

Sep 86

The *LINK*



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YOU HAVE READ THIS BEFORE!

STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

BELGIAN PARISH EXCHANGE VISIT

Following the overtures made by Sister Agnes from Namur and the short visit of a Stansted "delegation" to Belgium in April, an ecumenical exchange visit has been arranged to CHEVETOGNE, BELGIUM (near NAMUR), from FRIDAY A.M., 10th to SUNDAY evening, 12th October, this autumn, 1986. Numbers limited to 20.

Anyone interested please phone

812684 (Margaret Booker)
or 813535 (Phyllis Harrison)
or any of the clergy

as soon as possible.

S.A.C.C.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH

AT 8 P.M.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL

Proposal forms for Chairpersons of the Association and sub-committees are in the Churches. Please return to Angela Gough, 42 Sunnyside, by the end of August.

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
11th September for October issue
16th October for November issue

SACC

AUTUMN DISCUSSION GROUPS

Following the enthusiastic support given to the Lent '86 programme, a series of discussion groups is being arranged for this autumn. As before, we hope to have meetings on two or three evenings during each of the first three weeks of October. The subjects to be covered are:

- Living in a multi-racial society
- Violence in the community
- The quality of life - work/unemployment

Fuller details have already been circulated to the churches, and if you wish to attend please contact any of the clergy as soon as possible.

WHY HUNGER?

The Saffron Walden Brandt Group is promoting a series of six lectures by eminent speakers on Third World issues, commencing with Sir Shridath Ramphal on Friday October 10th, and fortnightly thereafter until December 19th. We are hoping to arrange transport for the second lecture (by Rt.Hon. Timothy Raison MP) on 24th October as part of our recognition of the Week of Prayer for Peace. If you are interested, please contact me, or use the form available in the churches. More details will be given next month.

Michael Dyer 814059

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk: Margaret Whitelaw
37 Heath Row
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 52769

Meeting for worship: 11am.

In the first week of August, Quakers from all over the country gathered at Exeter University for 'Yearly Meeting' held every year, but only residential one in four years. Over two thousand attended, over one tenth of the total membership. We shared a week of decision making, worship and sharing, joy and laughter, involving young and old in a memorable occasion.

Our decision making included our response to the World Council of Churches document on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. After consultations with Meetings and individuals throughout the country during the past years we were asked to approve a document bringing together the views of all who replied in which we explored and clarified our own beliefs and set them out in words which

would be meaningful both to the theologians in other churches and to our own members.

On the Sunday, we visited local Meetings in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. I attended one of the largest of these gatherings, along with about 150 others, we held a Meeting for Worship in a lambing shed on a North Devon Farm. Sitting on bales of hay, we experienced the joy of worship in an almost open-air setting, with the sounds of sheep, goats and birds around us - a situation which inspired us, as perhaps it had inspired early Quakers. In the evening, on the same day, we heard the annual 'Swarthmore Lecture', usually given by an individual, but this time by the Quaker Women's Group. As individuals, and in small groups, they sang, recited and read, telling us of the trials and tribulations, and some of the joys, of being a woman.

On another day we had a session on human rights led by two Quaker workers, in Geneva and Latin America. They spoke of the way that many governments are more concerned with state security than with individual freedom: when churches give charity, they accept it; when they start asking for justice, they resist. We also had a special meeting with the Clerk of South Africa Yearly Meeting, who came to us straight from her home in Soweto - her first visit to England.

On Hiroshima Day, August 6th, we attended an ecumenical service in Exeter Cathedral, with an inspiring address given by Paul Oestreicher. This was followed by a walk and vigil in one of the main shopping precincts.

The week was filled by many other memories and events:- of 'Fringe' meetings and special-interest groups; of exhibitions and displays; of crowded halls and immense silences, as two thousand people suddenly became quiet, in preparation for the events of the day ahead.

Margaret Whitelaw
(B/S 52769)

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.

A STORY FROM COLOMBIA

I have a daughter. Her name is Naomi. She was born 2½ years ago in a tiny wooden shack on the side of a mountain, 30 miles from Bogota, the capital of Colombia. Her

home had no windows or door, just a piece of sacking covering the doorway, the floor was beaten earth, the kitchen, an open fire at one end of the single room. Most of the remaining space was occupied by a bed, where all the family slept. The only light after darkness fell (at 6.0 pm all year round) was from candles; the only running water, a plentiful supply of rainwater rushing down the mountainside and through the house; the only bathroom, the fields roundabout.

This was my daughter's life for 2 years, until she walked into my comfortable, affluent life in Bogota six months ago. She had not been badly treated by her mother but was suffering from amoebic dysentery, intestinal worms, severe dental caries and gum infection and malnutrition.

Her mother, Maria Eugenia, is 24 years old and has had 5 children, the first when she was 14 years old. When her fifth child, a boy, was born last year, she became very ill with a kidney infection which could not be treated immediately because she had no money to pay the doctor. The man she is living with, who may or may not be Naomi's father, had started to beat the girl and her mother, who herself had been regularly beaten as a child by her own father.

