Division of our church. Only the letters Q, Y and Z had nothing listed under them. The other 23 letters of the alphabet had 75 matters listed under them, taking up 12 pages. Interests and concerns range from Alcohol abuse to World development, from Broadcasting to Medical Ethics, from Leisure to Politics. The items range as wide as our human variety, as deep as our human predicament and as far as our human longings.

Some people think that the Church should concern itself solely with preaching the Gospel and spiritual matters. But man is a spiritual and physical unity. He cannot live as a dis-

embodied spirit, nor yet as a merely physical being. Spiritual and physical belong essentially together. They impinge upon each other; they influence, express and control each other. Furthermore, the Gospel is Good News for the Whole Man, for his spiritual, mental, physical, social, national and international life; no news can be a Gospel of Salvation which does not have something crucial to say about anything that threatens, belittles or enslaves men and women or that does not engage the legitimate hopes and desires we have.

Each Spring and Autumn the Methodist D.S.R. publishes its own newspaper, "DSR News" at 10p. From time to time it deals with all the matters listed in the A.B.C. Any Methodists (or other people) who would like to take this publication regularly should contact me, Harold Fisher.

Future Programme

Saturday, 19th September at 7.00 pm - Harvest Supper and Social
Sunday, 20th September at 9.15 am - Harvest Festival Service
conducted by Mr Colin E Mansfield.
Monday, 28th September at 8.00 pm - Annual Business Meeting
Thursday 17th September at 8.00 pm at Ickleton: Circuit Meeting
Monday, 12th October at 8.00 pm. Fortnightly Fellowships
recommences.

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

SACC in September

September is a good month for thinking ahead, for making a fresh start. During the long summer days and especially during the school holidays, societies and committees tend to be pushed to the back of the mind. But, after a well-earned rest, SACC affairs can be approached with new zest. So put these two dates in your diary now:

13 September - United Act of Worship
14 September - Annual General Meeting

The service will be at 6.30 pm in the United Reformed Church. We can use this time of prayer and praise to prepare ourselves for the AGM on the following evening. This meeting will be held in St John's Hall at 8.00 pm.

Unfortunately, Fr Peter Taran will not be coming

to speak to us because he has been elected as Vicar General of his Order in USA.

So this will be purely a business meeting, with the election of various new committees. Do make a special effort to be there; it is important that all SACC members should be represented.

Sponsored Walk

On 28 July, a total of 29 adults, children and dogs set out from Stansted via Rickling for Clavering, where we had a picnic lunch on the green, with squash supplied by the Clavering Methodists. The walk then continued, via Berden and Farnham Green, back to Stansted. A few people dropped out, victims of the hot weather and insects, but nevertheless, 18 finished the round trip of 17½ miles. The youngest to finish was Daniel Webb, age 7. The oldest was difficult to tell as none of the adults present would admit to being over 32, but it was probably Jan King, who, her children informed me, is approaching 60. Everyone who took part enjoyed it very much, and wish to express their thanks to the ladies who arranged the squash stops.

The walk was organised to mark the Year of the Disabled, and the money collected from sponsorship will go to Hargrave House. The final sum will be announced in a future issue of Link.

ANNOUNCING

Another Date for your Diary

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER - St John's Hall - Meeting in ONE
WORLD WEEK on Brandt Report

SACC and the AIRPORT ENQUIRY

Would you please remember in your prayers everybody who will be taking part in or contributing in any way to the Enquiry about the future of the airport.

Sudden
Prayers make
God jump

Village News

The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood



At the beginning of July we held a very successful Clothes Party which raised £16 for the Trust. Thank you to all who supported us. In August we had a demonstration from Bamix on fresh food ideas for the family, which was full of money-saving tips - another enjoyable evening.

