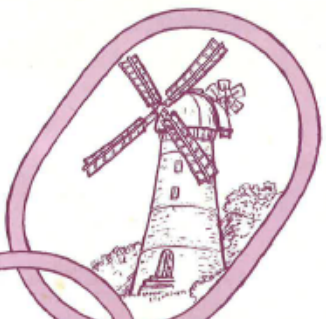


June '82

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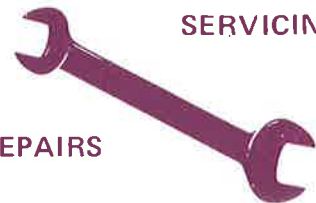
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PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



• LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY. IT'S BEEN A LONG AND
COLD DECEMBER KIND OF DAY,
WITH OUR HEARTS AND HANDS ALL BUSY WITH OUR PRIVATE
LITTLE WARS
WE STAND AND WATCH EACH OTHER NOW, FROM SEPARATE
SHORES - WE LOSE THE WAY.

I stand so snug and sure before the people I've
outguessed;
To let a man be who he is I still see as a test.
And when it all comes down to must, I'm sure my
way is best
I've got to find what 'room' means in my heart.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY. IT'S BEEN A LONG AND
COLD DECEMBER KIND OF DAY,
WITH OUR HEARTS AND HANDS ALL BUSY WITH OUR PRIVATE
LITTLE WARS
WE STAND AND WATCH EACH OTHER NOW, FROM SEPARATE
SHORES - WE LOSE THE WAY.

I walk and fall, myself alone, can't tolerate a guide
And when the camps split up I'm sure to put you on
my side,
And dare someone to challenge me and swear I will not
hide -
I've got to find a better way to live.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY. IT'S BEEN A LONG AND
COLD DECEMBER KIND OF DAY,
WITH OUR HEARTS AND HANDS ALL BUSY WITH OUR PRIVATE
LITTLE WARS
WE STAND AND WATCH EACH OTHER NOW, FROM SEPARATE
SHORES - WE LOSE THE WAY.

Copy for the February issue of The Link should reach 48
St John's Road by 15th January 1982.

THE LINK

The Link is published monthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches.

To order a copy please telephone
Mrs. Margaret Booker 812684.

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

Opinions 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: At St. Mary's, Church Road.

Holy Communion -- 8 a.m. (2nd Sunday)
Matins -- 11 a.m. (not 1st or 3rd Sunday)
Choral Communion -- 11 a.m. (3rd Sunday)
Evensong -- 6.30 p.m. (summer months)

At St. John's, St. John's Road.

Holy Communion -- 8 a.m. (not 1st or 2nd Sunday)
Parish Communion -- 9.30 a.m.
Evensong -- 4 p.m. (winter months)

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. Joe Tuohey, 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.

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

Stansted

Sunday 24th January

United Service 6.30 pm at St Theresa's.

Monday 8th February

Margaret Whitelaw will speak on Amnesty International in the Quaker Hall at 8.00 am
All are welcome.

London

Saturday 30th January

United Act of Worship for Peace and Disarmament at St Martin-in-the-Field at 3.00 pm to be conducted by the Vicar, the Rev Austen Williams.

Preacher: the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, Secretary of the Methodist Conference.



Methodist

Future Programme

Sunday 3 January 9.15 am

Annual Covenant Service

4th and 18th January
and 1st February

Fortnightly Fellowship Meetings. Venues to be announced.

Roman Catholic

PARISH DIARY - JANUARY 1982

- 6th January Feast of the Epiphany. Masses:
Wednesday St Theresa's 9.15 am and 8.00 pm
 St Anthony's 7.00 pm
- 18th January The beginning of the week of prayer for
Monday Christian Unity. 8.00 pm Mass followed
 by Parish Council Meeting.
- 22nd January 8.00 pm St Anthony's, Henham. United Service
Friday with Rev Brian Green giving the homily.
- 24th January. 6.30 pm S.A.C.C. United Act of Worship at
Sunday St Theresa's.
- Sunday Masses 8.00 am and 10.30 am at St Theresa's.
 9.15 am St Anthony's Henham
 0:0:0:0:0:0

May this New Year of 1982 be a really happy and peaceful one for all our readers. May the Eucharist which is the sign of Christ's love for us bring us more closer to each other, and help us to trust God that little bit more in our lives, In this way we will learn how better we may take the good with the not so good.