Maria Eugenia decided that she could not watch her daughter suffer the same life that she had already endured. She walked, late at night, to the nearest town, carrying her new baby and her two year old daughter. She knew there was an orphanage in the town, run by an American Christian church in Bogota. She asked if they could find a "gringo" family who would adopt her daughter and give her the chance of a better life. By chance (is that how God works?) my husband and I had applied to the orphanage only a few weeks before to adopt a baby girl.

The director of the orphanage brought Naomi to us the following day. We had no doubts, this was the daughter we had been praying for. She has experienced the most abrupt change of culture and language and has more changes to come as we are going to live in the USA. And she has come through it all, loving and trusting and full of happiness. She is our most precious souvenir from Colombia, a gift from God and from a poor woman who loved her daughter so much that she was willing to lose her, a real sacrifice of love.

This is a real life story. Naomi was only one of the hundreds of thousands of children living without hope in Colombia. How many millions are there around the world?

Ann Webb

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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.

Walter Rauschenbusch was an American theologian who was known for his interest in what was then labelled "the social gospel". Not "socialist" which may have overtones that some would dislike, but "social". Broadly speaking it was the belief that the church should be interested in the poor and the oppressed and not just in a gospel of personal salvation. Innocent as that may sound today it was the Liberation Theology of the 10's, 20's and 30's. One became known as being for or against the social gospel. Nor was a certain confusion between "social" and "socialist" entirely undeliberate because the post-world war I period saw the rise of Marxism and the appearance of the U.S.S.R., the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Christian social gospel had the spiritual dimension which Marxism lacked, nay denied. Rauschenbusch was a deeply spiritual man and left us many great prayers. This is one of them:

"O God, we who are bound together in the tender ties of love pray thee for a day of unclouded love. May no passing irritation rob us of our joy in one another. Forgive us if we have often been swift to see the human failings, and slow to feel the preciousness of those who are still the dearest comfort of our life. May there be no sharp words that wound and scar, and no rift that may grow into estrangement. Suffer us not to grieve those whom thou has sent to us as the sweet ministers of love. May our eyes not be so closed by selfishness that we know thine angels only when they spread their wings to return to thee." Amen.

Our twisted and tormented social order could use more prayers and pray-ers like that. Take the prayer and use it as a gift from a 20th century "saint".

Eric McIlwain

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept 7th 11.00 - Rev. E. McIlwain,
 Holy Communion

Sept 14th 11.00 - Rev. Lydia Rapkin,
 Family Service
 6.30 - Rev. Logan Armour of
 Cambridge
 Sept 21st 11.00 - Rev. E. McIlwain
 6.30 - Group Harvest - Widdington
 - the Rev. Ernest Mawin of
 Cambridge
 Sept 28th 11.00 - Harvest Festival -
 Rev. Lydia Rapkin

WORLD CHURCH AND MISSION DAY OUT

Sept 13th at St. Ives Free Church and
 Houghton Chapel Retreat Centre.



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.

The poet George Meredith, who suffered much
 anguish of mind and distress of spirit,
 protests in one of his poems:

Ah, what a dusty answer gets the soul
 When hot for certainty in this our life!
 How right he was - and is! Life throws up
 so many harrowing and unanswerable questions.

"Why?...Why?...Why?", we exclaim again and
 again. Why do some have so long a life and
 others so short? Why some to robust health,
 plenty and success and others to disease,
 poverty, weakness and failure? Why do hard
 and unscrupulous people often prosper while
 noble and honourable ones often do not?
 Many such questions confront us.

We have many partial answers, but none of them
 are completely satisfying. It is inevitable
 that questioning arises in us when we are in
 the midst of heart-rending tragedy. Yet at
 that time intellectual solutions are less
 urgent than enabling resources. We need
 things and people who give support, help us
 to cope, renew us and stand by us - the
 practical neighbour, the wise, understanding
 friend, the shoulder to cry on, perhaps the
 scapegoat to rage at, someone who knows how
 to be silent and how and when to speak. When
 distress overwhelms us intellectual answers
 seem so trite.

Nevertheless the "Why?...Why?...Why?" goes
 on. For there is that deep inside us which
 insists that life ought to be fair and just,
 that it should make good and happy sense.
 More still, that life should be loving and
 loveable. Nothing else will really satisfy
 us, unless we force ourselves into hardened
 cynicism, despair and numbness. So long as
 deep thought and sensitivity remain the
 questions remain too.

And we have to settle for the fact that
 there is no completely sufficient solution.

But here's an interesting thought: Why
 should we ever desire a sufficient solution
 and expect life to make good and happy
 sense? Why do we keep on asking "Why?" and
 requiring an answer? Our Faith says it's
 because we were made by God for this better,
 fuller thing, were made for entire wholeness.
 It is the pull of the eternal and the
 perfectly happy set deep in our hearts.

