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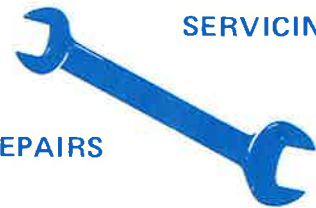
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## M. COLLINS Family News

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LINK POETRY COMPETITION

LINK wishes to thank all the children who wrote poems for this Christmas issue.

After long deliberation, the judges have decided to publish two poems from the younger age group.

Unfortunately, the entries from the older group which had poetic merit did not deal with the assigned subject of "Christmas".

\*\*\*\*\*

Philip Baines, aged seven

Christmas

Christmas day is nearly here  
Santa-Claus will then appear  
He gives us toys and sweets in  
a sack  
It must take him a long time to  
pack.

We are told not to peep  
We go to bed and try to sleep  
The dark cold night seems long  
to me  
When will morning come so I can  
see?

Karen Hawkes, aged ten

The Feeling of Christmas

Outside the crisp crunchy snow.  
It's cold and slippery.  
Frosty patterns on windows.  
Numb fingers and toes.

Inside it's cosy and warm.  
The smell of Christmas tree, the twinkling  
lights.

Excited children opening presents.  
I can't wait till Christmas!

\*\*\*\*\*

Copy should reach 48 St John's Road  
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by 13th January 1983 for February issue.



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Mrs. Jan Taylor, 14, Cawkell Close, Tel: 813891

Items for publication (news, letters, articles, etc.) should be delivered to  
Mrs. Mair Muir, 48 St. John's Road. Tel: 812289.

inions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those  
of the SACC, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**Clergy:** The Rev'd. Barry Rose, The Vicarage,  
St. John's Road. Tel: 812203.  
The Rev'd. Andrew Proud, 43 Gilbey Crescent.  
Tel: 814463.

**Services:** Held in St. John's, St. John's Road and St. Mary's,  
Church Road.  
Holy Communion - 8 a.m.  
Family Communion - 9.30 a.m.

Holy Communion (1662) - 11.15 a.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
Evensong - 6.30 p.m.

In Summer months some of these services held in  
St. Mary's. See notice in church porches for  
further details.

### METHODIST CHURCH

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

**Minister:** The Rev'd. Harold Fisher, 2 South Road,  
Bishop's Stortford. Tel: 54475.

**Services:** Morning Service and Sunday School - 9.15 a.m.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Theresa's Church, Millside.

**Priest:** The Rev'd. David Chapman, 12, Millside  
(flat above Church). Tel: 814349.

**Services:** Sunday Masses - 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.  
and at Henham - 9.15 a.m.  
Holy Days - 9.15 a.m. and 8 p.m.  
Confessions on Saturday after 10.30 a.m. Mass

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

**Local Contact:** Mair Muir, 48 St. John's Road.  
Tel: 812289.

**Meeting for worship:** 10.45 a.m.

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Chapel Hill.

**Minister:** The Rev'd. Eric McIlwain, 18 Cambanks,  
Union Lane, Cambridge. Tel: (0223) 313152.

**Group Secretary:**  
Miss Dorothy Oswald, 29 Bentfield Causeway.  
Tel: 814758.

**Services:** Morning Service with Junior Church - 11 a.m.

For details of services at Clavering, Newport and Widdington  
please ring the Group Secretary.



WE WISH ALL OUR READERS THE BLESSINGS OF  
CHRISTMAS AND PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR.

## *Stansted Association of Christian Churches*

### INTERNATIONAL EVENING FOR ONE WORLD WEEK

On Saturday 23rd October the Stansted Association of Christian Churches held an international evening in the U.R.C. Lecture Hall. Unfortunately I missed the early part of the entertainment, which I believe took the form of a quiz for the children. When I arrived, people were tucking into some of the delicious food that had been provided. The original idea of national dishes proved popular and I really enjoyed the opportunity of sampling spicy meat pasties and peanut sauce from Uganda. There were also Bolivian dishes as well as English fare for the less adventurous.

The high spot of the evening was a lively entertainment of music and dance by men and women from Aklowa, the African village in Takeley. We were invited to join in the dancing and play the drums, with instruction from the leader of the group.

There was also a chance to buy tea, coffee and gifts from the Trade Craft Stall, the proceeds of which go to the Third World countries.

As if this was not enough I was also given a glass wine to drink. All in all, I thought it was an excellent evening, with people from all the churches joining in fellowship with one another.

Stella Skingle

FROM THE VICAR

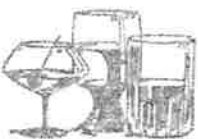
My second curacy was spent as an assistant priest at the Cathedral of St John's in the West Indian Island of Antigua. My arrival and my departure were not announced to the parish. No one knew I was coming until I preached at Evensong. Such was the shortage of priests in that Diocese that curates at the Cathedral were soon whisked off by the bishop to work elsewhere and everyone had become so accustomed to clergy coming and going that no mention was made of it. I confess I felt it odd and wondered if I was really wanted although looking back on the experience I realise why it happened.



I am reminded of this experience in Antigua when I look at Stansted and see that people are coming and going so quickly. Such rapid mobility presents problems to the village community and to the Church. Those who were born here or who have lived here for many years can easily become so hardened to this coming and going that they no longer take the trouble to welcome newcomers. They become tired of making the effort to create new friendships. Newcomers to Stansted may feel they are not going to be here for long and so they do not take the trouble to enter into the life of the community and the Church. Consequently they do not feel they belong and the community is denied their gifts and talents.

