

Feb 87

The *LINK*



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FEBRUARY

There seems no ending to these winter nights,
No ending nor no vision of their bounds.
Again I see the same familiar sights
And listen to the customary sounds.

The sun has set once more behind the hill,
The west embalms another dying day,
The rooks are roosting raucously and shrill,
The children are returning from their play.

The first star rides at anchor on a stream,
The clock announces six impassive notes,
The owls alarm the coppice with a scream,
The rising fishes fall to dusky floats.

The trees are bare, the fields are flecked with snow,
The frost festoons the bracken in the brake;
And yet tonight at last I surely know
That spring remembers, and is half-awake.

J. H. B. Peel

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Interdenominational)

WORLD CENTENARY

FRIDAY
MARCH 6

SERVICE 2.00 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

1887 - 1987

All Welcome

Creche available

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
12th February for March issue
12th March for April issue

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

MEASLES

"Two million children die every year of MEASLES." - Oxfam appeal.

Their leaflet reminds us of six diseases we in the developed world know how to prevent. Diseases which are killers in less fortunate countries where parents cannot rely on a programme of immunisation. At home the parents of the bonny children who come to the playgroup at our Stansted Meeting House, are spared the constant watchfulness and anxiety that used, even here, to be part of family life. These children - we must ever be thankful - are not going to suffer the miseries of the once almost inevitable series of "childhood illnesses" nor, worse still, the permanent effects that often follow polio, measles, diphtheria. Smallpox, once the most horrible of all the infections, has so effectively been banished, that precautions against it have disappeared from the immunisation programme.

Vaccination, the grandparents of today will remember, was always uncomfortable, with a period of feverishness and the risk of an ugly "vaccination mark". Before 1796, when Dr. Jenner's vaccination was introduced, the method of inoculation with the live small pox virus was much more unpleasant, and indeed far from safe, and it was a Hertfordshire Quaker who devoted himself to reducing the suffering and risk.

Dr. Thomas Dimsdale (1712-1800) is best known for his dramatic visit to Russia and his courage in treating the Empress Catherine and her household. Her fearsome invitation was given because the Empress had heard of the doctor's success in developing a safer routine for the management of inoculation. In accepting, Dr. Dimsdale faced the risk that the Empress might die, but fortunately, his earlier work stood the test. The Empress lived and he did not need the "get-away" carriage she had commanded to be at the ready for him.

What this inoculation meant for more humbler families we can learn from an eighteenth century Quaker diary.

April 4th 1758

My dear children Molly, Abby, Sally and Sammy were now under preparation for the smallpox to be inoculated. I was in great distress about it, but my husband was desirous to have it done as this distemper had been very fatal in his and my family I was passive but could not

freely give of my consent They were all four inoculated, my husband states in his memorandum, between four and five in the afternoon. The irruption came out eight days after and eight days after that they were at the height and through the blessing of Divine Providence got well through.

The writer Abiah Darby was no timid over-protective mother, but quite a forceful lady, mistress of a large household at Coalbrookdale, where her husband Abraham Darby was a successful and innovative iron-master. Only a year before she had organised a great feast for her family and workpeople to celebrate the success of the new process of smelting with coal.

"We dined upward of 300 people that day We killed a large cow and fatted calf; hams and 10 large puddings full of fruit and two hogshead of drink. We carried it up in the railway waggons (i.e. trucks in the works) and had four tables spread under cover."

Yet all this success was no protection. In 1762 she wrote of her married step daughter: April 18th, daughter Hannah Reynolds took ill of the measles. April 24th, The Lord saw fit to take her out of this troublesome world at four o'clock. The children came down to our house.

So we come back to measles. Empress and Quaker mother: eighteenth century England and twentieth century Africa and India. Six diseases controlled; one little part of the world free. So much to be thankful for and so much to do. A war it is worth fighting though there is never a final battle.

Dorothy Stansfield

Reference. The Darbys of Coalbrookdale. Barrie Trinder 1981. (Copy in Stansted Meeting House library). The Journal of Abiah Darby. Journal of the Friends Historical Society. Vol. X. 1913. Friends House London.

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE CHAPEL HILL

The Meeting House is available for hire during 1987.

For use of the whole Meeting House £7.00 per 3 hour session

For use of the classroom and kitchen £5.50 per 3 hour session

During the months of June, July and August a flat rate of £4.00 will be charged for use of either.

Enquiries to the Letting Clerk Mary Rice B/S 51769.

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.

My new year of 1987 started very quietly and calmly with the 'flu! I expect many can identify with me. At least being grounded gives me a bit of time to think and realise how unprepared I am for most things in life and how it seems man's lot to fall headlong into situations he knows little about at the time. Everything in this life is fairly unpredictable: apart from a few facts like: It's usually colder in January, February and March and maybe warmer later!

The really important stable things in life are those which no riches can buy and can only be attained by diligence and perseverance. After all what do we take with us when we die or, most importantly, what do we leave behind us? Our inheritance is bound up in faith, our treasure is in the sure knowledge of God's love for us which doesn't end with our passing from this world.

Cardinal Hume in his speech at St. Mary's School, Bishop's Stortford, recently, commenting on the results of O and A levels, said that he was glad there were so many 'winners' because that meant there had to be losers and losers were learning how to be good losers.

