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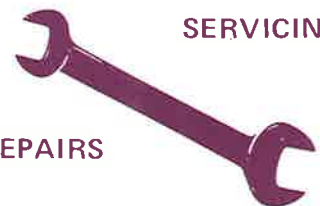
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THE RISEN CHRIST

Easter is without doubt the most important Day in the Christian calendar. It was the day on which Christ proved himself to be God as well as man. He had told his disciples that he would die, and that on the third day he would rise from the dead. That is why the authorities had posted a guard around the cave in which the body of Christ was laid.

Nevertheless, early in the morning of that third day (Easter Sunday) when the women came back to finish anointing the dead body of Christ, what did they find? The stone which had sealed the entrance of the cave had been rolled away; the clothes that had been wound round Christ's body were there, as were also those that had been wound around his head, but the body was not there.

Then, shortly after, the Risen Christ appeared to Mary Magdalen and also to Peter and the Apostles. Their mourning was turned to joy; they realised for the first time what Christ had meant when he said that he would rise from the dead.

May this Easter have the same meaning to every reader of this month's 'Link' as it had to all the disciples of Jesus - that Joy and Peace and Love that only Christ can give.

Father Joe Tuohy

Copy should reach 48 St. John's Road
by 16th April (for May Issue)
by 14th May (for June Issue)

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

Christian Aid Week 1982 (10-15 May)

MARKET STALL - SATURDAY 15th May 1982

Please help us stock the stalls by making cakes, Jam,
Marmalade, Sweets: by growing Plants, Flowers or
Vegetables: by collecting Books, Old Furniture, White
White Elephants

and letting us have them to store:

Margaret Booker - 812684

Margaret Burton - 814279

But please NO CLOTHES this year.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY



Bible Society

The aim of the Society has always been two-fold: to provide the Scriptures in a language which people can understand and to publish these at a price which people can afford. To help provide all the Scriptures needed in the poorer developing countries such as parts of Africa and South America or Asia, the United Bible Societies will spend over twelve million pounds in the coming year, of which the British and Foreign Bible Society will contribute about two million. It is to help raise this money for the World Budget that we in this country suscribe to the Bible Society through Action Groups like the one that has operated in Stansted for many years.

We are holding a COFFEE MORNING on THURSDAY MAY 6th

10.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m. AT THE VICARAGE,

ST. JOHN'S ROAD

BRING AND BUY STALL.

STANSTED AND DISTRICT ACTION GROUP of the BIBLE SOCIETY

Society of Friends

Our older Meeting Houses with their plain benches and wood-pannelled walls drew Friends in from the world around for the quiet of Sunday Meeting for worship. In them, one set of benches was raised a little on a low platform - the 'facing benches' were where the Elders of the Meeting sat. The windows were high in the walls, above the panneling. All was concentrated within. The Meeting Houses at Bardfield, Dunmow and Hertford date back to this time - Hertford's is the oldest in the country.

Going to Meeting at one of these early gathering places gives me this feeling of concentration and intensity. Since the early days there have been some alterations, now accepted and scarcely noticed but very probably earnestly discussed when they were made. The Elders' benches are no longer in use and somewhere in the room a lovingly arranged vase of flowers brings in the colour and variety of the world outside, even if it is only a tiny vase on the table with the Bible and the Friends Book of Discipline, though quite likely there is a freer arrangement in a suitable corner, flowers and branches reminding us of the season outside. Unobtrusive now, these changes show how Friends' thinking has developed and led to a less authoritarian and more open way.

New Meeting Houses often take account of such changes - it is clear that this is so here on Chapel Hill. Our seating is informal and just recently we have taken this further, experimenting with arranging our chairs in a circle, while our big window invites us to look out.

It is clear that our garden at Stansted means a lot to our Meeting for people speak of it from time to time. There is the deep shadowy yew in the corner with clear red berries in the Winter, so beautiful and so dangerous. Another joy is the bush rose as beautiful for the lively springing up of the sprays as for the flowers. By contrast the sturdy trunks of the pines carry the gaze, and perhaps the thoughts, upwards. There is time in the quiet to enjoy the pink and grey of the bark and its irregular patterns and even to feel in imagination its roughness under the fingers.

Are these wandering thoughts an indulgence, an escape? Perhaps, sometimes; they can as well become a part of the hour of worship. A bird rests on the spray, poised and balanced; occasionally a cat with superb elegance crosses along by the hedge. It is a release to see this wonder of movement and there comes to mind the sad loss of movement that so many people must endure, whether from illness or accident. Vague sensations of gratitude turn to a true act of Thanksgiving and to Intercession.

