

1983

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

HAIR STYLIST

**Mary Abstin**



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Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

.....

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

.....

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right  
Ring in the common love of good.

.....

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Tennyson: From In Memoriam

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
WORLD CENTENARY  
1887-1987

As Stansted's effort in this year - we shall hold a Vigil of Prayer, on Friday January 23rd 1987. This is during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - and we shall pray for Peace and Reconciliation throughout the world.

St. John's Church will be open from 2 pm - 4 pm for prayer on that day - those unable to come please pray at home during this time.

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  
15th January for February issue  
12th February for March issue

## A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

FOR ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO "LINK"

PLEASE

"To read the bottom lines on Page 1, which give the dates, two months ahead, for sending in copy!"

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Peter Brown on achieving two whole years of his monthly column "OUR VILLAGE", so much enjoyed by so many, as he brings "STANSTED PAST" vividly to life.

## **Church of England**

### **Clergy:**

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

The Rev'd Tony King  
43 Gilbey Crescent.  
Tel: 814463

Deaconess Margaret Booker  
Moorlands Cottage, Burton End.  
Tel: 812684

### **Services:**

Held in St John's, St John's Road and St Mary's, Church Road.

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

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

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

## VICAR'S NOTES

So, a new poll says that most people think church worship is boring and the reason is the clergy. Ah well, it is open to those who think so to offer themselves to do better. But it may be that the real reason why people are unattracted by worship is that they do not believe in a God who is worth worshipping.

We live in the age of entertainment. Media personalities make the news. Millions may be dying of starvation - millions may be helping to relieve suffering in the world - but if one actress is ill (especially if

well known on TV) she will make the headlines. Night after night we are entertained - by television - by our hi fi - by the radio. We are passive spectators not active participants. This attitude we bring into worship. We are there to be entertained - to be amused - to be kept interested. We are there to receive - yes even from the boring clergy.

But real worship is not entertainment - it is giving God His worth and so is a response to an encounter. When we fall in love do we expect to receive all the time? Do we think that a good relationship comes from doing nothing about it? Of course not. So Christian worship flows when we are committed to discovering God and loving Him after having first encountered Him in Jesus Christ. Worship then becomes an outpouring of our love and our immense gratitude.

True worship is not created by the clergy - the words - the music - or the building. True worship is there when the worshippers themselves come to give of themselves - to be active participators. True worship is created when the worshippers know they are part of a community - a body - which is corporately offering praise and adoration to God and prayers on behalf of all men (and we'd better say women). This calls for loyalty and perseverance - coming regularly (which I believe means weekly if possible) despite the difficulties and even when we receive little from worship.

The beginning of a new year calls for new resolutions. Dare I suggest that one of these could - just possibly could - be to actively and passionately seek a real encounter with the true and living God? If we do just this then genuine worship will flow naturally - will not be boring but part of our journey into the Love which is at the heart of all things.

One final thought. Please don't think I am writing this to boost the numbers in the congregation and so give the impression of a successful church. I learned many years ago people will worship - I mean worship - when faith comes alive. This is not something that even I can manipulate. And in Christian terms a congregation of 3 could be more successful than one of 300. I just want to share the vision.

God Bless - have a joyful and truly worshipful 1987.



## THE GOSPELS

During Lent this year we are going to take a closer look at the Gospels. To help us do this we have devised the following programme:

Feb 1st Sermon by Vicar at the 9.30 am setting out aims of the programme. Books on the New Testament will be on sale and a paper giving background

information will be distributed.

- Feb 15th St John's Church - 7 pm - lecture by Canon J.L. Houlden, New Testament lecturer at King's College, London, a former member of the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England and Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College. 'The Gospels: Fact or Fiction'.
- Mar 8th Sermon at 9.30 am - 'Jesus through the eyes of the evangelists' by Rev'd Brian Beck, Secretary of the Methodist Conference and former Principal of Wesley Theological College, Cambridge.
- Mar 15th Sermon at 9.30 am - 'The Story of Jesus', by Rev'd Andrew Linzey, Chaplain of Essex University.
- Mar 22nd Sermon at 9.30 am 'The Gospels as Guidelines to Living' by Canon Wesley Carr of Chelmsford Cathedral.
- Apr 5th Sermon at 9.30 am 'The Passion Narrative of St John' by Clare Amos, Head of Biblical Studies, Wescott House, Cambridge.