We all have to learn how to lose successfully. Our Lord clearly showed us how to do it by His death on a cross. By being a failure he won us a Kingdom and an inheritance which is beyond our feeble understanding.

It is hard to give up selfish desires and personal need and look away and out from oneself but it is necessary in order to gain peace of mind and heart. Unfortunately we are often so steeped in self-centredness we either don't know where to begin to reverse the situation, or don't recognise the fact we are there at all. I think when I am at this stage I begin to feel in a fog and everything appears to be negative and eventually when I can't stand it anymore I try to put operation reverse into action. I can usually manage this only with prayer, being still before God and meditating on the cross and what the words peace and contentment really mean to me. But it needs discipline and time to achieve and our 'free will' will often oppose this. So step by step and often slowly and painfully we begin again. Through these spiritual exercises we will surely become more loving and therefore lovable. For it is hard to love

a selfish, inward looking person, and who loves the person who constantly feeds on others without giving anything of himself? Yes, and that person is often me or you! Enough for God to spit us out lukewarm; how can we blame others for rejecting us?

We must look closely at ourselves and our attitudes: how good a loser am I? It is not enough to blame the past: that only enables us to stumble BACKWARDS into the future!

We must begin again positively looking forward with open arms into the coming year, who knows what surprises God has up his sleeves for us in 1987.

J. King



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.

What a catchy tune it is that introduces the BBC1 soap opera 'Neighbours' at the conclusion of the one o'clock news each week day.

I listen to it most days and then switch off the programme. Why? It's not that I don't like the programme. I've never actually seen it. It's just that, as far as I'm concerned, there can be no excuse whatever for watching television during the afternoon without suffering a guilty conscience. It's bad enough having to admit to being hooked on the one o'clock news, but that's permissible as I eat my lunch while watching Martyn Lewis.

I guess the reason my conscience troubles me then and not during the evening watching period is something to do with the fact that I was brought up to regard the morning and afternoon as being sacred for work, only to be disregarded for such special events as days out and royal weddings.

I'm sure my conscience will cease to trouble me in this respect when I'm older and unable to get about, however.

Anyway, to get back to 'Neighbours'. 'Everybody needs neighbours', says the song, and indeed they do. It dawned on me

recently how little I see of mine during the winter months. No lawns to mow, no flower beds to weed, no sunshine in which to bask, and so no pleasant chats over the garden fence. Instead, there's the tendency to jump into the car for every journey, however short, thereby sweeping unheedingly past where my neighbours live. I excuse myself for this by declaring that the weather's dreadful, and anyway the car saves time and time is precious.

So I've been walking to the town and back just recently, whenever possible, and it's been great to stop and chat with neighbours I've barely seen for weeks.

Jesus makes quite plain in the story of the Good Samaritan that our neighbour is anyone who is in need.

I stop and think, yes, I know that's true, and the needy wherever they live are certainly my concern, but those who live round about me are my neighbours in a very special way, and we need each other.

It's easy to forget this sometimes.

All good wishes.

Lydia Rapkin

REPORT FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

Once again we were pleased to welcome the Caledonian Dancers to our meeting. They gave us an entertaining evening of Scottish dances and some of our more energetic members were able to join in.

The last meeting of the year was entitled "We entertain ourselves" and this proved to be a most successful evening. We had readings, songs, a quiz and carols, ending with coffee and mince pies. The informal and friendly spirit which prevailed is typical of our meetings.

M. C. Johnson

More Volunteers Wanted

The **LINK** is compiled and distributed by local volunteers.

For various reasons we sometimes need additional help.

If you can help in any of the ways listed for about two hours a month please 'phone 812593.

Typing

Compiling

Designing (illustrations and advertisements)

Collation

Distribution

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.

OBEDIENCE

On the first Sunday in each New Year members of the Methodist Church are invited to make, or renew, their Covenant with God. So 'obedience' is a theme which comes before them at that time. This year, when re-making my own Covenant with God, an incident which happened in 1963 came vividly to mind.

We were on our way to Jerash on the east bank of Jordan when we saw a shepherd leading his flock of intermingled sheep and goats; the goats mostly dark brown or black and the sheep a dirty white. This, as any visitor to the Holy Land will know, is a very ordinary sight - a mixed flock of sheep and goats trailing behind their shepherd who is leading them. But what happened as we watched them was very extraordinary. The shepherd gave a kind of cry (I still do not know whether it was his own voice or made by some kind of musical instrument) and all the sheep ran forward and gathered round him whilst the goats were left behind. I asked our Jordanian guide, Salim Dakkuk, how the shepherd did it. Salim was not interested because he was talking to us about something else. Almost as an aside he said, "O, it is just that the sheep are more responsive to the shepherd than the goats", and he turned back to the more important piece of information he was imparting to us. But he had just revolutionised the gospel passage, for me at least, and it became the highspot of that particular visit to the land of the Book for me.

"Like as a shepherd divideth his flock, the sheep from the goats"!! Read through St. Matthew 25, verses 31 to 34 and you will understand why I was so excited to see yet another occasion when a visit to the Holy Land makes the New Testament leap into life. It is the quality of 'obedience' to the voice of the shepherd that Jesus was pointing out in his parable. It is one lesson which we need to learn today. True discipleship must carry with it a strict discipline which comes from love for the master or shepherd.

