

Dec 86

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If ye would hear the angels sing,
Rise, and spread your Christmas fare;
'Tis merrier still the more that share,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

If ye would hear the angels sing,
Christians! see ye let each door
Stand wider than it e'er stood before,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Rise, and open wide the door;
Christians, rise! the world is wide,
And many there be that stand outside,
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.

Dora Greenwell
(The Oxford Book of Carols)

Peace
on Earth

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

Annual subscription is £1.75. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

Advertising enquiries to Mr Fred Boyd, 5 St John's Lane. Tel: 812148.

All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs 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.

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
Please note! - MONDAY 8th December for January issue
15th January for February issue

SACC

ONE WORLD WEEK

There was certainly something for everyone in our observation of the Week of Prayer for World Peace towards the end of October. The first event was a united meeting for worship at the Quaker Meeting House, and we were both privileged and challenged to hear at first hand about the oppression that prevails in Turkey. Anthea Lea told us of the concern that Amnesty International and similar organisations have for the number of political prisoners held there and in other countries where freedom of speech is still only a dream.

Later in the week, some of us took advantage of the prayer vigil at St. Theresa's in order to meditate and pray for God to make His reconciling Spirit felt in areas of conflict in our lives and between groups of people having differing ideologies.

Those of us with enough stamina completed the week by attending the lecture given by Christopher Jackson at Saffron Walden. As a member of the European parliament with a special responsibility for Third World issues he was able to give us a new perspective on the complex nature of world trade. His observations on the requirement for training appropriate to local needs were also quite salutary, bearing in mind the number of Third World students now attending British universities and attaining skills quite inappropriate to the needs of their home environments. The establishment of national colleges within the Third World (Africa was cited in particular) should be encouraged with curricula tailored to local needs. Often only quite a simple education in health and hygiene is necessary to alleviate physical suffering. The many contributions by the audience following the lecture, highlighted some of the political problems which prevent our good intentions, whether financial, or otherwise from having the desired effect.

Michael Dyer

DR. RICHARD TRESILLIAN GABB (1910 - 1986)

Dr. Richard Gabb was much loved in our community. This was shown after his retiral in 1975 when, having been persuaded (rather against his will) to stand for the Parish Council, he came out top of the poll. A modest man, he found his success puzzling and indeed, to the end of his days, could not be convinced of the high regard in which he was held.

He came to Stansted in 1947 as assistant to Dr. Kenneth Platt, after service in the Middle East, India and Burma with the R.A.M.C., for which he had volunteered in May 1940. Before the War, he had held several appointments in London hospitals, including that of resident anaesthetist at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he had trained after his years at Cambridge, following in the footsteps of an ancestor

who had trained there in 1720.

His father was a doctor at Hastings and Richard Gabb decided he, too, would like to go into general practice. He might well have moved on after gaining experience in Stansted, but happily he met and married Miss Margaret Pollock, whose family lived in Croft House in High Lane. His patients breathed a sigh of relief when he went into partnership with Dr. Platt and they knew he had "settled down" for good.

And so began almost three decades of dedicated service. He was kind and sympathetic and understanding. Perhaps he did not have that little admixture of steel which makes a doctor's life bearable and allows him to distance himself from his work when he is off duty. Richard Gabb never spared himself. Little wonder that he gained the devotion of his patients. I well remember that when I was a collector for a retirement present for Dr. Platt, on more than one occasion I got the (somewhat surprising) response - "I'll give you something because I'm so fond of Dr. Gabb".

His service on the Parish Council was cut short because of the necessity for operations and spells in hospital and thereafter he took no public role. Richard and Margaret were welcome guests at many houses locally, and Richard's white-haired figure was familiar in the village as he talked to ex-patients and brought himself up to date with the doings of their children and grandchildren. Alas, in recent years, he became frailer and his walks slower and more curtailed after a series of illnesses.

The large concourse in St. Mary's Church at the service conducted by our Vicar, the Rev'd Barry Rose, and his predecessor, the Rev'd Stanley Davies, was made up not only of people who live now in Stansted but also of many who have long since moved away. They, too, wished to express their gratitude for the life of a courteous, gentle physician.