Further details to be published in leaflet available free at the back of the church.



### CONFIRMATION 1987

On May 31st the Bishop of Chelmsford will be coming to Stansted for the first time for a Confirmation service to be held in St John's at 6.30 pm. We are holding a Confirmation Enquiry Evening in the Vicarage on Wednesday 7th January at 6.30 pm. Anyone interested in confirmation is invited but it would help if we had names beforehand.



With the Parish of Hockerill we have booked a retreat at Pleshey Retreat House from June 12th to the 14th. The leader of our retreat will be Sister Hilda Mary from the Community of the Sisters of the Church who

preached for us in Lent 1985. The cost will be in the region of £25 which covers all meals. For those who have never been on a retreat it is a time of relaxing, praying and listening to addresses. Those who have been on a retreat know of the immense benefit that comes from a time of being away from it all. If you wish to go please contact Marion Johnson on 812284.

### CHURCH DIARY

#### January

- 6th Epiphany of our Lord - Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 7th Confirmation Enquiry Evening 6.30 pm The Vicarage
- 13th Tiny Tots Service 2.15 pm
- 14th Education Ministry Group 8 pm 62 Chapel Hill
- 18th-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 18th Preacher at 9.30 am Rev'd Eric McIlwain. Unity Service at St. Theresa's 6.30 pm
- 25th Unity Service led by young people 6.30 pm St John's

#### February

- 3rd Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
- 5th Holy Communion at Norman Court 10 am

### PARISH REGISTERS

#### Baptisms

- 1st Dec Linda June Curtis  
12 Stoneyfield Drive  
Shirley Ann Harrington  
60 Bentfield Green
- 30th Nov Charlotte Louise Stewart  
34 Wetherfield
- 7th Dec Michael Colin Weidman  
32 Woodfields

#### Confirmation

At Waltham Abbey on 7th December

Michael John Brooks, 3 Longcroft  
Janice Patricia Cooper, 12 The Champions  
Linda Jane Curtis, 12 Stoneyfield Drive  
Doreen Ann Hannigan, 6 St John's Road  
Shirley Ann Harrington, 60 Bentfield Green  
Derek Lance Poole-Adams, 9 Meadowcroft

#### Departed

- 10th Dec Bessie Isobel Levey  
55 St John's Road Aged 87 years
- 11th Dec Roy Herbert Gaylor  
Birchanger Aged 72 years



Our Youth Group has now planned its programme for the beginning of 1987 which everyone is welcome to attend - but don't forget our Christmance Disco on December 20th featuring 1960's music! Our young people would like to thank all those who have

organised and supported our events this year. We are looking forward to an exciting New Year.

- 9th Jan - Harlow Pantomime - 7 pm to 9.30 pm  
See Tony King for tickets  
11th Jan - House Group - 7.45 pm - 43 Gilbey Crescent  
18th Jan - 'Nocturnal Treasure Hunt' -  
7.45 pm - St John's Hall  
25th Jan - "Edumenical Youth Eucharist" -  
6.30 pm - St John's  
1st Feb - House Group - 43 Gilbey Crescent -  
7.45 pm

#### MOTHERS UNION

I hope you all had a very joyful Christmas and I wish you every blessing in the New Year.

We shall meet in the Hall on Wednesday January 28th at 2.30 pm, when we will have an informal meeting with a party flavour.

#### TO ALL "LINK" READERS

From 22nd April to 5th May 45 German boys and girls, aged 15-17, are hoping to come to this area. One task is to find homes for them to stay. They all speak English and pay for their keep. If you are interested in giving hospitality and would like more details please ring The Vicarage on 812003.

### 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.

When this appears Christmas will be past and we will have leapt into 1987 - time seems to fly by taking with it our sorrows and our joys, memories good and bad. We have seen such a mild December with clear skies and bright days when birds chased across the heavens like the last scattered leaves of autumn and trees stand out so naked against the horizon.