But this, of course, raises the important question of who we are to look to as our shepherd or leader Is it to be some political leader or some new religious Messiah - or to the opinions of some pop star or sporting type? To whom should we give our allegiance and our obedience? This kind of faith (or admiration) in someone brings moral, spiritual or practical satisfaction. It gives, in some of these instances, self control or discipline; it is the virtue of obedience.

Long ago, long before my series of journeys

to the middle east and to Palestine, when I was a youth, my then minister, the Rev. Leslie Keeble, said something which I have never forgotten; "Look round the world until you see what seems to you to be the finest and the best. And then give yourself to it with courage and obedience. And if you can find anything in this world better than Jesus Christ you are a better man than I am". It was an odd saying, perhaps, but it won an immediate response from me and I determined that my obedience would be for Jesus Christ. If my experience is the same as that of others, I guess that we all stumble and fall from the high path of "obedience" and are distressed about that The perfect obedience of Jesus to God His Father is unique and is what expresses His claim to be Son of God. He understands and forgives us. And the pathway of 'obedience' goes on, and is the way of satisfaction and of self control and of wholeness and health.

R. S. Rawlings



© 'Okay, so your nativity play had the edge on ours, but wait until you see our Easter parade!'

LATE NEWS OR NEWS OF LATE

Our Methodist Christmas Party was held this year at the home of Marion and Mike Dyer, where about 30 adults and a dozen children enjoyed a supper and our usual "Christmas Cabaret" led by Fred.

Many thanks to the Dyers for their repeated hospitality through the year.

1986 ended with a service of carols, readings, a childrens play and a glimpse of Christmas in four different countries, all of which was joyfully shared with our FRIENDS, the QUAKERS who treated us to "traditional fare" after the celebration - or as part of it! It was lovely to see the Meeting House full and so many children taking part.

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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)	- 11.30am
(1st and 3rd 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.

GOOD NEWS

VICAR'S NOTES

'I am so glad you are taking it Vicar. Mother will be so pleased it is in the church'. And so the Vicar stumbles out of the house carrying a huge family Bible. Sadly it will probably not be used because, apart from the fact that the church has many Bibles, we tend to read today from one of the modern translations available. But it somehow seems wrong to throw a Bible away or burn it. Perhaps there is some superstition around when it comes to disposing of an unwanted Bible.

But how sad too that so often the Bible is regarded as an out of date book which is read only by religious cranks and parsons - they are not always the same! I believe the reason why the Bible is not read and used is because it is often presented as a set of oracles from God which must be strictly obeyed. The Bible is nothing of the sort. What is it then? It is a collection of writings written in three different languages by many people over a period of 1,500 years. The various authors were responding to the events and experiences

of their day and seeing the hand of God in it all. The Bible is a record of God's revelation first to the Jews and then through Jesus Christ to all people. But the writers were not dictating machines - they were real human beings - and human beings are not infallible.

So when we read the Bible we do not expect to find immediate answers to our questions or ready made solutions to our problems. Rather we try and understand what the writer was saying in the original situation and then seeing if it says something to us today.

The Rev'd Brian Beck, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, who is coming to preach on March 8th has written these words: 'The basic fact of which we must never lose sight is that the Bible as a whole is an ancient book, a collection of documents of which the most recent is nearly nineteen hundred years old. In no other case does one expect writings of such antiquity to have an immediate impact or to present no difficulties of interpretation. The Bible is not an exception'.

If only we could approach the Bible with a sense of excited enquiry - to see that reading it is a voyage of discovery - and (dare I say it) that there may be parts with which we cannot agree - then perhaps there would not be so many Bibles in our homes gathering dust.

As you are all aware this year we are going to take a closer look at four documents in the Bible - the Gospels. On February 15th Canon Leslie Houlden from King's College, London, is coming to talk on the Gospels. I can assure you he will be stimulating and challenging.

He will be followed in Lent by four preachers all of whom have something specific and interesting to share with us. What a feast of the Word!

My hope is you will take advantage of their visits.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We heard from several people over the Christmas period. Fr. Victor Allard thanks everyone who sent cards and greetings. Ann and Ray Thompson seem to be settling in Dartmouth but send best wishes to all in Stansted.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

If you want to discuss the Bible and share fellowship and a song why not join the Bible Fellowship Group which meets alternate Tuesdays. For further details ring Jack Pinkert on 816911, Fran Panrucker on 815817 or one of the clergy.

APOLOGIES

The service of Holy Communion (1662) now takes place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11.30 am. We did announce this in November's magazine but did not alter the times of services printed with the names of the clergy. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Forthcoming Attractions

*** SHROVE TUESDAY ***

3 MARCH

PATE AND PUNCH PARTY

St John's Hall

8pm

Adults £1.50

Children £1

A PRE-LENT F L I N G !!!



A S H W E D N E S D A Y

4 MARCH

Services

School Eucharist in St John's	9.15am
Holy Communion	10am
Sung Eucharist	8pm

+++++

PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

We meet once a month to pray for the sick and work out ways we can support them and their families. We always welcome names of those who are sick. Why not come along to the prayer group. Information from one of the clergy.

