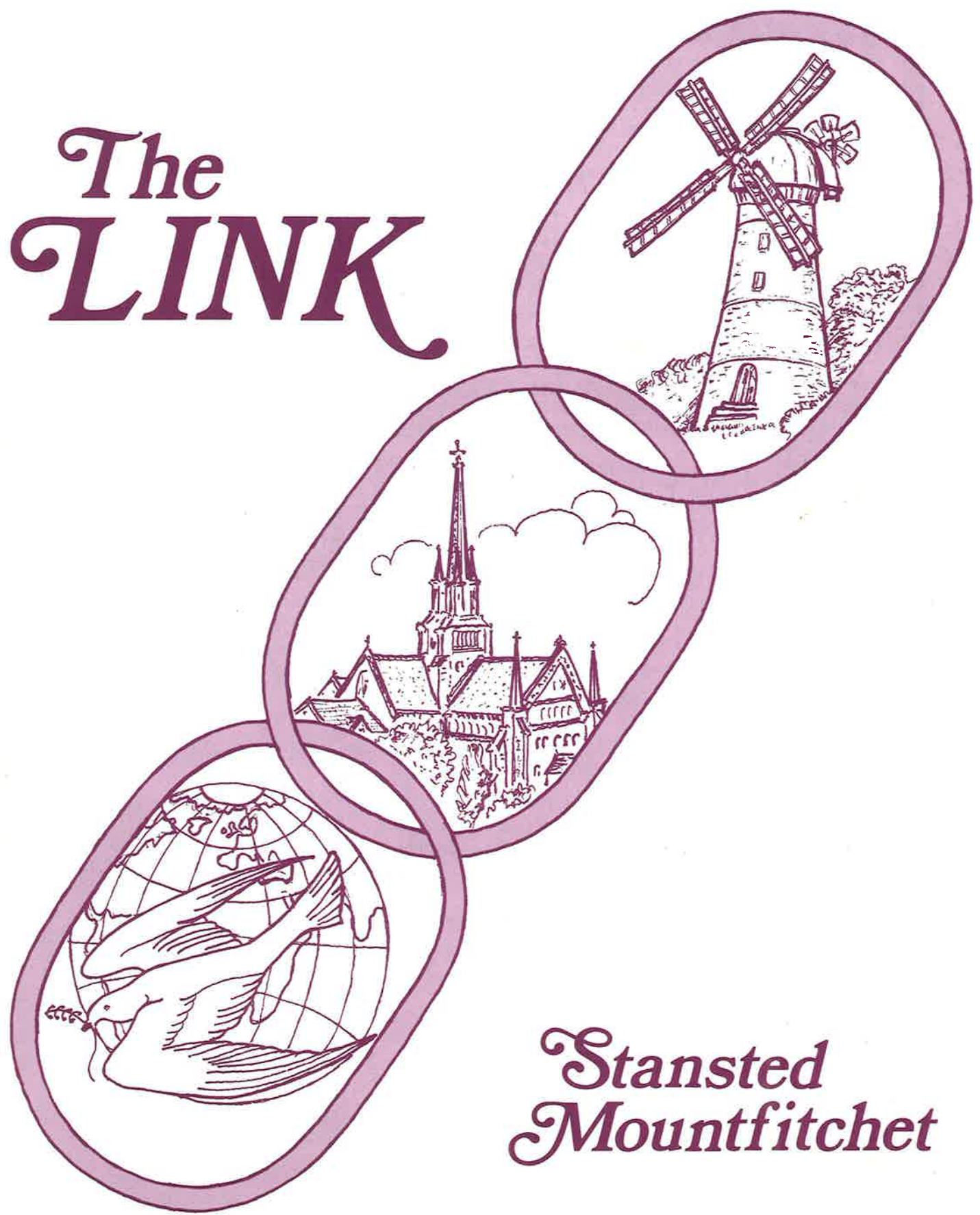


Sep 82

The *LINK*



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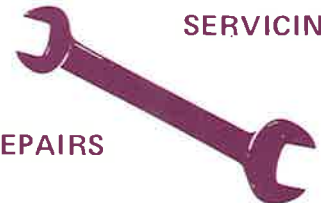
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THE LINK

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†††

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:** 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.
Matins – 11.15 a.m. (2nd Sunday)
Holy Communion (1662) – 11.15 a.m. (4th Sunday)
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. Joe Tuohy, 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTSSeptember

4	2pm	Hargrave House League of Friends Pete at Hargrave House
	2pm	Garden Club Show at United Reformed Church Hall
	4.30pm	Presentation of Trophies; 5pm Auction of Exhibits
6	2.45pm	Women's Own meetings recommence at UR Church Hall
7	10.30am	Women's Own Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in aid of St John's Church Flower Festival at 5 St John's Lane (home of Mr and Mrs F Boyd)
12	6.30pm	United Act of Worship at Quaker Meeting House
13	8pm	Stansted Association of Churches AGM at St John's Hall
14	10.30am-12	Opening of 'Swop Shop' at 15 Gilbey Crescent
18-19	11am-6pm	Stansted Flower Festival, St John's Church, all weekend
20	7.30pm	Enrolment for WEA course on Art Appreciation at Quaker Meeting House
25	11am-4pm	Stansted WI Open Day at UR Church Hall
28	8pm	Carnival Association AGM and Presentation of cheque for £700 to Herts and Essex Cardiac Appeal

October

16-17	11am-6pm	Art and Craft Market at Youth and Adult Centre
23	2.30pm	Tennis Club Jumble Sale

* * * * *

STANSTED ART AND CRAFT MARKET

The fourth annual Stansted Art and Craft Market is to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 16 and 17 October at the usual venue of the Youth & Adult Centre, Lower Street, from 11am-6pm on each day.

There will be an even wider variety of craft stalls with some demonstrations and a wide-ranging display of original paintings.

The first three years raised a grand total of £1,550 for various worthy causes, and although not yet definite, it is hoped that in 1982 the beneficiaries will be the old people of Stansted.

The refreshment bar, which is essential to the event, will again be supervised by Sylvia Osborn, who would appreciate offers of home made cakes etc, and the number to ring is 813599.