January is the month of new resolutions and for Christians we perhaps should think of ways in which we can follow Christ more closely, giving ourselves more fully in service to Him. We have recognised His birth, the newness of His coming, we have praised him with carols and prayed to Him for strength, to Him who came so weak and humble with a cross for a future. Let us always be mindful of His suffering when we feel depressed or down, for without His grace we are nothing and without His love we have no hope for the future. May he bless us all 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.

Every other month we at the U.R.C. hold our "Church Meeting". This is the time and place for every member to say their piece. It is, for us, a Group Church Meeting, which means that Newport, Widdington and Clavering make up a large part of the meeting (on the alternate month our Group Elders, a smaller group, have their meetings).

The Church Meeting is where membership, financial and most procedural matters are decided.

The December Church Meeting took an interesting and important decision, to revive a once regular custom of the Anniversary Service.

July 1st, 1987 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Group as it is now organised, with common financial accounts and joint Group Elders and Church Meetings.

So we go forward into the New Year in the hope that all our friends in the village and its churches will join us on July 5th (Sunday) in the evening for a Special Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to commemorate our 20th year of working closely together as a group of churches.

If Christian unity (as they say of charity) begins at home we in the Group have made a good beginning.

#### SERVICES FOR JANUARY 1987

- Jan 4 11.00 am - Holy Communion -  
The Rev. Eric McIlwain  
Jan 11 11.00 am - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin  
Jan 18 11.00 am - The Rev. Eric McIlwain  
6.30 pm - St. Theresa's - SACC -  
Unity Week of Prayer  
Jan 25 11.00 am - The Rev. Lydia Rapkin  
6.30 pm - St. John's - Unity  
Service, led by young  
people  
Feb 1 11.00 am - Holy Communion -  
The Rev. Lydia Rapkin

## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

We always look forward to a visit from Mr Peter Brown as his talks are of such an interest to us.

He took us (by film) on a trip round Stansted looking at the unusual things which we pass by every day and do not notice. It made us aware of many things which should be preserved and Mr Brown knows and understands so much about our village that it is such a pleasure to listen to him.

M. C. Johnson

### **Methodist**

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

**Minister:** The Rev'd Harold Fisher  
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford.  
Tel: 54475

**Services:** Morning Service - 9.30am.

We frequently observe and sometimes complain that news coverage in the media focusses far too much on the bad and not nearly enough on the good. Certainly the amount of bad news reported is disproportionate and we could all do with more good news both in the press and in broadcasting. Yet widespread wishes do not change the balance of what is presented. We still get much more bad news. Why is this? Why are 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' so newsworthy? No doubt it has something to do with our fallen nature getting a perverse kick out of evil and tragedy. Most of us have a streak in us that will relish muckraking, gawp at accidents and find spice in the seamy. Those who select which news we see, hear and read know our weakness.

But there is more to be said about what makes the bad news newsworthy. Basically it is because the bad does not really belong to God's world. Deep down in us we know this. Evil and tragedy are abnormal, they should not be here. Our intuitions know this even if our minds don't. So we protest against the bad. It is an interloper that has no right and proper place in our lives. When tares are found to have been sown among the wheat Jesus says "An enemy hath done this". This, it seems to me, is the main reason why the bad is so catching to the public ear and eye.

The good is as it should be. There is nothing extraordinary in it. It is the normal, proper, rightful thing. So we take it as natural, and even for granted. If, in a litter of ten puppies, nine are fully fit and normal but the tenth has two heads and six legs, then it is only the tenth that makes news. Our attention is not grabbed by what is right. Similarly, when we learn of happy homes, healthy children, peaceful communities and good industrial relations we don't cry out "Oh God, it's all too much. I can't stand it!" Of course we don't, for those

things are exactly what they should be, what they were made to be.