Mair Muir

To Doctor Gabb - from an "Old Patient"

What a good friend Doctor Gabb was to all his patients: I shall especially remember his modesty in referring to his colleagues for a "second opinion"; his kindness in visiting his patients in the Herts & Essex Hospital and, in retirement, his constant interest in the "old patient" as he encountered them on his village strolls and shopping trips. Many must have enjoyed his company on the (often cold) carol singing plod up and down Chapel Hill in Christmas Week. That is almost my last memory of him - and I will sing a carol for him this Christmas.

Note: "Carol" = "a joyful song"
(Oxford Dictionary).



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.

"Listen for a change" says this year's One World Week slogan. If we do change and really listen to other people what we hear will bring about other changes. Attitudes and behaviour will change in us because of what we have now really heard. We now know much more about others and so understand them much better. Suspicion, prejudice, mistrust and resentment arise, most of the time, from profound ignorance of others. True knowledge and deeper understanding of others changes these attitudes to sympathy, magnanimity and compassion, which can then engender friendship and trust. As attitudes change so does behaviour. Real listening leads to new understanding, new understanding to new attitudes and new attitudes to new actions.

So we listen in order to bring about change. Lord Shaftesbury really listened to the oppressed and exploited poor who worked in mines, factories and farming in his day. He listened through what he heard, what he saw, what he read and what he felt. This so changed him that he fought long and hard to change the working conditions of the poor. He battled in the nation and in parliament for many years to change the lot of the tyrannized poor and to make change effective by new legislation on the statute book. We see the same process in a great host of reformers in many different fields.

We need to really listen to the third world, the many millions of deprived and under privileged people, to bring about change for them. Television coverage enabled us to "listen" to the desperate plight of East African famine victims. What we saw and heard and read informed us. The information formed finer attitudes and they led to immense helpful action. Information about the general plight of the third world does not come right into our homes so readily. To learn about unfair trading conditions, unjust monetary policies and many other factors that oppress the world's poor do not usually come to us at the turn of a switch. We have to make the effort to listen by buying or borrowing and reading informing literature, by attending meetings, etc. This is how we listen to the cry of the under privileged. Knowing the facts will change attitudes and that will bring helpful action.

On the personal level, person to person, listening with all our senses and our

imagination leads to changes in attitudes and then behaviour. When we listen in this full way we nearly always discover that difficult, unpleasant and even obnoxious behaviour in others is a sign of need and a cry for help. To know what people have gone through, what is in them and what is still happening to them and in them will create compassionate understanding of them in us. How differently we will then regard them, and in consequence, how differently we will behave towards them. The old saying "To know all is to forgive all" holds much truth. But we cannot know it and so alter attitudes and actions unless we "Listen for a change".

My love and best wishes to you all.


Harold Fisher


SHALOM GROUP

1st December Prayer and Praise Evening
at 1 Blythwood House
15th December Christmas Party at venue to
be announced

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Church of England

Clergy:

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

The Rev'd Tony King
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	-	8am
Family Communion	-	9.30am
Children's Church	-	9.30am
Creche	-	9.30am
Holy Communion (1662)	-	11.15am
(2nd and 4th Sundays)		
Evensong	-	6.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday	-	7.30pm
Wednesday	-	10am
Thursday	-	7.45am
Friday	-	7.45am

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.

FROM THE VICAR

I have to admit it, I get angry and frustrated when doing the Christmas shopping. My relationship with my wife, Janet, is strained as we stand in the department store surrounded by trash, tinsel and trivia searching our minds for what to buy. I suspect one reason for my feelings of exasperation is that I am not sure this is the right way to celebrate the birth of a baby born in poverty who came to give men abundant life. There must be, I say to myself, a better way of celebrating than buying socks and streamers! But still, we persist and eventually struggle home hoping we have purchased the right things.

Now I do not want to deny the happiness of this festive season. God wants us human beings to enjoy fun, laughter, merriment and the things of the earth; and so often Christians give the impression they believe in a God who does not want men to be happy - who is always tutting away at our revelry. I do not believe in the disapproving God - I believe God came in Jesus to disclose to us that He wants men to enjoy themselves and to share His life of perfect joy. I also

believe that in Jesus God is telling us that His life and joy can be encountered and experienced in the ordinary and everyday things of life.

I have recently been reading a superb book called One Man's Advent by Anthony Bridge. In it there is a passage which I am going to cling to as I walk into the shops.

'Because Jesus was both an ordinary man and also the image of God, the place where Christians should seek the truth and the vision of God is primarily in and through the ordinary; for the revelation of transcendent splendour in and through the ordinary is the heart of true miracle:

... a world in a grain of sand
And heaven in a wild flour
... infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.