Our 'Open Houses' continue to be very well attended and the next ones are from 2.00 pm on Friday 11th September at 17 Rainsford Rd; we hope to have a hairdresser there to cut the childrens' hair, and on Monday, 12th October at 43 Gilbey Crescent

Our expectant-mums and under 1's meetings have been less well attended so we are changing the venues to be nearer the clinic. They will still

be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm, so why not join us before or after visiting the clinic. Wednesday 2nd September at Squires Cottage, 40 Bentfield Causeway
Wednesday 16th September at 26 Spencers Close
Wednesday 7th October at Squires Cottage, 40 Bentfield Causeway

We have also planned a family outing to the London Zoo on Saturday 3rd October. It should be a great day out as there is plenty to interest all age groups, including parents, and plenty of cover if it is wet. Details from Janice Proud on 814463 or Pam Hutchinson on 812721.

WOMEN'S OWN

On Monday, 27th July, 40 ladies of the Stansted Women's Own took a coach ride to Lavenham, Suffolk. On the return journey we called at the home of Mrs J Hill at Widdington for tea. This was our last meeting of the summer. We re-open on Monday, September 7th at 2.45 pm. in the Lecture Meeting House when Mrs Robina Brand will give a talk on her work with the Vietnamese children. A warm welcome is extended to any ladies who would like to come to any of our meetings.

THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

On Thursday 16 July we visited Layer Marney Towers, near Tiptree, for an International Dance Festival and were entertained by dancers and singers from Belgium, Germany, Russia, Yugoslavia and France, all appearing in their colourful national costumes. It was an excellent display. We were also allowed a walk-about in the grounds, which included a very fine old church.

GUIDES AND BROWNIES

Stansted Brownies

At the joint meeting in July, The Brownie Revels, a competition was held for the best model village. This was won by the 2nd Stansted Brownies and their magnificent entry can be seen on display in the Library.

At the Revels two new Brownies in the 3rd Stansted pack were enrolled. These were Rachel Boxall and Sara Marshall.

Stansted Guides

31 Guides of the 1st and 2nd Stansted and Manuden Guides went to camp in Hatfield Forest during the holiday. Other than being washed away with the rain, a super time was had by all. The guides worked towards their Observer, Backwoodsman and Pioneer badges, and went horse riding, boating and swimming.

The 1st Stansted Guides were pleased to enrol the following girls recently - Alison Phillips, Nicola Petchey, Beverley Blow, Pamela Stringer, Kerry Freeguard, Karen Dellow, Emma Bloss.

THE ROYAL WEDDING

I was very surprised and thrilled when I had a telephone call from the Guide Commissioner to say that my name had been drawn from a selection of six young Guide Leaders to go to London to sell official programmes in the Mall on the day of the Royal Wedding.

We had to attend Guide Headquarters on the Tuesday afternoon and were briefed as to our times and duties for the following day. We were all able to be outside Buckingham Palace on the Tuesday evening, to see the Royal Family and visitors go to the firework display. This was a wonderful thrill for us. Very little sleep was had by anyone that night, great excitement could be heard in the streets. Bagpipes played and great merriment was heard.

WEDNESDAY: In the morning we had to be in the Mall selling our programmes at 6.30 am. The atmosphere was fantastic; everybody jolly and the policemen were wonderful.

By 8 am all our programmes were sold. Our time was then our own until mid-day so, with three other Rangers we made our way to Trafalgar Square and managed to get a view of the procession, but the most impressive part was the feeling and atmosphere of all the crowds.

It was a memorable experience for me and one I wouldn't have missed for anything.

Ann Fuller, Young
Leader.

STANSTED EVENING WI

Herbs and their many uses was the subject of a talk by Mrs Blyth when she visited the July meeting. She gave us useful recipes for improving our health, beauty and cooking! After refreshments members enjoyed a "People and Products" quiz. The next meeting on September 10th will include a talk on Beauty Therapy by Miss Alison Watts.

Sally M Smith

STARSTED WI
(Afternoon)

At the July Meeting our speaker was a very lively lady, Mrs Fuller, who described how she came to write a book. It was not an easy task but the urge was so great that it just had to be written!