We can, therefore, take some crumb of comfort from the predominance of bad news. What makes it newsworthy is that it has no right among us. It has alien, interloper status. And when we think about this it confirms, in an odd, upside-down way, that we were made for goodness, truth, beauty and love. It is really saying that Jesus is the one true man, the only fully human, totally normal person who has ever walked this earth. He is the complete embodiment of the good news. He is old news and new news and still the best news. He is what life is all about - a marvellous piece of good news that will at the last overcome or transform all the rest.

My love to you all.

Harold Fisher

### THE SHALOM GROUP

Monday 12 January at 7.45 pm at  
1 Blythwood House, Blythwood Gardens

Monday 26 January at 7.45 pm at  
7 Burnells Way

### **Village News**



### FUTURE EVENTS

#### January

- 8 8.00 Day Centre. B.S. Recorded Music Soc.
- 10 8.00 Stansted Hall. Conservatives New Year Dance
- 15 British Legion Womens Section - Miss J. Reay
- 19 7.30 W.E.A. Heraldry Course starts. Day Centre
- 31 8.00 Stansted Hall. Stansted Alliance parties' Midwinter Party

#### February

- 7 St John's Hall. Conservatives Jumble Sale
- 14 8.00 Mountfitchet High School P.T.A. Valentine's Dance

# URGENT!

## Help required

Telephone 812593 NOW! Find out how you can help in the production of the **The LINK**

## Good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

UTTLESFORD CAMTAD

Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

COMES TO STANSTED

If you have a hearing problem

RING — HELP

B.S.

9.00 am - 4.00 pm. LINE 816008.

### ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. Mary's Primary School held another very successful Christmas Fair, the main attraction as ever being Father Christmas! The evening fair raised over £600 with thanks to the efforts made by all helpers and those who supported the event.

Parents and friends were able to see yet another fine pantomime presented by the children. This year it took the form of 'Snow White and the Seven (?) Dwarfs'. The performance was very good by all concerned - another fine production by Mrs. Johnson and her team.

Happy New Year to all.

### Infant Sorrow by William Blake

My mother groaned! my father wept.  
Into the dangerous world I leapt:  
Helpless, naked, piping loud:  
Like a fiend hid in a cloud.

Struggling in my father's hands  
Striving against my swaddling bands  
Bound and weary I thought best  
To sulk upon my mother's breast.

### STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

We were delighted to welcome Alliance friends from Saffron Walden and Stansted to the annual dinner on 5th December. The Day Centre looked very festive, with tables decorated with candles and crackers: a very happy - if early - start to Christmas celebrations.

On 31st January 1987 the Stansted Alliance parties are holding a Midwinter Party at Stansted Hall, 8 p.m. to midnight. There will be dancing, a pantomime, games and supper. All are welcome to come and join in the fun. Tickets £5, from Christine Rowley (BS 813514).

### STANSTED WEA

" ..... and now for something completely different ....."

Our next course, starting in January, will be "Heraldry", to be given by Mrs. M. Wilkins, BA, DipEd. The ten lectures will cover the history of heraldry, why it started and how to "read" the language; from royal heraldry, family coats-of-arms to modern aspects in trade marks, logo designs and badges. There will be special coverage of the coats-of-arms in the Essex districts to show how they reflect the history of Essex, while another aspect will be a section on heraldry in churches, heraldic craft in glass, stone and brass with a visit to one or more churches.

The meetings, as usual, will be held at the Day Centre on Monday evenings, starting on January 19th. The first evening doors open at 7.30 pm to allow for enrolment, lectures at 8 pm.

New members are always welcome. If you would like further details please ring Jean McBride, B/S 812214.

### THE DAY CENTRE

Our sincere thanks to the Police Sports Association for the donation of £75.00 to Day Centre funds, the proceeds from their Annual Dance.

The Day Centre's Christmas activities will be reported in the February Link.

K. M. Jordan

### "OUR VILLAGE"

Continuing on from December, we must trace this waterway head towards Ugley, entering our parish close to Bollington Hall Drive. Known as "Ugley Brook" it then follows down the B.1383 (formerly A.11 being declassified with the construction of M.11) more in the form of a ditch but nevertheless serving a useful purpose as many fields including Pennington Lane drain into this.