George Meredith is right, when we are hot
 for certainty we get dusty answers. But
 asking the questions is important,
 answerable or no. They set out sights on
 what we were made for; they point us to
 where we belong. As Browning put it: "A
 man's reach must exceed his grasp, or
 what's a Heaven for?"

Love and best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher

Notice: Annual Church Meeting and Council,
 Friday, 19th September, at 8 p.m.
 at 49 Recreation Ground.

SHALOM GROUP


Opening Meeting for our third year and
 Reunion Evening: "A Bring and Share Party"
 at the home of Jan and Peter King.
 1st Sept at 7.45 p.m.

22nd September: "A Julian Evening" (on the
 theology and spirituality of Mother Julian
 of Norwich) at Jim Collins' home,
 26 Bentfield Green, 7.45 p.m.

Future meetings: 6 and 20 October and
 continuing fortnightly, at 7.45 p.m.
 Please watch for details of venues and
 subjects.

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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) (2nd and 4th Sundays)	-	11.15am
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.

CURATE'S NOTES

I have now been Stansted's 'New Curate' for six weeks - I must admit to feeling 'less new' by the day. The first few weeks are always the most difficult, but I have received tremendous support from Fr. Barry, Margaret and the whole parish.

Zooming around by bicycle has been an excellent way of meeting people and I am really trying to remember everybody's name. Stansted definitely possesses a community atmosphere, and that is something special which we must hold on to in times of change. As new people enter our village we have to make them feel at home. People generally respond to a little friendliness, however hostile they may appear.

As a Christian minister I am in a very privileged position. Privileged because it allows me to share the important moments in people's lives. Last weekend I officiated at two weddings. It was a wonderful feeling watching the newly-weds walk down the aisle. Yet, just two days later I spoke at the funeral of Melvyn Cooper, only 28, who fought against cancer with immense bravery, supported by his wife and family.

Life contains such extremities of joy and sadness for people. We must always seek to allow the strength of God to permeate our lives. When all is said and done, God is all we have.

Having a house to look after has introduced me to 'the joys' of cooking, washing and gardening. A quick housekeeping tip: Never leave four pints of milk on a washing machine when it is spinning. As I learnt today the result is rather messy.

Thankyou again to everybody for being so kind and welcoming during my early weeks in the Parish. I look forward to the future and becoming more involved in the life of Stansted.

Fr. Tony



**BICYCLE AROUND ESSEX CHURCHES
TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE
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of your choice and for the
FRIENDS OF
ESSEX CHURCHES**

On Saturday September 6th we invite you to go on a sponsored cycle ride round local churches. Any money raised will be divided between St John's Appeal and the Friends of Essex Churches. This fund raising event is becoming very popular so why not ask Geoff Booker (812684) for a sponsor form and further details? Last year £43,000 was raised in our Diocese and £1,360 of this came from our Deanery. So get the cycle oiled and ready to go and visit other churches.

We do need offers of help to man both our churches as those cycling need their sponsor forms to be signed.

*For the
Family*

PARISH OUTING TO DEDHAM

On Sunday 7th September we have a parish outing to Dedham. Here is the programme:

11.30 am	Leave St John's in cars
12.45 approx.	Arrive Dedham and have picnic lunch
2.15 pm	Tour of Dedham Church
3.00 pm	Lecture by Canon Gordon Hewitt
3.45 pm	Family time - tea, rowing, strolling, etc.
6.30 pm	Evensong in Dedham Church with choirs from both parishes
7.45 pm	Depart.

If you wish to go on this outing please sign your name on the board at the back of St John's Church.

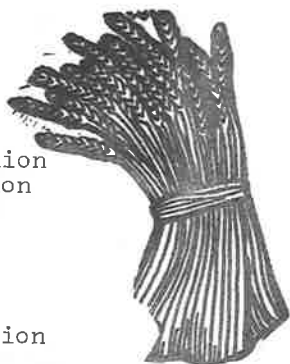
HARVEST

Sept: 28th at St. Mary's

8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11.15 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Sung Evensong

October 5th at St. John's

8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Unity Service
Preacher Rev'd Andrew Proud
Followed by Supper and
Entertainment at
St. Mary's School



ENGLISH CHURCH HISTORY 1559 - 1662

An evening of mini-lectures, in St. Mary's School at 8 pm on Wednesday September 10th.

Come and hear how the Elizabethians and the early Stuart people coped with change and new Liturgies.

YOUTH CLUB

Forthcoming events

Sept 7th - Trip to Dedham
Sept 14th - Quiz Evening/at St John's Hall/
7.45
Sept 21st - 'Surprise Evening'/
43 Gilbey Crescent/7.45
Sept 28th - Sailing Weekend
Oct 5th - HARVEST Supper

Everybody is welcome to all events and further details are available from Fr. Tony and the weekly Anglican Newsheet.

MOTHERS' UNION

We meet on Wednesday September 24th at 2.30 p.m. in St. John's Church for Holy Communion - Afterwards in the Hall.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21ST
9.30 A.M.