Everywhere people are moving around so much more than they used to. Most people are going to live in 4 or 5 or more houses during their lifetime. Surely then we should all aim to live in the present and devote our energies to wherever we happen to be living at the time. The temptation is to look back to where we lived before or to look forward to where we hope to live later. If we do that then we are wasting our life.

Christmas is a time when people are more open to approaches by others. It is a time for opening our homes and lives to other people - a time for putting down roots. So I make a suggestion. Invite a few people that you do not know well into your home for a drink. Don't make a large party of it because you rarely get to know people at parties. Just ask three or four to come along so that you can talk together over a coffee or something stronger. If Janet and I do this, please do not feel that we are being exclusive and only inviting certain people. We will merely be trying to practice what we preach.



\*\*\*\*\*

Our farewells to Sheilagh and Adrian Bell, and Nicholas and Natalie, of 66 Bentfield Gardens who are moving to West London. They have been great supporters of the work of the Church in Stansted and we shall miss them. We know they are sorry to leave after many happy years here. We wish them every happiness in their new home and their new parish.

# Christmas Services

19th December	3pm 6.30pm	Christingle Service Songs of Praise with hymns and carols	S. John's S. John's
24th December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	S. John's
25th December	8am 9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Holy Communion and Carols (Rite B)	S. Mary's S. John's S. Mary's
26th December	8am 9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion Parish Communion Holy Communion (1662)	S. John's S. John's S. John's
2nd January	3pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	S. Mary's



\*\*\*\*\*

Janet, Janice, Andrew and I wish everyone a very happy Christmas, hoping that we will be able to give you and receive from you a personal greeting at one of our Christmas services. May God Bless you and your home.

Barry Rose.

THANK YOU BOYS . . . . .

On Saturday, 6th November, Philip and Andrew Lynton of 36 Bentfield Gardens and Trevor and David Stone of 23 Cawkell Close, stood in the Cambridge Road and collected 'money for the guy' in aid of St John's Appeal. They were rewarded by collecting £22. from passers-by. Thank you Philip, Andrew, Trevor and David for this effort. It is good to see young people taking the initiative and doing something of their own accord to help our Appeal. Unfortunately the Lynton family will soon be leaving Stansted for Blackpool; we wish them every happiness in their new home.

## PARISH DIARY

### December

- 8th St Mary's School Carol Services in St John's.  
11.00 am and 7.30 pm.
- 11th Gnaffe Ensemble Concert - St John's Church Hall. 8.00 pm.
- 15th Mountfitchet School Carol Service in St Mary's.
- 19th Christingle Service 3.00 pm in St John's.  
Songs of Praise with hymns and carols. 6.30 pm
- 24th - 26th For CHRISTMAS SERVICES see separate details.
- 27th St John the Evangelist. Holy Communion 9.00 am
- 28th The Holy Innocents. Holy Communion 7.30pm
- 29th St Stephen. Holy Communion 10.00 am
- 30th and 31st No services of Holy Communion.

### January

- 2nd Nine Lessons and Carols 3.00 pm St Mary's
- 10th PCC Meeting.

## STANSTED MEN'S MEETING - THE FORUM

Twenty-one years ago the Vicar of Stansted, the Rev'd John James, called together a group of men who were addressed by the Secretary of the Church of England Men's Society, Essex Branch. He urged those attending to form a CEMS group in the village and the Vicar and the men decided to form a Stansted Men's Meeting. Mr Aubrey Levey was appointed as chairman. In those early days, when people in Stansted seemed to have so much more time than nowadays, the meeting took place in the Central Hall, and at times attracted an audience of 70 men. As the years went by the meeting adapted to the changing scene in Stansted - with so many commuters coming home tired and weary, the numbers began to decline, so ladies were invited to attend and the name was changed to The Forum.

In recent years Forum has been meeting in houses but always an interesting speaker has been arranged by Mr Levey. Over the last 21 years he has done a marvellous job in providing a social and stimulating evening for those wanting to attend. However, numbers have continued to decline and it is not easy to arrange speakers to come from some distance when only a few are there at the meeting. We therefore feel it is time for the Forum to cease. Our last meeting will be at the Vicarage on 8th December at 8.30 pm when we shall have a Social Evening. All old members are invited and offers of food and a bottle would be well received at the Vicarage. Needless to say we express our very sincere thanks for all that Aubrey Levey has done over the years; he has brought to Stansted many interesting speakers and has arranged countless enjoyable evenings. Aubrey - thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

### CAN WE HELP YOU?

In our recent Stewardship Campaign, the clergy and members of the P.C.C. gave us a challenge which they had already accepted. Part of that challenge was to offer one hour to God in personal prayer, Bible study and other Christian readings each week. In this parish 30 people receive a copy of the Bible Reading Fellowship notes. Every year the numbers dwindle because of death, people moving or just unexplained cancellations. Rarely do we have new requests for the notes in spite of publicity on Bible Sunday. The advantage of the notes is that they do impose a certain amount of discipline by giving a set piece to read with some explanation daily.

If you have accepted the challenge perhaps you would now like to order the notes ready for January. Another way to study the Bible would be to read during the week the lessons for the following Sunday as set out in the A.S.B. The Vicar can recommend some excellent books which can be used in conjunction with these lessons.





## *Society of Friends*

Last month we read about a local boarding school the headmaster of which is a Friend. This month we go to the other side of the world to a Friend's Boarding School in New Zealand, described by Marjorie Bateman.

New Zealand's state schools, spacious and well equipped, provide almost all of the country's education but a few children from remote farms, or those whose parents live abroad, do have to attend boarding schools. These children often travel long distances to reach their school, as both North and South Island are long and narrow, and have mountains running down the centre necessitating lengthy, expensive flights.