It is probably fair to say that ditches were always dug for good reason yet many get "filled in" during building work then surprise is shown when water problems appear.

At the bottom of Walpole Hill or known locally as the Triangle our ditch is tunnelled under the roadway and soon also High Lane to wend its way between fields towards Gall End. Here it passes below where the old Work House stood, around 1834, this being home for 18 inmates, both male and female with an age range from 80 to 3 years. Then, a day's diet may have looked like: breakfast - soup made from bones of day before, dinner - beef with suet pudding and vegetables, tea - bread and cheese with probably a helping of strong ale, the latter not being for children.

6. As the name Gall End may suggest this area could well have supported the local gallows so we will not hang around any longer at



this time.

Taking the line of the lane our brook is soon to pass our old school, today's Youth and Adult Centre, built as a school in 1838 for the benefit of the children of Stansted Mountfitchet at the cost of Rev. Josias Torriano, M.A. Vicar of the Parish. Desks and books were shut after the last lesson in 1961 when the school closed. What memories there must be of this building, of Miss Bins recalled by Miss Davis to Mr. Hare, the last Headmaster. One day we will hopefully tell more of all these. Any pupils who entered these school gates will surely recall the floods caused by our brook - the muddy water being held up where it meets a barrel drain, guarded by an iron grill that soon blocked up with driftwood and rubbish after heavy rain. It would over-spill and flood school lane and Lower Street making houses on the lower side awash. Until around the mid to late 1800's an open ditch ran the length of the street (Lower Street) causing many problems at fording places so a barrel drain was built. Many tens of thousands of bricks must have been used for this project. Running undetected below road and some premises it finally empties into Stansted Brook at the rear of Ernest Doe's yard. The flow from this point we will tell of next.

P. J. Brown

## THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

### 200th Anniversary of the Windmill Celebrations

The Parish Council did put a plea for help in the November issue of Link but at the time of writing no-one has come forward - help is needed in all sorts of ways - for example on stalls (the more volunteers there are the less time you will be needed); to organise the Grand Draw - you will need to be able to devote some time to this and be a very organised and methodical type of person - there must be someone who would like to take it on! Please contact the Clerk, 813214, if you think you might be able to give up some time.

Talking of the Windmill - it is hoped that it will be floodlit for Christmas - at the time of writing the work is not quite complete but by the time you read this you will know whether it was achieved or not. If you are interested in having the Mill floodlit to commemorate any occasion special to you or your family contact the Clerk for details.

Local History: those of you interested in Local History look out for notices regarding an inaugural meeting of a Stansted Local History Society. It is hoped to hold this meeting early in the New Year and all will be welcome.

Finally, the Parish Council sends best wishes to you all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meeting at the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

8th January

Fantasia on Greensleeves - Vaughan Williams  
Four Seasons - Vivaldi  
Water Music Suite - Handel

Mary Scholes  
813155

## MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

November has not been an exciting month! At our first meeting we held our A.G.M. when all those who have worked for the club were acknowledged and thanked.

A new committee for 1987 was elected and our secretary, Mrs. McKee, assured the members that the programme for this next year is a good one.

The highlight of our second meeting was the advent of Harry Miller. It was so good to see him and we wish him well and look forward to his continued presence at the club.

During 1986 we have had good demonstrations and entertainment. One of the most enjoyable afternoons was when we were entertained by the Enfield Follies, and, of course, Mrs. Irwin's garden party is always a highlight! However, it is very difficult to "choose the best". All our meetings are good and the efforts which go into organising them much appreciated.

All members look forward now to 1987.



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our AGM took place at the Day Centre on Tuesday 18 November and the following are now in office:-

President	Major E W A Power
Chairman	Lieut Col R A Finn
Secretary	Mrs K Stevens
Treasurer	Mr J Summers
Poppy Organiser	Lieut Col F A Dod
Standard Bearer	Mr D L Challis

The Rev Barry Rose has kindly agreed to be our Hon Chaplain and the Committee welcomed Mr G R M Stoddart as a new Committee member. Plans are already in hand for 1987 on dates to be settled for an Open Evening, stands at the Village Carnival and at the Windmill 200th Anniversary Celebrations and possibly a summer evening barbecue. Details will follow as soon as possible.