IN ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

We need your support for the growth of Christian Ministry within the parish and the world.

CONCERT AT ST. MARY'S ORGAN STRINGS AND CHORAL

(Combined Choirs of Stansted and Leytonstone)

SATURDAY SEPT. 27TH

AT 7.30 PM

Programme to include

HANDEL Organ Concerto
PURCELL 'Bell' Anthem
PACHELBEL Canon
MOZART Eine Kleine Nacht Musick

Admission by Programme - Obtainable from Choir members or at The Vicarage - £2.00. Students and Senior Citizens £1.50.



CHURCH DIARY

SEPTEMBER

1st P.C.C. Meeting
2nd Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
6th Sponsored Cycle Ride
7th Parish Outing to Dedham
10th Mini Lectures on English Church History 1559-1662 St Mary's School 8pm
14th Preacher at Parish Communion Archdeacon of Southend 'Why Work'
17th Education and Ministry Group 8 pm The Vicarage
21st Stewardship Sunday - Parish Communion held in St Mary's School Choral Evensong St Mary's 6.30 pm
28th Harvest St Mary's
29th Deanery Synod. at Elsenham

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

4th St Francis Holy Communion 9 am
5th Harvest at St John's
6th P.C.C. Meeting
10th-12th Visit to Chevetogne
11th Day Trip to Boulogne
18th St Luke Holy Communion 9 am
19th Preacher at Parish Communion Harlow Industrial Chaplain 'Why Industrial Chaplains'
28th Royal British Legion Service



Choral Evensong. 6.30 pm. St. Mary's.
Sunday Sept. 21st

Combined Choirs of St. Mary's and St. John's
Stansted, and St. Giles Ickenham.

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

27th July Nicola White
31 Rainsford Road
3rd August Stephanie Jayne Winder
12 Maitland Road
James George Whitmarsh
45 Bentfield Causeway

MARRIAGES

9th August Mark Vincent, Spencer House
St John's Lower Street and
Wendy Jane Vigurs,
Spencer House
9th August Grant Moore
St Mary's 17 Mount Drive and
Alison Catherine Russell
9 Wetherfield

DEPARTED

11th August Melvin Clifford Cooper 28 years

Village News



& FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE NEWS & FUTURE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

6 8.00 Essex Churches Sponsored Cycle
Ride
6 10.00-6.00 "Meet the Quakers"
Exhibition, Friends Meeting House
Chapel Hill
6 Royal British Legion Caravan at
Lloyds Bank car park
7 12.00 "Meet the Quakers" Exhibition
7 12.00 Royal British Legion Barbecue
The Manor House (see notice)
2.30 Royal British Legion Garden Fete
The Manor House
10 8.00 Lecture: English Church History
St Mary's School
11 8.00 B.S. Recorded Music Society
Day Centre
18 Royal British Legion Womens
Section Harvest Bring & Buy
(see notice)

19 6.00 Evening W.I. Antiques Road Show
St John's Hall
22 7.30 WEA Course starts. Day Centre
(see notice)
23 9.00 am Conservative Assoc. Coach Trip
to Chartwell (see notice)
24 7.45 Stansted Carnival Assn. A.G.M.
Day Centre
25 8.00 B.S. Recorded Music Society
Day Centre
27 7.30 Concert. St Mary's Church
(see Church Notes)

OCTOBER

3 7.10 Royal British Legion Womens Group
Coach to Birchanger
5 6.30 Unity Harvest Service, St John's
& Supper (St Mary's School)
23 (Evg) Mountfitchet High School A.G.M.
24 (Evg) Royal British Legion Rededication
Service. St John's

STANSTED CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE
CRAFTON GREEN HOUSE, CHAPEL HILL

WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 1986

7.45 P.M. FOR 8.00 P.M.

Presentation of cheques.

FREE WINE AND REFRESHMENTS.

PLEASE JOIN US IF INTERESTED IN
HELPING AT NEXT YEAR'S CARNIVAL.
WORTHY CAUSES FOR 1987 WILL BE
WELCOMED.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

DON'T FORGET -

to visit the Legion's publicity caravan on
Saturday 6th September, when it will be
parked at Lloyd's Bank car park, Chapel Hill:

to come to the Barbecue and/or the Garden
Fete at the Manor House off Church Road, on
Sunday 7th September. Admission to the
Barbecue is by ticket; the Fete will be
open to the public from 2.30 p.m. -
admission charge 20p adults, 10p children.

For further details of the above events see
our posters.

FORTHCOMING -- OCTOBER - 60th ANNIVERSARY
REDEDICATION

On the afternoon of Sunday 24th October
there will be a service of rededication
in St. John's Church to mark the 60th
anniversary of the formation of the
Stansted and District Branch. This will
be preceded by the unveiling of the plaque
commemorating the planting of the 'VJ tree'
in the Memorial Garden in August 1985.

Look out for more information in next
month's edition of 'The Link'.