In 1963 I was fortunate to be offered the post of assistant matron in Friends' School in the beautiful small town of Wanganui, on the West coast of North Island. The children were aged from four to eleven and were enthusiastic and lively. While some had left sheltered homes in remote areas for the first time such was the warmth and friendliness of the school that the home-sickness we experience so often in our boarding schools seemed non-existent.

I do remember one small boy of six who confided rather sadly that he missed his pony. One of the reasons for the lack of home-sickness may have been that the children were allowed to bring small pets to school - hamsters, mice and birds that shared a compound in the 'paddock', as all fields are called.

Initially my English accent seemed to irritate the children but as I picked up the local accent they began to accept me; one said that I was 'not as soft as I looked'. This was praise from a New Zealander who dislikes softness and prefers a somewhat tougher and blunter manner than we are used to.

Education is thorough, the emphasis being on world-wide aspects of history, philosophy and religion. Maori children are in all respects treated in just the same way as others. Games and sports are popular with, perhaps, swimming taking first place. Many of the children would run to the swimming pool to train each morning before breakfast, and while I was at the school twenty-five passed the test for swimming a mile, all under 12 yrs old.

A number of children had gardens and grew both flowers and vegetables; others played the piano or spent long periods improving their tennis. Special teachers and coaches were engaged for all these interests and everyone worked hard to excel.

I was puzzled during the early morning hour, shortly before the breakfast bell, to see gardening tools thrown down, tennis rackets put aside and swimmers jumping from the pool, and all rushing across the cattle grid into the adjoining paddock. What was the signal? Why the race to be first? Eventually I realised it was the sight of the headmaster emerging from his house on the other side of the grounds. Everyone was trying to reach him and offer to carry his case, to talk to, and question him. This daily procession of a master and his flock of pupils was a joy to watch and a cheerful prelude to the quiet of a short Meeting for Worship before the day began.

## **Roman Catholic**

I moved into the Catholic Presbytery on 20th October. Since then I have often been asked by people of my former parish: "Yes, we know Stansted, but where is the Catholic Church?". Inevitably my answer has been: "Well, do you know the windmill? Up on your right as you come along the old A.11?"

We are all familiar with telling people the way. Prominent buildings are frequently used as key positions; a pub, the big white house, a garage. Having found the key position you can then proceed with confidence and find your desired goal.

As Christians we claim we know our goal, even if we know relatively little about it. We also claim to know the way. Our goal is God Our Father, our way is Jesus Christ. But what about some key positions, some prominent features to help us on our way. Ambiguous? By no means. Doubtful? Certainly not. Jesus told us in no uncertain terms what we should do and what we should accept in order to reach the fullness of life (for God is life supreme). There was however one basic and all important key position, without which nothing else is of any use. "By this shall people know you are followers of mine, namely that you love one another. This is my commandment to you, love one another as I have loved you".

This is by no means easy. It will require sacrifice of ones convenience, time, self-interest, personal likes and in fact it may even demand the sacrifice of self. But the peculiar thing is one never loses; on the contrary one is enriched. Why? Because God can't be outdone in generosity.

I guess there are many lessons in life, that old windmill can teach us.

Fr David Chapman

## Fortnightly Fellowship

29 November at 8.00 pm at The White House, Ugley Green

13 December at 8.00 pm at 5 St John's Lane

Christmas Party: Friday, 17 December at 7.30 pm

Christmas was approaching in the midst of the bloodiest of wars for fighting men and a man of 75 thought again of the first Christmas at Bethlehem and of how, in childhood, he and his fellows celebrated and believed it. His reflections continued:

So fair a fancy few would weave  
In these years! Yet, I feel,  
If someone said on Christmas Eve,  
'Come; see the oxen kneel

'In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know',  
I should go with him through the gloom,  
Hoping it might be so.

In spite of his gloomy and doubting head ruling his needy and longing heart, Thomas Hardy still felt the pull and the appeal of the Christian Christmas message. Thinking of "Our God contracted to a span, Incomprehensibly made man" (as Charles Wesley put it) found the very sensitive and gifted Hardy, "Hoping it might be so".

Perhaps he should have taken his doubts much more seriously and pursued them with the tenacity of a fox terrier after a rabbit. In his thoughts he should have proceeded step after step, with remorseless logic, upon those denials of Christ implicit in his doubts. If what Christians say of the Christ of Bethlehem is not true, if Christ is not "the light of the world", if He is only "so fair a fancy", where does that lead us, and what do we have left? Do we have better answers anywhere else to life's deepest problems? What kind of world are we landed in if Christianity be not true?

Before our Lord was born the ancient Greek Philosophers had asked themselves the most searching questions about God and man, life and death, evil and suffering, etc. As fine a galaxy of thinkers as this world has ever known pondered these things deeply and long and came up with what are probably the best answers man's unaided mind will ever produce. Yet, at the end of that unsurpassed period of human thought, Greek Philosophy suffered a failure of nerves. So a great student of that period of history tells us. After all his monumental intellectual efforts the Greek turned to mystery cults with their irrational notions and emotions. His massive and unrivalled reasonings gave him so little to satisfy his heart, answer his longings, support his hopes and direct his steps through the tears and shadows of our mortal life.

Then came the Babe of Bethlehem, the Teacher of Galilee, the Crucified of Calvary, the Christ of Resurrection, Ascension and Eternal Enthronement, who spoke as man never spoke before, who lived as man never lived before, who showed God as He had never been seen before, and of whom those who knew Him best said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"; and to as many as received Him he gave the power to become the children of God, caused them to be reborn, of the Spirit, into abundant and eternal life, beginning now and unending hereafter. In Jesus Christ they saw all that life ought to be, found what they most needed and in His matchless life found the finest answers to their immemorial questions.