CHURCH DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 2nd Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Holy Communion 7.30 pm
- 3rd Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
- 5th Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am
- 10th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm
- 15th Lecture by Canon Leslie Houlden
7 pm St John's
- 17th Prayer Support Group 8.15 pm
22 Bentfield Causeway
- 21st Confirmation Group outing to
Chelmsford. Leave St John's 9 am
- 25th Mothers' Union 2.30 pm

MARCH

- 2nd PCC Meeting 8 pm
- 3rd Pate and Punch Party 8 pm Church Hall
Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am

4th Ash Wednesday. The beginning of Lent
 5th Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am
 8th Preacher at 9.30 am: Rev'd Brian Beck
 Joined by our Stansted Methodist
 friends for this service

PARISH REGISTERS

Departed

23rd Dec Irene Daisy Foster
 136 Stansted Rd Bps Stort 78 years
 5th Jan John Lambert Dale
 2 Forest Hall Road 89 years
 16th Jan Frank Joseph Tighe
 2 Blythwood Gardens 74 years



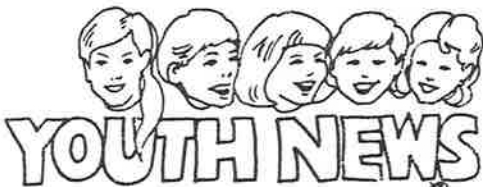
CONFIRMATION 1987

Preparation classes have now begun for the confirmation to take place in St. John's by the Bishop of Chelmsford on May 31st at 6.30 pm. If there are other persons who would like to consider being confirmed would they please ring one of the clergy.



MOTHERS' UNION

Meeting on Wednesday February 25th at 2.30 pm. Communion in church followed by a talk from the Rev. Bill McKee in the hall.



YOUTH NEWS

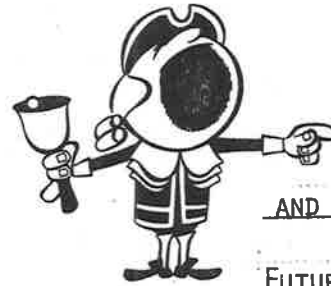
Snow may surround us but the Youth Group is planning its summer holidays. This year we are going to a Youth Complex on the Norfolk Coast near Cromer. The cost for seven days (inc. transport and food) is around £70. The dates are August 16th - 22nd inclusive. Please ring Fr. Tony for further details.

Below is our February Youth Programme.

1st Feb 7.45 pm - House Group -
 43 Gilbey Crescent
 8th Feb 7.45 pm - 'Hidden Talent' Evening -
 43 Gilbey Crescent
 15th Feb 7.45 pm - 'St. Valentine's' -
 Venue undecided
 22nd Feb 7.45 pm - Games Evening - St. John's
 1st Mar 7.45 pm - House Group -
 43 Gilbey Crescent

A CINEMA TRIP WILL BE ARRANGED WHEN A SUITABLE FILM IS SHOWING.

Village News



AND

FUTURE
 EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

FEBRUARY

12 8.00 Day Centre B.S. Recorded Music Society
 14 2.00 Social Democrats Jumble Sale
 St John's Church Hall
 25 8.00 St. Mary's School
 Huw Johnson Club A.G.M.
 26 8.00 Day Centre B.S. Recorded Music Society
 26 2.00 and 5.30 Blood Donors at
 St John's Hall

MARCH

7-8 Refuse skip at Crafton Green

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Council Offices
 Crafton Green House
 72 Chapel Hill
 Stansted Mountfitchet
 Essex CN24 8AG

Phone: Bishop's Stortford 813214

Clerk: Mrs. Janet Buttery

In Attendance Monday to Friday
 10.00 to 12.00

The inaugural meeting of a Stansted Local History Society was held on Tuesday, 28th January 1987. For those of you who are interested but were unable to attend please contact the Clerk (813214) for further details.

The Parish Council will shortly be deciding on locations for additional lighting columns in the village. If you have any suggestions you would like considered for new or replacement columns, please let the Clerk or any Councillor know.

The next date when the civic amenity refuse skip is due at Crafton Green is the weekend of 7/8th March.

Parish Council elections are due to be held on 7th May next. If anybody is interested in learning more about how to stand for election themselves the Clerk has a very useful pamphlet.

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

There was a good start to the New Year. Our bring and share party held at Frances' was great fun with lots of good food and plenty to drink. Can't wait until the next party!

Get together for expectant mums and under 1's on Fridays, 10.30-12 noon are as follows:

6th Feb at Mary's, 14 Blythwood
13th Feb at Theresa's, 27c Recreation Ground
20th Feb at Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent
27th Feb at Frances', 22 Longcroft

On Thursdays, the Toddler Groups are held from 10.00-11.30 and are at the following addresses:

5th Feb at Jacky's, 30 Rainsford Road
12th Feb at Annie's, 'Greenlands', Albury
19th Feb at Kathy's, 43 Stoney Common
26th Feb at Claire's, 47 Gilbey Crescent

We are having a St. Valentine's Disco on Monday 16th February at 2.30 pm in the Quaker Hall. Watch out for posters being put up around the village for more details. Everybody will be welcome.