May God's Blessings come down in abundance upon all peoples of good and sincere will and His peace reign over the whole world.

Fr Joe

Baptisms Congratulations to the families of children recently baptised: Laura Louise Williams and Elizabeth Anne Hamilton-Hastings.

Reception into the Church Congratulations to Laurence Bowden, who was baptised, confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time on 15th November last.

Death Mrs Christine Gaughan who taught at St Mary's, Bishop's Stortford for many years, and who had to give up recently because of illness, died on Tuesday, 1st December 1981. She was a faithful member of St Theresa's and always willing to help in any way she could. Right up to her going into hospital she gave private tuition to children who needed it. Christine will be sadly missed by many; but mostly by Ted, her devoted husband.
 R.I.P.

SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

When Pope John Paul visited Hiroshima in February this year, he said: "To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. From this city and from the event its name recalls, there has originated a new world wide consciousness against war and a fresh determination to work for peace. Some people, even among those who were alive at the time of the events that we commemorate today, might prefer not to think about the horror of nuclear war and its dire consequences. But there is no justification for not raising the question of the responsibility of each nation and each individual in the face of possible wars and of the nuclear threat.

Those who cherish life on earth must encourage governments and decision-makers in the economic and social fields to act in harmony with the demands of peace rather than of our narrow self-interest. Peace must always be the aim; peace pursued and protected in all circumstances. Let us not repeat the past, a past of violence and destruction. Let us embark upon the steep and difficult path of peace, the only path that befits human dignity, the only path that leads to the true fulfilment of the human destiny, the only path to a future in which equity, justice and solidarity are realities and not just distant dreams.

To the heads of state and of government, to those who hold political and economic power I say: Let us pledge ourselves to peace through justice. Let us take a solemn decision now, that war will never be tolerated or sought as a means of resolving differences.

Let us promise our fellow human beings that we will work untiringly for disarmament and the banishing of all nuclear weapons. Let us replace violence and hate with confidence and caring. Let us reach out towards our brothers and sisters in need; feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, free the downtrodden, bring justice where injustice reigns and peace where only weapons speak."

If you would like to find out about Christian organisations working for disarmament, please contact Ann Webb, tel: 812088.



United Reformed

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM STANSTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Each year we ask one small baby and his birthday to brighten up the year.

And every Christmas comes and goes so quickly, leaving us somehow frustrated or unfulfilled, or even cynical and disillusioned.

We get glitter for gold;

Christ is commercialized:

Bethlehem is belittled into a Father Christmas grotto and The Power of God is replaced by a pile of dry-cell batteries which run down even faster than Christmas toys lose their novelty and charm.

But it is we who have made of Christmas a one-day wonder.

Christmas is, or ought to be, a year-long love-affair with God, as the baby grows through boyhood to manhood and becomes our Crucified and Risen Redeemer.

Christmas is a great beginning, but only a beginning - so may 1982 be a great, Christmas-filled year.

Joy and Peace,

Eric McIlwain

COVENANTING FOR UNITY PROPOSALS

As yet I have seen nothing in the Link on this subject which directly concerns three of our village churches and which is of great interest to the Roman Catholics and Baptists who have been official 'Observers' of the whole process.

In 1982 the Anglican, Methodist, Moravian and United Reformed Assemblies will be asked to vote on 'Proposals for Covenanting'. These are not UNION proposals but a covenant to seek further union however far away it may be or whatever form it may take in God's will and time. God is never in a hurry as we are and these are not proposals for hurry. They would leave each church as it now is, operating under its own regulations and procedures.

What then would change? To begin with, there would be a very great change in climate. The so-called Free Churches (meaning, mainly, dis-established but that also applies to our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters) would accept the principle of episcopacy though each would have its own concept of a bishop. For instance, U.R.C. bishops would not sit in the House of Lords nor wear the purple and they would have no legal or institutional power, both of which rest with the representative councils of the U.R.C.

Ministers of the four churches would be able to serve in any other church which will greatly help the ecumenical efforts already in being which number some two to three hundred (eg Methodist/Anglican., Anglican/U.R.C.) And it would encourage further ecumenical ministries.