The Committee would also be grateful for offers of help over the weekend of 16 and 17 October, but before then offers to exhibit small posters in office, shop and factory premises would ultimately help to boost attendance and profits.

Please telephone Geoff Wright (812599) or Greg Snow (813051) and we will deliver the posters, but DO IT NOW!

Copy should reach 48 St John's Road:

by 17 September (for October issue)
by 15 October (for November issue)

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

WHAT IS SACC?

'One of the gifts Christians have to make to the peace of the world is to live out the unity that has already been given to them in their common love of Christ'.

(Dr Runcie, Canterbury, 29 May 1982)

Christians live in visible, separate communities. Often in splendid isolation. The desire for a deeper and wider unity is very strong. We don't have to ignore the rich legacies of the past but we must make a creative response to them. We must share our faith as we might share other aspects of life in a natural and direct way. We should 'gossip the gospel'.

The churches witness is most effective when it is local and when it is done in unity with our fellows. Stansted Association of Christian Churches (SACC) exists to serve this purpose. If you have never participated in our events, why not start now?

First, come and pray with us at the United Service in the Friends Meeting House at 6.30pm on Sunday 12 September.

Then, find out more about our activities at the AGM in St John's Hall at 8pm on Monday 13 September. We have some interesting events lined up for the next year.

'We seek through the inspiration of God's spirit to draw closer to him and one another in this community.'

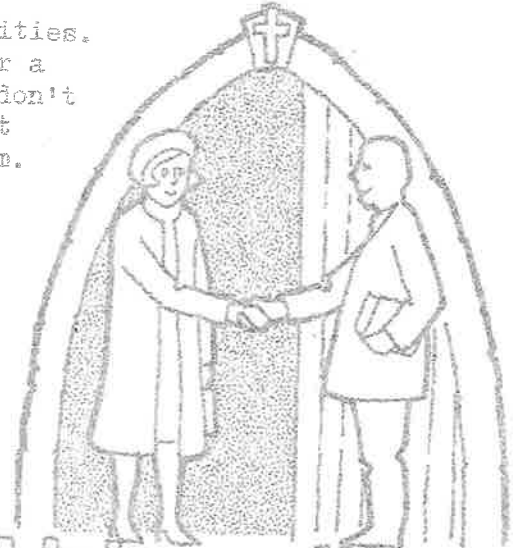
(shared Church of Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers)

THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The British Council of Churches celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year. There will be an ecumenical service to mark the occasion, in St Paul's Cathedral on 30 September at 7.30pm.

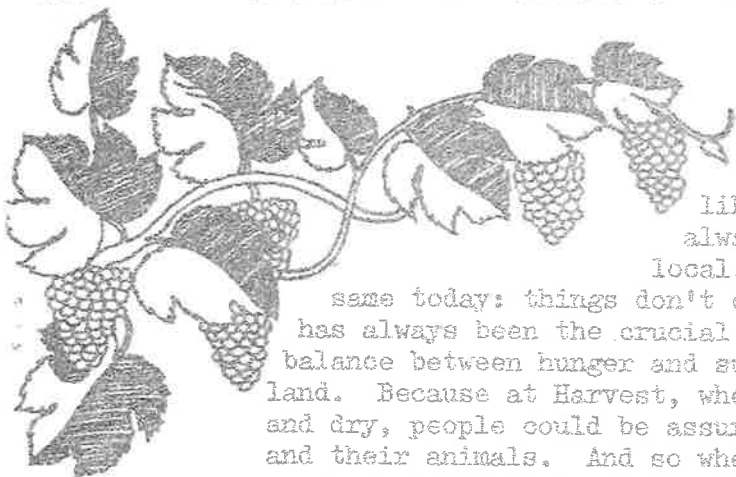
The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, will be the preacher. The leaders of all the member churches of the BCC have been invited and it is hoped that a representative of the Royal Family will be present.

Local associations of churches have been invited to send representatives and tickets will be allocated at the AGM on 13 September. Please contact the Chairman, Ann Webb, on 812088 if you are interested or would like further details.



Living with our
fellow Christians

Church of England



CURATE'S NOTES

Winters, if they were anything like the last one we had, were always a time of concern for small, local, farming communities. It's the same today: things don't change that much! Harvest time has always been the crucial point in the year, where the balance between hunger and survival was gathered from the land. Because at Harvest, when food was stored in barns, warm and dry, people could be assured of ample food for themselves and their animals. And so when the winter eventually did come, hard and long, as the weathermen tell us it invariably did, they felt secure, knowing that they were self-sufficient. Cut off from the outside world, and thrown back onto their own resources, they would be all right. For the Harvest was the food and the warmth that carried them through from the lush greens and warm sun of the balmy days of summer, into the short, dark, grey days of winter, when nothing grew; and so, on again, into the freshness of spring, when life would once again return to the dead land.

It was all about self-sufficiency; and in recent years, self-sufficiency has enjoyed a revival, as a whole way of life. Witness the growth: books on it, television programmes on it, people moving away from the big cities to set up smallholdings, people growing vegetables again in their own back gardens, on a large scale.

Perhaps it all sounds rather idealistic, but, self-sufficiency is not about 'going back' to ideals; it does not mean 'going back' to a lower standard of living either. In fact, the self-sufficiency buffs tell me that it means going forward, to a new and better sort of life. It means accepting complete responsibility for what you do, or what you do not do on the land. It means becoming a good husbandman of the land that the good Lord has provided. And so, from the lush greens of the summer pastures, through Harvest, and then on, into the hardships of a stark, grey winter, men have tended and cultivated the soil, firm in the faith that once again life will be restored to the barren earth, and that once again there will be another Harvest of fresh, rich fruit.

In this lies ample food for thought and thanksgiving, that the Christian soul, cultivated responsibly and nurtured, grows towards its final destiny: eternal life.