The Annual General Meeting of the Stansted and District Group will be held on Thursday 5th March at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road at 8 pm. Anybody who is interested in the activities of the NCT is invited. It invariably turns out to be an enjoyable social evening - it isn't as dull as it sounds!

Jacky Moore
Tel. 814424

THE PETER KIRK SCHOOL

The past months have seen a number of changes at the school, with the new hall progressing towards an Easter completion, the Soft Play room (the product of fund raising last year) and the development of the computer network.

Pupils from the school raised approximately £200 by making paper chains, with sponsorship per metre or per link for the younger pupils. This was an event organised by Special Aid to assist with fund raising for famine victims in Africa. Brown and Orange groups organised a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale, raising over £60. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

The end of the Christmas term saw the usual Christmas festivities, with the now traditional school production. This proved to be the most successful play to have been produced at the school. Set around a time machine the principals were transported to the future and back to stone age times.

We are most grateful to the Reverend Barry Rose for permitting us to hold our Carol Service in St. John's Church and for playing the organ. The service was conducted by the Curate, with a Nativity presented by Green group and several Carols

sung by the Choir.

Links with all schools in the area continue to grow and the possibility of an open day to enable parents and local people to visit the school is being considered for later in the year.

CAROL SINGING 1986

Four truly heart-warming evenings as this year's Carol Singers were augmented by several new voices and blessed with suitable singing weather.

A total of £213-88 was collected for Helpline. Our sincere thanks to all singers, donors and hosts.

Derek Honour
Judy Goddard

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Next meeting in the Day Centre at 8 p.m. on Thursday 22nd January.

Meeting on Feb. 12th

Beethoven Violin Sonata No.5
Chansson Poeme de l'amour et de la mer
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1 in G minor

Meeting on Feb. 26th

Messiaeh Turangalila - Symphonie
Mary Scholes 813155

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

December was a quite eventful month for our Senior Citizens. For our first meeting we attended the Childrens Pantomime "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which was followed by tea and biscuits. The children always give a good performance and the "Grannies" all enjoy themselves hugely!

Our second meeting was in St. John's Church for a Carol Service. We had visitors from Farnham, Manuden and Birchanger. The Carols sung were the good old ones that everyone knows: Once in Royal David's City, Silent Night, Little Town of Bethlehem, etc. all of which were sung with great gusto! The Lessons were read by members of the Mountfitchet Seniors; Beatrice and Harry Turner, Syble Eagleton and Fanny Watson all doing their "share".

After the service the congregation gathered in the Church Hall for tea and mince pies, also for the judging of the competition. This competition is a "Regular", a Christmas Table Decoration. There are two prizes and these were won by Mrs. I. Jordan and Mrs. McKee.

It only remains now for the Mountfitchet Seniors to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.



FACT OR FICTION



**Lecture by
Canon J L HOULDEN
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
15 February 1987**

"OUR VILLAGE"

8pm

For the final leg of our waterways we must pick up the last added seasonal supply making Stansted Brook now capable of providing sufficient flow for a river journey down to the sea, albeit for the first part by canoe.

As the water takes us along we will again look towards a few places you would pass. There would certainly be no need to duck your head beneath the first bridge that carries over Church Road, this being of red brick construction with an arch of whites, next to pass Continental Cars garage and showroom, part of which straddles the Brook, which then passes under Station Road bridge. This design in all probability replaced a wooden structure first built with the coming of the railway, that has since December brought by sign a new welcome to Stansted Station by Network South East that is now ready to accommodate the electric service.

A little further on stands the 1st Stansted Scout Headquarters. This building originally stood at Stoney Common. It was transported, then re-erected on the present site, and opened on 13th April 1963. (Any information on old Scouting Headquarters would be most welcome).

Onwards now, following old Water Lane, passing under Waterside bridge, first built for access to the Pumping Station and the Logs Meadow. Soon we must pass the old Gas Works that was erected in 1864, then known as Stansted Mountfitchet Gas Co. Limited, James Marsh being Secretary and Henry Hockley Collector. A new gas meter was to be built in 1932 where the local Fire Brigade gave assistance by pumping 500,000 gallons of water from our Brook into the surrounding pit. This was done in three stages and in all took 41 hours pumping. This gasometer has now been dismantled (does anyone have a photograph of this?).

Next we meet the stretch known as "The Docks". It was at this point, just before the footbridge, that for hours during school holidays several boys tried to excavate the river bed to create a swimming pool to be bottomed with sand barrowed from Mill Pit. Needless to say it never worked and the

project given up.

Now we cross by the bridge built by Mr. W.W. Wright around 1902 connecting Water Lane and Brook Road, to ease the transport of gravel etc. from Mill Pit to the railway sidings. This spot now seems to be a favourite place for net fishing, catches of stickleback, redbreasters, loach and catfish there to be had.

The Brook's next turn, under the railway, takes it into the Parish of Birchanger, re-entering our Parish close to Pesterford Bridge, twisting under New Farm or Gipsy Lane, there sliding in to join the main supply that forms our Parish Boundary; up river towards Manuden, passing on its way the site where once stood an ancient Watermill. So here we must end our story. Take and hold it fast for the Mill cannot grind with water that has passed.