Fifty years ago an aging, saintly Methodist Minister wrote this: "Every interpretation of life carries intellectual difficulties. I can only set down my own word that Christ answers for me more questions than any other. And as far as the problems of my life are concerned, and they are the problems that matter most to me, He satisfies them all. With these assurances I open my heart generously to Him, a heart that longs for all He offers and promises, and in devotion of love I go my pilgrim way with an irrepressible song .... I turn and fall at His feet. Then the light of his countenance and the touch of His hand ~~are the final proof~~ that I am where I ought to be, and where the world must be if it is to be saved."

Harold Fisher

## United Reformed

### Speakers and Services for December

- 5th Rev. Trevor Phillips from Dunmow
- 12th 10.30 am Group Service followed by coffee and mince pies in the Lecture Hall. It is hoped that our friends from the Methodist Church will join us.
- 19th 11.00 am Rev. Andrew Proud will conduct our Carol Service. Friends are asked to bring gifts of small sweets suitable for handicapped children.
- Christmas Day  
10.30 am Rev. E. McIlwain.
- 26th 11.00 am Rev. E. McIlwain.

\*\*\*\*\*

At our Autumn Fair we raised over £300. Cheques will be sent shortly to the Windmill Fund, the Handicapped Scouts (Tortoise), the Huw Johnson Club and the Bishop's Stortford Hospital League of Friends. Our thanks to all who helped us to help others.

\*\*\*\*\*

Even though Christmas cards were posted to Canada by 28th October, I still find it odd to be writing a Christmas message on Armistic Day!

If I must push the season, I do it gladly as I wish all readers of The Link a very Happy Christmas from all your friends of the United Reformed Church.

Not only is it Armistic Day, but today we hear of the death of the Soviet leader, the fifth launch of the American space shuttle, the near-release of Lech-Walesa in Poland and the hubbub surrounding the latest spy scandal in the U.K.

By Christmas (indeed by the time you read this) other sensations will headline the news.

One headline remains the same - "Jesus is Born!" - and, while it flashes ever so briefly, crowded among, if not out, of the "main" news, it still offers hope of a world reborn and a world recalled to "peace on the earth among men of goodwill".

That's why we call it "Gospel", which means "Good News".

That's why we sing "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight".

Fears, because we know what we did to Jesus and still do to each other.

Hopes, because we still say "Happy Christmas, Christ is born" and a world with Jesus in it can not be dismissed simply as evil, vicious and depraved.

"O, Holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today".

Eric McIlwain



# Village News

## FUTURE EVENTS

### December

- 1 10.00 am. Coffee morning for Stansted Windmill funds at Laundry Cottage, Bentfield Green. Adm. 20p
- 11.00 am Christmas Market for Dr. Barnardo's at Bentfield House, Bentfield Bury. Adm. 40 p including refreshments.
- 3 7.00 pm St. Mary's Primary School PTA Christmas Fair at School Hall for school video machine.
- 13 Evening Bentfield County Primary School scholars and their parents carol singing round village for Day Centre for the Elderly fund.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### THANK YOU

THE LINK would like to express its sincere thanks for the generous contribution made to its funds by the Stansted Art & Craft Market. This is most welcome.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### APPEAL

A couple of months ago we made a successful appeal for help with typing the magazine. We now wonder whether anyone can help us with other stages of its production.

Is there any one able to operate a scanner to produce electronic stencils?

Is anyone accustomed to using a Gestetner Duplicator?

Please ring 812289 (Mair Muir)

We should also be glad of a few more volunteers to help in the distribution when regular distributors are not available.

Please ring 813891 (Jan Taylor)

XXXXXXXXXXXX

### WINDMILL FUND

The Stansted Millers are holding a coffee morning, to boost funds for the repair and maintenance of the mill on Wednesday 1st December. It is to be held at Laundry Cottage, Bentfield Green. Admission 20p. Attractions include; bring and buy, raffle, and home-made bread sale.

## DR. BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

The annual Christmas Market, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's, will be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday, 1st December, at the home of Mrs. Browne, Bentfield House, Bentfield Bury, Stansted. As well as a generous raffle, there will be stalls of cakes, delicatessen, fashion accessories, 'bring and buy', etc. and 'guessing the weight' of a turkey and a cake. Come and enjoy yourself in a good cause. Entrance 40p, including refreshments.

## Stansted Art & Craft Market

The fourth annual Art & Craft Market was held on 16th and 17th October, and broke all previous records. There were more visitors, more stalls, more pictures and more profits than ever before. Indeed, on the Sunday afternoon it was rather too crowded for comfort, so next year we suggest you come before Sunday lunch rather than after, or of course on Saturday.

Profits were about £850 and this is to be distributed as follows:-

£750 towards fitting out the Day Centre for the elderly to be built at Crafton Green.

£50 to LINK magazine

£50 to Alison House, a short stay home for the handicapped to enable parents to have a holiday.

From the organisers' point of view there was a welcome increase in the number of helpers who assisted before, during and after the event, or who made cakes for the refreshment bar or who delivered leaflets. Thank you all.

Two items of lost property remain unclaimed, namely a Sainsbury shopping bag and a child's knitted purse, containing some small change. Please contact the undersigned if they are yours.

Geoff Wright 812599

## PETER KIRK SCHOOL

The school continues to grow and involvement with the community increases, with the successful entry of a float in the Stansted Carnival and the running of stalls at the Carnival and Bentfield School Fete.

Much of our social education is carried out in the County and groups of pupils regularly use the local shops. A recent visit to Bishop's Stortford by train generated much interest.