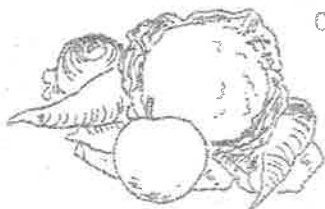
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A Farm Walk

The Forum meets next on Wednesday 15 September at 6.30pm at 'Saucemeres Farm', Manuden, by kind invitation of Messrs D E Collins and Sons. During the evening, we shall enjoy a 'talkabout' and 'walkabout' farming. If you would like to come to 'Saucemeres' at 6.30pm, drive to Manuden, and turn left at the road signposted to 'Mallows Green and Up End'. 'Saucemeres' is at the end of the lane.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 1982

Once again, this year, our Harvest Celebrations span a whole week. The Harvest Octave will start on Sunday 26 September, with the Festival at St Mary's, when all the services will be held in St Mary's Church. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 8am followed by the Family Communion at 9.30am and Sung Evensong at 6.30pm. * On the following Sunday, our celebrations move to St John's, when all the services will be there: a celebration of Holy Communion at 8am; Family Communion at 9.30am and Sung Evensong at 6.30pm. * Also 11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) The Harvest Supper, a good, family occasion, will be held in St John's Hall beginning at 7.30pm for 7.45pm, also on Sunday 3 October. Do come along and join us on any of these occasions.



* * * * *

Tiny Tots Services

All pre-school children and their mums are very welcome to come to our Tiny Tots services in St John's Church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 2pm. Our aim is to give young children a chance of getting used to being in Church and enjoying it: to begin their nurturing in the Christian faith. After the service, we go over to the Hall for tea, biscuits and squash: a chance for the children to play together, and a chance to meet other young mums in the village. Do come along. The service is both short and informal.

Coffee Morning



By kind invitation of Ann Boyd and the Stansted Women's Own, there will be a coffee morning and Bring and Buy Stall at 5 St John's Lane, starting at 10.30am. The proceeds of the morning will go towards the Flower Festival; so, please give it your support and pop in if you are passing that way, or out shopping.

STANSTED FLOWER FESTIVAL

18-19 september

st.john's church 11am-6pm

gift stalls, refreshments

Festival Concert saturday 8pm

music by moore,

haydn and vivaldi (gloria)

tickets £1.50

FESTAL EVENSONG 6-30PM

From the Parish Registers

Baptised

1 August Paul James Sweeney, 18 Alderbury Road
Andrew John Scraggs, 19 Millfields

Married

14 August David Baker, Forest Way, Goose Lane, Little Hallingbury
and
Alison Margaret Meadows, 36 Sunnyside, Stansted

Funerals

10 July Amelia Goodey, Red Barn Lodge, Great Dunmow
1 August William Charles Isard, 12 Maitland Road

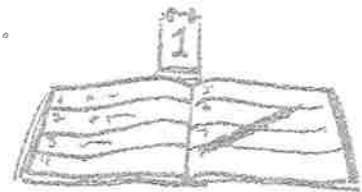
People of this parish buried elsewhere:

1 August Ivy Morton, 41 Manor Road
10 August Peter Trigg, 53 Chapel Hill
12 August Howard Williams, 19 Loates Pasture

CALENDAR AND DIARY

September

- 1 St Mary's School term begins
PCC 8pm at 'The Rowan', Bentfield Causeway
- 7 Coffee morning at 5 St John's Lane, beginning at 10.30am, in aid of
the Flower Festival Fund. By kind invitation of Stansted Women's Own.
- 8 St Mary's Patronal Festival. Sung Eucharist at St Mary's at 8pm
followed by coffee and biscuits at the back of the Church.
- 12 SACC Unity Service at the Quaker Meeting House 6.30pm.
- 13 SACC Annual General Meeting in St John's Hall 8pm.
- 18-19 Flower Festival in St John's Church all weekend.
- 20-21 Bishop of Colchester's visitation to the Deanery.
- 21 Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.
- 26 Harvest Festival at St Mary's.



October

- 3 Harvest Festival at St John's, followed by the Harvest Supper in
St John's Hall at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.
- 4 Deanery Synod at Newport.
- 17 Stewardship Sunday.

* * * * *

HUMAN AND ANGELIC RELATIONSHIP

As observers of humans, angels know all there is to be known; they need no relief; they miss nothing or forget nothing. Beyond that, the angels, all of them, easily penetrate into the regions of our imagination and memory, which means that our daydreams are not purely private affairs; they are shared by the whole of the angelic world; our sentimental journeys into the days of long ago are not solitary trips. We are not nearly so much alone as we imagine, whatever the hour or the place.

In relation to the friendly angels, this is to our infinite comfort, and often enough to our acute embarrassment; while it brings home clearly our weak defences against the hostile horde of devils, the help we unwittingly and constantly give to our bitter enemies, and our own desperate need for help from powers on a par with these enemies who so completely outmatch us.

The angels can introduce pictures into our imagination; they can reach into the storehouse of memory and parade the past before our mind's eye; but there the great natural powers of the angelic world grind to a halt before the impregnable sovereignty of our intellect and our will. Not even the highest of the angels knows what a man is going to do next; the most gifted of the angels cannot know what I am thinking at this moment. In this privacy of soul, we are the equals of the angels; this territory is inviolable to all but Almighty God Himself. Such is the stature of man's dignity. We are spiritual as well as physical; we are free; our intellect and will are not to be tampered with by any created force. So our thoughts, our deliberate desires, our loves are our own; for them we ourselves must take full credit or full blame. The angels can suggest through imagination and memory; they can coax, entice, threaten or frighten through these avenues of our sense nature; but we are the ultimate masters in command of our lives.

Let us humbly put ourselves in God's hands and He will send His angels to help us overcome evil and to spread His message of love to all our fellow men.

Baptism

Congratulations to the Langer family on the baptism of Timothy Tobias on 1 August last.

Wedding

Congratulations to Patrick Kehoe and Maxine Wyatt who were married on 31 July last.

We continue to look at the subject of Euthanasia. Advocates of Voluntary Euthanasia are careful to stress that the decision to terminate a life should be taken only by the person whose life is to be terminated; that it should be taken in a sound state of mind, without any pressure from anyone else and preferably by signed and witnessed statement well before a severe medical crisis occurs; and that such a request should be fulfilled by a doctor acting in concurrence with another doctor. Those who campaign for the legalisation

of voluntary euthanasia desire laws which will allow the termination of life where the patient himself wishes it and the medical diagnosis and prognosis justify it.