GAMES WITH BALLS AND STICKS

In July on a pleasantly warm breezy Sunday afternoon, some 40 dedicated ecumenical "Sports People" descended on to the playing fields of St. Mary's Primary School. Young, old and canines all turned out for one day's play and picnic.

Two teams were formed. The kids (young and able) versus the "O.A.P" (over 30's) and Simon Baker. Bases were planted, and ground rules laid down. As it turned out the game was a curious mixture of rounders and baseball. Everyone seemed to enjoy the 2 innings, with the kids dominating the score by 8 runs (Kids 27 - OAP + S. Baker 19).

In the prolonged tea break, some rushed to tuck in and make up for missed lunch. The patient dogs were taken for "walkies" and different games were suggested.

Come evening everyone was roped in to make up 2 cricket teams. The first team to bat scored 79 and 1 wicket in hand (time up). The rival team scored fast runs 88, and 2 wickets in hand. The kids then had a game of football, while still a few energetic ones tried their hand at the French "Boules", in the cool of dusk.

Happiness was a ball game that summer evening, when we were all loathe to pack up and disperse.

Kali Kapadia

DAY CENTRE

AN APPEAL

We have been very lucky indeed to have had the reliable and loyal help of so many people over the past three years - a team which has altered little since we started.

But we now have two or three vacancies on our rota because a few of our regular helpers have moved away, and we would be grateful for offers of time from anyone who can give just TWO HOURS every TWO WEEKS on a fairly regular basis ('swaps' of duty can always be arranged on the odd occasion) - so if you can come in on a TUESDAY, THURSDAY or FRIDAY, for one of the three shifts - 10.00 am - 12 noon, 12 noon - 2.00 pm, or 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm, do let Margaret Gibbs know on 813019 or at the Day Centre.

"MEET THE QUAKERS"

An Exhibition of Quaker activities at home and abroad will be held on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH, from 12 - 1 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

- Everyone warmly welcomed.
Tea and coffee served throughout the day.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We held a Disco to raise some funds and decided, whether there are 2 or 20 extra children there, club members still enjoy themselves.

Gary and Peter could stand for Disc Jockeys of the year. They did such a good job. Our thanks to them both.

Kerrian has his very own dance routine, its seeing how many girls you can catch during each record, lots of squeals, and screeches from the girls. After a hard day at work Pauline was feeling tired and needed a sit-down but wanted to join in, so Gary played the Birdie Song at regular intervals and Pauline did as many actions as possible **SITTING DOWN**.

Some of the younger boys showed Richard how to Break Dance. He decided he had better be a watcher not a dancer as he thought the only thing he would break would be his poor old back. I don't know where they get the energy from as they kept on dancing all evening.

What a lovely time we had the night we went on a Boat Trip. We left from the Moorhen mooring at Harlow. People walking along the bank gave us a wave and a quick hello. Kerrian called Ship Ahoy when he thought he needed to. Somebody at school told James to be careful he didn't fall in the drink. I think he was a little worried what drink they were talking of.

Nearly everyone had a turn standing up front to see what was going on along the river bank, and there was plenty of coming and going by ducks, moorhens, and coots. Some were on nests and some already had young. I don't think we disturbed them too much. No matter how many times we went through a lock we were still fascinated: it is just like magic watching the water rise higher or fall lower. Some of us made a new friend: he is called Ben and is a Mallard Duck who sits at one of the locks watching what is going on. People who use the river a lot know him quite well.

Kerrian thought to do some fishing, the only trouble was he used the tying-up rope and when he didn't have much success catching anything he just dropped the rope overboard; but not to worry, by the time we arrived back at the starting point another rope had been found.

We left each other amid calls of "goodnight"; some of us soon to be away on holiday - and what better start than a lovely trip on the river!

Jean Stone

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



COMPUTING LESSONS AT MY SCHOOL

On Thursdays last lesson, we have computing. We line up outside the computing room and wait for the teacher to let us in. When the

teacher lets us in we enter with our Maths books and pencil cases. I also take in my glasses. We sit down and our teacher gives out our computing books. Our teacher gives us leaflets and we talk about them. Then we go on to the computers and follow the instructions on the sheet. Mark, Tim and I are usually together. When we have finished we put up our chairs and go.

Lawrence Martin 1N

MY FEARS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

Last day at Primary School. In a way I'm happy, but in another TERRIFIED! Think of all the things that are different there: French, Design, Geography, R.E., History, Science and worst of all, HOMEWORK! I sit there, scared out of my wits. My sister said that the older pupils flush first year's heads down the toilet. What a terrible thought!!!

I wonder if other 4th year juniors are as scared as me. I look around the classroom, "I'll miss this place", I say to myself.

Time to go home. Everyone rushes out shouting and screaming with excitement. I plod out of school and walk slowly down the road, looking back at my OLD school. (Very dramatic, eh!) The summer holidays seemed to rush by.

Tomorrow is the dreaded day.

I count the minutes going by and wish they wouldn't go so fast. Night time. I fall asleep.