Anyone who would like to know more about all the work being done by the Legion can obtain full information from the Secretary or from any member of the Committee.



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We had no volunteer for vice chairman at our AGM, after Mrs. Josie Bugg decided to stand down. But Mrs. Jean Fuller was later persuaded to fill the post.

On 20th November about fifty from the Women's Section and the Royal British Legion enjoyed wine, cheese, biscuits, mince pies and coffee and were entertained by a quartet of Barbers Shop singers.

The Women's Section Group Meeting at Thaxted was attended by seventy members from surrounding villages. They heard a talk on caring for Christmas plants and supported a Christmas Bring and Buy and a generous raffle.

On 15th January 1987, Miss Jean Reay will talk about her travels.

Pat Clower  
B/S 815220

## STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

### New Year Dance

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

Tickets £10 each and £5 for people under 25.

A Cheese and Wine Party was held at the Day Centre on Saturday, 29th November.

A very interesting evening meeting was held at the Football Club on Monday 17th November. The speakers were Pat Wawn, County Councillor and Harry Pugh, Chairman of Uttlesford District Council. They spoke on a wide range of subjects and also discussed their plans towards the development of Stansted Airport and the possible changing boundary of Stansted Mountfitchet Village. Also in attendance were Stuart Ayres and Peter Pennington, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of Stansted Parish Council.

On 29th October, a very enjoyable and successful Fashion Show was held in St John's Church Hall. The show was put on by Valeries (previously Oriental Wear) of Sawbridgeworth and their models showed beautiful clothes to a large audience. The committee served coffee and gateaux after the show and there was also a raffle. Valerie was presented with a lovely basket of flowers arranged by Doris Shervington.

There will be a Jumble Sale at St John's Church Hall on Saturday 7th February.

There will be a meeting at the Football Club on Monday 16th February.

For further information or any other enquiries please contact Alan Corbishley - B/S 813040 or Bridget Gott - B/S 814440.

## NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

The Christmas Dinner was a great success. The Christmas Fare dished up by The Cock at Henham was very tasty and we all went home half a stone heavier!

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

9th January at Jacky's, 30 Rainsford Road  
16th January at Liz's, Moorlands, High Lane

On Thursdays the Toddler Groups are held from 10 - 11.30 am and are at the following addresses:-

8th January at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft  
15th January at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road

Venues for coffee mornings later in January are still to be arranged, but diary sheets will be handed out as soon as possible.

On Friday 9th January we are having a Bring and Share party at Frances', 31 Elm Close, Elsenham, for mums and dads, starting at 8.30 pm. Anyone wanting to join in the fun should ring Frances for suggestions on which dish to bring, and should also take along a bottle. Book early to avoid disappointment (members only).

Are you new to the village, just had a baby, or just left work because you are expecting? If so, the Stansted and District Group would welcome you to their events (other than those which state members only). Coffee mornings cost 20p for members, 30p for non-members, 10p for children's refreshments and 20p for non-members' children.

If you would like to ask someone about the N.C.T. and their local activities, or if you'd like to go along with a member to a coffee morning rather than turning up by yourself, ring Jacky on 814424. We'd be happy to help.

Happy New Year.

Jacky Moore  
814424

## STANSTED ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET

Over 2000 people visited the Market which took place at the Adult and Youth Centre in Stansted over the weekend of 11/12 October. It was a most successful event with 27 craft stalls and more than 500 paintings being exhibited. This year our profit exceeded £1000 and this was given to representatives of local charities and good causes at the Stansted Day Centre on the evening of Thursday 4 December.

Mr G Snow, Chairman of the Arts and Crafts Market and Mr M Cowan presented the cheques to representatives of the two Stansted Trusts, the Scouts' Hut Floor Fund, the Sports Association and other similar village groups.

