


```
The whole bright world rejoices now,
Hilariter, hilariter;
The birds do sing on every bough
    Alleluya, Alleluya.
Then shout beneath the racing skies
Hilariter, hilariter;
To Him who rose that we might rise,
    Alleluya, Alleluya.
                                    (German Carol 1623)
```

Easter eggs! Easter eggs: Give to him that begs:
For Christ the Lord is arisen.
To the poor open door, something give from your store:
Those who hoard can't afford - moth and must their reward:
Those who love freely give - long and well may they live!
Easter tide, like a bride, comes, and will not be denied.
(From Rimsky Korsakov's Russian National Songs 1877)
And "LINK" managed two editions in Marcl, so:
A HAPPY EASTER - AGAIN:
(Stanstedl986)

Don't Forget: St, Mary's and St. John's Easter Flowers<br>2 pm - 5 pm Easter Day and Easter Monday Refreshments

The Link is published ronthly by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches. Arrual subscription is 21.75 . To order your copy please contact Mrs. Yvonne Jameson, 10 Longcroft. Tel. 813924.
To advertise on the cover of the magazine please contact
Mr. Fred Eoyd, 5 St. John's Lane. Tel. 812148.
Any queries to Editor, Phyllis Harrison. Tel. 813535.

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

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Copy to reach }58\mathrm{ Chapel Hill by
loth April for May issue
l5th May for June issue
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## SACC

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday April 29 at 8.15 pm in the United Reformed Church Vestry.

## ShaLCM Group

We resume meetings after our Easter break on Monday, 21 April: A Prayer and Praise Evening led by Phyllis and Bruce Harrison at l, Blythwood House, Blythwood Gardens, at 7.45 p.m.

## Christian Aid

## "Change Things for Good"

Why? - because of poverty and injustice - because things are as they are

- because the powerful are resistant to change for good

How? - through a network of partners both at home and overseas Christian Aid is able to be the church at work, part of the way Christ goes on working in the world

When? - when there is hope

- when there is more enlightenment
- when there is a commitment to change
- in Christian Aid Week

Please heip bring about change for good by supporting Christian Aid Week May 12-17. Aswell as the house-to-house envelope collection there will be a social evening at the URC Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday gth May. We shall think about ways of beinging about change, and watch the film "The Eig If" about how the world would change if we did not spend money on armaments.

Please bring and share a finger food supper.
On Sunday llth May the Christian Aid Service will be held at St. Mary's Church. Finally there will be the market outside the Friends Meeting House from lo till 12 on Saturday l7th May. Please give any contributions for stalls to Church CA representatives or to me, or bring them along on the day. The stalls will be:- cakes, toys, books, good-as-new clothes (no jumble), white elephant, plants and produce, groceries and handicrafts.
"Lord we are taught that your way is the only way to justice, peace and love. If we are facing in the wrong direction turn us round. Help us to change for good".
(From "Prayers for seven days" 1986).
Catherine Dean 813579

## Society of Triends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

## Local Contact: <br> Meeting for worship: llam.

He went to seek a man, and found Raphael which was ari angel ... and they both went forth, and the young man's dog with them.

## The Book of Tobit

On a summer jaunt last year I spent an hour or two in the beautiful grounds of Polesder Lacy, and there half-hidaen among the trees I came upon a dogs' cemetery. Stones about a foot high, with curved tops all alike, lovingly and simply recorded the names and dates of all the dogs who had shared their lives with the inhabitants of this famous stately home.

There was something oddly familiar about those small equal stones. 'Not marble nor the gilded monuments' of churches and churchyards (though I enjoy those too!), but of course the stones recording Quaker burials, set with the same equality and simplicity in the gardens of Meeting Houses. You cannot from these stones deduce anything of the worldiy status of those they commemorate - only that they had loved and been loved, had served and were remembered.

So too with the dogs. I know that there are those who hold that man alone among the creatures has an immortal soul. I do not plopose to tangle with these matters. But whatever may be hereafter, that dogs' cemetery spoke to me something important to the here and now - something best said, I think, in the words the poet Coleridge put: into the mouth of his Ancient Mariner, restored to life from the depths of horror and despair:

He prayeth well, who loveth well. Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all.

As for Tobit and the angel Raphael, they too went through strange and sometimes frightening adventures, and as they drew near home again 'Raphael said to Tobias .... let us run forward to prepare the house .... And they went their way, and the dog went after them'.

Amy Paylor

## Roman Catholic

Services:<br>\section*{Priest:}<br>The Rev'd David Chapman<br>12 Millside (flat above Church).<br>Tel: 814349.<br>Sunday Nasses - 8am and 10.30am and at Henham - 9.15am.<br>IIoly Days - 9.15 am and 8 pm and at Henham - 7pm.

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

'AMONG THE POTS AND PANS' by a Housewife (taken from the Carmel Magazine Jan-Feb issue)

When I got married I met a nun who, unknown to herself, has influenced my life greatly. She had a serenity that I really envied; nothing seemed to disturb her inner peace, and yet as I got to know her better it was clear that her life was not always smooth sailing; nor was she naturally placid. When I asked how she did it she laughed and replied: "I embrace the moment".
"Embracing the moment" sounded a simple enough way to find it - so the journey of life began.

Looking back, it seems that my efforts were all struggle, with me attacking life like a field of nettles and nearly always ending up getting stung; my husband was made redundant and there were endless money worries. I was told I would never have children and that took time even to accept. When I did the generosity of the Father was boundless and now when I look at the chosen children I can only say: "You were right Father, you had it right all the time.