It is a vision of your neighbour as an image of the mystery of God.'

The season of Advent, coming as it does before Christmas, gives us the opportunity to pause and get things in prospective. Our worship has that air of active expectancy and gives us the chance to take breath. And our prayers should be times when we find space and silence. Unless we do take time to be still we may well find ourselves approaching Christmas exhausted and confused. Yet if we prepare with the vision that God is in the ordinary ... who knows, we may discover Him in the store amongst the socks. It is all a matter of awareness. I promise I will try and do better.

Our deepest sympathy is with Margaret Gabb at this time on the death of Dr. Gabb. He will be so missed by us all. He was kind, courteous and loved by so many. We thank God for his life.

CHURCH DIARY

DECEMBER

1st	S. Andrew. Holy Communion 7.30 pm
2nd	Induction of Rev'd Chris Bishop to parishes of Manuden and Berden
7th	Adult Confirmation at Waltham Abbey 6.30 pm
9th	Tiny Tots 2 pm
13th	Christmas Party 7.30 pm
16th	Prayer/Support Group 8 pm
17th	Senior Citizens Carol Service in St. John's 2.30 pm
21st	Christingle Service 3.30 pm
26th	S. Stephen. Holy Communion 9 am
27th	S. John the Evangelist. Holy Communion 9 am
28th	Nine Lessons and Carols 3 pm. St Mary's
29th	The Holy Innocents. Holy Communion 9 am

JANUARY

1st	Holy Communion 7.45 am and 0 pm
6th	The Epiphany of our Lord. Sung Eucharist 8 pm



PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

26th Oct Helen Louise Maciver
22 Millside
2nd Nov Grant Edward Charles Felstead
Rochford Nurseries

MARRIAGES

1st Nov Glyn David Warwick,
163 London Road, Bishop's Stortford
and Sarah Jane Gibbs, 11 High Mead

DEPARTED

24th Oct Richard Tressilian Gabb
55 Chapel Hill Aged 76 years



CHRISTMAS

SERVICES

Wednesday 24 December

Midnight Mass 11.30pm St John's

Thursday 25 December

Holy Communion 8.00am St Mary's
Family Communion 9.30am St John's
Matins and Carols 11.00am St Mary's

Sunday 28 December

Nine Lessons
and Carols 3.00pm St Mary's



MOTHERS' UNION

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

There will be no meeting in December - but help with the tea after the Christingle service would be appreciated - Sunday December 21st, 3.30 pm. Small cakes are needed. Many thanks.

Margaret

SUSAN MARGARET BERRIMAN (nee ARNOLD)

Lloyd, Margaret, Terry and Andrew thank most sincerely Susan's friends, their friends and neighbours for their prayers, many other kindnesses and generous donations (to World Wildlife Fund and Dr. Barnardo's) which have touched them deeply and brought such comfort in their tragic loss.



ST JOHN'S APPEAL

We now have collecting boxes for use in the home.
Contact Barbara Mercer, Tel 813656.

GRAND PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 13th December 7.30 pm to 11 pm

ALL WELCOME



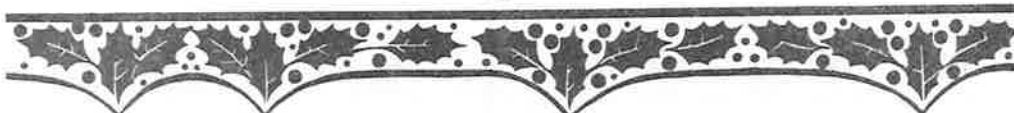
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

St John's Church

Sunday 21 December

3.30pm

ALL WELCOME





YOUTH NEWS

It has been a busy month for our Youth Group. We had an excellent Bonfire Party in conjunction with the choir. Around 140 people came. Many thanks to all those who helped organise it. We also had a very good Youth Eucharist which displayed the acting talents of our young people.

December will again be an active time for us. Below is our timetable. Please contact Tony King for further details and Come Along!

- Dec 7th - "A Pub Games Evening" - 7.45
St. John's
Dec 14th - "Surprise Evening" - 7.45
43 Gilbey Crescent
Dec 20th - 60's Evening & Disco - Further
details soon

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

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

Services: Sunday Masses - 8am and 10.30am
and at Henham - 9.15am.