Here is mystery: our creative relation to the world without. We make it what it is at the very moment of responding to it. Whether we are looking at our quiet garden or exploring space as we watch a T.V. programme, there is this same miracle. Awe-inspiring and fascinating as are all the discoveries in space, the chemistry; the immense distances and extreme temperatures and the depth of time, it is most wonderful that man's nature is such that he has power to imagine first and then through his intellect to explore. The creative spark is there in each one however much ability varies between individuals. We feel the 'sense sublime'.....

"Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man"

(Wordsworth. Tintern Abbey. L95-99)

More: in the time of worship we meet a stronger life: the Word that was in the beginning:

"And the Word became flesh
And pitched his tent among us
Full of grace and truth"

(St. John's Gospel - E.V. Rieu's
translation)

Dorothy Stansfield

United Reformed

Faithful readers will remember that I promised a few details of the 30 odd churches which have joined together to form the C.W.M. (Council for World Mission). Let us begin with African churches and, first, the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar.

Madagascar, one of the world's largest islands, has a population of eight million of which three million are Christian. Animism is the religion of the majority. Christian missionaries went to Madagascar before the Protestant Reformation. Despite many attempts and much loss of life, it was not until 1818 with the coming of missionaries from the London Missionary Society that something began which has effectively continued into the present. There was rapid success followed by persecution and martyrdom of converts. The country was closed, then re-opened to missionaries of all traditions, including many Roman Catholics.

In 1968 the English Mission Churches (L.M.S.) joined with churches nurtured by the Paris Mission and the Friends Service Council (Quakers) to form the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar. The Lutherans are the next largest Malagasy

(protestant) church. There is an Anglican church and a Roman Catholic Church. Just over half the Christian community is Roman Catholic. Happily, in Madagascar as in Stansted, there is a fine spirit of co-operation between the churches. An ecumenical Bible is in preparation as a joint church project.

What once were 'mission Churches' have now become Malagasy Churches in their own right. The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar has over 3,000 local churches with over nine hundred ministers. It is divided into seventy five Regional Synods. The church has a big stake in education but has decided that it would be in the interests of all for most of its schools to be passed over to the government when that becomes possible. A central fund has been set up for the payment of ministers.

Financial help is still required and is given by mission bodies, churches and other organizations from other parts of the world. The main links are with Britain and France. Missionaries from other countries are still welcome but mainly in educational rather than ministerial posts. The church itself has provided missionaries to France and West Africa.

Eric McIlwain

DIARY

Monday 5th April 8.00 pm Stansted Guild - Speaker :
Mr. K. Gibbs
Monday 19th April 8.00 pm Stansted Guild - Annual General
Meeting and slide evening by
Peter Trundle
Tuesday 20th April 7.30 pm Church Meeting
EASTER DAY 10.30 am Stansted Group U.R.C. Group
Communion followed by coffee in
Lecture Hall

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Thank God for dirty dishes, they have a tale to tell
While other folk go hungry, They show we've eaten well
So when the sink's piled high, please do not make a fuss
For by this stack of evidence, God is truly good to us.

Methodist

I come to look at the third emphasis of early Methodism which fell under that powerful three-letter word "ALL". This is, "All may know that they are saved". The accent falls on the words "may know". It is concerned with conviction, assurance, certainty. Indeed John Wesley, taking his cue from St. Paul and the Reformers, laid great stress on this aspect of Christian experience. One of his greatest contributions to theology was re-discovery and re-statement of the Doctrine of Assurance. In the early days of the Methodist

revival he over-played his hand in this matter. As a very old man he wrote, "when fifty years ago my brother Charles and I, in the simplicity of our hearts taught the people that, unless they knew their sins were forgiven, they were under the wrath and curse of God, I marvel they did not stone us." So Wesley changed his view. Whereas he had insisted that "All must know that they are saved", he later said, "All may know". But he still valued the experience of inward assurance very greatly. Did it matter? Was it all academic? Does it matter now?

Before we can answer those questions we must know what Wesley and the Reformers and the New Testament are talking about when they speak of assurance. They were not talking about intellectual conviction, of being sure by philosophic reasonings. Whilst such use of reason was not scorned, that was a human source of assurance and was not what they meant. Nor were they talking about the reasonable deduction that if we fulfilled the Scriptural requirements of Repentance and Faith in Christ we could conclude we were on our way to heaven. For that assurance also had its source in human deductions. In speaking of assurance they were referring to the direct action of God in the human soul. St. Paul expressed it this way, "The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God". On which Wesley commented, "The testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ has loved me, and given Himself for me; and that I am reconciled to God".