But it wasn't the really bad moments that made me fline the sou: plates at the ceiling and give up. It ras the little things - the inevitability of people needing to be fed, two or three times a day, year arter year, dishes and clothes no sooner washed than dirty again; trying (and usually failing) to avoid a useless confroniation with a teenager wrapped irn a silence more explosive than ary volcano: the constant demands and plain tiredness and worst of all the lack of 'space' and privacy. These were the sort of things that got me so resentful and angry, convinced that nobody
appreciated me and than full of guilt. Just thinking of those years leaves me feeling worn and battered.

I think the Father must be so caring over our horest, ever if miseuided efforts to Iind Him bécause one day it dawned on me that overy momant is a gift - total, urearred gift ard the Giver accompanies the eift.

While I Was wafire war sinele-handed, trijrire of coú somembere "up there" lookirg iryassively down on me, pather
like an umpire at Wimbledon, He was with me all the time, only waiting for me to make a truce so that Ho could make Himself known.

I was so busy trying to overcome and 'offer up'all the things I found difficult that I didn't even notice the "Sit down, Mum, I'll make you a cup of tea" the glass of wine and chat shared with my husband at the end of a tiring day, the Ieaf falling at my feet, glowing in it's autumn richness .... so much forgiveriess, love, beauty.

Quite a few years on, I'd live to report that I now face each day with unshakable serenity. Not so - I will be falling in a heap till the day I die, but I know the Father's love is so great that it will pick me up again and set me on my way once more. Being a great controller it's not easy to let go of my life into His hands, but daily I'll keep trying.
"Father, for the moments I abuse through my selfishness, for those I waste through guilt and anxiety, and for those I destroy for others with my anger, forgive me.

For those that, through your grace, I use well, thank you.
Keep me trusting you so that at the end of my journey the moment I embrace will reveal you."

Ministers:

## United Reformed

Chapel HiIl
The Rev'd Eric McIlwain 18 Cambanks, Union Iane Cambridge
Tel: (O223) 313152
The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin 'Elberry'
St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel: (95) 23296
Group Secretary: Mrs. Janet rownsend 58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593
Services: $\quad$ ll am each Sunday
Wor details of services at clavering, Newport and Widdington please ring the Group secretary.

Soon after this issue of LINK is out there will be a remarkable transformation of our Lecture Hall. When it was opened in 1934 I assume the Silver Street Sunday School building was still in operation so the new hall was christened as the Lecture Hall.
The transformation will take place in the first week of April when the hall will be completely re-wired and a new ceiling and lighting system will be installed. When
the work is completed the walls will be re-decorated.

In recent years we have carpeted the old plank floor and the kitchen facilities have been up-graded. This additional work should make our hall an even more attractive meeting place.

Also in recent years the hall has become Stansted's unofficial ecumenical meeting place, for S.A.C.C. meetings, One World Week, Christian Aid, the Agape and other events. It has for many years been the home of the Stansted Guild and the Stansted Womens Own which were ecumenical before we began to use that relatively new word.

The proceeds of the 1985 Fall Fayre were, as you know, designated for this work. We would need about 8 such Fayres to pay the cost of refurbishment.

So, if you have enjoyed the Lecture Hall in the past we hope that you will enjoy it even more in the future. And if your enjoyment should assume tangible form we should be most grateful.

## Eric McIlwain

## Services for April

April 6 Il am - Rev. Eric McIlwain
April 13 ll am - Rev. Lydia Rapkin
Family Service
April 20 Il am - Rev. Eric McIlwain
April 27 ll am - To be announced
May 4 Il am - Rev. Lydia Rapkin Holy Communion

At the April $20 t h$ service the guest speaker will be the Rev. James Hendry of Forres, Scotland.

The Cambridge District Womens Rally will be held at Emmanual U.R.C. in Cambridge on April 30th at 3.00. The Speaker will be the Rev. Janet Sowerbutts who was recently inducted as Professor of Pastoral studies, Westminster College. A coach will go from Stansted and there will be time for shopping or seeing the world-famous 'Backs' in springtime. There may be extra places on the coach. Please contact the Church Secretary or call 814758.

The Elders Meeting is at Wididngton, April $22 n d$ at 7.30 pm .

## Report from the United Reformed Guild

As we nad not met in January and had to cancel the first meeting in February owing to the snow, it was very nice to meet again. Inspite of the bitter weather all our members attended and it was nice to welcome Miss Conroy again.

She gave us a most interestirg talk about
her Erip up the Nile. She flew to the Aswan iDern and went back to cairo by steamer, visiting the many temples und villages on the way and, of course, finished her tour by going to the Pyramids.

We welcomed Mr. Wheeler to our first meetires in March.

He showed us slides and told us about his holidays in France, spanning the years. We saw many slides of interesting towns and marvellous views of the French Alps. It was interesting to see the Amphitheatres which we usually associate with Greece and which are still in use.

Next week most of our members are going to Saffron Walden to see the production of White Horse.

Pi. C. Johnson

## Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.
Minister:
The Rev'd Harold Fisher 2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford. Tel: 54475.

## Services:

Morning Service - 9.30am.

Emily Dickenson, among her prodigous output, has a short poem called "The Waking Year". It's a delightful whimsy on spring. The things of nature share a benevolent and excited secret. They are all up to something. In colour and movement, from tree and flower, hill and vale, breeze and bird Nature is about to take the world by happy stealth. As her third verse puts it:

The neighbours do not yet suspect!
The woods exchange a smile -
Orchard, and buttercup, and bird, In such a little while!

That is, Spring is at hand. New and abundant. life is about to burst in all directions and in all things. A glorious surprise is to be sprung upon the world. But in her fourtin and last verse there is an engaging twist. The world is not surprised by Nature's benevolent stealth.