Holy Days - 9.15am and 8pm
and at Henham - 7pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

1. Christmas Eve
"Midnight Mass" at 9.00 pm at Henham
Midnight Mass at Stansted, preceded
by Carol Singing at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day
First Morning Mass at 9.00 am Henham
Second Morning Mass at 10.30 am Stansted
2. St. Stephen's Day - Mass at Stansted -
10.00
3. Feast of the Epiphany - Tuesday Jan 6th
Mass at Stansted 9.15 am and
8.00 pm
Mass at Henham 7.00 pm

One of the most traditional customs at Christmas is the giving of presents. Some people give it a great deal of thought. It is a taste of joy, done with love and affection. For others it is an aggravating chaw, an expected duty, the thing to be done; but done with little or no love. The same can be said of the commercial practice of sending Christmas cards. One can get so entwined in the convention that if one did not send them as usual the fear is that offence would be taken.

I know someone who every Christmas sent more and more Christmas cards. One year it astonished this person the many pounds spent on cards and postage. The following year only a very few were sent and the rest of the money previously spent on cards was given to the Salvation Army to buy food for the poor and needy. That night this person had a dream. In the dream there was seen the baby Jesus and the baby Jesus said: "Thank you for feeding me". Fanciful!? St. Paul was on his way to arrest and persecute the Christmas before his conversion. He had a vision (subjective reality, like a dream!?) of Jesus who said to him: "Why are you persecuting me?"

No, of course I don't mean we should not send cards and give gifts. What I do mean is make sure your card or gift is sincere and conveys genuine love and is not a mere customary convention.

God's gift is existence, and the greatest "bit of existence" is Jesus Christ. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son" Jesus Christ - the God-man, this Divine person possessing a nature like ours - is God's gift to us. Jesus did a wonderful thing - He contrived ways by which we could belong to Him. We are caught up, interwoven in the mystery of God himself.

It is now possible for a needy patient to have grafted to the body an organ from someone else, such as a kidney, bone marrow, skin and even a heart. The result is the donated organ is accepted and becomes part of the recipient's body. The patient can now say, this is my kidney, this is my new heart. In a similar way Jesus has performed an operation (which cost him his death!) for us, so that we could be grafted on to him, we are part of Him. We often think of Jesus Christ as an individual man, even now, in some mysterious way alive as indeed he is. But he is much more than that. The whole Christ is continually growing. He is the Head and we are his members. Christians be aware of the great things God has done for you.

We at St. Theresa's Church send greetings of peace and goodwill at this Christmas season.

Fr. David





United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers:

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

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
'Elberry', St John's Close
Saffron Walden.
Tel: (95) 23296

Group Secretary:

Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services:

11am each Sunday

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

TOY SOLDIERS AND CHRISTMAS

In Canada there is a vigorous movement opposed to the giving of 'war toys' at Christmas. When we think of the old, stock present of toy soldiers we might wonder what all the fuss is about but when we think of the Prince of Peace . . . perhaps we should stop and think about some things we have taken for granted all our lives.

At any rate, C.S. Lewis had no such qualms when he used the example of toy soldiers to explain Christmas. He asked if a boy does not sometimes think, what fun it would be if my tin soldier were turned into flesh and blood. (as in some nursery stories). In the incarnation we have one human being out of all humanity who did become (in our human terms) completely divine, but Lewis pointed out that the toy soldier illustration breaks down here. If one toy soldier came to life, it would make no difference to the rest of the soldiers. They are all made of tin and separate from each other. But human beings are not like that. 'If you could see humanity spread out in time the way God sees it, it would not look like a lot of separate things spread out. It would look like one, single, growing thing, rather like a very complicated tree. Every individual would appear to be connected with every other individual. Consequently, when Christ becomes man, it is not really as if you could become one particular tin soldier. It is as if something (someone) which is always affecting the whole human 'tree' begins at one point to affect the whole human 'tree' in a new way. From that point (Christmas) on the effect spreads through all mankind.'

Happy Christmas to all from all your friends and neighbours of the United Reformed Church.

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And a great big 'thank you' to all who supported our Christmas bazaar and helped to make the day so successful. Although the day was not of the best we had the best 'result' for some years.