The importance of this is the great truth that what is essential to the Christian Religion, over and beyond ritual or credal orthodoxy, is the experience of God in the soul. The phenomena of true Christian experience are not self-induced or self-originated; they are the work of God, the fruit of Christ dwelling within us. Any assurance coming that way is miles removed from the proud, offensive cocksureness which characterizes some brands of Evangelical Protestantism. Being solely the action and gift of God, true assurance is quiet, serene, humble, grateful and above all - joyous.

What Wesley preached and experienced in this matter is readily seen in St. Francis of Assisi, in Mother Julian of Norwich and many others.

The hallmarks of being inwardly assured by God's own Spirit that we are ever held in His love, are peace and joy. The peace is the peace of sins forgiven. All our grim fears are dissolved and all our best hopes assured, not by anything we can overcome or achieve, but by God's amazing grace, of which He has quietly assured us in the depths of our being. We are thus delivered from

having to prove ourselves, from the struggle to succeed in the heavenly race, from the burden of required achievements. Life becomes much more relaxed, serene, bearable. And what frantic struggles fail to produce in character, quiet, indwelling grace does produce.

The joy is the joy of life being discovered and accepted as God's treasure given to us - a treasure He never fails to love, care for and want as his own. It is the joy of final securities and ultimate delight made certain by God's inward witness that He loves us to the uttermost.

Maybe peace and joy are the facets of Christian character most absent from mainstream, orthodox, respectable Churchgoers. It is noticeable that those Christians whom we broadly label "charismatic" often possess joy and peace to a marked degree. When allowances have been made for the dangers and distortions of the wrong-headed types of Charismatics, there remains a large body of charismatic/Pentecostalist Christians, across the denominations, whose lives are serene with God-given peace and radiant with Christ-like joy. They thoroughly enjoy their Christianity and so enjoy life wonderfully. Isn't that how it ought to be? In the Church and in the world?

Harold Fisher

Roman Catholic

PARISH DIARY

Friday 2nd April - Mead Court, a short service for the elderly - 3pm.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday 4th April - Blessing and distributing of Palms at all Masses. Stations of The Cross and Benediction at 4.00 pm at Henham

Monday 5th April - 8.00 pm Mass followed by Parish Council meeting at St. Theresa's

Maundy Thursday 8th April - Special Mass at 8.00 pm followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight

Good Friday 9th April - Special Good Friday service at 3.00 pm with the reading of Christ's Passion, veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. 8.00 pm Stations of the Cross and veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday 10th April - Easter Vigil Mass at 8.00 pm with blessing of the fire and Paschal Candle

Easter Sunday 11th April - Masses at 8.00 am and 10.30 am at Stansted and 9.15 pm at Henham

Sunday 25th April - Bishop's Visitation. Masses 8.00 am and 11.00 am at Stansted and 9.15 am at Henham. Special Mass for the sick at Stansted at 4.00 pm.

WEDDINGS Congratulations to Tony Scheuber and Pat Chrouch, and to Jeremy Hall and Ann Deehan, both couples were married on 20th February. Also to Tony Horan and Julie Wallis married on 5th March.

RECENT DEATHS Annie Townsend, Ellen Hahn and Michael Sweeney. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful rest in peace

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THE NATURAL WAY TO PRAY AND SAY THANKS

(Excerpts from an article on charismatic renewal by Father Derek Vance)

When Cardinal Hume was coming to celebrate Mass at the priests' Charismatic conference at Easter last year a certain newspaper editor asked me if it would be "a Charismatic Mass"? I asked what he meant and the reply was, "Oh, you know with all that singing and waving your hands in the air".

His was not an isolated view. Many people who have seen prayer groups from the sidelines equate charismatic with that sort of carry-on. And the question is why do they do it?

The reason is that, having experienced a real renewal of their faith, people want to praise and thank God as never before. The real thanks and praise they find welling up in their hearts just has to break out and be expressed and they find the more buttoned-up postures and expressions inadequate.

Unless we have some abnormal hang-up of frigidity it is normal when you are in love to express this with your whole being, with understandable words certainly, but also with murmuring sweet nothings and with emotions and with your body.

It is the same with us and God. When you experience that God loves you and that you want to praise and thank him then you know that you just have to love him and express it "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength".