Members of each church would also be received as full communicant members of the others. Again, a real step forward for all our members and of immediate application for those in remote places where ministry and churches are already stretched to breaking point.

Out of this reconciliation time will bring new insights to those churches which will have opened themselves to a new in-filling of the Spirit of God. More will be done in common and resources which are now arguably and perhaps foolishly wasted in duplication of effort may one day be utilised to better effect. 1982 could be an historic year for the covenanting churches and in the nation's spiritual life.

Eric McIlwain

DIARY

Sunday 6.30 pm A service of readings and carols
20 December for Christmas.

Monday
21 December 7.30 pm "A Children's Nativity" - a play with words and music performed by the Pilots followed by refreshments in the Lecture Hall.

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30 am Our Christmas Day Service. PLEASE
BRING THE CHILDREN

Saturday 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm New Year Party

9th January
Monday 8.00 pm Stansted Guild - Mrs Jenny Martin,
11 January Botswana

Tuesday 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting
19th January

Monday 8.00 pm Stansted Guild - Speaker: Mr Brown.
25 January

OoOoOoO

Baptism 15th November - Juliette Georgina Rose White,
daughter of Mr and Mrs M J White of Birchanger.

OoOoOoO

The proceeds from our Hallowe'en Fair have been rounded up to £375 and will be distributed to the following organisations:

S.W.A.G. (Saffron Walden Accident Group)

Bishop's Stortford Talking Newspaper

Red Cross Toy Library

The Link

Handicapped Scouts (Tortoise)

OoOoOoO

Collecting for Charity the easy way

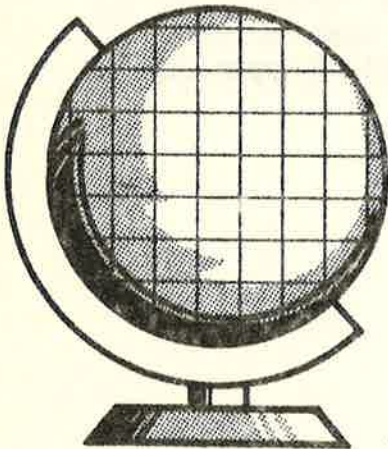
Mrs Janet Townsend, 58 Chapel Hill, will be pleased to receive your used stamps towards the Blue Peter Appeal.

We have boxes in the porch of the church for Heinz labels for the Save the Children Fund and seals off Andrex Toilet Roll packs for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Appeal. Any Church member will be happy to take these from you and place them in the appropriate box.

OoOoOoOoO

Church of England

FROM THE VICAR



The Anglican Communion is not a large Church but next to the Roman Catholic Church it is the widest spread throughout the world. There are 30 Provinces and over 300 Dioceses and to try and help co-ordinate the work there is an Anglican Consultative Council. At its meeting in Newcastle in September last year, the Council asked its General Secretary to 'establish a procedure whereby during the next five years more serious study and review can be undertaken of:

1. The tasks before us as a Communion
2. The setting of priorities and allocation of resources for mission and development on a Communion-wide basis;
3. The finding of ways and means of collaboration with other Christian bodies in mission and evangelism.

I myself am very interested in the Anglican Communion because I want to see Christian unity grow on a global basis and the more we can develop our ties with our sister churches throughout the world the more we can contribute to the movements towards Christian unity.

For some time now there has been in existence a process called Partners in Mission (PIM), the aim of which is to help us know more about one another and so be in a position where we can help each other. Every Province has been asked to draw up a list of its priorities and the resources it has and needs to carry out those priorities. Of the 30 Provinces, 29 (including the Church of England) have carried out that process.

One of the bodies trying to help implement this policy is the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG), the missionary society we support in this parish. Over £300,000 is now allocated towards the PIM programme which means that before money is given or personnel sent, the Province, as a whole, is asked whether a particular request is on the priority list. I welcome this and I only wish that this process of examination of what is mission and how the Church must order its priorities to meet its task would be carried out in every parish, in every Deanery and in every Diocese. We might find the process uncomfortable but unless more and more Christians begin to understand that a Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning and that the sole purpose of our visible fellowship is to be the fuel upon which the fire is kindled in the earth, then the Church will decline in strength and influence.