And yet how still the landscape stands, How nonchalant the wood,
As if the resurrection
Were nothing very odd!
In the natural world resurrection is nothing very odd, but expected as the proper and satisfying outcome of winter. Is there something similar for human beings, you and me? Not really, I suppose. After all dead men really' are dead, unlike plants which only appear to die. There is an irrefutable and overwhelming finality about the lifelessness which follows on our last expiring breath. When you're dead you're dead!

But let's suppose that such is not the case
and that the Christian Gospel of everlasting life is true; let's suppose that life in us camnot be conquered by decay and death and that we wake up to a glorious and enhanced life after death. I suspect that for us also, in lots of ways, it will be "As if the resurrection were nothing very odd". It will prove to be the only proper and satisfying outcome from death.

It will say, "Men and women were not a vast and insane waste after all. Inexorable death always branded the Creator as a maniacal wastrel and history as interminable sick joke. Millions of people tinged with glory and the potential of a far greater glory that had little chance, all reduced to dust and oblivion. We always knew it shouldn't be like that. And now in this after-life we know that it isn't.
Resurrection is nothing very odd; it's the only possible and sensible rescue of the best and most promising life this planet has produced!"

Or we wake to a resurrection which says, "Look, there's Susan who was grossly malformed in the womb, and David who was massively spastic through brain damage at birth, and Julie virtually reduced to a cabbage by meningitis at two, and Harry emotionally crippled all his days by poverty and neglect. There they now are, with millions who shared their lot, made fully whole, become what they really are, given their full humanity. Why, of course! Such a resurrection is a must for them."

And the same resurrection will say to all of us, "Your eternal longings for real love to be permanent, to enjoy what you never fully enjoyed, to do what you never quite achieved, to be what you didn't properly become - they were all pointers to what awaited you beyond death. Only resurrection can fulfil such longings".

Is my fancy mere wishful thinking I think not. A thing is not false or non-existent simply because you wish for it. Water is not unreal because you desperately long for it in the desert, nor hearing if you have gone stone deaf. Far from being very odd resurrection is a must if this life is to make sense. Of course this is not a reality of proof, but of faith. But a faith that makes far better sense of our life than anything else. And what's more there's that victory of the first Easter Day declaring God's everiasting "Yes" to all our deepest needs and longings.

Happy Easter and God bless you.
Harold Fisher


## Church of England

Clergy: The Rev'd Barry Rose The Vicarage, St John's Road Tel: 812203

The Rev'd Anthony Bundock 43 Gilbey Crescent Tel: 814463

Deaconess Margaret Booker Moorlands Cottage, Burton End Tel: 812684

Services: Held in St John's, St John's Road and St Mary's, Church Road

| Holy Communion | -8 am |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Family Communion | -9.30 am |  |
| Children's Church | -9.30 am |  |
| Creche | - | 9.30 am |
| Holy Communion (1662) | 11.15 am |  |
| (2nd and 4th Sundays) <br> Evensong | 6.30 pm |  |

Holy Communion is cenebrated on:

| Tuesday | -7.30 pm |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Wednesday | - | 10 am |
| Thursday | -7.45 am |  |
| Friday | $-7.45 a \mathrm{~m}$ |  |

In summer months some of these services are held in St Mary's. See notice in church porches for further details or ring one of the clergy.

## PARISH

## A N N U A L G E N E R A L

## MEETING

## Monday 14 April - 8pm

## Church Hall

## ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL?

## Forms available from:

Mrs P Clower, 2 Clarence Road

The theme of this year's Good Friday project for children was "The Journey" and as I sat down to write the material used in the drama workshop I was all too aware that the three scenes - "The Journey Begins", "Trials and Tribulations" and "The Road goes on for Ever" - taken together served as a parable of the journey of lif'e. We often speak of life as a journey, so much so that it has become something of a cliche. Nevertheless it embodies a truth. Iife is indeed a journey or, as the Christian is more likely to say, a pilgrimace.

As I jot down these thoughts, I have been very much aware, too, that my own journey through life is about. to enter a new phase as Pat, David, Jemifer and myself prepare to move to Boreham wood. Indeed, it may be
that by the time some Link subscribers are able to read their copy, we will in fact have already moved.

So I share with you two thoughts; firstly that the full depth of love is known only in parting; and secondly that in life we cannot stand still for very long.

My first thought - that people only iiscover how much they love something or someone when that which is loved is taken from them - is an insight which has been revealed to me in my visiting of the bereaved. It is only when someone we love dies that we realise just how much they mean to us.

When I was interviewed by a local newspaper reporter recently, I spoke of my move from Stansted as an experience akin to bereavement. Of course, it is not the same as bereavement. How could it be! But some of the feelings we experience in bereavement sadness, anger, depression, guilt and so on are experienced also in the loss of anything we really care about, though perhaps not to the same degree. Those indeed have been my feelings as I move away - in many ways reluctantly - from a place where I have been very settled and happy, and from people who have been my friends.

My second thought - that we cannot stand still in life - is something I have realised over many years. The nature of life is such that to stand still is to stagnate; in other words, to go backwards. And so, when the call comes, it has to be answered not grudgingly but with enthusiasm and joy.

It is in our human nature that we hold on to the good things of the past. And it is good and right that we should do so. It is part of Goa's rature, too, that anything in life which is of any value at all is never lost Rather it is transmuted within the divine experience and transformed so as to be used in God's plan for creation. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said that not even a sparrow falls to the ground without it mattering to God. So nothing valuable is ever wasted where God is concerned.