Such love cannot remain bottled up within you. We are bodily human beings and we need to express our love. Infants have the truth of the matter when they sing their song "If you're happy and you know it, then you really have to show it. If you're happy and you know it clap your hands!"

In the Gospels this is quite clear. Jesus Himself expresses his compassion for others and his love for his Father in words, tears and action.

Those who have come alive and been raised up by Renewal feel the same. That is why they praise God in a loud



voice and raise their arms to their heavenly Father. And in doing that they are being very traditional.

The Desert Fathers and monks were always at it. St. Dominic had nine ways of praying which involved bodily postures and in his Spiritual Exercises St. Ignatius Loyala details various bodily postures for prayer.

So why do these people pray like that? Simply because they are in love with God who has first shown his great love for them. When you are in love you do apparently crazy things to express it regardless of the raised eyebrows of others. You will find of course in Charismatic gatherings deep silence and other prayer styles. But the point is you know that, in being renewed, Jesus has set you free. And you are free to express that in any way the spirit prompts you.

Church of England

Lord,
by your
cross and
resurrection
you have
set us
Free.
You are the
Saviour
of the world.



FROM THE VICAR

Holy Week is the climax of the Christian year and elsewhere in this magazine you will find details of our services. The aim of the Holy Week services, which have been developed over the years, is to unite us to Jesus Christ in his sufferings, death and resurrection. I hope therefore you will come to these acts of worship for they can be the means whereby we deepen our love for God and our fellow men. They also impart to us new life and fresh hope.

* * * * *

The churchyard at St Mary's is a place where many find peace and consolation. We owe a great deal to Judy Goddard, Derek Honour and others who work so hard to keep it tidy. Needless to say we can always do with some more voluntary help. We are also grateful to the Parish Council who help us with the cost of maintaining the churchyard. As for the future, it may be difficult to keep it exactly as we all

would like. Not only are costs bound to increase but we also have the problem of more and more memorial stones being erected. Every new memorial stone means it takes longer to cut the grass. So I appeal for your help. If you are connected with any grave, please keep it tidy.

I expect you know that there are regulations governing churchyards which have been drawn up by the Chancellor of the Diocese.

Memorial stones have to be a certain size and made from natural stone from Great Britain. Further more it is not permissible for other stones to be placed on graves. I have noticed that some people are placing kerbs of flint or other stones round the grave. This is not allowed for it has to be remembered that serious damage can be inflicted on the mowers. I do ask for your co-operation in this.

The memorial garden for the interment of ashes is now full and we have applied for a faculty to make a new one. There are new regulations concerning memorial gardens. In future small memorial stones may not be erected over the place of interment but instead names and inscriptions may be written in a Memorial Book.

There is always a lot of emotion surrounding death and bereavement and I hope the Church will always help people in difficult times. In return please remember that we have to obey the regulations given to us by the Chancellor who is thinking of the future maintenance of our churchyards.

* * * * *

Minnie Sayzeland of Cannons Mead has died after a long illness. A truly Christian woman who was always cheerful and had received her Communion regularly and with real devotion. I thank God for having known her and I know I am not alone in this.

* * * * *

May God bless you all and may you have a joyful Easter.

ST JOHN'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL

In years gone by 6th May was always kept as St John's Patronal Festival. Last year we revised the custom of keeping it and we intend to do the same this year. There will be a Sung Eucharist on Thursday 6th May at 8.00 pm followed by coffee and biscuits. Then on Saturday 8th May we are having a Family Evening with a bring and share supper. Look in the weekly newsheet for further details.

STANSTED YOUNG WIVES

Our only meeting in April is on the 20th when Kathy Selwood of K.C. Sewing Machines in Bishop's Stortford will give us some tips on how to get the best out of our sewing machines. When she came in 1980, we just didn't have enough time to take in all her helpful advice:

Please remember anyone who is willing to stand on the committee will be most welcome as most of the current committee members are having to resign as of the AGM on 18th May.

As a handy reminder about when we meet - it's the first and third Tuesdays of each month in term time, at St John's Church Hall. Tea is served from 1.30 pm and speakers normally talk from 2.00 till 3.00 pm. A creche is available and we ask 15p donation to funds to recover our costs of tea, squash and biscuits.

T I N Y T O T S

Believe it or not, we are nearly a year old! Since 12th May last year when, rather nervously, we launched our special mid-week services for Mothers with young children, we have grown visibly. We meet twice a month, in St John's Church, on Chapel Hill, at 2.00 pm, for a short service, followed by tea, biscuits and toys in the Hall. If you haven't been along before, and would like to, or if you came to our Christmas celebrations and enjoyed them, but haven't been since - then DO come along ... especially on 11th May which will be our birthday! We're a very friendly lot. Our future meetings are as follows, on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month:

27th April (there being no service on 13th April, two days after Easter)
 11th May
 25th May ... and so on...