Certain positive advantages are claimed to result from such legalisation. First is the ending of the patient's intense suffering and the shortening of the family's distress and anguish. Furthermore the whole population would know that a very painful and distressing death and a prolonged period of dying could be avoided. And it is pointed out that not a few people are overshadowed, whether consciously or unconsciously, by the prospect of such death and dying. Another advantage is held to be that the doctor knows the patient's wishes and is relieved of the responsibility of taking certain crucial medical decisions. A somewhat similar advantage is claimed for next-of-kin and family.

In practice these claimed advantages can be strongly contested. Though the patient may have signed a statement whilst in good health, he still has to confirm it at the time of crisis, when his mental state may not be so good and he may be subject to various emotional pressures. And the doctor still has the responsibility of deciding whether the medical diagnosis and prognosis will justify voluntary euthanasia. And though the percentage of correct diagnosis and prognosis is very high, the margin of error remaining is likely to weigh heavily on a doctor's mind. Then the family may very well exchange one kind of distress for another, anguish being replaced by guilt as they wonder whether their loved one was influenced to ask for euthanasia wrongly or prematurely by some look, word or gesture of theirs in moments of weariness, impatience or anxiety. And today's medical treatment, as the work of hospices so humanely demonstrates, goes a very long way in controlling pain and distress right to the end.

There are other very serious concerns. How 'voluntary' is voluntary? What subtle (and usually unintentional) influences will bring some pressure on a person to make or confirm a euthanasia request? And once euthanasia is legalised to help the small percentage of extreme cases may the principle not be imperceptibly and dangerously extended and the 'qualifying categories' increased? And it is not impossible that some future Hitler or Stalin might take advantage of such an accepted principle as the thin end of the wedge for legalised removal of political opponents.

The doctor/patient and nurse/patient relationships, where trust and responsibility are so crucial, may be seriously or irreparably undermined. Euthanasia asks doctors to take God-like decisions. The British Medical Association, along with the World Medical Association, rejects euthanasia. And though the attitudes of the medical profession are not the only ones to be considered, they are very, very important. Doctors know very well how in a medical crisis a patient may wish to die and to feel very differently about it a few days later. Many such practical and ethical questions lie heavily on doctors when considering the implementation of euthanasia.

Legalising euthanasia may also be another step in the erosion of the safety, dignity and worth of human life. Has it not already been very dangerously devalued? And in this connection it is worth noting how very difficult it is to draft laws of such complete clarity that no loopholes can be made in them. Of course legal complexities can be over-emphasised and it has to be admitted that they do not settle the fundamental moral issues. Even so we must acknowledge the ethical dangers arising from legislation that cannot be totally precise. And there, for this month, we will leave this discussion. More next month.

Harold Fisher

Future Programme

Sunday 5 September Circuit Gathering and Service at Saffron Walden, with Tea at 4.45pm and Worship at 6pm.

Monday 6 September Circuit General Purposes Committee at Clavering at 8pm.

Thursday 16 September Circuit Meeting at Clavering at 8pm.

Monday 20 September Stansted Methodist Church Council at 49 Recreation Ground at 8pm.

Fortnightly Fellowship dates: 4 and 18 October, 1, 15 and 29 November. Venues later.

* * * * *



The high spot of the year for the Stansted Group of the United Reformed Church was the celebration of the formation of the Free Church in this area 300 years ago.

A group of players under the direction of Mrs Rosanne Kirkpatrick presented the account of nonconformity and the growth of the Clavering church from the 17th century in the form of an historical drama written and researched by our Minister the Rev E McIlwain.

A packed church which included the Moderator of the JRC, Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow, visitors from Churches in the original group and many local friends from Clavering and Stansted, heard of the early struggles against persecution by the Protestants, against which background a group of people met at Wood Hall, Arkesden in 1662 and signed their first Covenant. Interspersed with hymns and recitals, the players showed how the congregational movement spread locally from this meeting up to the present day, when Clavering is part of the Stansted group.

Mr McIlwain took a leading role in the play, the narration being given by Mrs Kirkpatrick and Peter Trundle. Solos were by Paul Trundle and Valerie Trundle and the organist was Mrs Wombwell, the regular organist at Clavering.

This was followed by a buffet supper and concluded with the cutting of a 20 lb cake made by Stuart Townsend of Chapel Hill. Helpers had worked all day Friday filling the church with floral displays depicting different aspects of Church life and the Clavering and Langley Local History Group under the leadership of Miss Ludgate had organised interesting historical displays, including old minute books and Church registers from 1792 onwards. The church was open Saturday and Sunday and organists and musicians from other churches in the district entertained during the afternoons.

The Thanksgiving Service on Sunday morning was attended by members of other denominations in Clavering who cancelled their own services for that day and we were pleased to see friends from the Methodist church in Stansted. The Reverend Alan MacLeod, Chairman of the Cambridge District Council of Churches introduced Mrs Goodfellow who gave the address. The hymns used in the service were carefully chosen to include some which would have been known to the first Clavering Dissenters.

A truly memorable weekend for all who participated and the Minister and Elders are grateful to everyone who helped to make the weekend such a success.

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

In the past few issues of THE LINK we have looked at some of the 30 or so churches which together make up the Council for World Mission. So far we have looked at churches in Africa, the Caribbean, East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. Seven European Churches have membership in C.W.M., the Churches of Christ (now in the U.R.C.), the Congregational Federation, the Congregational Union of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Union of Welsh Independents, the U.R.C. and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES has its origins in the evangelical awakening of the 18th century. When a number of Anglican clergy and laymen who were inspired by the preaching of Howell Harris and Daniel Rowland formed themselves into small Methodist Societies in many parts of Wales. They differed doctrinally from their Wesleyan Methodist counterparts in England in accepting a Calvinist emphasis. In 1817 the Societies broke from the Anglican Church through their desire to ordain a number of their lay-preachers, and later adopted their own "confession of faith". In 1828, the Societies constituted themselves as the "Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Connexion". The Welsh Evangelical Revival gave further strength to the Connexion and by the turn of the century it became the largest of the Welsh churches in members and ministers. From its inception the form of church government adopted by the Connexion was basically Presbyterian. This was officially confirmed in 1932 by a Parliamentary Act when the Connexion officially became the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

The main overseas mission outreach of the church has been in North East India, a region formerly known as Assam, in Burma and in Brittany (!) where there are distinct ethnic links between France and Wales.