But, although we value the past, we must always be open to the future. We have to be ready to travel on wherever life takes us. Yet, it may mean something of a "leap of faith" to leave something or somewhere where we have been both happy and comfortable; and to travel on into a future which, at least to some extent, must always be an unknown quantity. Yet, travel on we must; both in hope and ir faith. And certainly, my experience has always been that whenever I have made the "leap of faith" in the past God has been waiting there to catch me on the other side. In the end, the risk we take in leaping into the dark turns out to have been no risk at all and we land safely where God intends that we should be. of course, God never oromised us a comfortable ride on life's journey - we could not reasonably expect that and we might not even choose it - but He does promise always to be with us, yes even to the end of time.

Here's a quotation which is my watchword
as I prepare for the next phase of ry Christian journey:-
"Our Lord says to us, 'Follow me'. He does not say 'Settle down with me'. Wo are pilgrims, travellers, adventurers and all the while we must be traveiling on."

Pat and I thank you all for everything you have eiven to us over these past three years. Our love to you all. You will always be our friends.

Tony Bundock


## Vicar's Notes

This month the Bundock family leave Stansted for Borehamwood. I do not have to say how they will all be missed for we have come to love thern dearly these past three years. Tony has worked so hard and has comritted himself totally to the people of this parish. Often I have said to him 'Try and say No just now and again' but he has done everything asked of him, involving himself in so many village activities. I know from the many comments I receive that his work for people and his love of them has been greatly appreciated. Pat has played her part too doing a great deal behind the scenes including being a secretary for Tony and relieving*him of much typing and art work. We shall miss her artistry for she has a great gift. As for David and Jennifer, they have endeared themselves to us and we at the Vicarage will be deprived of the friendly rivalry between Tottenham and West Ham and the little girl who always quietly fitted in, making her visits such a joy.

Tony, Pat, David and Jennifer; our loss is Boreharnwood's gain. We wish you well and may God bless your future ministry and family life. Above all thank you for what you have done and for being what you are.

Miss Florence Seymour, formerly of Hostel Buncalows, died in the Stanley Wilson home on March 6th. She will be remembered by so many for her work, over many years, for Stansted and its Church. I first met her at St Mary-at-Latton in Harlow when she and her sister Hilda used to visit their sister May and come to the 8 am Holy Communion. It was therefore a great joy to me and to Hilda that we were able to be with Florence the night before she died and receive communion.

Mrs Elsie Newell has also died and although she lived in Birchanger parish she was well known to us, being a member of our Mothers' Union and worshipping with us on occasions We never passed without a word and a joke and we shall miss her smilc.

This Easter season reminds us that doath ie not the end. The Resurrection of Jesus confirms for us a truth that is so apparent in the creation - love conquers all and the essence of love is to desire and will the beloved one to live and grow. From death and parting comes new life.

God bless.

## Mothers' Union



There will be no meeting in April, as on MONDAY, ADRIL 21ST, The Deanery Service is being held in Eerden Church at 3 pm . Please note that the date has been changed.

One of our very faithful members has died, Elsie Newell. It was not often that she failed to walk from Stoney Common to the meeting.

## youth Niws

The Youth Club programme for April and May 1986 is as follows:-

## APRIL

Sunday 6 th House Group, 43 Gilbey Crescent
l3th Darts, Snooker, Table Tennis and Badminton Competitions Church Hall
20th Italian Restaurant fancy dress evening, Church Hall
Wednesday 23rd Youth Committee Meeting Highbury, Stoney Common
Sunday 27 th Games Evening, Church Hall
MAY
Sunday 4 th House Group, The Vicarage
IIth Photograph Competition Chureh Hall
" 18th The Great Egg Race, Church Hall " 25 th Scavenge Hunt, Meet at Church Hall

## A Farewell

When Tony Bunciock revealed to the "Observer" newspaper recently how much he and his family were coing to miss Stansted Village when they leave in Acril, did he realise how much the village is going to miss them? Thank you for all your friendship to people in all walks of life in Etansted. Good travelling?