For details, contact Fr Andrew on Bishop's Stortford 814463.

PARISH DIARY

April

2nd Service at Mead Court 3.00 pm
 Concert of light music in St John's Church
 5th - 10th HOLY WEEK For the details of Holy Week services, see separate panel.
 14th Forum
 22nd Day of prayer for those suffering from Schizophrenia.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



4th Palm Sunday	Holy Communion (Rite B) 8.00 am	SJ
	Blessing of Palms, Procession (outdoor weather permitting)	SJ
	Family Communion (Rite A) 9.30am	SJ
	Songs of Praise 6.30 pm	SJ
5th Monday	Holy Communion 7.30 pm	SJ
6th Tuesday	Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm	SJ
7th Wednesday	Holy Communion 7.30 pm	SJ
	Holy Communion 10.00am	SJ
	Holy Communion 7.30 pm	SJ
8th Maundy Thursday	Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm	SJ
	Holy Communion 10 am (Rite B)	SJ
	Sung Eucharist and Chain of Prayer until midnight 8.00pm	SJ
9th Good Friday	Holy Hour 12 noon	SJ
	Children's Service 2.00 pm	SJ
	Good Friday Liturgy including Holy Communion 8.00 pm	SJ
10th Easter Eve	Easter Ceremonies 8.00 pm	SJ
11th Easter Day	Holy Communion (BCP) 7.00am	SJ
	Holy Communion 8.00am (Rite B)	SM
	Family Communion (Rite A)	SJ
	Sung Matins (BCP) 11.15 am	SM
	Holy Communion (Rite B, shortened) 12.15 pm	SM
	Sung Evensong (BCP) 6.30 pm	SM

Note: SJ = St John's
 SM = St Mary's

PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage: Colin Marlow of 53 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted
and
Lynn Patricia Walton of 33 Stortford Hall Park,
Bishop's Stortford

Village News

V I L L A G E D I A R Y

April

- .1 Official start of Tennis Club season
8.00 pm An Agape Supper organised by Stansted
Association Christian Churches at United Reformed
Church Lecture Hall
- 2 11.00 am Coffee Morning for Hargrave House League of
Friends at Hargrave House. Bring and Buy, etc.
- 3 2.00 pm Spring Sale for Chapel Hill Playgroup at
United Reformed Church Lecture Hall
- 26 Women's Own Spring Sale at United Reformed Church
Lecture Hall
- 29 8.00 pm National Childbirth Trust Meeting at St. John's
Hall. Speaker Mr. R. Hartwell, Consultant Obstetrician.
Entrance Fee 50p including refreshments

May

- 3 Guide and Scout Fete at Bentfield Place
- 8 8.00 pm to 11.30 pm carnival Association hold Country
and Western Dance at Mountfitchet School. 1982 Carnival
Queen to be chosen
- 18 Essex Show at Great Leighs
- 19 " " " " "

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SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

A large number of children will be leaving at Easter to start
Primary School.

We wish them all well and hope that they have enjoyed their
time at Sideways as much as we have enjoyed having them there.

At the same time may we welcome all the new boys and girls
who will be joining us after Easter.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

There is magic in St. John's Hall on Thursday evenings. No, we do not have a resident conjurer; rabbits are not produced from top hats; no-one disappears or changes into a tiger and we do not risk anyone being sawn in half, but please read on.

A table in the activity room holds piles of odds and ends including corrugated cardboard, crepe paper, glue, felt tip pens, clothes pegs, sticky labels and woollen balls. A very odd collection, but Eirean is on hand to start the transformation scene.

With lots of encouragement little fingers (and not so little fingers) will cut and cover the cardboard with green paper and turn it into a grass base. Paper is cut into shape and folded, glue is applied and the woollen ball has grown eyes, ears and a nose.

After various other bits and pieces are juggled and manoeuvred into position, lo and behold, the finished article is a cute and endearing hedgehog, sitting on his own patch of lawn.

All this without the aid of a magician's wand but to our handicapped members who have created their own models, it is indeed magic.

Betty Lockwood.

THE SUE RYDER FOUNDATION

The Foundation's work is to care for the sick and disabled of all age groups in different parts of the world, regardless of creed and colour.