/Continued



One lunch time per week a number of pupils use the facilities at the local Youth Club, much to their enjoyment.

The School Association Fete in July was well attended and an enjoyable and profitable afternoon raised over £1,200. The most recent venture was the installation of a fence to enable younger pupils to have a larger play area on which to ride bicycles and tricycles during break times. If anyone has any such equipment that they no longer require the pupils would be most grateful.

In a Special Schools' Swimming Gala held in Braintree the school achieved third place with everyone now set for winning in the future.

At the end of September we held our Harvest Festival and the produce was distributed, by the children, in Stansted.

A number of people, including parents, come into school on a voluntary basis to help in many different ways, from assisting on outings to helping in the classroom. If you are willing and able to spend the occasional morning or afternoon with us please contact the school, you would be most welcome.

Martyn Phillips  
Headteacher

#### H U W   J O H N S O N   C L U B

As last Club evening was near Hallowe'en, some of the children were sticking cut out shapes of witches on broomsticks on to a long piece of paper and colouring them.

Before this was possible Sandra had to be removed from the large wooden blocks placed together as a table. She obviously thought it was a stage and was doing her now famous party piece. She loves it when everyone claps and puts more and more energy into her dancing.

Recently a game was given to us, none of us know its name but it does provide a lot of fun. It is a long wooden frame with numerous wooden pieces which have to be pushed down the frame in an attempt to get them into little compartments at the end.

As with all our games and equipment, the club members make their own rules and regulations and the wooden pieces (circular in shape like draughts) are hurled from end to end more and more quickly and usually end up on the floor.

There are no prizes if you guess who has to retrieve them all. That's right - the helpers. I think with all the dashing around, the bending and stretching, we should be a very healthy, super-slim band of people! If it only worked like that we could advertise as a slimming club and recruit a lot more helpers. But I must be truthful - I never lose an ounce.

Betty Lockwood

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
WOMEN'S SECTION

The Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 21st October was well attended. Opening the meeting, the President, Mrs M Gabb, thanked all the officers and members for their dedicated work in a year which had proved one of the most successful ever for fund raising. The Chairman, Mrs. K Stevens, said that more money had been donated by this branch to National Schemes such as the Poppy Appeal, Widows' Allowance Scheme, Rest Homes, Welfare etc. than in any previous year. She thanked officers and members for their untiring support and particularly mentioned those members who had opened their homes regularly for committee meetings. The Treasurer, Mrs. V. Levey, explained details of the Balance Sheet and reported a very healthy financial position after all donations had been made.

The officers elected for the coming year are:

President - Mrs R. Gabb: Vice-Presidents - Mrs S. Mumford, Mrs. E. Prior, Miss G. Trott: Chairman - Mrs K. Stevens, Vice-Chairman - Mrs A. Little: Treasurer - Mrs V. Levey: Secretary - Mrs C. Whall; Standard Bearer - Mrs V. Szyszkowski: Committee: Mrs J. Bugg, Mrs J. Brace, Mrs P. Clower, Mrs. J. Fuller, Mrs. A Sweet. Miss E Tame, Miss E. Winckworth.

Members then heard a very informative talk by the Area Secretary, Mrs. Matthews, on the organisation of the Women's Section of the Legion and its precise role in Legion affairs. Delightful refreshments were provided by Mrs Little.

Raffle winners were: Mrs Camp, Mrs. Little, Miss Turner Mrs Wedlock, Mrs Trundle and Mrs Gabb.

On 1st December the quarterly Group Meeting will be held at Berden. There will be no Branch Meeting during the month of December, but the Annual Carol Service will be held at Littlebury Parish Church on Sunday evening 12th December.

Pat Clower



### BENFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We had a most enjoyable and informative evening on 10th November when Moira Tarrant, the Divisional Children's and Schools' Librarian, came to talk about new books and give guidance on choosing books for children. The Castle bookshop provided a vast display of books for us to buy. The pupils have had great fun browsing through the display and have been choosing the books they want for Christmas.

At the moment there are massive preparations for Christmas. The Juniors are learning lots of new songs for their production of Hans Christian Anderson and they will be giving two performances, an afternoon one on 10th December and an evening one on 9th December. The infants are busy rehearsing their Nativity play (or as my daughter calls it - the activity play).

On the evening of 13th December parents and children from the school will be seen around the village, warmly clad and clutching torches and song sheets as we go carol singing. This is really great fun and we hope you will join in when you hear us. We will be collecting from door to door as we go and the proceeds will be donated to the Old People's Day Centre to purchase some item of furniture.

The children will be having their school Christmas Party on 14th December when Father Christmas will visit them and we end the Term on 17th. We do wish everyone in the village a very happy and peaceful Christmas and health and happiness in 1983.

Janice Wray

### ST MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday 21st October the 4th year classes visited Capol Manor Field Studies Centre at Enfield. They learned about amphibians and reptiles and were allowed to handle many different species including an American Corn Snake and a salamander. They were also shown how to take a tortoise's temperature. Later they studied trees and insects in the surrounding area and had great fun jumping on the ground to try and persuade the worms to surface.

A group of 4th year boys and girls visited the Boys' High School to work with computers. The children are 'old hands' at working with computers as they have been fortunate in using Mr Catton's own Sinclair ZX 81 in the classroom. Under the new government scheme of aid to primary schools for microcomputers an Acorn BBC model B has been ordered and it is hoped that this will be installed early in the new year.

Both 4th year classes spent a day at the Mountfitchet School and took part in a normal day of the first year's timetable. They were enjoyably involved in many subjects including environmental studies, French, art, and domestic science.