Phyllis Harrison
APRIL

## Parish Diary

```
Sth & 7th Churches open 2 pm - 5 pm to
                    vicu floral displays
7tri Arrunciation. Holy Communion
                                7.30 mm
2t5 Tho Eurdock'= Farewell Party 8 mm
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16th
$21 s t$

22nd
2s, th
27ヶh
$30: n$ MAY

1st
7th
otewardshy com mittee 8 pr
Qth Ascension i.iy. School Eucharist in St John': 9.15 arn (All welcome) Holy Communion 10.15 am Sung Eucharist 8 pm
loth Confirmation Worship Day
Ilth Unity Christian Aid Service at st Mary's 6.30 pm

## Parish Registers

BAPTISMS
2nd March Daniel Robert Fuller 36 Bentfield Gardens Hannah Clair Weeks, 37 Woodfields Benjamin Philip Kenton Skingle and Jennifer Susan Skingie, 29 Park Road

## DEPARTED

6th iarch
Percy Wolstenholme, 2 Rochford Cottages Jessie Littlechild, 25 Burnells Way

77 years
73 years
14th March Florence Emily Seymour formerly of Hostel Bungalows

92 years

> H I S TORY OF THE
> CHURCH IN ENNGLAND
> 1066 - 1547

Mini Iectures:

## The Norman Influence <br> The Growth of Monasticism <br> The Reformation

Monday 21 April - 8pm
St Mary's School

Visit to Waltham Abbey
Sunday 27 April
Leєave 5 t John's at 2 pm

## ${ }^{\top}$ Village ${ }^{2}$ News



## Village News and Future Events

APRIL
1 Tenris Club Season Starts
2 Garden Club A.G.M. (see notice)
10 3.0 B.S. Recorded Music Society
Day Centre
I2 Garder Club Spring Show, U.R.C. Hall
16 Bible Society Coffee Morning
58 Chapel Hill
17 3ritish Legion Womens Section
Talk, Mrs. Peasley, Day Centre
18 Coffee Morning Stansted Social Democrats 49 Recreation Ground, 20.30
8.15 Mountfitchet School PTA Race Night

23 8.00 Peter Kirk School (Canteen) Annual Parish Meeting
25 Evening W.I. Chinese Auction St. John's Hall
26 Jumble Sale SDP, St. John's Hall 2.30

## MAY

4 Car Boot Sale SDP, Stansted Station Car Park, 10 am - 4 pm
5 2. 30 Scout/Cub Fete. Scout HQ. Water Lane
I7 8.00 Carnival Barn Dance, Mountfitchet School
24 10. 30 W.I. (EvE) May Narket, U.R.C. Hall

## Sidenays Nursery School

The children at Sideways put on a smail concert for Easter at which a small token was presented to Tony Bundock to thank him for the times be has spent at the playschool singing with the children.

Retiring committee members whose children start school after Easter were also presented with small tokens of thanks for their valuable services.

The children, boys looking very smart and girls very pretty in sumer dresses and mob caps, gave a fine performance with some very boisterous ana confident singing. The teachers had worked them hard and they seemed to have no trouble rememberine the words and actiors to several popliar children's songs. Thanks to the teachers and also to Sandra Gould who provided the guitar backing and had spent a lot of time practising with the children.

Thanks also eo to Deamers, Tuckers, 'Auntie Mageie' and Chris Nash for their generous donations of prizes for a raffle from which a profit of some $£ 20$ was made. A bring and buy cake stall added a further 27 to aid the ever necessary fund raising.

## Ihank You Children's Page

li, Wus a cold, wet, windy morniref, mo: : Gry for alderty people to te out. I mak Jobt made a cup of coffec to cheer myseif up when through the letter box porped "The Link", so while 1 was drinking I flipped through the pages and saw "Children's Page". How pleased I was! No more work: I read them all and the morning was gone like a wink.

K. M. Jordan



## A Day in the Life of Tic Toc'

I'd like to say thanks to the staff and children of the infants department of St. Mary's C of E Primary School who gave us parents a terrific performance of " $\Lambda$ Day in the Life of Tic Toc".

Tic Toc is a robot worked by computer and makes great pictures - given the right instructions!

The children from all four infant classes took on various guises with help from Pat Bundock in an unfamiliar role as a somewhat baffled parent trying to unravel the mysterious workings of Tic Toc.

Some fine costume making (from mums and children) and cleverly designed scenery (from caretaker Mr. Blow) added great effect along with some very well chosen musical accompaniment.

The children performed magnificently and Mrs. Lester and her team of jnfant teachers are to be congratiulated for taking on what must have been quite an awesome and ambitious task and making it look easy - it certainly turned out to be a most enjoyable ano entertaining play.

Hazel Smith

## Bishop's Stortford Recorded Music Society

The next meeting of the society is on IOth April at 8.0 p.m. in the Day Contre.

## Programme

| Tippett | Concerto for Double String |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Orchestra |
| Schumann | Symphony No. 4 in D minor |
| Delius | Suite for Violin \& Orchestra |
| Beethoven Symphony No. 8 in $F$ |  |

## MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

## SUPERSCHOOLS

On Friday 7 March three celebrities visited the school to organise fun (!) fund raising events.

Over half the school and staff took part in "superschools" under the observation of pole vault champion, Brian Hooper, and two trampolining champions, Carl Furrer and Danny Faulkner. Photographs of the participants with Brian Hooper were taken.

In the morning the pupils were sporsored to do various gym exercises and the money raised will go to help buy equipment for the school.

In the afternoon there was a trampolining display, given by Carl Furrer (who is the World Champion, has the record high bounce on a trampoline and the world record score). He and Danny Faulkner took on the job of showing the spectators the 'basics' of trampolining, aswell as the advanced movements.

Carl Furrer took a first year in his arms and announced that he would do a back somersault with her in his arms. Joanne Foster was even more frightened when he said he had only done it fifteen times before and last time he had almost got it right!

Our thanks go to Carl Furrer, Danny
Faulkner and Brian Hooper for giving us an enjoyable day to remember.

Ruth Vellacott

## Pupils on Target in Darts

Mr. Johnson, at the Mountfitchet School in Stansted, every lunchtime holds a darts competition. It is open to all the pupils in the school. It is a great opportunity for you to challenge another player at an exciting game of darts. You are selected to play on one of the days. If you win then you carry on and play another game with a different $2 e r s o n$. Vou try to go through to the finals like Michelle Potter and Lloyd Powe did, who won in the girls and boys final in the school.

Well done to noth these winners and to all the wupils who entered this competition.

Emma Stevens, $2 J$