There are 1199 churches with a total communicant membership of 90,000 and 231 ministers in pastoral charge. The church has a theological college at Aberystwyth, a residential lay-training centre at Trefeca and a special training centre for young people at Sale. The needs of some orphaned and deprived children are met through two children's homes at Caernarfon and Llanfairfechan in North Wales. At Pwllheli the church administers the Goffroy's Home for elderly people. (Lovingly Welsh names!) The church has a full-time liaison officer for women's work, who organizes up to 30 retreats annually at the Sale and Trefeca centres. The women have a special concern and interest for the handicapped and elderly who are served by the church.

Like the Union of Welsh Independents, the church has maintained a strong interest and involvement in the production of literature in the Welsh language. The church has developed ecumenical links through its participation in the "Wales for Christ" movement and through its acceptance of a covenant relationship in Wales with Anglican, Methodist, U.R.C. and some Congregational churches. It is a member of the Welsh Free Church Council, the British and World Councils of Churches.

PILOTS, which is a non-uniformed organisation for children from 9 to 15 years, will reconvene on Monday 6 September at 6pm.

Speakers for September

5	Rev E McIlwain
12	Mrs L Ropkin of Saffron Walden
19	Rev E McIlwain
26	Harvest Festival - Canon A McKenzie of Ebbw Vale

Many people have expressed curiosity about the silent Meeting for Worship which is central to the corporate spiritual life of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). With the next united service of the Stansted Association of Christian Churches being a Quaker Meeting for Worship, on the evening of Sunday 12 September, before the Annual General Meeting of the Association on the following day, it seems appropriate to offer some explanation and provide some observations about the Quaker experience of worship. These observations are based on my own understanding and experiences: although Quakers have the Books of Discipline, describing experiences of Friends and providing a framework for the processes of the Society, there is no statement which authoritatively states what Friends should believe.

Within this context, it can be said that all Members and attenders who come to Meeting for Worship are 'seekers': through the silent meeting they hope to find their own experience of God deepened or perceived more clearly. With no individual, priest or lay person, to actively lead the worship, it is the responsibility of each person present to bring his offering, which may be a confused longing for God or a clear expression of faith. Whatever is brought, if it is in sincerity, the corporate pooling of experiences and worship will bring together a richness of common life within which God's presence will be central. Individuals may be moved to offer a thought, prayer or reading to this silent worship, which will help the Meeting forward in corporate understanding. Wonder has been expressed about how the ministry of one person can often be closely linked to the thoughts of another, and in a good meeting a rich tapestry of shared experience can emerge.

Equally, however, one's thoughts can wander, and there are times when it is more difficult to settle. We tell newcomers this, and they are much reassured. It has to be said that we all suffer this problem, however long we have been attending Meeting for Worship. In fact, I find the following quotation from 'Christian Faith and Practice in the experience of the Society of Friends' particularly helpful, and was moved to share it as ministry at our Meeting for Worship on 8 August, so it might 'speak to the condition' of others (a Quaker expression linking the thoughts and experiences of one to those of another). It may speak to your condition, whatever form your spiritual beliefs take, in your approach to worship:

'The mind wanders and the will falters again and again. Even the great masters of the religious life have confessed they are always liable to be invaded by the most frivolous thoughts during their meditations. But it is foolish to allow failures in concentration to plunge us into profitless self-condemnation. A mother does not condemn her child who is struggling with many a failure to learn how to walk, but rather is she pleased by each successful effort. Man is at the corresponding stage in his spiritual development and I like to believe that God is similarly pleased with our efforts and understanding of our many failures. What matters is whether or not the will, like a compass needle when deflected, is so pivoted that it can swing back to the true direction. St Francis de Sales is reassuring:

'When your heart is wandering and distracted, bring it back quickly to its point, restore it tenderly to its Master's side, and if you did nothing else the whole of your hour but bring back your heart patiently and put it near our Lord again, and every time you put it back it turned away again, your hour would be well employed'.

I look forward to sharing our Meeting for Worship on 12 September with other 'seekers' from other churches or none and hope these thoughts will help.

Richard Bush

NEWS FROM THE MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL

GALA DAY The weather was certainly very kind to us on our Gala Day. We had a very large crowd, all intent on enjoying themselves. There was plenty to do, including all the fun of the fair, numerous sideshows and stalls, an Obstacle Course, a Tug-of-War competition (won by the Waggon and Horses, Manuden), pony rides, and, a very popular attraction, crockery smashing. Various members of staff also were put in the stocks and had wet sponges thrown at them during the afternoon. Nobody won the Saab, but everybody appreciated the gymnastick display by the girls in the arena.

It was definitely a family fun day, which is what we intended, but since we also ended up making a profit of about £750, we were very happy about that, too!

CONCERT Towards the end of term the Music Department gave a Concert for parents and friends, and it was a really inspiring evening. Nearly everybody who could play an instrument contributed, and there were items by the School Choir, Orchestra and Wind Band. It is difficult to select individual items to comment on, as there were so many worthy of note, but perhaps the Sixth Form's touch of Eastern promise is one thing that will live on in the memory, and, really outstanding, was an item performed by Form 2X, composed by Nicholas Stanford, called 'Moods of the Sea'. With Nicholas, aged 12, at the piano and the rest of his form playing various instruments, this was something that we shall long remember, and hope to hear again soon.