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 7th. 11:00 am - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin
BIBLE SUNDAY and Holy Communion

Dec. 14th. 11:00 am - Mr. Brian Wright of
Linton

Dec. 21st. 10:30 am - GROUP CHRISTMAS SERVICE
- Mr. McIlwain and Mrs Rapkin
- coffee and mince pies in the hall
- special Christmas offering for Save the Children and sweets and biscuits for others.

Dec. 25th. - Christmas Crib Service
10:30 am for the children

Dec. 28th. 11:00 am - the Rev. Lydia Rapkin

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

For our second meeting Rev. McIlwain came and gave us a talk and showed slides of his several trips to Ireland. His great grandfather had emigrated from there to Canada and we saw the shop with his name still on it. As usual we saw superb views which made us realise what a beautiful country it is.

How fortunate we are in our Guild to have members who can show such beautiful slides and talk about them, and Miss Doris Wiffen was no exception. She gave us a year's holiday slides and what a full year it had been - Hampton Court, Italy, Worthing, Broadstairs, the Lake District and many other places, ending up nearer home with slides of Stansted Castle Hills and its many attractions.

M. C. Johnson

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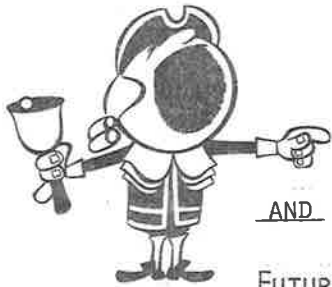
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7



Village News



AND

FUTURE
EVENTS

VILLAGE NEWS & FUTURE EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 11 8.00 Day Centre B.S. Recorded Music Society
13 8.00 Mountfitchet High School PTA Christmas Dance (see notice)
19-20 7.30 Carol Singing starts (see notice)
21 3.30 St. John's Christingle Service
23-24 7.30 Carol Singing in village

JANUARY

- 31 8.00 Stansted Hall. Alliance Midwinter Party (see "Stansted Social Democrats")
10 8.00 Stansted Hall Conservatives New Year Dance (see notice)

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN & BLUE CROSS SOCIETY

Our very grateful thanks to all who responded so generously and in such friendly spirit at the Sale for both charities on 5th November.

The net amount raised was £308.51.

Thank you very much indeed.

Margaret Gabb and Jeanette Fynn

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

UTTLESFORD CAMTAD

CAMPAIGN FOR TACKLING ACQUIRED DEAFNESS

COMES TO STANSTED

IF YOU HAVE A HEARING PROBLEM

RING - HELPLINE B.S. 816008

9.00 A.M. - 4.00 P.M.

STANSTED WOMEN'S OWN

40 members enjoyed their 58 years birthday party with a hot lunch prepared, cooked and served by the committee. After lunch we were entertained by Rev. Harold Fisher and friends who delighted us with songs, monologues and piano playing and getting us all singing. Then, a cup of tea and a piece of birthday cake and home before dark with everyone saying what a lovely afternoon.

Mrs. Jordan



DIARY OF EVENTS & NEWS FROM THE DAY CENTRE

- Dec 2nd Tuesday Bingo 2-00 pm
Dec 9th Tuesday Beetle Drive 2-00 pm 25p
Dec 12th Friday Whist Drive 2-00 pm 25p
Dec 15th Monday Christmas Lunch
12-30 for 1-00
Dec 16th Tuesday Bingo 2-00 pm
Dec 23rd Tuesday

DAY CENTRE CLOSED FROM 4-00 PM 23RD
TILL JANUARY 6TH 1987

The recent House to House collection for The Royal National Institute for The Blind totalled £531.37p. Grateful thanks to collectors and givers from the organiser.

Mrs. K. Stevens would like to thank publicly all in Stansted and District Branch of The Royal British Legion who had any part in the recommendation for the gold badge that she received at the recent 60th birthday of the Branch. I feel very honoured to have been singled out for this award. Thank you very much.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. J. Stannard and friends who gave us a cheque for £106 to the Outing Fund. This will be used in 1987.

The first Bingo session made a very good start. It was nice to see all the tables filled at the Lunch, then a Full House for Bingo and a nice cup of tea before going home. A good way to spend a dreary autumn afternoon.

Mrs. Jordan

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

NEW YEAR DANCE

The Annual Conservative New Year Dance will be held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 10th January at 8 p.m.

Tickets £10 each (with a reduction for young people).

For further information or any other enquiries, contact Alan Corbishley 813040 or Bridget Gott 814440.



N.C.I.

The run up to Christmas has plenty to offer.