In Britain, the Sue Ryder Homes care for adults and children with cancer (whether convalescent or terminal), the physically and mentally handicapped and those in the upper age groups. It is our privilege to work for and with them.

May I especially mention Green Shield stamps. These are no longer being given in stores, garages, etc., but are desperately needed to help replace worn-out vehicles required by the Homes. So, if you have any stamps or books of stamps tucked away somewhere, please let us have them for trading in to help the Foundation. These vehicles are essential and over 3,000 books are needed for each one. If you can possibly help, please take stamps direct to Cavendish, or leave with Miss E. TAME, 58 Cambridge Road, Stansted, who regularly visits and takes clothing and other gifts to the Sue Ryder Home at Cavendish, Suffolk.

HARGRAVE HOUSE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

At our last meeting our Chairman, Mr. Bob Rolfe, had to resign as he is now working in Wakefield. We greatly appreciate his hard work in the last two years in getting the League started. As his wife, Denise, helped as well, we are now two Friends short and we are appealing to anyone who can spare a few hours, to come and help us in our work for these seriously handicapped children.

If you would like to know more, please ring the numbers below or come to our next meeting on Monday, 26th April, at Hargrave House at 8.00 p.m.

We are holding a Coffee Morning at Hargrave House on Friday, 2nd April, at 11.00a.m. with a Bring and Buy Stall, home produce and raffle. Hope to see you.

Many thanks to all who bought and sold raffle tickets at Christmas, After expenses were paid we made £84.00.

Francine Cope	814562
Cynthia Young	812234
Denise Rolfe	814157
Louie Jones	813702

S T A N S T E D C A R N I V A L A S S O C I A T I O N

Country and Western Dance to the P.T.A. Band. Incorporating the selection of 1982 Carnival Queen. On Saturday, 8th May, at 8.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. at the Mountfitchet School, Stansted. Licensed Bar. Price, £2.25 including Ploughman's Supper.

Tickets available from B & R Electrics, Cambridge Road, Stansted on B/S 814368.

Carnival Queen entry form available from B & R Electrics, the committee, or on the night.

The Carnival Committee are able to offer a duplicating service to local organisations who supply their own Roneo stencil and paper. A charge of 1p per copy for first 100, then ½p per copy thereafter. Maximum size A4. Ring B/S 813997 for details.

BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our young footballers, they have had a most successful season so far and are unbeaten in their friendly matches with other Essex Primary schools.

Matches Played up to March 1st

<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Score</u>
Newport	X		8:3
Henham	X		8:4
Clavering 'A'	X		12:0
Clavering 'B'	X		8:0
St. Mary's	X		4:1
Manuden	X		6:0
Takeley	X		7:5

Well done lads. Perhaps someone ought to tell Ron Greenwood or Keith Burkinshaw to send their scouts up here!!

Janice Wray

T H E M O U N T F I T C H E T S C H O O L

SPRING FAIR The Mountfitchet School P.T.A. held its annual Spring Fair at the School on March 6th. In addition to the usual Jumble Sale and sideshows, there were some more unusual items, such as guessing the weight of a goat. The School Wind Band played background music during the event which raised over £500 to be spent on amenities for the school.

EDUCATIONAL CRUISE A group of pupils, accompanied by Mrs. J. Marsh, set off on March 9th for an educational cruise on the S.S. Uganda. Flying first from Gatwick Airport, they joined the boat at Split in Yugoslavia, and then set off to visit Greece and the Greek Islands, Israel, Sicily and Malta from where they fly home.

COMPUTER The School has now taken delivery of its new computer, the RML 380Z, which will provide a valuable addition to the Computer Studies courses.

SUPPLY TEACHERS We are always glad to hear from teachers living in Stansted and district who would like to be put on our list of supply teachers to take duty at short notice.

D.W. Pollard

The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood
Stansted & District Group

Following our first A.G.M. in March, we now have a new Committee and have great plans for the future (we think!). Our March Open House was well supported and Mums were able to have professional photographs taken of their offspring in time for Granny to have that special picture for Easter. Our Coffee Mornings are now well supported, but there is always room for another little one, if you're interested.