This concert also marked the end of an era at the Mountfitchet School, as it brings to retirement the Head of the Music Department, Mrs Joy Holman. Having been at the School for 16 years, many pupils have occasion to remember music with Mrs Holman as she persuaded, cajoled, or used various methods to instil what she wanted into them. During her time here, the standard of music has risen enormously; she has taught herself to play a large number of instruments in order that she could teach the children; and she has spared no energy in the pursuit of excellence, often being at school before 8 o'clock in the morning to take lessons. She will be sadly missed. On the last day of term she was presented with a stereo radio cassette recorder by the Staff and pupils.

INTER-HOUSE QUIZ An Inter-House Quiz took place recently at the School. Teams of four, including one member of Staff, were required to answer questions on seven topics, including Science, English and Current Affairs. Bannister won, with Hunt second and Duke third.

MEETING WITH PARISH COUNCIL Representatives of the Governors, Staff and Parents were pleased to meet with members of Stansted Parish Council recently to consider the present threat to the Sixth Form. The School was very much encouraged by the interest shown and the support displayed by those Councillors present.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT NEEDED The School has also been very appreciative of the many letters of support which have been received, as well as those which have been sent to the County Council. Official objections to the proposals are being sent, and the matter will therefore have to be considered by the Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph.

News from the Mountfitchet School, continued:

We do, of course, hope that everyone in Stansted will join in our campaign to retain the Sixth Form at the School. It is, surely, in everyone's interests to maintain a good school in Stansted, where the present high standards can be developed. If you would like to write on our behalf, please ask us where letters should be sent, if you do not know.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY The weather was less kind on Sports Day, held on July 15th. We were able to get through most of the events before rain stopped play, although the relays had to be run on another day. However, 8 school records were broken, and the final House placings were: 1st. Bannister, 2nd. Duke, 3rd. Hunt.

THE LAST DAY On the last afternoon of term, Videorama came to the School and gave a very impressive demonstration of large screen television by showing the film "Star Wars" to the whole school in the Hall. Large screen television is one of the things on our shopping list for future purchase, and it seemed that everyone came away from the show with a clear indication of the merits of this for school use.

NEXT YEAR What will the next school year bring forth? We would like to think that it will bring a settled, secure future for us, as a 11-18 mixed comprehensive school, serving the community of Stansted and the villages around.

We shall report progress in future issues of "The Link".

BEWTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Have you noticed what a wonderful summer it has been for butterflies? Our gardens have been full of these delightful fluttering insects - Painted Ladies, Peacocks, Red Admirals, Small Coppers and Brimstones have all been unusually common. Class 8 did a lot of work about Insects during their final term at school and have started me off again on one of my old passions - rearing Lepidoptera. Hopefully, when the next Class 8 do similar work we will have eight or nine species for them to observe.

Our Creative Activities Exhibition was very successful and we had lots of visitors. Julie Amos from Class 7 wrote this account of the day.

"On Tuesday, July 13th my school had an Exhibition. It started at 4.00 p.m. I arrived at half past four ready for Science Club, which is taken by Mr. West. We were hoping to let off a hot air balloon in the hall, after some trouble it went up. After the Science Club had finished talking the first and second year choir started, they sang well. Miss Wright did very well playing the piano. There were eight more events to come, two more recorder groups and a violin recital. The thing I liked best were the Drama games. The Frame group showed people how to get together. It was a very enjoyable evening. The last thing was another choir group. Mrs. Trundle took this group and she was very good at playing the piano and helping us when we got stuck."

Fentfield County Primary School, continued:

On September 23rd. the Parent Teacher Association will be having their Annual General Meeting and cheese and wine evening when a new Committee will be elected. We do hope all the parents will come along.

Janice Wray

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The annual picnic was as usual a great success and there was a lot of fun and laughter. It took place at the school and after a few games dinner was ready and everyone hurried indoors. A lot of hard work by Joyce and Barbara mean't that everyone was served and eating in a very short time.

Then it was back to all the attractive activities and a great time playing hoppla, throwing horseshoes, knocking down skittles and throwing balls and beanbags at piles of tins. It took much longer to pile them up than to knock them down. The poor little helper took a couple of blows mean't for the tins, decided he had done his share of helping and retired hurt to his Mum.

At one time it seemed tin hats should be the order of the day with footballs flying everywhere after being kept out of goal with hockey sticks.

Very popular, as always, were the two ponies Dandy and Peanut and they worked very hard as most of the members love to ride. Sometimes it took several helpers to heave and push the larger children "on board" but it added to the fun.

The grandest moment of the afternoon must be when John Edgar rode Dandy across the field. He sat so straight and proud that I felt he should be given the title "Lord High Sherriff of Stansted" or perhaps with the addition of a ten gallon hat we have our own Buffalo Bill.

Tea was served outside with a grand selection of sandwiches and cakes. Then with renewed energy it was time for races organised by Derek and Judy (what should we do without their help on these occasions?) Everyone was a winner even if they came last!

To wind up a very happy afternoon there was a tug-of-war. No-one knew who won because so many people kept changing sides but it was great fun.

Next year perhaps our Lord High Sherriff will do some exhibition riding. Get cracking John you might just find a lasso and some cattle to round up!

Betty Lockwood

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THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST
Stansted & District Group

Thanks to your valuable support, our fete in July was very successful. The weather was glorious and we like to think that everyone who attended had a good time - especially the little children.

Our Disco was also a good fling, and we raised almost enough money to buy a portable respiration monitor to warn against Cot Deaths. There is a Mum already waiting for the monitor, so we hope that the final £20 won't be too long in coming!