/continued

The Junior Carol Service to be held in St John's Church on Wednesday 8th December at 11.00 am and 7.30 pm will include a Nativity Play.

The Infants' musical play is called 'Neddy the Donkey' ... Christmas story as seen through the eyes of the Donkey. This will take place in the School Hall on Friday, 10th December at 10.00 am.

The PTA Christmas Fair promises to be very exciting. We will have lots of stalls to tempt you including a craft stall with some beautiful toys and super-Christmas crackers. There will be lots for the children to do from meeting Father Christmas in his Grotto to playing video games. Do come along to the Fair on Friday 3rd December at 7.00 pm in the School Hall.

The money raised will go towards a video machine for the school.

The children will be rounding off a very busy term with their traditional Christmas parties.

A happy and joyful Christmas to all from the staff and children of St Mary's School.

#### SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

The Dads all seemed to have a great time at our special Saturday morning session last month. The children love bringing Dad and showing him what they do at playschool, and especially having him join in with them. Some fathers have offered to help with the mending and maintenance of toys and equipment, and we look forward to their participation.

The children will be putting on a Nativity play on 8th December, the last Wednesday of term, at 11.00 am. Both groups are taking part and all parents and friends will be very welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards, and a bring and buy sale at 11.30 am. Please support it.

Christmas parties will be held on Thursday and Friday mornings, 9th and 10th December, when Father Christmas will arrive with a present for each child.

Philippa Robinson

#### THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST Stansted & District Group

Early in November we held one of our Up-to-Date meetings, which proved to be a gem. The group had sponsored two of Princess Alexandra Hospital's midwives to attend the Conference on Active Birth at Wembley, and they reported back to us on this. They commented on how much the labour unit in Harlow is changing, even to the extent that the staff sometimes had difficulty in keeping up-dated themselves. They certainly gave us a lot of food for thought.

/continued

## December Diary

First time and expectant mums meetings at Crafton Green Clinic on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. On 7th December this will include a talk by a local dentist.

Friday 3rd Under 1's and expectant mums coffee at 20 Longcroft 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Friday 10th Christmas Party for the under 7's at St John's Church Hall. Tickets 50p - contact Janice Proud 814463.

Friday 17th Bring 'n Share Christmas Party at the Snuff Box Bentfield Road at 8.30 pm. Bring hubby and a contribution of food and drink and make merry! Contact Cathy Leek 813068 by 13th December for details.

The Special Care Baby Unit still needs breast milk - contact Cathy Leek 813068 if you can help. It could be your baby that needed the milk!

Do come along to any of our meetings - new faces are especially welcome. Have a lovely Christmas and see you all in January!

\*\*\*\*\*

## STANSTED SENIORS' CLUB

The annual sale on 20th October was a decided success, and raised £280 for funds, thanks to the help and support of many members.

Mrs B Hill's cookery demonstration on Wednesday, 3rd November, was excellent, and the dishes she cooked were included in the raffle at the end of the meeting.

## WOMEN'S OWN

The Stansted Women's Own celebrated its 64th anniversary on the 8th November last. A splendid tea was arranged by the committee for 45 ladies. An iced birthday cake was cut by Mrs Hill, the President.

Mrs Mary Warnett and Mrs Jan King played their guitars and sang which rounded off a very happy afternoon.

At the harvest meeting on 11th October, £24.00 was raised from the auctioning of fruit and vegetables supplied by members. This amount was divided out to three local charities.

On 1st November, Mrs. J. Tointon from Stevenage came on behalf of the Barnado Homes giving a talk and showing slides of their work. £15. was raised from the meeting for the society.

The Women's Own is held every Monday afternoon at 2.45 pm in the U.R.C. Lecture Hall. A warm welcome is extended to any ladies who would like to join in with us.

## NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES REGISTER

A meeting point for the lively minded woman.

Local Organisers: Katy Dockerill B.S. 812997  
Libby Martin B.S. 812807

As usual we are always looking for new members to join us in our stimulating discussions. Please contact either Katy or Libby for further information.

On Wednesday 20th October we had a debate on the Middle Class. Liz Lane and Sally Tarpey took opposing view points arguing for and against that our attitude to acquiring wealth and possessions makes us all middle class. The discussion centred around each individual's definition of the Middle Class. Not easy these days, we decided.

We held a planning meeting for the next programme on Monday, 8th November. The new programme will be put on display in the Library as soon as we have completed it. Our planning meetings are always accompanied by food and wine. This time we took Mediaeval recipes as our theme for the food. After an initial difficulty in finding suitable dishes with obtainable ingredients we managed to produce a very interesting and varied display which was also most enjoyable.

Future Meetings: Tuesday 7th December. Do you believe in Reincarnation? Have you any evidence to prove or disprove this conception? Bring any findings or opinions you have to this meeting. Thursday 16th December. Book Group Meeting. Please note that this date has been altered from Wednesday 15th. Venue remains the same. The Graham Greene books to be discussed are England Made Me and Doctor Fischer of Geneva or the Bomb Party, along with John Wyndams The Trouble with Lichen.

O:O:O:O:O:O:O:

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

#### Afternoon

At this meeting our speaker was Mr Gibbs. His talk was on renovation and gilding. We listened entranced to how his Company started this work in 1873 and has been kept busy ever since! The work involved renovating murals and gilding in such buildings as churches, palaces, cathedrals and even the Royal Coach etc.

We could have listened to Mr Gibbs for much longer but all good things have to come to an end as did this talk!

C. Francis

#### Evening

Our Annual Meeting proved to be as interesting as usual. We have a new committee and our president for the third year is Mrs Brenda Ryan.