We are having a 'Ladies Night Out' on Wednesday, 3rd December, meeting at The Cock, Henham, for a Christmas dinner. The cost is £10.50 for a three course meal. Vegetarian food will be available. For details of the menu, and to book a place, ring Frances on 814170 (members only). Lifts can be arranged.

Our Christmas Party is being held on Monday, 15th December, at St. John's Church Hall between 3.00 - 4.30 p.m. Father Christmas is coming to bring all the children a present and mums can have a glass of wine and mince pies. Tickets are available from Frances on 814170, children £1 and mums 50p each. Lots of fun and games for the children - so be sure to get a ticket!

Get together for expectant mums and under ones on Fridays 10.30-12 noon are as follows:-

5th at Julie's, 45 Wetherfield
12th at Frances', 31 Elm Close, Elsenham
19th at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft

On Thursdays the toddler groups are held from 10-11.30 am and are at the following addresses:-

4th at Frances', 31 Elm Close, Elsenham
11th at Sue's, 46 Bentfield Gardens
18th at Jacky's, 30 Rainsford Road

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you after the break, when we are organising yet another party, on 9th January! More details next month.

Jacky Moore
814424

STANSTED EVENING W.I.



The November meeting is always A.G.M. time. Before a large number of members, Mrs. Osborne the President, thanked the retiring committee and all members for all their help in raising funds for the W.I. and £39 for Denman College at the Antiques Roadshow.

A very interesting and informative talk on the workings of the W.I. was then given by Mrs. S. Walker, a Voluntary County Organiser. She also encouraged more members to stand for the new committee.

The new committee of ten was then introduced to the members and the new President, Mrs. Janice Cooper, was elected from these ladies.

Before the business closed Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Conroy and Mrs. Rolfe were each presented with a piece of china as a token of thanks for their work during the past year.

After coffee members were shown by Mrs. Janet Townsend and Mrs. Eve Rice how to make a most attractive decoration to hang on a door at Christmas. This was followed by Mrs. Pat Locke giving an amusing talk on her experiences while taking an Open University course.

Mrs. Betty Little completed the entertainment entitled "Members Participation" with a demonstration of fondant cake icing.

The meeting finished with the drawing of the raffle and the results of the competition, of a Home-made Christmas Card.

The overall winner for the 1986 competitions was Mrs. V. Ansell. She was presented with the competition cup by Mrs. Riley.

Our W.I. now looks forward to its Christmas meeting and the forthcoming year, and welcomes any new members wishing to join us.

Brenda Ryan
B/S 812725

HELPLINE

IF ANYONE KNOWS OF SOMEONE LIVING ALONE WHO WOULD LIKE A CHRISTMAS DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY, PLEASE TELEPHONE 816007.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Fireworks are lots of fun. Rockets, bangers, excitement for everyone. All this happens on the 5 November, The day that you can always remember.

Dark outside, dull and cold,
Rockets shine the sky with red, blue and gold,
I wonder if they reach the stars,
Who will know they may reach Mars!

Fireworks all finished so inside we go
To drink our soup to make us warm from head to toe.
So now its all over until next year,
Let's give the helpers a big loud cheer.

James Stratton John Delaney
Jeanette Stone Andrea Baines



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB



The Tennis Club Christmas Dinner will be held at the Old Hoops Restaurant, 15 King Street, Saffron Walden, on Friday, 12th December at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. The cost is £9.50 per person. Any other details from:- Richard Mott, B/S 812980.

Tennis will be played at the club on Sunday mornings until April next year. Play commences at 10 a.m. Winter members are very welcome. Ladies continue to play on Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

AGMs are not popular, but about 40 members attended ours on 16th October. An address from our President, Mrs. Gabb, was read by Mrs. Little.

The following officers and committee were appointed:-

President - Mrs. Gabb
Chairman - Mrs. Little
Treasurer - Mrs. Levey
Secretary - Mrs. Whall

Mesdames Clower, Snow, Steele, Traveller, Wedlock, Wiffen, Winckworth.

Miss Scotcher, Area Treasurer, was our speaker. She complimented Stansted on being a very efficient branch. Her theme was the organisation of the Women's Section from Central Committee through Area and County to branches.

There will be no meeting in December; but on 15th January 1987, we shall have a talk from Miss Reay.