Next morning comes so quickly. Oh well, here we go. "Be brave Debbie", I say to myself. I go to the wardrobe to get out my SCHOOL UNIFORM (which we didn't have in primary school). I get my bag ready. I walk up the road to catch the bus. My sister keeps on telling me horrible things. We arrive at school. Well, here we are!

All that was nearly a year ago. I'm not scared now. I've made new friends and I'm enjoying school. (Well, almost!)

Debbie Sawkins 1N

P.E.

At my primary school P.E. was literally the same every day, but at secondary school it is different. Every few weeks we change the sport. At the moment we are doing softball. I don't know why they call it softball with a massive bat and a rock hard ball! Sometimes we make a team and play other schools at different sports, e.g. football, softball, rugby and athletics. In athletics we do all the things we never did at our old school, i.e. Javelin, Discus, High jump, Long jump and proper timed running. Next Tuesday (1st July) we are going to Harlow Sports Stadium to compete with other schools at athletics. I'm in the 200m sprint and the relay sprint. At secondary school you do P.E. to a much higher standard.

Nicholas Hardy 1N

NEW PREFECTS

Due to the fifth year leaving, 28 new prefects have been assigned from the present fourth year. Duties involve clearing assemblies, patrolling corridors and generally helping the school run smoothly.

The new prefects are:-

Jeffrey Meekcom, Diane Reed, Angela Collis, Peter Gibbs, Carolyn Whalley, Anna Neish, Jakki Edwards, Julie Smith, Emma Wrathall, Suzanne Stone, Beverley Rosier, Angela Clark, Anne Velacot, Lissa Collin, Tracey Monk, Wayne Bass, Justin Bass, Hannah Gilbey, Joanne Bowtell, Julia Phillips, Jane Wright, Gregory Mullenger, Terry Waldock, Wayne Reynolds, James Bryant, Carl White, Adrian Webster, Mark Johnson.

MY LIKES AND DISLIKES

I like the lunch break because we all play football on the field.

I like P.E. lessons because we play cricket, rounders and tennis.

I like music lessons because we play pop music that we all enjoy.

I like science lessons because they are interesting with Mr. Wrankmore.

I like school dinners because they vary every day.

I like being in 2S because I have made some good friends.

I like junior evening because we can choose what we want to do.

I dislike having to carry your bag around with you.

I dislike having to walk from room to room when we change lessons.

I dislike having to get my books ready the night before going to school.

I dislike wet lunchtimes because we get bored.

I dislike having to do lots of homework, especially maths.

Nicholas Archer 2S

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

We are rapidly approaching the end of not only a very busy term but also an extremely difficult year in education. However, at the Mountfitchet High we have many pleasurable and positive developments to reflect upon.

The most important of these is of course the virtual completion of phase 2 of our remodelling and redecoration programme. There are still some items to be finished during the summer holidays and a start will be made shortly on painting the exterior panels of the school, but the bulk of the work has been done. Pupils and staff alike deserve great credit for taking possible disruption in their stride and certainly the end product has been well worth waiting for. We now have school buildings to be proud of and I know the boys and girls greatly appreciate their improved and enhanced working conditions. Let us hope we don't have to wait too long now for phase 3.

Our staffing for 1986-87 is almost complete. Mr Glen Goodman (PE), gained promotion to a

school in Biggleswade at Easter and we have appointed Mr Michael Crossley to replace him. Mr Crossley is already with us as a supply teacher and is looking forward to joining the permanent staff this September. We wish him well.

Mrs Stephanie Pettit leaves us this summer after three years at the school. She is moving to Coventry and I hasten to add she has not been sent there! As head of RE Mrs Pettit has done a valuable and appreciated job for us and I should like to thank her for the work she has put in and to wish her every success in the future.

Mr. R. Davies

PTA LETTER

Dear Parents,

Just a few lines about the Mountfitchet High School PTA.

The committee, which is composed of members of the staff and parents, meets every month during term time.

One of the most important functions of the PTA is to help provide facilities for the school which will directly help and benefit the pupils. During the last academic year these are some of the things that the PTA has provided:

colour monitors for the computers;
video for the French department;
trampoline for the PE department;
technical Lego sets for the lower school technology course;
dictionaries and word games for the English department;
airbrush inks, etc. for the art department;
contribution towards the insurance of the school coach; and
tea urn for use at PTA events.

In order to raise the money we organise dances, a grand draw and other events. (We would welcome any good ideas on events and money raising activities!!)

We must not forget the 100 club which you can join for a small payment and stand the chance of winning monthly cash prizes.

There is also the social aspect of the events which is of great importance. We do need the active support of the parents to ensure the success of our ventures.

There must be a tremendous source of untapped talent and experience amongst parents as well as useful connections which would be of great value to the PTA.

We would love to welcome new members on to the PTA committee, but do realise that not everybody likes being 'on committees'. Please do not let this stop you giving help and assistance. We do need all the help we can get.

All parents are automatically members of the PTA, and all we do is directed to the benefit of the school and our children.