But to come to a practical suggestion - if any one is interested in joining a group whose task is to study these matters and plan ways of enthusing others, would they please speak to me. Over 20 years ago an overseas bishop said 'It's high time the Church of England joined the Anglican Communion' - perhaps now we begin to see hopeful signs of this happening.



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Two books for study:

To a Rebellious House?	CIO	£1.20p
ACC 5 - Report of Fifth Meeting.		£1.25p

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ST JOHN'S HALL

is available for regular letting, parties and wedding receptions. Please ring Brian Green, 10 St John's Crescent, 815738

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th - 25th January

All weekday Communion services will be offered
for Christian Unity

Monday 8 pm Tuesday 7.30 pm
Wednesday 10 am Thursday 7.30 am
Friday 8 am and Monday, 25th, 9 am

Please come and pray for unity at one or
more of these services



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
OF OUR LORD.

Holy Communion 10.00 am
Sung Eucharist 8.00 pm

PARISH DIARY

January

1st New Year's Day. Holy Communion 7.30 am
3rd Children's Church Party
6th Epiphany of our Lord. Sung Eucharist 8.00 pm
8th St John's Appeal Committee Meeting 8.00 pm
11th P.C.C. Meeting
13th Forum Meets 8.00 pm
18th-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24th Unity Service in St Theresa's 6.30 pm
25th Conversion of St Paul Holy Communion 9.00 am

PARISH REGISTERS

Departed

16th November Kathleen Mary Wilkinson, 62 years
48 Woodfields Stansted
18th November Ernest Frederick Walter Wood, 79 years
2 White Bear Stansted
29th November Phyllis Susan Jordan, 75 years
51 Manor Road

Society of Friends

In the magazine of the school, where I attended as a boy, there used to be a page where the names of newcomers and leavers were written, which was headed "Ave atque vale" (or to the uninitiated "cheerio and goodbye". I am now at the end of about fourteen years as letting clerk of the Quaker Meeting House in Chapel Hill, and it occurred to me as I say "Goodbye!" that a brief record of what this has meant, might be of interest to the many friends in Stansted and district with whom I have had dealings during this period.

When our new Meeting House was built in 1967, it soon became apparent to us that it was likely to fill a need in the town for meetings of a wide variety. So our first job was to construct a letting policy, to provide guide lines. After much discussion we agreed to let to any organisations which could be classified as religious, cultural or educational. We have tried to interpret educational in the broadest possible way; thus, we have been glad to let to such diverse groups as Conservative, Liberal, Labour party meetings, W.E.A., W.I., U.N.A., C.N.D., and a host of others.

We decided to exclude letting to any private individuals or to any organisation where private gain was the primary concern. This has occasionally brought problems and disappointments, which we have regretted. On the other hand, where we have special sympathies with some impecunious groups, e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous, United Nations Association or SNAP Peoples' Theatre Trust, we have sometimes waived letting charges altogether, or in part.

There have been amusing lettings, where a young man, learning to play the trumpet and, apparently, driving his neighbours to near distraction with his practicing, was happy to use our premises occasionally for this purpose. There was also a rewarding situation, where an American lecturer, on sabbatical leave in this country for a year, was living in Stansted with his musical wife. She was delighted to be able to use our piano in the afternoons during her enforced exile from her own instrument, and a lasting friendship has resulted. On other occasions we have had most pleasant exhibitions of the paintings of physically-handicapped friends which have been combined with a party.

Altogether, it has been a valuable experience, and I have enjoyed the friendships made. My successor, from January 1st, will be Dorothy A Stansfield, of 62 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford (Tel: B.S. 51370) to whom all enquiries, after that date, should be made.

Richard C Clarke

Village News

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

January

- 5 N.H.R. Crash course in modern maths - Liz Lane
- 8 N.C.T. Morning coffee for mums-to-be and under-ones, 26 Spencer Close. Every Friday following at other venues.
- 13 N.H.R. Book Discussion Group.
C.N.D. Meeting - Phone 813997
- 20 N.C.T. 8 pm for 8.30 pm, 43 Gilbey Crescent.
Talk on "Preparing for School".
- N.H.R. Illustrated talk on Wines.
- Guide Hut - 8 pm meeting to arrange for May Day Fête to raise funds for Brownies/Guides/Cubs/Scouts.
- 24 SACC United Service at St Theresa's 6.30 pm.
OoOoOoO
Please note change of telephone number for Deamer's Newsagency, Cambridge Road. It is now BS 812642
OoOoOoO

C H R I S T M A S D A Y D I N N E R S

Are you alone on 25th December? Do you know of anybody who will be on their own? If you are alone or know of a need, please tell JUDY GODDARD, telephone 812498.