Pat Clower
815220

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meeting at the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

11th December

Shostakovich - Symphony No. 9 in E flat Op.70
Shostakovich - Piano Concerto No. 2 Op.102
Shostakovich - Romance Op.94
Brahms - String Quintet in G Op.111

Mary Scholes
813155

HOME-START

Paddon House
12 Stortford Road
Great Dunmow
Essex

Tel: Great Dunmow 5705
(Most mornings 10.00 - 12.00)

Organisers: Jo Moody and
Linda Robinson

WHAT IS HOME-START?

Uttlesford Home-Start is a Voluntary Scheme for families with at least one child under five years living in the Uttlesford District.

It offers: FRIENDSHIP, SUPPORT and PRACTICAL HELP for those experiencing difficulties for a number of reasons. Perhaps due to loneliness, illness, depression, the children getting them down, etc.

Families can ring Home-Start themselves. Anyone ringing on their behalf must have their consent.

Home-Start is INDEPENDENT from any statutory agency. Volunteers visit families by invitation only.

Home-Start is CONFIDENTIAL. Information will not be disclosed outside Home-Start without the families permission except if there is considered to be a serious risk of a child being harmed and then only to the Social Services.

We believe that families make excellent volunteers once they have had time to recover from their own difficulties.

We have certainly found evidence of loneliness in this rural corner of Essex and feel that for many families we have become a vital support. Without support many families cannot use the facilities that are available. The Home-Start Approach is being with a family not doing things for or to families. 'Everyone needs someone sometimes'.

We now have 44 Volunteers, throughout the area. All have completed a preparation course and many are visiting two or more families. Our scheme depends entirely on this team of committed and hard-working volunteers.

If volunteers are to work successfully with families, they need to feel they have the support of their organisers. In Uttlesford we have small support groups where volunteers can meet together regularly with their Organisers and have an opportunity for discussion in confidence.

We enjoy continuing good relationships with other agencies in the area, particularly with the Health Visitors. We do appreciate their support and would like to thank all those who have given their time to help on our preparation courses.

Jo Moody and
Linda Robinson
Organisers

10





CAROL SINGING

As in previous years, we propose to welcome the Christmas season by singing carols around the village. All monies collected will be donated to "Helpline". Please join us and so assist in bringing Christmas a little nearer to the many who enjoy hearing the traditional message in a traditional way.

You, too, will enjoy it, whatever the weather.

The Carollers' Trail

Friday 19 Dec Meet at junction
Bentfield Gdns/Bentfield Rd
Saturday 20 Dec Meet at junction
Blythwood Gdns/Silver St
Tuesday 23 Dec Meet at junction
High Lane/Meadowcroft
Wednesday 24 Dec Meet at Junction
Spencer Close/Chapel Hill

STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

This year's fireword display and bonfire party was spectacular and enjoyed by children and adults alike. Hot gluwein and hot dogs complemented the heat of the flames. Baked potatoes from microwave ovens, though, are not quite in tradition with my childhood, when they were generally charred in the fire itself.

Stansted's first charity bazaar on November 8th was appreciated by all who attended. Fourteen village organisations had stalls and several took well over £100. We hope that it will be possible to run the bazaar again next year.

The takings on the door have been donated to Helpline and the Stansted Toy Library, who will each receive about £20.

Tickets will be available in December for the Alliance Midwinter Party at Stansted Hall on 31 January at 8 p.m. to midnight. As in 1986, it will be a very varied evening with entertainment, dancing, games and supper. Tickets, priced £5, from Christine Rowley, telephone 8.3514.

For more information about Stansted SDP call Tim Richards on 812748.

Alan Dean

"OUR VILLAGE"

Due to a technical hitch, the October issue contained two re-printing errors which should have read: 1. And stretched from the road down to the ('River this meadow was over past years used for grazing and) allotments. 2. Access in was by Water Lane crossing (over the river bridge that is still used today serving Waterside or) by way of Sunnyside. That done, let us now proceed.

Perhaps we may well not give a second glance to the small river that bends its way through the lower part of our village, yet once there were very ambitious plans to convert this into an important waterway, though we ought firstly to look into its path today. To do this we should use the proper title "Stansted Brook". Starting life in the Henham-Broxted-Eltenham regions it enters our parish close to Mill Wood where during construction of the Mill its course was slightly altered by straightening out bends and channelling under the road-rail bridge joining back to the original way just beyond the cattle opening under which flows another supply. A few hundred yards downstream enters yet another, this being "The Bourne" which springs to ground between Tye Green and Mole Hill Green on one hand and towards Burton End on the other. If you have never walked its path then a babbling brook surely has been missed (it is still not too late but do not leave it too long).