/continued

She reported on her visit to the Half-Yearly Council Meeting at Chelmsford when Baroness Ewett-Biggs spoke on her life as a diplomat's wife. You may remember that her husband while our Ambassador in Dublin was killed by IRA terrorists. In spite of this, she is now very active with the Peace Movement in Ireland, and can see the humorous side of her life when living abroad in various embassies.

Our December meeting will start with any necessary business and then go on to an Entertainment by our members. Will everyone please bring a wine glass as seasonal liquid refreshment will be provided.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE.

Pearl Wellings

#### W. E. A.

The autumn lectures on "Art Appreciation" are being greatly enjoyed by our members. The lecturer, Mr. G. Slimming, is informative and lively, communicating his great enthusiasm for the subject.

We plan an outing, by coach, to the National Gallery, with Mr Slimming acting as guide, on Saturday, 4th December, and possibly there will be a few seats to spare. Anyone interested in accompanying us will be welcome. Please ring Jean McBride BS 812214 for details.

Arrangements for our Winter Session, starting in January 1983, are being made and will be announced in next month's LINK.

#### THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mr J. Cutter, of Murphy Chemicals, began his talk at our November meeting with some statistics on the proportion of the world's food crop lost by attack from pests and diseases, giving us some handy hints on how to control these in our own gardens by non-chemical means. He then introduced us to the range of Murphy garden chemicals, as a final resort, and discussed members' worries over the use of chemicals in the garden.

The December meeting should be a particularly interesting one, as we have Mr French, a noted vegetable judge, and author of books on the growing of vegetables. We hope that all members, and many non-members, will come along to this meeting on Monday 6th December at the Youth and Adult Centre Annexe, 8.00 pm to pick up a few very useful tips for next season's magnificent vegetable crop.

S. Frogley

## TENNIS CLUB

A very successful Jumble Sale was held at the Club on Saturday 23rd October when between 150 and 200 people attended and we made about £200, which was a marvelous result.

We should like to thank everybody who helped so willingly, and all those who gave jumble, made cakes for the cake stall and did the refreshments. It was a very happy occasion and we hope to make it an annual event.

Winter tennis is in full swing and all Senior members are welcome to come and join us on Sunday mornings, starting at 10.00 am.

There are still a few places left for the Club Christmas Dinner which is being held on Thursday, 9th December, at 'The Bull', Much Hadham - time 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm - cost £5.95 per head. Please telephone Janet Hollis, 812073, if you wish to come.

## DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY

For a number of years the District Council has planned to build a Day Centre for the Elderly in Stansted and at last the idea is to become a reality. A building large enough to accommodate 100 members is to be erected adjacent to the Parish Council Office at Crafton Green, and should be ready for use by the summer of 1983.

The Parish Council has made a contribution of £10,000 towards the building costs, in order that the day room can be hired out to local organisations at times when it is not used by the Day Centre members themselves.

The Parish Council will be responsible for running the Day Centre. It will have to provide the furnishings and some domestic equipment. It is hoped that individuals as well as groups will want to help with this - even the smallest contribution will be appreciated enormously.

Contributions can be given to the Day Centre Account at Barclays Bank or to the Parish Clerk at the Council Office, Crafton Green.

The choice of possible gifts is wide, ranging from tumblers and teaspoons (12p and 14p), table knives (45p), sugar basins £1 right through the normal domestic items up to an armchair (£55).

The full list is available both at the Council Office and the Library.

If any organisation wishes to know more about the Day Centre, please apply to the Parish Clerk. A member of the Council will be glad to come and speak about it.

Rita Humphreys



NEWS FROM THE MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

The school was open to the public, especially parents of pupils transferring to secondary school next September, on Thursday November 11th. A very large number of people attended, and inspected various displays and exhibitions. Among them were a gymnastic display, trampolining and the school wind band. In the library visitors could see the school computers at work, and in the science laboratories some rather spectacular experiments were being performed. All over the school, in fact, very impressive examples of children's work were on view.

A general invitation to visit the school at any time was extended, and we would be very pleased to see any of you at any time to look around while the school is in normal operation. No appointment is necessary - but call at the Secretary's office when you arrive.

\* \* \* \* \*

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

The annual Prize Day was held on November 18th, when the special guest was Alan Haselhurst, MP. In the chair was Mr Geoffrey Moth, Chairman of Governors. In his report, Mr Philip Gough, the Headmaster, stated that the school had proceeded very smoothly during the year, in spite of all the uncertainties, and the standard of results had, in fact, risen considerably. He was pleased, especially, with the performance of two pupils who had each gained ten 'O' levels, one with eight grade 'A's, and the other with six grade 'A's. Mr Gough paid tribute to the support of the Governors and parents.

After presenting the prizes and certificates, Mr Haselhurst commented first on the fact that, the previous day, he had led a delegation of four parents and the Headmaster to see Dr Rhodes Boyson at the Department of Education and Science to discuss the proposal by the Essex County Council to change the status of the school to 11-16 by removing the Sixth Form. Mr Haselhurst stated that, in his view, the decision by the County was wrong, and he had therefore been pleased to lend his support to the case for retaining the Sixth Form being put forward by the parents.

The main part of Mr Haselhurst's speech was concerned with the future, and he pointed out that, although there were problems with unemployment especially among young people, many new and growing opportunities existed in the changing technological industries, and he felt sure, from recent examples that he had seen that there was a great future ahead for those who were equipped to face these challenges.