OoOoOoO

S T A N S T E D M E D I C A L F U N D (Raised from last year's Carol Singing).

We are pleased to tell you that the most recent purchase from this fund is of five (5) simulated sheepskin under-blankets. These will help the prevention of bedsores, and will be used for patients by the Community Nurses.

P Honour

HUGH JOHNSON CLUB

The average age of our members is increasing and we now have quite a few young adults who need more advanced pastimes.

Thanks to the generosity of the people who organised and took part in the sponsored walk in Elsenham earlier this year we now have some great new equipment for the club.

This consists of a fairly large billiard table, a black and white television set with a variety of TV games, and a cassette player and recorder.

I know nothing about billiards, pot black or pool, but even I recognise that it isn't always played strictly to the rules. Even so, it's great fun for both players and onlookers.

The TV games are very popular and ideal for some members with restricted capabilities and again attracts an audience who quite often take sides.

As for the cassette player, we are hoping to get a good collection of tapes and are thinking about discos in the near future. Club evenings are getting quite exciting.

Our Christmas party is on December 17th - another highlight of the club year. I'll tell you all about that next time.

Everyone in the club wishes all our friends a Happy Christmas.

Betty Lockwood

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

The house to house and street collections in November raised £984. This, together with other contributions including private donations and church collections brought the total to £1,300 - the highest total ever.

Mr. Cheal would like to thank all those who made this year's collection such a success.

Women's Section

The meeting on November 19th took the form of a Beetle Drive which was enjoyed by all. Prizes were won by Mrs. Jones, Miss Trott, Mrs. Eagleton, Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Mumford, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Johnson.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs. Brace and Mrs. Jones. Raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Patmore, Miss Trott, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Clower and Miss Price.

The next meeting will be on 21st January.

On November 30th it was the turn of Stansted to play hostess to the quarterly Group meeting. There was a good attendance of Stansted members and with members from Berden, Birchanger, Clavering, Dunmow, Felsted, Saffron Walden, Steeple Bumpstead and Thaxted, the total was 90, including four standard bearers.

Minutes of the last Group meeting were read and approved, and branch reports were received.

Royal British Legion . . .

The Group Chairman welcomed Saffron Walden who had just re-started their Women's Section. She asked all branches to make a special effort to sell goods made by disabled ex-servicemen as such sales had suffered a slump. She thanked branches for a marvellous display of goods for the "Bring and Buy" stall and made special mention of the delightful refreshments which were provided by Mrs. Betty Little, and Mrs. Jean Fuller.

Entertainment by the "Gaiety Girls" from Newport Women's Institute was very much enjoyed. There were 24 raffle prizes donated by branches and these were won as follows:

Berden 1, Birchanger 1, Clavering 3, Dunmow 1, Saffron Walden 1, Stansted 12, Steeple Bumpstead 1, Thaxted 4.

A profit of £48 was made.

Service Committee

A coffee morning, the proceeds from which go towards Christmas 'extras' for ex-service people in Stansted, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hollis on 2nd December. Goods were sold from the Disabled Men's Industries and there was a "Bring and Buy" stall and a raffle. Raffle prizes were won by Mrs. Mumford, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Clower, Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Little, Mr. Levey, Miss Law, Miss Thame, Mrs. Pavitt and Mrs. Maugham.

P. Clower

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Afternoon

The AGM was held in November and business was the order of the day. However not all business is dull. For example, we were told that at our Spring Group meeting next year one speaker is to be Mr. Richard Widmark. Also, that the Institutes within the Group have been asked to put forward ideas for 1982 activities - let's hope we get some good ones!