Thus travelling along the parish boundary, on reaching the motorway, which at this point cuts Durrell's Wood in two, the Bourne tunnels deep below the road surface whilst footpath now diverts via an underpass. The water then tumbles down past Old Keepers Cottage before entering the main course, onward together they then flow following footpath and railway towards the village.

It was along this stretch most winters that the Brook saw its banks overflow flooding low lying fields transforming the same into a huge lake making a temporary home for many water fowl, until the freeze came turning the whole area to a skating rink. Many will remember their own encounters upon this. It

was a visit onto this ice that caused several schoolboys to sit very uncomfortably during afternoon lessons as an extended dinner break was noted and dealt with by a not too understanding headmaster. But you could always tell when the proper skaters arrived for they would be clad with real ice skates and very good they were too. Some evenings you might see cars parked with headlights on and trained onto the ice giving the skaters and spectators a fine but chilly night but you could always have a warm round the glowing brazier. Adjacent to Elms Farm the Brook turns right under footpath and railway, soon to be joined by another artery which we will get to the heart of next month.

P. J. Brown



MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



JUNIOR VISITS

Over the 2 weeks of October from Monday 6th to Thursday 16th, nine different parties of 4th year juniors visited the school to experience a day's work at a secondary school.

In all, over 220 children visited the school from 13 different primary schools including Takeley, Henham, Elsenham, Bentfield, St. Mary's, Manuden, Clavering and Hatfield Heath.

Whilst at the school the children followed a varied timetable of lessons including computing science, French, geography, history and maths.

Each day the school parties were welcomed by two second year pupils from the school who acted as their guides for the day.

All in all, a very interesting insight for them into the very different life of a secondary school.

SNAP THEATRE

In the afternoon of Monday 5th October, the "Snap Theatre" came to perform a play based and called after the book 'The Chrysalids'. The audience consisted of fourth and fifth year pupils.

The play was about physical deformities known in the Chrysalids as 'Mutants'. If you were born as a mutant you would be rejected.

This happened to a woman's baby. The lady's child wouldn't pass as a norm (normal person) so she wanted to swap her baby with her sister's. But this did not happen. David the hero of the story meets a girl called Sophie and shares her secret that she has six toes. People found out and Sophie's family had to run away but they got caught.

The way the play was put together was marvellous and the acting was very clear and precise, although to start with it was very difficult to work out the storyline.

The fourth and fifth years seemed to enjoy the production. So thank you to 'Snap Theatre' for entertaining us.

If anyone who hasn't seen 'The Chrysalids' has a chance to, you will most certainly enjoy it!!

Robert Haynes 4S

12.

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL
PANTOMIME - CINDERELLA

VISITORS GALORE

The annual School Open Evening on 21st October attracted hundreds of visitors to the school.

All the departments organised display work and staff were available all evening to discuss matters with parents of prospective pupils.

During the evening the Headmaster, Mr. Ron Davies, addressed a crowded hall and pointed out that amongst the many advantages of the school was its friendly atmosphere and the special link it enjoyed with Harlow Tertiary College. This link means that the school can offer its pupils direct access to over 40 different 'A' level courses which include business studies, computer programming, child welfare, theatre studies and engineering.

Mountfitchet High School P.T.A.

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WITH

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Stansted

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8 pm to Midnight

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MY NIGHT AT OPEN EVENING

We started trampolining at 8 o'clock, everybody was watching us so it was a little nerve racking. It finally came to my turn. I jumped onto the trampoline and started to do some seat drops and back drops. When James Boulter tried to do a front somersault he nearly came off and the gasp from the audience was tremendous.

Then came my second go on the trampoline and Miss Harman said "Andrew, do some front and back somersaults". So this was my big chance. I leapt into the air and did a back somersault and afterwards I did a front somersault aswell.

All in all it turned out to be an enjoyable and satisfying evening.

Andrew Keener 4H

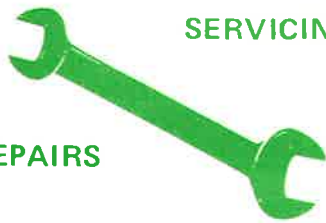
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