Examination Results 1982

<u>With Form</u>	<u>GCE A</u>	<u>GCE O</u>	<u>CSE</u>	<u>CSEE</u>		<u>GCE A</u>	<u>GCE O</u>	<u>CSE</u>	<u>CSEE</u>
Alan Abrahams		2			Susan Hutley		2	1	1
Sharon Aldridge		2	1*	1	Paul Ingrey		4	2	1
Deborah Aston	2	1			Andrew Lines	2			
Jonathan Baker	1	1			Kathryn Marriott		3		
Jane Barber	1	1			David Monk	1	1		
Brian Bass		2	1		Hazel Monk	1	1		
Deborah Bowden			1	1	Trevor Peachey		2	1	1
Lynette Bridges		4	2	1	Bridget Praed	1			
Christine Childs		3	1*	1	Michelle Preston	1	2		
Elizabeth Clayden		2	1		Margaret Slinger			1	
Tracey Condie		1	1*	1	Geraldine Smith		2	2**	1
Paul Daines		3			Mathew Speed		3	1	1
Shani Fry		3	2*	1	Janet Stenton		3	1	
Rosemary Furnival	1	1			Susannah Steward		3	1	
Linda Gilbey		2	1		Susan Suckling			3*	1
Julian Graves		3	2*		Susan Thorn	1		1	
Zoe Harris		1	1*	1	Alun Williams		2		

Vth Form

	<u>GCE</u> <u>'01'</u>	<u>CSE</u>		<u>GCE</u> <u>'01'</u>	<u>CSE</u>		<u>GCE</u> <u>'01'</u>	<u>CSE</u>
David Allmark		4	David Fish	7	5***	Martin Pallett		1
John Altham	10	4***	James Francis		6	Stephan Palmer		3
Philip Ball	5	8*	Neil Francis		4	Nicola Parsons	8	5*****
Carl Barnes	5	7****	Maria Gabb	6	7***	Toni Partlett	1	6
Lesley Barnes	4	7**	Mark Gerber		4*	Nicola Peake	8	4***
Michael Barnett	8	5***	Andrew Gilbey		4	Claire Pearman	1	5*
Allan Bell		1	Patricia Gray		1	Louise Phillips	6	6*
Judy Bird		2	Lisa Halls		4	Catherine Pope	1	5
Teresa Blake	1	6	Gregory Hardy		1	Steven Poulter		4
Catherine Bonner	8	6*	Sandra Harvey	9	3***	Grant Pratt	9	2*
Mark Booker		8*	Andrew Hayden		1	Wendy Pratt	5	7*
Mandy Bosworth	4	7***	Jane Hayden	1	5	Jane Reali		4
Jane Bowmar	7	4*	Michael Hill		7	Alison Richardson		4
Gregory Brooks	1	7	Andrew Howard	3	8	Carol Roberts	2	5
John Burgess	7	7***	Amanda Hurley	9	4***	Heather Robertson		2
Andrew Burrows	1	7	Jamie Jenkins		5	Stephen Rose	8	6****
Paul Butterworth	4	7**	Paul Ketteridge	2	8	Michelle Runnacles	1	3
Darrin Camp	3	7	Susan Latter	2	7**	Edward Saddington	1	8
Annette Camp	3	7**	Suzanne Law	3	7**	Linda Savill	2	7
Mark Capser	3	7	Brenda Leach		5	Alfred Seaman		1
Louise Carpenter	10	3***	Tony Leach	3		Carl Silvester	1	6*
Linda Cartwright	5	7	Martin Lee	6		Michelle Simpson	1	1
Helen Chapman		3	Christopher Lewell	3		Martin Simons		6
Michael Clarke		5	Mina Lewis	1	4*	Robert Simons		7
Matthew Clear	6	7*	Richard Lines	8	6	Dawn Smith	1	5**
Simon Condie	6	7**	James McLean	3	8	Richard Smith	1	8
John Cood	1	7	Kevin Malyon	4	8*	Martine South		3
Sally Cornish	8	3	Andrew Marns	4	8**	Jacqueline Tearne	9	5***
Dawn Crease	9	6****	Jacqueline May	2	7	Kevin Thake		1
Kevin Crouch	4	6*	Susan McLauchlan	6	4	Carol Thurgood	1	6
Stephen Crouch		1	Fiona McManus	2	6	Mark Towner		1
Ian Crouchman		1	Josephine Milczarek	1	2	Carl Tyson	2	7
Alison Crowson		1	Claire Miller	3	6****	Beverley Ward	9	4*
Andrew Cully		2	Isobel Mitchell	2	6***	Lance Ward	6	6***
Gary Day		3	Debbie Monk		4	Susan Warner	1	5
Helen Deehan		6	Nicola Monk		5*	Jane Westrop	10	4****
Karen Dockerill	6	5**	Nicola Montague	2	7*	Shaun Whitfield		6
Paul Douglass	5	7*	Laura Moth	6	4	Jennifer Wilkinson	9	5**
Michelle Duck	4	7*	Mark Moulds	1	8	Jane Williams		4
Jennifer Edwards	4	8***	Elizabeth Needham	8	5**	Nicholas Wilson	2	6
Sally Everett		4	Helen Norman	4	6**	Andrew Winkless	1	5
Christopher Farr	5	7**	Nicola O'Gram	9	6**	Jane Wright		3
Beverley Felstead		3	Michelle Osborne		5	Mark Yeoman	3	8*
			Melanie Painter	2	6			

\*Denotes Grade 1 Result

ORCHESTRA

The School orchestra played items from 'Oklahoma' during the evening. However, a few days before the event, a crisis occurred when both of the Music Department staff had to go into hospital.

All was not lost, because Elizabeth Needham, a Sixth-former, stepped into the breach and very ably rehearsed and then conducted the orchestra for the occasion.

### 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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