P. J. Brown

**MOUNTFITCHET
HIGH SCHOOL**



Breaking up for Christmas

The whole school was assembled in the main hall, I was nervous! I had to take part in dancing in front of the whole school. When it was our turn we danced on to stage; I felt better and then I was really enjoying myself. When we were all changed we went to the hall to sing some carols. After the last carol we were dismissed and we had a short break.

After dinner the disco was in full swing. It was a very great atmosphere and everyone was enjoying themselves. It was a really great day and everyone had a super time, well I had a smashing time!!!

Angela Holden 1H

Mini Fair's Success

On Thursday 13th November Form 2S held a Mini Fair to raise money for the Indian Eye Camp Appeal.

At the Fair they sold cakes like rock cakes, coconut ice and chocolate chip cookies. They also sold sweets, crisps and chocolate bars. The other main attractions were to win the top ten single, a chocolate cake and a £4 jar of sweets.

We sold out of everything right down to every last crumb and there was still a queue to get things. It was a great success.

Well done to Alison Phillpot who thought of the idea and a big thankyou to everybody who made things and brought goods in. The main cake was made by Catherine Luck and the sweets by Julia Lamin and the record by Mr. Davies.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED THAT DAY WAS £21.50p.

Robert Greenfield 2S

Sponsored Walk

On Wednesday 26th November 3rd years went on a sponsored walk around the school.

Mrs. Barker who was in charge of raising money for the eye camp in India said "The children are taking a lot of interest in this appeal". Over £100 was raised.

Emma Stevens

Basketball Trip

On Wednesday 10th December myself and a group of about 40 went to see a basketball match at Crystal Palace between BCP London vs Leicester Riders. It was a close fought game with the lead changing hands after almost every basket but eventually the BCP London came out on top winning their first game out of 18 111 points to 105 points.

Before the game we had the chance to go swimming in the Olympic swimming pool, or just to have a look around the massive centre. And all of us thank Mr. Davies, Mrs. Harman, Mr. Crossley, and Mr. Grant for arranging and taking us on the trip. And Mr. Davies hopes to arrange another trip in the near future.

Nick Miller 4S

Stansted V St. Mary's Rugby

This rugby game was very hard even though we had a good win. This was our best result this year.

We scored within the first minute. Daniel Holland was the first person to score for us and then followed by David Boldon who scored 2 and so did Daniel Holland.

I myself scored 3 tries to help the team. We had exactly the right amount of players so we were hoping to get no injuries. The final score was Stansted Mountfitchet 48 - St. Mary's 8.

Everybody enjoyed the game and would like to thank Mr. Crossley, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wrankmore for all the hard work they put in to our training sessions.

Darren Clark 4N

Party Night

We had several games. They were putting a spoon down your clothes and the spoon had string on it, so we were all tied together and musical chairs and when the music stopped the boys had to get a girl and sit on the chairs and the girls had to sit on their knees.

There was another game where you had to dance and when the music stopped Mr. S. Johnson said a number and we had to get in the group number he said and if you were not in your number you went back and danced.

There was a big net of balloons and at the end Mr. Johnson let them go and he had a box of sweets and he dropped them and Austin Sawn ate them all.

There was a lot of food. We had peanuts, sausage rolls, pizza, sausages, pickled onions, crisps and Mrs. Barker arranged the food.

The drinks were 10p and there was lemonade and cola.

We had a great time.

Germany Trip

We left Bishop's Stortford station at about 7.30 am and we were all very excited. We were on our way to Cologne in Germany. We travelled all day on Friday 24th October. We went by train and then boat and finally by train from Ostende to Cologne.

When we arrived at the youth hostel we had our food and went to bed as we were all tired. Next day we got up at 7.00 am, had breakfast and then went into Cologne to look around the shops and visit the museum.

On Sunday we went to the zoo and tried to pair all the English names for animals with the German ones. This was very enjoyable. We ordered all our own food and changed the money ourselves.

On Monday we went to look round Bonn and post our cards which we had written on Sunday night. When we had finished we got a train back to Cologne. We spent Monday night packing ready for our journey on Tuesday.

On Tuesday we set off at about 8.00 am ready for the long journey back home. The sea was rough but we managed to keep our food down. We arrived home at 8.00 pm after having a very enjoyable time in Germany.

Gail Roberts 5S

Cindy '86 - Some Views from the Cast

After about 18 rehearsals my feet ached, and my head was a mass of scripts and costumes. After all this work, I thought, we had better pull in the crowds - and we did.

Having seen the scenery in various stages, the final effects were great.

Backstage was a case of organised chaos. Teachers, helpers and greasepaint mingled with the general atmosphere of panic.

In the wings leading up to the start was when the nervous butterflies really emerged. All crammed in the wings, out of the audience's sight we waited for our cues.

In between scenes we chattered in whispers, we laughed at our mistakes, our covering up for lost props produced must giggles.

The audiences were fantastic, they and their enthusiasm carried us along. At the end the elated feelings of success are impossible to describe. The applause left us all grinning like idiots for hours afterwards.

Backstage the feelings of the cast affected

everyone. Tired, hot, sore and light-headed we congratulated each other on our performances. It was a fantastic experience, it made all the work worthwhile.