Diary for September

- Thursday 2nd Talk entitled "Toys and the Handicapped Child" by Miss K. Gregory at 42 Wetherfield at 8pm.
- Friday 3rd Under 1's & Expectant Mothers coffee at "Cooper Beeches", 8 Bentfield Road 10.30 to 12 noon.
- Saturday 4th TRIP TO LONDON ZOO. Meet at London & Stansted Furnishings shop at 9.15 pm. Coach seats £1-50 (children under 3 free). Entrance to Zoo half-price. Return - meet at 4pm at coach park. Contact Julie 815992 or Viv 814556 by August 31st.
- Tuesday 7th Expectant & First Time Mothers Baby Group at Crafton Green Clinic 2 - 4 pm.
- Friday 10th Under 1's & Expectant Mothers coffee at 4 Spencer Close 10.30 to 12 noon.
- Tuesday 14th Expectant & First Time Mothers Baby Group at Crafton Green Clinic 2 - 4 pm.
- Thursday 16th Open House at "Belmont", Widdington with a Bring and Buy Auction. Contact Catherin Tidmarsh on 95 40814 for details and to let her know if you can offer or need transport.
- Friday 17th Under 1's & Expectant Mothers coffee at 47 Sunnyside 10.30 to 12 noon.
- Tuesday 21st Expectant & First Time Mothers Baby Group at Crafton Green Clinic 2 - 4 pm.
- Friday 24th Under 1's & Expectant Mothers coffee at 52 Wetherfield 10.30 to 12 noon.
- Tuesday 28th Expectant & First Time Mothers Baby Group at Crafton Green Clinic 2 - 4 pm.

MILK RUN

The Special Care Baby Unit in Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow need Breast Milk for the premature babies. If you are breast-feeding and feel able to express off some milk for their Milk Bank, please contact Cathy Leek 813068. Even a few mls daily is valuable.

As usual, please contact Hilary Pinder 814218, Cathy Leek 813068 or Janice Proud 814463 for details or help.

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NATIONAL HOUSEWIVES' REGISTER

Local Organisers: Katy Dockerill BS 812997
Libby Martin BS 812807

Please contact either Katy or Libby if you would like further information about our group. New members are always very welcome.

On 21st July we discussed which particular economy measures we adopt in our own homes and the economies or otherwise of bulk shopping, vegetable growing, fuel saving etc. under the title "Is your economy someone else's meanness?" Some of our members are obviously very thrifty - others must try harder!

Frances O'Connor recorded a selection of television programmes and on 5th August we met to discuss one of them. It was hard to choose which to discuss but we opted for the "Man Alive" debate on whether the television news programmes are biased against "the left" (are we allowed to hang that label?). It was a stimulating evening and watching a T.V. programme first was a good way to quickly get the exchange of views going.

Future Meetings

Friday	20th	August	Lunchtime picnic in Hatfield Forest.
Wednesday	1st	September	"Alternative medicine" with acupuncture, osteopathy, homeopathy and healing through feet manipulation being studied.
Monday	13th	September	"Astrology" - a talk by Susie Churchill.
Friday	1st	October	An evening of meditation assisted by Bob Ledger.

STANSTED WOMEN'S OWN

The STANSTED WOMEN'S OWN re-commence their weekly meetings on Monday 6th September at 2.45 pm in the Lecture Hall of the United Reformed Church.

The forthcoming speakers are:-

Mr F. Green of Wicken Bonhunt.
Mrs. Chris Osborne of Quendon.
Mrs. A. Tee of Bishop Stortford.
Mrs. F. Jacques of Bishop Stortford.

On Tuesday 7th September at 10.30 am the meeting are holding a coffee morning and bring and buy stall at the home of Mr. & Mrs. F. Boyd 5 St. Johns Lane Stansted in aid of the St. John's Church Flower Festival.

A warm welcome will be given to any lady who would like to join us at our meeting or the coffee morning.

STANSTED (EVENING) WI

By the time you read this, the silly season will be over and thoughts will be turning - dare I say it? - to Autumn and all the things that go with it. The children will have gone back to school and it is then that many people start to think of evening classes and various courses which seem to be on offer everywhere.

Stansted (Evening) WI, continued:

Our members of course have the distinct advantage in that they are able to run and attend classes for themselves at local level all the year round. But August is the waiting month for those of us who have applied to attend one of the many courses at our own Denman College near Oxford.

The courses are all over subscribed and the ballot for places is drawn over the August Bank Holiday at the College.

The courses available cover the whole spectrum of interests from crafts and home making, through activities such as archery, car maintenance and glass engraving, to languages, conservation, current affairs, architecture and literature. Something for everyone I'm sure you'll agree.

The College itself is an 18th Century mansion set in several acres with a lake and beautiful gardens. There are several cottages in the grounds which are occupied by staff and members who take husbands along. Yes it is allowed - but they do have to attend a course at the same time as the wife but not necessarily the same course.

After hearing just this little bit about the WI movement's pride and joy you will understand why there is such a queue to get in. Anyway, the lucky ones will start organising themselves and their families so that they can take advantage of Denman College whether it is for a week or just a weekend - I hope I'm one of them.

Pearl Wellings

* * * * *

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Women's Section

Somewhat dull weather on July 21st did not prevent members and friends from enjoying a coffee morning in the pleasant garden of Dr. and Mrs. Gabb. Cake and produce stalls were popular and the Bring and Buy and Raffle proved very successful. Profit including donations, amounted to £88.41.

Raffle winners were Miss Trott, Mrs Halsey, Miss Law, Mrs Cawkell, Mrs K Turner, Mrs B Turner, Mrs Shervington, Mrs Hutchins, Miss Chown, Miss Goody, Mrs Summers, Mrs Mumford, Mrs Whall.

Pat Clower

STANSTED SENIORS CLUB

The weather was kind to us on June 16th when at the kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Irwin the Stansted Mountfitchet Seniors Club went to "The Thatch" for a party in their beautiful garden. The tea was delightful and rounded off with ice cream. Many paid a visit to the Doll's House, and others just sat and enjoyed the sunshine. Thank you Mr & Mrs Irwin.

In the evening a coach load went to the Herts & Essex Hospital Organ Club for a Cockney evening with a sing song and dancing. Novel refreshments were cockles; and bread pudding!

Stansted Seniors Club, continued:

Several members dressed in Edwardian costume with gay hats. Everyone said that it had been an enjoyable evening.

On July 23rd we went to Towerlands Braintree to a Dance Festival. A wonderful display by American, Russian and Palestinian dancers.

The 4th August saw the Seniors at the home of Mr & Mrs Thornton. Members sat basking in the sunshine on the terraces. Mr Griggs took the plunge into the swimming pool, and two members had a paddle! The garden was beautiful, and the view was enjoyed by all. Then came the tea again - really delicious and served with the help of the Thornton boys and the dogs! Thank you Mr & Mrs Thornton.