We would love to see you at the AGM, which is on Thursday 23rd October. Do come along, have a glass of wine and lend your support.

Richard Pollard
Chairman

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meeting at the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

11th September

Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 5 in E minor
Puccini	Callas & Stefane at La Scala
Ravel	Daphnis & Chloe
Greig	Piano Concerto in A minor Op.16

25th September

Novak	Overture: Marysa
Janacek	The Fiddler's Child
Suk	String Serenade Op. 6
Fibich	Symphony No. 3 in E Minor Op. 53

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A coach trip to "Chartwell" in Westerham, Kent (the home of Sir Winston Churchill) has been arranged for Tuesday, 23rd September - leaving Glasscocks at 9 a.m. and returning about 6 p.m. The cost for the coach and entry to the house and garden is £5.50, but only £3.50 for National Trust Members.

Anyone is welcome to come and may bring their friends. Please contact Pam Sutton - B/S 815070.

All other enquiries to:-

Alan Corbishley - B/S 813040 or
Peter Jones - B/S 813252

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The autumn course of Stansted WEA is entitled "Walking Abroad in East Anglia" and will cover the natural history of our region. The ten lectures will deal with woodland, grassland, brecks, broads, rivers, fenland and the coastal areas and the effects of agriculture and urbanisation. The course will be slightly unusual in that we shall have two tutors, Mr. C. Gibson and Dr. S. Webster, who both work for the Nature Conservancy Council, East Anglian Region, and will lecture on their own specialist area. During the course, which will be illustrated by slides, particular emphasis will be given to the problems and priorities for conservation to ensure the continued survival of wildlife.

Meetings, as usual, will be on Monday evenings at the Day Centre. First meeting 22nd September, doors open 7.30 pm, to allow for enrolment, lectures begin at 8 pm.

New members are always welcome. If you have any query please ring Jean McBridge B/S 812214.

"OUR VILLAGE"

As we look once again from Church Road Railway Bridge viewpoint, although now severely restricted by those unsightly gantries that support overhead cables that will soon permit electrically operated trains to proceed through to Cambridge. These trains will gradually replace the deisel engines which in their turn took over in the 1960's from steam locomotives. These perhaps at another time we will recall.

As for today we must look down into the extended car park area which is reached by crossing a new concrete bridge that has recently replaced the old wooden structure that spanned Stansted Brook. This old bridge for many years gave entrance into what was until the late 1970's a coal yard. It is quite possible that this yard was in use from around 1862 then Charles and Edward Hicks aswell as being Maltsters were also Coal Merchants, later to become known Thomas Hicks & Co. Ltd. Coal was brought into this yard mainly by the railways, trucks being shunted in via a small siding, stopping adjacent for unloading purposes. A memory at this point about times gone by was told, of which I will try to write.

As children we were often sent down to this coal yard to collect coal, much needed for cooking and to heat the washing copper. A sack first weighed on hand-balanced scales was loaded on to a sack barrow borrowed from the yard pushed or pulled home, but it was the return journey that made this task worthwhile. As on the return journey turns would be taken to ride upon this barrow - down Chapel Hill being the best part (I asked if this was not very dangerous?). The reply: after the milkman, baker or coalman had passed (all horses and carts) there was no danger. Eventually on returning they would go in to see Mr. Shepherd who worked in the yard and if their timing was right he would be sitting in his hut/office. This was a black wooden boarded affair that had benches around the inside covered with sacks. In the centre stood a tortoise stove (motto "Slow but Sure") with a chimney protruding through the roof. This stove would be glowing red, from which Mr. Shepherd made toast held against the stove with a twisted wire fork. The kettle which was balanced on top would be ready for a brew. It was in this warmth that they would sit until he had put up with them for long enough when he would say "I'll put a flea in your ear" at which point they usually departed quickly.

Mr. Turner and Boyton also worked on the delivery side. (The actual yard I understand belonged for some time to Messrs. Coote & Warren). During the 1930's Barnard Bros. Ltd. were to become the proprietors, with offices in Lower Street. Then around 1976 Simons & Taylor took over until the late 1970's when they moved to Standon and the yard closed for ever.

How many of those who worked there over the years can you recall?

P. J. Brown

THE DAY CENTRE

How fortunate we have been: two outings and two beautiful days for them. The first outing to Newmarket for a half day, where some explored the town and the lovely little market and had a cup of tea, while others found a nice green with seats and enjoyed the sunshine. Then home through the backs of Cambridge and all the little villages, Duxford, Elmdon, Clavering, etc., a most beautiful ride and home again around 7 p.m.

Then on August 13th thanks to the Ladies Licensed Victuallers, and other donations we were able to have two coaches of Day Centre members for a day outing to Clacton where we spent a lovely day in the sunshine and home again, dropping us at all points nearest our homes.

These outings need a lot of organising and we thank all those who helped and we can show our appreciation by supporting the Day Centre as much as we can, where there is always someone to chat to.