It was all due to the tireless work and efforts of staff and new friends too numerous to mention by name. The work involved certainly opened my eyes.

My highlights? - getting that awful wig and make-up off!

Thanks, everyone, it was certainly different!

Being a spectator next year won't be so much fun somehow!

Jane Wright 5S

Cindy '86

DANCE:- The dancing was put together by Jo Freeman, who got us all into shape.

We practised every Thursday for six weeks before the performance and when it drew nearer we stayed for extra days. Learning the routines and moves was quite hard work, but well worthwhile when we received the applause from the audience.

Melissa Benyon

THE DAY CENTRE

We thank all who helped to make the Christmas activities so enjoyable. How nice it was to have the children from The Peter Kird School come and entertain us twice during their dinner break. And Bentfield Primary School came and sang Carols to us. We thank all of you for giving your time to entertain us.

The Lions from Bishop's Stortford took many of us to see the lights in London. Two busses filled with Senior Citizens from Stortford and surrounding villages left here at 4 pm and made our way to the West End, enjoying sandwiches and cakes on the way. The streets and shop windows were beautiful. It was an outing that we can sit and think about when we are not able to go out. We do thank all concerned.

Then the Christmas dinner at the Centre: 84 people sat down to a lunch of Christmas Fare, waited on by all the kind folk who look after us all the year - also some of their husbands, who served the wine. After lunch Geoff Booker entertained at the piano with all well known songs, every one singing. Then a cup of tea and a piece of lovely Christmas cake. Mrs. Styles thanked all the helpers who had worked so hard to give us a lovely time. "Think of all the washing up".

We do appreciate all the helpers do for us that makes the Centre so successful.

K. M. Jordan

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Our Under 10's have now completed half of the first season's fixtures and are going from strength to strength.

Thanks are mainly due to the very hard work of Ken Mullings and his assistant manager Mr. Danny Stone.

We are still looking out for new players for our team and if any player is interested please contact Danny Stone on B.S. 815011.

Next season we will be on the lookout for extra playing facilities, either for league games or for training, so if any person has a nice field or similar that we can use please let Mr. Stone know.

At the moment we are using the excellent facilities at Hargrave Park, thanks to the Chairman and Committee of Stansted Football Club.

Next year our Under 11's will continue to play at Hargrave Park but we would like to find somewhere for our Under 10's.

Together with Stansted Football Club we have just held a very successful Christmas Draw which has raised £100 for our funds.

If any company or individual would like to help us in any way through sponsorship or general help, please contact us.

John Robinson
Chairman
B.S. 812755



STANSTED EVENING W.I.

By joining your local W.I. here in Stansted you immediately become part of a country-wide movement, with access to many activities and large meetings with well known speakers, if you have the time or interest to participate. Here in Stansted we are part of the 'Mountfitchet Group' of seven Institutes in this immediate locality. We meet once a year for a Group Meeting, when, with pooled resources, we can hire a large hall and pay for a really good speaker that a small Institute on its own could not afford. That is not to say of course that our monthly speakers are not just as interesting! Last year we had the most fascinating film and talk by Mr. J. Spielman on his 'Wood Sculpture' and a really amusing account of 'Life at the Criminal Bar' by Mr. H. Green, as well as a Beauty Demonstration and our own 'Potted Christmas Play' in December, to illustrate the variations in the year.

We are also part of the County Federation of Essex W.I.'s, whose headquarters are in Chelmsford. There are about 330 Institutes in Essex most of whom meet in

the evenings, though surprisingly there are 4 morning Institutes. Here in Stansted we have 2 and each August we combine our meetings during that traditional holiday month. It is good to get together and meet old and new friends. Twice a year the County hold a big Council Meeting with a speaker, when 2 representatives from each Institute attend and report back to the members. The County has several sub-committees, who arrange all manner of activities. At the centre in Chelmsford, classes for all sorts of skills are held, including - Preservation and Cookery, pastel painting, oil painting, floral art, knitting, music master-classes and many others. These are of a high standard and always popular. It is not too far to travel from here and with 2 or 3 people combining together could make a most interesting day once a week. 'The Combined Arts Committee' deals with all aspects of Drama, painting and music, so you could learn to produce a play or even write one! Each year the County devise a 'County Style Day' which they bring out to different areas in Essex, each with a different theme. This year we are 'hostessing' such a day on 23rd April in St. John's Hall, with a Japanese flavour. It will include a demonstration of Ikebana and a talk on The Life and Role of Women in Japan and Gardens and Temples of Japan. It should be a fascinating and unusual day out. All speakers and demonstrators who appear in the County Year Book of Speakers, which most Institutes use when compiling their yearly programmes, are required to audition at the W.I. Centre in front of a panel, and members who have applied to go. This does ensure that the standard of speakers remains high and worthy of their fees!

The W.I. have their own Residential College near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, where members can apply for a large variety of courses lasting a week or a weekend. The subjects can be practical such as dressmaking, patchwork, Cordon Bleu Cookery or studying art, architecture, literature or healing practices. Our Institute provides 2 Bursaries a year to enable the lucky winners to enjoy a weekend of their choice. It is however hard work, many of the lectures being obtained from nearby Oxford and you are expected to participate fully and be prepared to speak up with your views and comments in discussions! Some of these courses are open to husbands too. The College is in the throes of extensive renovation. It is an extremely attractive large country house set in its own grounds. A lot of us in Stansted have been and all have come back full of enthusiasm and eager to go again.