## Valentines Dance

The sorool's PTA organised a very suceessful dance at the school on Saturday l5th Froruary which raised over \&450 for school funde

Once detirn the Georee Thorby Big Band provided the music and a very enjoyable time nae nad by ali.

## Get a Date on Healthy Eating Meek

'Special Pood', that's what the sigr said in the Mountifitchet School's canteen during the Healtby Eating Week, 3ra-7th Maroh, when people try and eat healthy food to keep them fit.

Mr. Coxell, who is a teacher at the school had experience at tasting the food in the school's carteen. He said "The presentation and variety was better and it's a great improvemont. It was most unlike the traditional ided of sehool food".

For example, Tuesday's meriu included wish Pie, Pasta Salad, Cottage Pie and Orange and Carrot Cake or maybe you would like a Date Slice.

So remember the Healthy Week and try
something you haven't tried before.
Emma Stevens, 2 J

## Mountfitchet High School PTA Present

## RACENIGHT

at the school
Iicensed Bar and Refreshments available

## Tickets £1

Friday 18th April
FIRST RACE AT 8. 15 PN
Telephone 813384 or 813734
(Tickets not for sale on the door)

## School Redecoration

Since Christmas, the redecoration of the school has got well underway. Most of the prefabricated buildings are to be taken down and replaced with permanent buildings.

Already a large extension has been buili Which is joined on to the main building. The three-storey main block is being repainted, and the two stairways are being re-covered, which means a lot of disruption to classes. The roof of the main building is boing re-covered and this means a lot of scaffolding around the building by the staff car park.

The home economics rooms are now in the new extension and the old rooms will be converted into maths rooms. A computer suite will be made adjacent to the maths rooms to house the schools many BBC micros.

Peter Criobs

## Iheatre Trip

On 5th March Mr. and Mrs. Wrankmore took a party of 26 fifth years to the "Young Vic" theatre to see a workshop during the afternoon to explain some of the scenes and in the evening saw a production of "Romeo and Juliet". The performance was very energetic and performed in modern dress.

Mercutio was the best performer and was clever and amusing. Romeo and Juifet's actors were younger than the rest of the cast and did not use their voices as an older actor might have done. The fight scenes were very good and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

> Peter Cribbs

## SNAP VISIT

'Far from the Madding Crowd' is SNAP theatre's latest production, and the school saw it on March 4th.

It's about a young man who falls in love with a girl who doesn't consider him good enough. She refuses marriage but finds herself employing him later on and they marry at the end.

As always, SNAP made superb use of very basic props, consisting of, among other things, tabies, boxes and mugs. Along with the costumes, they created a great atmosphere. A f'ew embarrassing moments were experienced by some pupils during the audience participation! I think it is a worthy addition to SNAP's impressive coliection of plays.

Jeff Meekcoms

# Sceuts and Cubs rete. 

scout/CuB FETE
Monday 5th May
2.30 PM

Scout H/Q
Water Lane, nr Station

## Huw Johnson Club for Handicapped Children and Their Parents

We would like to say a bie club thank you to Betty for writing in the Link for us. Owing to home commitments she feels she cannot now give of her best so has sadly laid down her pen for a while.

Thank you Betty from us all.
After our trip to Harlow panto, we've settled down to busy club evenings.

Potato printing was very popular although I've a feeling more paint went on the table and unsuspecting people than on paper. Denise went home with a multi-coloured top.
A Beetle Drive was great fun. We did start with some rules but I think thes were soon changed to suit each individual.

The making of Mother's Day presents kept us all busy. Anyone looking into the hall would have thought a new cottage industry had started with the making of clay models, woven mats, cushions and paper flowers.

During all this activity we found Andrew's motto to be "If you can't stitch it stick it" (with glue).

We are sure there were some pleased and proud mumis on Mothering Sunday and hope their things will come in useful.

Jean Stone


The Royal British Legion loMen's SEction
On l9th rebruary forty-five of us went to the Civic Thoatre at Chelmsford to see "Hay Pever" and spent a thoroughly enjoyable and amusing evening.

The next night Mr. Michael Zelley came to talk to us on Cemology from the mining of the gems to the point when they are poloshed and ready for setting. He told us how difficult it sometimes is to detect the genuine stones from the synthetic and brought specimens to show us.

Our quarterly Group Meeting was held at Felsted this time and 75 members from surrounding villages heard a fascinating talk by Mrs. Ward on "Women in China".

On Thursday, l7th April, Mrs. Grace Peasley is coming to talk about her nursing experiences - so do come along.

Pat Clower

## Mountfitchet Garden Club

The speaker at the club's March meeting was Mr. Garsten, a public relations consultant for the Royal Horticultural Sociely. His subject was 'The Mixed Border'. His talk, which was illustrated by slides, was designed to help us to choose shrubs and herbaceous plants for our borders to provide the maximum amount of interest throughout the year.

A common fault with herbaceous borders is that they can look very dead and uninteresting from November to May. By planting carefully chosen shrubs with the herbaceous plants, however, it is possible to introduce evergreens, fruit or berries, coloured stems and winter flowering plants to brighten the winter months too. In addition, shrubs can add height and attractive foliage during the spring, summer and autumn.

Obviously with today's small gardens shrubs have to be carefully chosen so that they do not outgrow their allotted space, although many can be kept to a reasonable size by careful pruning. Because shrubs will be permanent plants the preparation of the soil prior to planting is very important. Mr. Garsten recommended double digging and the incorporation of generous amounts of well rotted manure. During the design stages he advised planning on paper first and then marking out the design on the ground with the proposed planting areas outlined by light coloured sand. The soil should be left to settle for several weeks after digging and before planting. A comprehensive weedkiller can be used to destroy perenniel weeds if required. Plantine should not be carried out in cold or very wet weather, especially if the soil is heavy, as this tends to make plants rot. He emphasised the need to ensure that plants grown in close proximity get on well below soil level asweli as above it.