K. M. Jordan

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT THE DAY CENTRE

Friday Sept 5th	Evening Bingo
Tuesday Sept 9th	No Beetle Drive
Thursday Sept 11th	Keep Fit
Friday Sept 12th	No Whist Drive
Thursday Sept 18th	Keep Fit
Friday Sept 19th	No Bingo
Thursday Sept 25th	Keep Fit
Friday Sept 26th	No Whist Drive

October 6th - 18th House to House Collection for THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Sue Lamble demonstrated her craft of making cane trays, plant holders, waste paper baskets, etc. at our July meeting. A variety of pictures of birds, flowers, etc. formed the tray bases.

Our mini-fete in the garden at 55 Chapel Hill was well attended and we made a profit of £138, including donations. Our thanks to all who so kindly supported us.

Birchanger will be the venue for our Group A.G.M. on Wednesday, 3rd September. Coach leaves 7.10 p.m.

On Thursday 18th September Elaine Van Marle will demonstrate her particular craft; and there will be a Harvest Bring and Buy.

Pat Clower
B.S. 815220



STANSTED EVENING W.I.

President Mrs. Osborne welcomed two new members to the July meeting and informed members that the cake stall run by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Ryan at the carnival had raised over £21, this money going to Carnival funds. She also congratulated the members who had entered a float in the carnival and had won one of the cups.

Members were also pleased to hear that a profit of £64 had been made at the recent jumble sale, this money going to W.I. funds.

As our W.I. had won the 1985 Streeter Floral Cup we will be staging this year's competition in the U.R.C. Hall on Wednesday 22nd October. The theme for the flower arrangements will be "Bonfire Night".

Members were then entertained by Mrs. Rona Laurie with her poems and funny comments on "The Seven Deadly Sins" and the "Four Cardinal Virtues".

The August meeting was a joint one with the Afternoon W.I. on Thursday 14th, held in the Day Centre with Mrs. Stiles presiding. Evening members were reminded of an outing on the Chelmer and Blackwater canal on September 10th starting from Stansted at 6.30 p.m.

They were also informed of the "Antiques Roadshow" which is to be held in St. John's Hall on September 19th, 6 pm - 9 pm. This is a chance to have your treasures valued. A charge will be made for valuation, £1 for the first item and 50p for other items. All the proceeds from this evening will go to the W.I.'s Denman College.

Mrs. Stiles then introduced Mr. Long who gave the members a most interesting and lighthearted talk on "Fashion through the

Ages". He showed drawings of fashions from 1066 to the 1930's and told how the various fashions had evolved.

The competition on Anagrams of fashion was won by Mrs. Colliver.

Mrs. Osborne thanked Mrs. Stiles and her members for a very enjoyable evening.

Mrs. B. Ryan
B/S 812725

ON YOUR LINE

When you see a train flash through Stansted Station (perhaps you are on board) headed by the engine named "B Gimbert G.C.", think of driver Gimbert and fireman Nightall on a freight-train on the night of June 1st 1944, drawing 51 open wagons loaded with U.S. aircraft bombs and components. Soon after 1.30 am driver Gimbert leaned out of his cab and saw that the leading wagon was on fire and the flames were spreading very rapidly. He knew well what his train contained. The blazing wagon alone held 44 500 lb bombs (or 5 tons of TNT); behind it, wagon-loads of 250 lb bombs.

Gimbert & Nightall could have lost their heads, jumped from the footplate and made for cover. Instead, their first thought was to separate the blazing wagon from the rest and so they acted with perfect coolness and presence of mind in face of extreme danger. Gimbert brought his train gently to a stand, then instructed Nightall to uncouple the leading wagon with a coal-hammer, in case the link coupling was too hot to touch. In a minute Nightall was back on the footplate, his work done. Gimbert then restarted his engine and drew the blazing wagon forward.

As he crawled into Soham station he shouted to signalman Bridges to stop opposing traffic. As Bridges came down from the signal box with a fire bucket the wagon exploded blowing a crater 66 ft in diameter over both lines and both platforms of Soham station. The station buildings, signal box and 15 houses were destroyed. Fireman Nightall and signalman Bridges were killed but driver Gimbert, seriously injured, miraculously survived.

The prompt and courageous action of the engine crew averted a major catastrophe, for the rest of their train contained 400 tons of bombs.

Guard Clarke, walking forward to give assistance was knocked unconscious by the blast. Although very dazed when he came to, his first thought was the safety of his train. He relit his van rear lamps, blown out, and walked back to the next siding box putting down warning detonators as he went.

The Inspecting Officer's report praised the enginemmen for acting in accordance with the highest traditions of the Railway Service and for successfully preventing an incomparably greater disaster. The George Cross was awarded to driver B. Gimbert and posthumously to fireman J.W. Nightall.

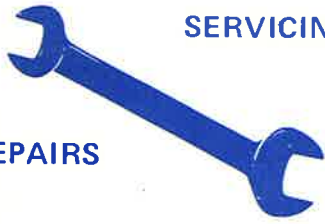
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