Mrs. Francis gave a talk on her week's holiday in Tunisia. She told how the Tunisians are trying to build up their economy with orchards of fig, almonds and olive trees among other projects. How further south, where the desert is creeping in, eucalyptus trees have been planted in the hope that they will keep the Sahara at bay.

She told of the troglodites and how effective these cave dwellings are, especially in the hot weather. The temperature is often 120°F and more. She told of Hercules, the pet lion in the desert zoo. Mrs. Francis wound up her talk by saying that in spite of the "coldest and wettest" winter ever in Tunisia, the holiday had been a thoroughly enjoyable one.

Evening

Another WI year has started and our members can look forward to hearing many interesting speakers in the months ahead.

These range from a funeral director, to someone who produces the BBC "Today" programme; a talk on hair care and information about autistic children

Towards the end of the year there will be a play performed by members, which should be of some amusement for both performers and audience.

Women's Institute: Evening . . .

Altogether, something for everyone and, as they say "Variety is the spice of life". Our evening WI is enjoyed by everyone who comes so just look at one of our posters displayed in Stansted and come to a meeting. You don't have to be a member to come and be welcomed in.

Pearl Wellings

S T A N S T E D C . N . D . G R O U P

At its monthly meeting on 11th November 1981 the group decided that for the purposes of efficiency and clarity of purpose the time had come to introduce a little more formality into its organisation by way of minutes and agendas of meetings. It is hoped that this will help both those who attend and those who do not attend. Acting honorary officers were asked to serve until the A.G.M. as follows:

Chairman - Francis O'Connor
Secretary - Peggy Clark
Treasurer - Ann Webb
Press Officer - Liz Lane
Vice Chair. - Bridgitt Pratt

For information about the next meeting, on Wednesday, 13th January, phone 813997.

THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

We had our annual meeting on November 18th and voted for a new committee. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper very kindly came to count our votes.

NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES' REGISTER

Local Organisers of the Stansted branch of the NHR are:

Frances O'Connor, 3 Churchill Corner, Tel: 813603, and
Katy Dockerill, The Snuff Box, 22 Bentfield Road, Tel: 812997

Either will give further information to prospective members.

On 13th October we met at the home of Sarah Ledger for a debate on the question of unilateral nuclear disarmament for Great Britain. There was a fairly small attendance but all present had strongly held views which led to some lively exchanges and made for an interesting evening, with the final vote going to the unilateralists.

Derek Plumb, who is studying at Cambridge University, gave us a fascinating talk on Roman Britain illustrated by slides of Hadrian's Wall on 29th October and on 3rd November a party of us enjoyed the hospitality of the Bishop's Stortford NHR group when they organised a quiz social evening to celebrate NHR's 21st birthday. Henham and Sawbridgeworth groups were also invited.

On 12th November Mrs. Ann Webb told us of her experiences living in Iran prior to the Islamic Revolution. She and her husband and children lived in the barren oil producing region and from the slides she showed and what she said we all realised how grateful we should be for the good services we have in this country for sewage, water and electricity.

Future meetings:

- 5 January: Liz Lane will be giving a crash course in modern maths.
- 13 January: The book group will discuss "The Hobbit", "The French Lieutenant's Woman" and "For the Love of Ann".
- 20 January: A talk with slides by Richard Allaway on wines.

Katy Dockerill

BROWNIE & GUIDES PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Brownies (in the afternoon) and the Guides (in the evening) recently held Discos in the Guide hut to celebrate the end of a month of fund-raising.

Every Brownie and Guide had been asked to raise £2.00 by doing odd jobs for friends and families in the hope of raising a total of £200 which is needed to keep their hut running efficiently. There were a few unusual ways of raising money, too, including gleaning potatoes, and a mini jumble sale on the recreation ground.

Our main fund raising function will again be our joint venture with the Cubs and Scouts, which is a fete on May Day. There will be an early meeting to make arrangements for this on Wednesday, 20th January, at 8.00 p.m. in the Guide hut.

May I urge anyone who is interested in helping us on this day, be they parents of Guides or Scouts, or other people who are interested in helping the movement, please come along to this meeting. If you can't get to the meeting but would like to help give me a ring:

B/S 813399. Please to call me on the above number if you can't get to the meeting but would like to help give me a ring.