Mrs Fuller went on to describe how she trained as a nurse in the mining town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. After qualifying, the next step was to join the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserves. Whilst serving with them the Second Front commenced, and the QAs took part as the Sisters followed the Forces into France, where hospitals were set up. The first wave of QAs worked for five days and nights without a break so the new arrivals, amongst whom was our speaker, were more than welcome. Mrs Fuller's recollections were many and she held us entranced. We would have been happy to listen to her for a very long time indeed. However, all things must come to an end and, after all, we can read her book!

C Francis

WEA IN STANSTED

The Autumn course is, as we had hoped, on Architecture and will be held on Monday evenings at 8 pm in the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, starting on 21st September. Anyone interested is most welcome. Further details from John Gough, BS 813728.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Our annual picnic, after an unfortunate start which caused a sudden change of venue, eventually changed into its usual success story. Instead of Hatfield Forest, we had to resort to St Mary's C of E School playing field as the grass at the Forest was far too long and wet to manoeuvre wheel chairs.

Joyce and Barbara served us all with an excellent lunch in the school dining hall and we then made for the field to tackle the many varied sideshows gallantly set up by Judy, Derek, Ken and their scout helpers. Brian was there with his ponies and the children enjoyed their rides as the sun shone kindly on us all. One of our members came to grief, landing in the one and only trade-mark left by the ponies, which caused the merriest laugh of the day.

This year we were joined by handicapped friends from Greenwich and Saffron Walden. The biggest accolade of the day came when one of the Greenwich children said "Nice place you got 'ere, Miss."

After tea we all took part in the races and everyone cheated, but everyone was a winner in the end. As a finale, the helpers took on the children in a grand tug-of-war which the helpers won by tying the rope to the fence!

Every child went home tired but happy, clutching an orange and a badge of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

Many, many thanks to all who helped to make this the best picnic ever.

M G Johnson

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Thirty-five members attended at the Friends Meeting House on the evening of 3rd August, for an illustrated talk by Mrs Doris Thomas, of Elsenham, about her garden. Mrs Thomas showed slides taken at all seasons of the year and gave many useful tips on her methods of raising and tending various plants and flowers.

The next meeting will be held at the Youth Centre on Monday 7th September at 8.00 pm, with Mr J Cox coming from Chelmsford to talk about 'Dahlias' and show his slides.

The Club, now boasting nearly fifty members, is also planning a coach outing to the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge on Saturday, 12th September.

Anyone interested in joining the Club is welcome to attend meetings (fee - 50p for non-members, returnable on joining) on the first Monday of each month at the Youth Centre, or could contact Mr and Mrs Humphreys, The Cottage, Burton End, Tel: 814475, for more information.

A Humphreys
Secretary

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMENS SECTION

The Chairman of the Stansted Branch, Mrs K Stevens, welcomed Miss Reay who gave a very interesting talk, illustrated by cine film, on her trip into Red China and train journey from Peking into Hong Kong. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs P Clower.

At the next meeting on 12th September, a Harvest Sale is being held and anyone interested will be most welcome.

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FUTURE EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 2nd September | Harvest Fair in aid of <u>Dr Barnado's Home</u> at <u>BENTFIELD PLACE</u> by kind permission of Mrs Thompson. Open at 11 am. Stalls, Raffles, etc. |
| Saturday/Sunday 17/18 October | <u>Stansted Art and Craft Market</u> . Previous Markets raised money for Peter Kirk Memorial Fund and Herts & Essex Hospital Cardiac Unit. This year the organisers hope to find a deserving cause within the village. Further volunteers to help will be most welcome - contact: Martin Cown 814596, Arthur Law, 813573, Greg Snow, 813051, Geoff Wright, 812599. More details in next month's LINK. |
| Wednesday 28 October | <u>Blue Cross, Royal National Lifeboats Institution, Missions to Seamen</u> . A Morning Market will be held in St John's Church Hall from 10 am - 12 noon. Delicatessen, Bring & Buy and other stalls; raffles. |

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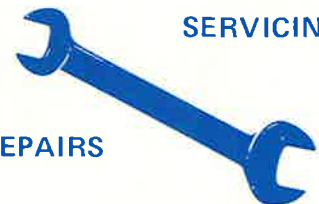
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