Our diary for April will be as follows:

- Friday, 2nd Coffee for expectant mums and those with children under one year, at 46 Wetherfield from 10.30 a.m.
- Monday, 5th Open House at 19 Longcroft from 2.00 p.m. There will be an Easter Bonnet competition for the children; judging will be at 3.00 p.m.
- Wednesday, 14th Evening meeting at 19 Longcroft at 8.00 p.m. Local midwife, Mrs. J. O'Dell will talk on "General Care in Pregnancy" to be followed by discussion.
- Friday, 16th Under 1's and expectant mums, coffee at 4 Spencer Close from 10.30 a.m.
- Friday, 23rd Under 1's and expectant mums, coffee at 41 Gilbey Crescent from 10.30 a.m.
- Saturday, 24th Study Day at Princess Alexandra Hospital 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. to discuss breastfeeding and allergies. Speakers Dr. D. Hardy, Miss Chloe Fisher and Dr. L. McEwen. Tickets £2.00. For details ring Pam Hutchison 812721.
- Wednesday, 28th Open House at 43 Gilbey Crescent from 2.00 p.m. We shall have a grand sale (not a jumble sale) of nearly new children's and maternity clothes, and nursery equipment and toys on a 75/25% basis. Items to 43 Gilbey Crescent from April 20th, please, well labelled with name and address and price required.
- Thursday, 29th Evening meeting at St. John's Church Hall at 8.00 p.m., Mr. R. Hartwell, Consultant Obstetrician to talk on "The Concept of Natural Childbirth". Entrance 50p., including refreshments.
- Friday, 30th Under 1's and expectant mums, coffee at 6 Brewery Lane from 10.30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome at all our meetings - you don't have to be an NCT member (although your support would be appreciated at H.Q.) and we'd love to see some new faces. Do come along!

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES' REGISTER

Local Organisers: Katy Dockerill Bishops Stortford 812997
Libby Martin Bishops Stortford 812807

Please contact either for any further information about our group. New members are always very welcome.

A number of us met on Thursday, 18th February, to talk about what makes us laugh. We brought with us books, tapes, cartoons, etc., which quickly showed the wide variety of tastes present. The perennial Tony Hancock proved to be as popular as ever: the 'Blood Donor' can still raise a laugh even though it has been heard many times before.

/On Thursday, 4th March

National Housewives' Register . . .

On Thursday, 4th March we had a meeting to discuss the life and works of Michelangelo. All of us had some knowledge of his work even if it was limited to the statue David and the Sistine Chapel, but Lisa Sliwa, one of our members, was able to increase our knowledge considerably with the aid of books and slides.

Future meetings: Wednesday, 31st March is the evening for Religions. Following previously very successful meetings, we intend to find out more about Rastafarians, Mormons, and the Chinese.

Tuesday, 13th April. The Stuarts are the subject for this meeting. Come and improve your history.

Tuesday, 20th April is the Book Group evening. The books that we will discuss are: The Green Darkness, Anya Seton; The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien; Puffball, Fay Weldon.

Libby Martin

STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

At the February Meeting of the Afternoon W.I. we were sad to learn of the passing of Mrs. Snow. We held a few minutes silence in her memory.

Our Speaker for the afternoon was Miss Stockman who gave us a talk on Local Government. Miss Stockman must have spent many hours on research and certainly took a lot of time and trouble in order to trace the growth of Local Government from Saxon times through the Feudal System to Tudor times, then to the Present Day. She compared the original local meetings which at that time would have been just each village, with today's Town and Parish Councils. As her talk progressed, each step taken was the outcome of logical growth due to better communications, population expansion, etc. She highlighted the manorial systems, the introduction of rates, the welfare services and the legal system and how these grew alongside Government. Altogether it was a fascinating talk, much enjoyed by us all.

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

The W.I. can never be accused of being too parochial. I have looked with some interest at the proposed classes, courses and conferences arranged for this year by our County Federation and our own W.I. here in Stansted. We are indeed very lucky to belong to such an organisation when there are no limits to what a member can learn on any subject under the sun.

Our main shop window for the year, when the general public sees what we get up to, is of course the Essex Show. It is to be held at Gt. Leighs as usual on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th June. Many local institutes enter the various sections and do well. Our members are allowed to buy tickets for this great event at a low rate so that's certainly a real advantage in belonging to the W.I.

During this year there will be Music and Drama Festivals, Tennis and Rounders Tournaments, a public speaking competition, a bird quiz, a trip to the Tate Gallery and a weekend in Paris. Something for everyone, I'm sure you'll agree.

Meanwhile, back here, our next meeting on April 8th will be held in the Quaker Hall again, so come early to get a good seat to hear Mr. Heppell talk about autistic children. See you there, I hope.

/Royal British Legion

R O Y A L B R I T I S H L E G I O N

Women's Section

At the monthly meeting on February 18th our President, Mrs. Gabb, presented Mrs. Stevens with a certificate won in the County Needlework Competition.