Mr. Garsien advocated the use of grasses in borders to provide year-round interest. He also recommended many herbaceous plants Which do not require staking and do not need to be lifted and divided every two years, so therefore require less maintenance. Mr. Gerstien answered many questions and was thenked by the chairman, Mr. Williams.
ivext month will be a busy one for the club. The fod.and anim show will be held on April ¿̈rd; the anrual Spring Show will be held at the United Reformed Cnurch Hall on Saturday leth ard the first coach visit of the jear takes place, to Hampton Court, on Sunday 27th.

Foo Aller

## Stansted Mountfitchet Evening Women's Insititute (February)

Braving the cold, members attending the February meeting -were informed of plans to raise funds to keep the WI solvent. A Mey Market in the U.R.C. Hall is to be held on Saturday $24 t h$ May in the morning, coffee and refreshments will be served and plenty of items to buy. A Jumble Sale in St. John's Hall will be on June l4th and a stall on Bishop's Stortford Market on April loth will help swell the funds.

A more light hearted fund raising effort is to be a Chinese Auction in St. John's Hall on April 25th. Tickets are £2.00 Which includes a fish and chip supper. Mrs. Pearl Wellings agreed to hold a coffee morning in her home, the Windmill Guest House, on March 2lst to raise funds for the blind.

After presenting birthday buttonholes to members, President Mrs. Osborne showed members the gift which is to be presented to member Mrs. Joan Brace on the event of her marriage.
Members will see a microwave demonstrator at the Spring Group Meeting on April llth at Clavering Village Hall.

With business at an end members listened to Jane from the Samaritans giving them a most interesting talk on the work she and her colleagues do. She told them how Samaritans had been started 33 years ago by Chad Varah in St. Stephen Walbrook's Church in the City of London. After her talk members were able to ask her questions.

During the coffee break and social time members knitted squares for which they were sponsored. The money will go to the Arthritus society, and the squares to make a blanket.

The meeting finished with the drawing of the raffle and the results of the competition which was won by Mrs. Ansell.

## Rainbow Playgroup

On Saturday 22nd February playgroup children and their friends arrived at St. Mary's School at 6 p.m. with their Mums and Dads for a Family Disco. Everyone who came seemed to enjoy themselves - the Hokey Cokey being a firm favourite and an excellent way to keep warm on a cold, snowy evening. Several children were looking very tired when they went home. The Family Disco was held to raise funds for the playgroup aswell as providing a social gathering. Many thanks to all those who helped to make the event successful.

Our 'Open Day' will be held on Sunday l6th March from 10.30-12. 30 so that Dads and Mums get their chance to paint and play with the children and chat to Ann, Pam and Ragni, our playeroup leaders.

This term the children have spent their mornings making pancakes, icing biscuits, making puppets and will soon be preparing for Easter aswell as doing the usual activities such as painting, gluing and puzzles. They are also expecting Tony Bundock to come and show them how to play the guitar.

For details regarding Rainbow Playgroup please contact

Ann Conroy - 812457
Pam Moore - 814301
Ragni Whitlock - 816070
or call in at the Adult and Youth Centre, Lower Street any morning during term time.
Also at the Adult and Youth Centre on Wednesday afternoons $1.30-3.30 \mathrm{pm}$ there is a Mother and Toddler Group where toddlers and Mums have the opportunity to play together with the playhouse, slide, playdough, paints, etc. and meet and make friends. Each session is 50 p which includes tea, squash and biscuits.

##  <br> Advance Warning <br> -TO ALL LOCAL CLUBS, ORGANISATIONS, SCHOOLS, RETAILERS AHD RESIDENTS

the
STANSTED CARNIVAL AND GRAND FETE
will be taking place on
SATURDAY, $28 T H$ JUNE
at
THE MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL
FOREST HALL ROAD, STANSTED
The Band and Majorettes are booked, so make it a date to join in the furn and raise money for some local charities.

If you would like more details of the Carnival Procession or booking space on the school field contact Ruth Robinson on B.S. 812755

Stansted Carnival

# You are Invited to <br> A 

BARNDA NCE
ON
Saturday, 17th May
AT
The Mountfitchet High School Forest Hall Road, Stansted
$A T$
8 P.M.

Music and Caller provided by The Redbridge Folk Band

## CHICKEN \& CHIPS SUPPER

BAR
Tickets ${ }^{2} 4$, including refreshments from B. \& R. Electrical Shop, Cambriage Road, Stansted or by telephone on B.S. 812755 .

All proceeds to Stansted Carnival Funds

## Millway Stationery Ltd



## ＂OUR VILLAGE＂

What a February the weather gave us，how those easterly winds made it feol extra cold．As this may be of some interest in years to comp here are a few recordings， the lowest temperature fell to－12．8 degrees C ．on the $9 t h$ and loth，in exposed plaees this may well have fallen several deerees lower．There were 25 consecutive nights of frost，ll all day frosts and 2.4 times the ground temperatures were below O．degrees $C$ ．On the night of the 20th freezing fog left trees and bushes with an extra white coat which in the limited sunshine next day looked most spectacular．Although it did snow，amounts were not heavy，but how the children enjoyed this latter event．I suspect some adults too who also ventured out tobogganing （hereafter sledging）．This is one of the games that seems to have lost no enthusiasm over the years，although some sledge designs have changed into plastic moulded affairs， and plastic bags seem all the range as the slopes of Grippers confirmed．

As boys our venue for this sport was the Castle Hills，and from the highest point （once atopped by bushes）right down into what is now a Car Park，was a fair ride． Unless you owned a＂special＂，sledges in general were＂home made＂．I cannot now remember which part was constructed from the orange box，but this would have been used somewhere in the making．（So many things were made from these boxes from furniture to hen＇s nesting boxes）．Runner bottoms were made from old curtain track and polished to give extra speed．Some riding positions taken up，a sitter，doubler， header，back－der－zer，and all aboard．As for long trousers，no such comfort for we only had short ones，and as the means of steering your sledge was by foot it was not long before your wangers were full of snow and the exposed part between the tops of these and trousers was chaffed almost raw． But like always this was not felt whilst out playing upon the slopes，but when you got home Ooh－Ar．A special lotion was kept at home just for this sort of occasion and duly rubbed in．This made your hair stand on end．What this lotion was I never knew but you walked round stiff－legged so as not to aggravate the chapped area（that was until you wanted to go out again）．