THE MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

We really got down to basics at our August meeting when we learned how to make the perfect compost heap. From kitchen and garden refuse to rich compost, without offensive smells, in six weeks! This particular piece of useful instruction was part of the talk on "Organic Gardening" given to the club by Mr Alan Gear of the Henry Doubleday Research Association. Other gardening advice about to be followed by various members included a "smothering" method of weed control, and screening carrots to deter carrot root fly.

Members are now busily preparing themselves, and their produce, for the exciting event planned for Saturday September 4th: OUR FIRST SHOW. A committee member has been seen furtively making notes at shows in neighbouring villages, and we are sure we can do just as well!

Do come and give us your support, the hall will be open to the public - to envy and admire, or commiserate - from 2pm. We are holding a raffle with a £5 gardening voucher, a breakfast, a dinner, and a tea included in the prizes. If our exhibits take your breath away you will be able to have a cup of tea to recuperate, and at 4.30 pm you will see the three Mountfitchet Garden Club Trophies awarded for the first time. After this exciting moment you will have the opportunity to bid for some of the prize-winning exhibits as they are auctioned to conclude the afternoon.

The next club meeting at the Youth and Adult Centre Annex is on Monday September 6th, when Mr D. J. Wilding is coming to speak to us on "Fuschias". Commencing at 8pm.

On Monday 4th October, Mrs E. Atcheson will talk about "Botanical Illustrations". Commencing at 8pm.

For further information ring - S.I. Frogley, 812617
Mr Humphreys, 814475

STANSTED WEA

The autumn session of the Stansted WEA will begin on Monday 20th September at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. The subject of the course of twelve lectures is "Art Appreciation" and will cover artists and their work from medieval to modern times. The lecturer does not wish to present a conventional art history but to analyse the effect that the society in which artists lived

Stansted WEA, continued:

had on their work and how, in turn, their interpretations affected the thinking of their age. By taking various artists from various periods of history it is intended to discover what it is that made the period tick.

The lectures will be illustrated by colour slides and time will be given for general discussion and questions. It is hoped to arrange a visit to an art gallery during the course. The first meeting begins at 7.30 pm for enrolment, lectures normally at 8 pm.

We look forward to welcoming friends from previous classes and new members to what promises to be a lively and stimulating course.

For further details phone B/S 813525 or 812214.

.....
SWAP SHOP

Every six weeks an Open House will sell any item for its members.

The list of rules is as follows:-

- 1) It will be held between 10.30 and 12 noon at the house named on the Notice boards.
- 2) Items for sale should be brought to the appropriate house between 9 - 10 m on the morning of the Swap Shop. Things brought during the morning must be laid out by the member concerned.
- 3) All articles should be clearly marked with your name and the price required. These should then be placed in a bag or box large enough to hold them comfortably with your name and address CLEARLY MARKED on the outside, and inside an envelope with your name on for profit to come.
- 4) A maximum of twelve items may be brought, although a collection of books or patterns will count as one item.
- 5) All goods and money should be collected between 3.30 and 5.30 pm. on the same day or they will be donated to charity.
- 6) The cost of membership is 10p each week whether or not you are able to come. This is so that hanging rails etc. can be brought.
- 7) These subscriptions are due in advance and where they are not paid it will be assumed that the person concerned no longer wishes to be a member.
- 8) £5 notes cannot be accepted as these will create problems at the end when the money is distributed.
- 9) Sorry, no children allowed.
- 10) Guests will be welcome, but they can buy only.
- 11) There is a limit to the number of members, so guests will have to join.

As an example for prices: good quality child's coat £5 - £8.

As we are starting a new venture, we require 30 members. If this is a success, the number will be increased.

If you would like to become a member please contact Clare Tofts Bishops Stortford 814220 by 10th September. Our first meeting will be on 14th September at 15 Gilbey Crescent.

STANSTED & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

At our August meeting it was decided to change the date of our monthly meetings to the third Monday in the month instead of the second Monday so as not to coincide with the newly formed Stort Rotary Club. The dates will now be as follows Monday September 20th, October 18th, November 15th. No meetings in December.

Owing to printing problems we shall not be receiving our monthly magazine "Better Business".

The village sign has now been erected on the North side of the village opposite Walpole Farm.

We send our good wishes to Mr & Mrs Eric Preece of "Pearson", Silver Street who will shortly be leaving the village after serving us with their home baked bread & cakes for 20 years. It is pleasing to know that the shop will soon be opening again to serve us once more with bread etc.

P. Griggs Chairman

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

This is obviously a very active time of year for the Tennis Club and our many Junior Members are taking advantage of the school holidays and playing a great deal of tennis. Miss Joanna King from Saffron Walden has given twelve hours tennis coaching to about 22 Juniors (and they have all enjoyed it tremendously) and their standard of play has benefited.

We have had two Junior matches against Elsenham. The first one was played at Stansted with 11 - 13 year olds and Stansted won by 53 games to 10. The team was:-

Rachel Fegan and Leon Szyszkowski
Samantha Griffiths and Tim Hollis
Claire Wardell and James Wootten

The second match was played at Elsenham, with 13 - 15 year olds and Stansted again won by 47 games to 34. The team was:-

Sarah Head and Tim Hollis
Isobel Rawlinson and Julian Hall
Julia Wright and Jonathan Fell

The Senior Members have also played matches against Henham, Thaxted, Elsenham, Castle Hill and Grove (both Saffron Walden Clubs) and Dunmow. Results of these matches will be given at the end of the season.

The Club Finals Day will be held on Sunday 12th September and spectators will be very welcome during the afternoon. A barbecue will be held after the Finals.

The Tennis Club is holding a Jumble Sale at the Club, on Saturday, 23rd October at 2.30 pm. We will give details of this event next month, but we plan to have a cake-stall, raffle and refreshments. We are hoping to raise funds to help towards improvements to our Clubhouse.

Also in October we are hoping to arrange an American Tournament with Elsenham.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis B/S 812073

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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