Members also learned that Stansted and District branch were runners-up in the annual Area Competition for the earliest collection of 100% members' subscriptions.

Mrs. Mumford, branch delegate at the Area Conference held at Friends' House, Euston Square, on 3rd February, gave a very interesting report on its proceedings. Among other things she told us how a young member from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution recounted to the Conference details of the Penlee disaster. He said that waves as high as church towers rose and fell around the lifeboat and when morning came and the full extent of the damage could be seen, no piece of wood larger than a six foot table remained from the lifeboat. He said that the lifeboat donated some years ago by the British Legion is now used as a relief boat off the Scottish coast.

After normal business had been completed, members were shown some delightful slides ranging through holidays in North Devon, the Cotswolds and Bournemouth to scenes nearer home in Cambridge, Duxford and Saffron Walden. Mrs. Stevens thanked Miss Wiffen for showing her slides and for her interesting commentary on them.

On March 3rd 39 members from our branch went to the Civic Theatre at Chelmsford to see a really first-class production of "This Happy Breed", which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

Our quarterly Group meeting was held at Felsted on March 10th and was well attended by members from a number of local branches. There was a useful exchange of ideas and members heard an interesting talk by the Chairman of the Essex War Pensions Committee.

The next branch meeting will be in St. John's Hall, on April 15th when Mrs. Bayford is coming to talk to us about cystic fibrosis.

Pat Clower

STANSTED AND DISTRICT C.N.D. GROUP

The next monthly meeting of the group will be on Wednesday, 14th April at 8.00 p.m. when Peggy Clark will lead a discussion of the book "Lambs to the Slaughter". Phone 813997 for venue.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. in the United Reform Church Hall on Wednesday, 12th May. There will be a showing of the film, "Nuclear Countdown".

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

Mrs. Roshevel, who is a Social Worker at Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, was the speaker at the Seniors' Club on March 3rd. She gave a clear comprehensive account of the different options to choose from for older people who have to move home, and answered several questions with clarity, introducing a touch of humour which kept the attention of all members, and contributed to a happy afternoon. Four members shared a birthday on 3rd March, so we sang 'Happy Birthday to You'.

The Club has now been reluctantly compelled temporarily to close the membership as the numbers are more than allowable in St. John's Hall at any one time. If you wish to become a member in the future, your name can be put on a waiting list and you will be notified of any vacancy. The Club Committee regrets having to come to this decision, but must comply with regulations.

M O U N T F I T C H E T G A R D E N C L U B

Mr. D.J. Neate, of Writtle Agricultural College, was the speaker at the club's March meeting. His subject, Propagation by Cuttings, was of interest to many members, who will be out with their secateurs, nipping bits off their favourite plants in an attempt to put into practice the skills Mr. Neate passed on. After a general talk on the many different techniques used for this form of propagation, members were advised on the particular method best suited to the specific plants in which they were interested.

The next meeting of the club will be on Monday, 5th April, and the speaker will be Mr. R. Lukies, who will be telling us something about growing Soft Fruit.

Please note that the May meeting will be on Monday, 10th May, as the first Monday in May is a Bank Holiday.

S.I. Frogley

Stansted and District Chamber of Trade

The A.G.M. of the Chamber of Trade was held on February 8th at Stansted Football Social Club. The acting Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, and in her report she said that during the past year the village had suffered the loss of several shops and she hoped that in the not too distant future, Stansted would have a new look and shops will again be opened to replace those which have been closed and sadly missed by many people in the village.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Robinson, presented a favourable report and despite the closure of shops our membership was now 56. The Social Secretary reported that the Christmas Dance held at Stansted Hall in December was once again a great success. Out of the Social Fund, £25 had been donated to the Stansted Medical Equipment Fund.

Mr. Deamer, the retiring Chairman, was presented with a Gardening Gift voucher for all his hard work during the last two years.

It was decided to hold an 'open meeting' for all members on the second Monday in every month, starting in May.

We are pleased to announce that the plans for the 'Village Sign' which was given anonymously to the Chamber for the Village, have now been approved. This sign will be positioned on the North side of the village. Our grateful thanks go to Mr. P. Braeckman for allowing the sign to be placed on his land.

If members have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

P. Griggs
Chairman

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Mill is open between 2.30 and 7.00 pm on the first Sunday each month from April to October and every Sunday in August. Also open at the same times on the Sunday and Monday of the three Bank Holidays. Admission is 20p for adults and 10p for accompanied children. Parties can be catered for at other times—Ring B.S. 813159 for details.

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