So you can see by joining your local W.I. you have so many opportunities to meet people, make friends in the village and further afield and also develop new skills or practice existing ones! We meet on the second Thursday in the month at 7.45 pm in St. John's Hall. We would like some new members to contribute their interests to our Group and we would hope to give them something in return. Our meetings are always publicised on the village noticeboards in the week preceding, so do come along

and join us for 1987. Our speaker for February will be from the National Trust, which we hope will have a wide appeal. Visitors are always welcome and the entrance fee is only 60p, but you can attend 12 meetings for only £5.60 a year by becoming a member.

Judy Colliver (Press Secretary)
10 Greenfields - B.S. 812470

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THE WOMEN'S OWN

Our meeting reopens on February 2nd. The meeting is held every Monday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.45 pm in the U.R.C. Hall at the rear of the U.R.C. church.

This is a friendly, Christian meeting with a speaker, singing and a nice cup of tea. Do come and join us, you will be sure of a friendly welcome.

K. M. Jordan

STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

Our 1987 programme has been prepared and the main events are listed below. We follow the January Stansted Hall party (report next month) with a jumble sale at St. John's Church Hall, Stansted, on Saturday 14 February at 2 p.m. Admission 10p. Please deliver your jumble on the day or telephone 813914 or 813579 or 812748 if you would like it to be collected.

On Wednesday 18 February at 10.30 a.m. Catherine Dean will be holding a coffee morning at 49 Recreation Ground.

Other social and fund raising events will include a car boot sale, disco, bonfire party and another charity bazaar. Of course, there are also likely to be one or two elections this year to keep us busy.

If you would like to know more about the Social Democrats and the Alliance, contact Alan Dean on 813579 or Tim Richards on 812748.

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Helpers at the club are always thinking of new and interesting things to do. It was a treat when Jackie from Saffron Walden came along with her do-it-yourself jewellery kits. Of course the girls were quick to start making either a necklace, bracelet or ear rings for themselves. As you know we don't like the boys to feel out of it so it was suggested they could make something for their mums. They tackled the task with great enthusiasm. One or two of the bigger boys found they were all fingers and thumbs with some of the smaller beads, but plenty of help was at hand. With lots of different sizes and coloured beads, there were some very pretty results.

Once again our Christmas party was great fun. We of course started with a sit down meal of, Turkey in white sauce, roast potatoes, peas and carrots, followed like any good restaurant by a selection from the sweets table: a choice of Black Forest Gateau, Peach Cheese Cake, Meringue Nests or Trifle. With Christmas music in the background and Punch to drink, everyone enjoyed their meal and nobody could eat another thing, "well, not for a little while", thought some of the children, looking at chocolates, mince pies and Christmas cake.

Des Turner, the Punch and Judy man, gave us a super show with lots of help from the audience. I think you could probably hear

the cheering and clapping as you travelled down Chapel Hill.

Party games followed and then a ripple of excitement went through the hall when somebody heard Father Christmas's bell ringing, and there he was with presents for everyone. A great time was had by young and old alike. Our thanks to Des for his show, Mrs. Johnson for helping Father Christmas to get the presents and a special thankyou to Kathy who arrived to do the washing up.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 25th February at St. Mary's School at 8 o'clock. The speaker this year is Mr. Malcolm Treacher, Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts who is especially interested in the handicapped. Mr. Treacher will be showing some slides during his talk. You are all welcome to join us, we look forward to seeing you.

Jean Stone



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

All members and associate members of the Stansted Branch of The Royal British Legion send greetings and good wishes for 1987 to all readers of 'The LINK'. Anyone who would like to know about our work and also membership, which is not confined to ex-servicemen and women, should get in touch with Mrs. Stevens at 1 Blythwood Gardens. 'Phone 813562.

Col. Dod reports that the 1986 Poppy Appeal realised the excellent total of over £1,500. He thanks all those who participated in reaching this splendid total.

Mrs. Stevens and Mr. Peter Pavitt made more than 70 visits in Farnham, Manuden, Elsenham, Stansted and Ugley to elderly ex-servicemen and women and their dependents and delivered Christmas gifts. The eldest recipient is now 99 years of age.

A Fete is being arranged for Saturday 6 June and full details will follow. Volunteers to assist in the organisation and running of the fete will be needed, so please reserve the date now.

THE NATIONAL BLOOD DONORS SESSION

Will take place at St. John's Hall, STANSTED, on THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26TH, 2 pm till 4.30 pm, and 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

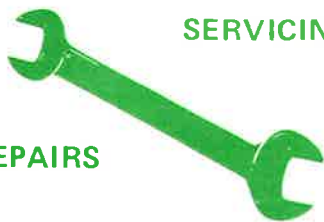
PERSONAL

Mrs. Richard Gabb is most grateful to all who contributed in memory of Dr. Richard Gabb to the Scanner Appeal Fund, Princess Alexandra Hospital. The amount subscribed is now nearly £300.

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