(Mrs.) A. Fry
(Chairman)

S I D E W A Y S N U R S E R Y S C H O O L

Over the past few weeks we have held successful sales of children's clothes and toys which amounted to approximately £15 for our funds.

Our Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 26th November at St. John's Hall was attended by 42 parents. Mrs. Sarah Ledger chaired the meeting. Three vacancies on our Parents Committee were filled, and the list of our Committee members is as follows:

Mrs. Sarah Ledger - Chairman
Mrs. Wena Bosley - Secretary
Mrs. Marian Dyke - Treasurer

Mrs. Joy Brierly, Mrs. Chris Meachin
Mrs. Sandra Franklin Mrs. Stephanie Clayden
Mrs. Janice Proud Mrs. Chris Goodchild.
Mrs. Brenda Towle

After the business Mrs. Ledger introduced Mrs. Vera Edwards from the East Herts PPA who spoke of the work of a playschool and illustrated her talk with slides. The evening concluded with a cheese and cider supper.

Christmas parties have been arranged for both groups, on the 7th and 8th December and the Nativity play will be held on Wednesday, 9th December followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

Nursery school finishes for this term on Friday, 11th December and returns for the Spring term on Monday, 11th January 1982.

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST
Education for Parenthood

Stansted and District Group

After a successful start for the group last year, we begin 1982 by continuing our programme with meetings for:

1. Mums-to-be and mums with children under one year.

National Childbirth Trust . . .

2. Open Houses for all and sundry with an "attraction" that we hope will interest everyone concerned.
3. Evening meetings for both mums and dads, with the emphasis on Education for Parenthood.

Our diary for January will be as follows:

- Friday 8th: Morning Coffee for mums-to-be and under 1's at 26 Spencer Close.
- Friday 15th: Coffee for mums-to-be and under 1's.
- Wednesday, 20th: Mrs. Armstrong to give a talk on "Preparing for School" at 43 Gilbey Crescent at 8.00 for 8.30 p.m.
- Friday, 22nd: Coffee for mums-to-be and under 1's.
- Wednesday 27th: Open House at "Belmont", Wood End, Widdington, from 2.00 p.m. for our friends in that part of the world.
- Friday, 29th: Coffee for mums-to-be and under 1's.

We have changed our Under 1's meeting to every Friday morning, as Wednesday afternoons didn't seem to be very popular. The venues are still to be decided at the time of going to press, so why not come along on January 8th to find out more details, or ring Kim Linford, 813466, or Janice Proud, 814463. Keep looking at the village noticeboards for details of coming meetings.

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

Children from the school have recently given two informal concerts. The first was at Norman Court where the school choir sang a few traditional carols and then went on to sing Christmas items from their Nativity play. The latter was composed by Mrs. Valerie Catton who also accompanied the choir.

The second concert was given to the Senior Citizens at their Christmas Party in St. John's Church Hall. Here the children sang and played several numbers on descant and treble recorders. The items included "If I were a butterfly", "My Favourite Things", "Little Donkey". The songs and instrumental items were interspersed with some Country Dancing by members of the school Country Dance club. The audience joined in time to the clapping of the dancing and accompanied the choir in their final number, "Jingle Bells".

It was a very happy occasion and at the end Mrs. Page gave thanks to the teachers, Mrs. Catton and Mrs. Gordon, for training the children.

STANSTED CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

Maybe, because of the television and magazine advertisements, you are looking ahead to the summer months. One event that has become a regular feature in Stansted is the Carnival, so why not make the entry in your diary for Saturday, 26th June. The Carnival is the one event that everyone in the village can contribute to. Within a few weeks, the officials of all organisations should receive invitations to participate in a variety of ways which would make this year's event successful as an enjoyable occasion, as well as a profitable one. I hope that many more organisations will participate, whether to provide an attraction or to boost their own funds or to provide manpower for the general organisation. Whereas last year's Carnival proceeds were donated to the Herts & Essex Hospital Cardiac Unit Appeal, this year we intend to donate a particular piece of equipment or furniture to the Unit.

The Carnival will need a Queen, who will be selected at a Country & Western Dance in May but more details will follow later. If any organisation or any individual would like to know more about being involved in the Carnival, please contact me on B/S 812974 or Ruth Robinson (our Secretary), on B/S 812755

Bill Fegan, 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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