Please keep searching for those letter and bill headings，many thanks to those who have helped me so far．

P．J．BROWN
B／S 812816

Where would you be walking？
2．Euck of̂ Blytr＇s．2．Bird Cage Walk
3．Míj Walk 4．Over Basses
－Thヒ 马ugz or Furze。

## Stansted Tennis Club

Joanra King and Chris Hollis are doing the Prudential Grass Roots Coaching in 1986. There are 6 Monday lessons with Joanna King， starting on $28 t h$ April from 4.30 pm 5.30 pm and 6 Saturday lessons with Chris Iollis，starting on 3rd May from 10 am － 11 am．The lessons are for 8－14 year olds and each class is limited to 20 children． The cost is $£ 5$ for 6 hours coaching．Chris and Joanna are both Lawn Tennis Association approved instructors．AIl you need is a pair of plimsolls and a racket．Complete beginners are particularly encouraged to take part．Forms are available from Janet Hollis and early booking is advised －B／S 812073．

We are holding a Senior American Tournament on Sunday 20th April with a Barbecue Lunch．

All details of events and any enquiries to Janet Hollis B／S 812073.

The Official start of the new season is on lst April and new members are always very welcome．

Ihe Parish Council of Stansted Mounteitchet<br>Council Offices<br>Clerk：<br>Crafton Green House<br>Mrs Janet Buttery<br>72 Chapel Hill<br>Stansted Mountfitchet<br>Essex CM24 8AG<br>In attendance<br>Monday to Friday<br>10.00 to 12.00<br>Phone：<br>Bishop＇s stortford<br>813214

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday $23 r$ April， $8.00 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$ ，Peter Kirk School Canteen，St．John＇s Road．The Chairman of the Council and Parish Councillors look forward to seeing as many or you as possible．A copy of the agenda will be circulated to every household about a week before the meeting．

ANYONE FOR TENNIS？or netball，or roller skating，or any sport you like on the multi－use hard play area at the Mountfitchet High School．Bookings for evenings，weekends and school holidays may be made through the clerk－813214－reasonable rates！

## Quaker Meeting House Chapel Hill

It has been decided to reduce the charge for the letting of the Meeting House during the months of June，July and August．
The charee will be： 3.25 per session

Enquiries to the letting clerk， Mary Rice， $\mathrm{B} / \mathrm{S} 51769$.

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> 殠aberdastlery

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## Stansted Evening W.I.

At the March meeting members were giver a very interesting ard enlightenirg talk on Stansted Airport from Mr. Sandy White of the B.A.A. - a potted history of the airport from its early days as an American bomber base to the present day. Members were able to ask questions and see a plan of the airport.
A. quiz organised by Mrs. P. Locke followed the coffee break and was won by Mrs. Perry. Only two entries for the competition resulted in a win for Mrs. Fuller with Mrs. Ansell second. The home made sweets they had entered were than auctioned off for W.I. funds.

Mrs. Osborne asked members iI they could have a membership drive. We are a lively W.I. and welcome new members at all times. We meet on the second Thursday in the month in St. John's Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Brenda Ryan
B/S 812725

## Stansted Conservative Association

A successfiul Jumble Sale was held at St. John's Church Fall on Saturday 8th February and a profit of $£ 90$ was made.

The speaker at the monthly meeting at the Football Club on Monday loth February was Mrs. Pat Wawn and she gave a very interestine talk on the many aspects of her life as a County Councillor.

On 22nd February 6 of our members attended the Wimbish Conservative Branch Supper. Alan Haselhurst and his wife Angela were guests at the supper.
On Wednesday 5th March the Stansted Women's Branch of the Conservatives held their Annual General Meeting at the Day Centre. A very successful year was reported. Mrs. Pat Trigg retired as Chairnan and Mrs. Bridget Gott was elected as the new Chairman. Mrs. Pam Sutton remains as Hon. Secretary and the Committee was re-elected with the addition of two new members - Mrs. Joan Fynn and Miss Betty Waterman.

The address was given by Robin Squire, Member of Parliament for Hornchurch and this was followed by sherry and a light lunch.

All enquiries regarding membership or events to:-

Alan Corbishley B/S 813040 or
Peter Jones B/S 813252.
A lunch will be held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 30th April.

For details telephone:-
Mrs. Pat Trige, B/S 812471 or
Mrs. Parr Sutton, B/S 815070.

NEARLY-NEW SALE Thursday 17 th April 2.304.30 at Jane's, 52 Bentfield Road. Sale of children's and maternity clothes, toys and equipment. Please deliver any items for sale, ready-priced and named to Jane from 14th April ( $90 \%$ to contributor, $10 \%$ to N.C.T. funds).

MARKET STALL at Bishop's Stortford on Thursday 24th. Bric-a-brac, books, home made cakes, etc. to Jenny's, 26 Longcroft as soon as possible please (not the cakes!)

Diary of Under I's and expectant mums gettogethers, Fridays 10.30-12.00.

4th - Liz's, Moorlands, High Lane
llth - Lauries, 8 Five Acres
18th - Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent
$25 t h$ - Viv's, 2 Croasdaile Close
Toddler Group, Thursdays 10.00-11.30.
loth - Caroline's, 34 Wetherfield
l7th - Chris's, 56 St. John's Road
24th - Margaret's, 4 Bentfield Causeway
Following the A.G.M. this is the new committee:-

Chairman - Jenny Adamson
Secretary - Frances Martin
Treasurer - Jane Stoneham
Membership Secretary - Gail Gould
Post Natal Support - Fiona Challenor
Publicity - Debbie Smith
Fund Raising - Ros Comyn-Noynes
General Members - Jane Tear and Carolyn de Chernatory

Sally Brown


## Ihe Day Centre

Our helpers had a busy but pleasant day on Thursday March 13 th when they prepared and served 54 teas for the Senior Citizens from Thormwood Day Centre who were on a coach tour and called in the Day Centre for their tea. I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves including the helpers who had already served dinners for our own people.

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