This was a most enjoyable gathering, but with a sad note. One of our founder members and former Chairman of the Stansted Arts and Crafts Market, Mr Martin

Dowan, has resigned from the Committee to allow himself more time to take up other activities. He will be sorely missed in very many different ways and we wish to thank him for all his support and hard work over the past years. We wish him every success in the future.

Gwen Hopkins  
Hon. Sec.  
B.S. 813714

## MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



### A CHILD'S STORY FOR EPIPHANY

#### "Follow the Beautiful Star"

James was clever, everyone knew this for a fact.  
James was also a dreamer, and everyone knew that too.  
James had decided to build a machine, a very special machine, that went back to any time you wanted to go.  
One day James took the machine to school. The teacher and the children were amazed. When James told them what it was, how they laughed at him. He switched on the button and pressed a switch. Then off they went. They all saw a flashing bright light coming out of the sky. There came a glowing white figure.  
The figure said 'Don't be afraid, I have most exciting news for you. You must follow the beautiful star and you will come to the wonderful baby Jesus'.  
They arrived to find the baby sleeping. 'How did you come this way in this strange dress?' asked the mother of Jesus. James told her they came from afar and from the future.  
They talked together and they decided to give the time machine to baby Jesus. Then, said James, Jesus may come and see us, into our hearts and minds.  
In our time, how pleased was the teacher to hear this. What a good idea. He told all of the children.  
James woke up surprised. 'Have I been dreaming?' he asked. Yes, of course he had. But he would always remember his special dream of following the beautiful star.

Kenneth Jones, aged 9



6th January  
SUNG EUCHARIST

8pm  
St John's

Mountfitchet High School PTA

## VALENTINES DANCE

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SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

Tickets £4  
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8 - Midnight in the school hall  
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### SILENCE MEANS SIGHT

The President of the Stansted and Stort Valley Rotary Club came to the school on Friday 12th December to accept a cheque for £300 raised by pupils in the second year.

The Rotary have pledged to match this amount and donate the money to the National Rotary Club appeal for Eye Camps in India. This appeal aims to restore the sight of blind people by means of cataract operations.

The money the second years raised was the result of a lot of effort both in school and outside.

Forms ran lots of fund raising activities including cake stalls, mini fairs and many sponsored events.

The most money any individual raised was over £60. This was raised by Gavin Hockley in 2H through a sponsored basketball shoot.

Jeanette Taylor and Stephanie Calvert raised over £37 by seeing how many times they could write their names in 5 minutes. Would you believe 92 times!

Liz Reed and Samantha Blake raised over £54 with a sponsored 24 hour silence. But they did use sellotape when the going got rough!

Carolyn Cracknell and Debbie Sawkins raised over £10 with a sponsored gym display.

All in all a very impressive effort by all concerned.

### 4th Year Interform Rugby Match

During the lunch hour of Wednesday 19th, forms 4S and 4J played against 4H and 4N in a 9-a-side rugby match. The conditions were wet and slippery and hard to adapt to. The game lasted 20 minutes straight through. The first try was scored by David Bolden. Then the conversion was kicked by Nicholas Gransden.

4N and 4H came back soon afterwards, Mark Mignonelli scored but then failed to kick the conversion.

The last try was scored by Robert Haynes and the conversion by Adrian Law.

The final score was 12-4 to 4S and 4J. Both sides played very well and all the players seemed to enjoy the game.

Robert Haynes 4S

## 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

### I'll See You in Court!!

A party from the Mountfitchet High School went to Chelmsford Court last Thursday. Approximately 20 pupils went accompanied by Mr and Mrs Wrangmore. They saw cases on drug abuse and fraud. This was to aid a course being taken on law and order.

They left the school at 9.15 am and returned at 3.20 pm.

It proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable day.

Justin Bass 5H

### PTA Trip to France

On 29th October, 35 people went to France for the day.

At 9.30 am French time they left by ferry. In France Mr Jupe and Mrs Thatcher, who was in charge on the trip from our school, went to the hypermarket to get their Christmas shopping. They then moved to Boulougne and enjoyed themselves in a restaurant.

Mrs Thatcher, a French teacher, said "I had a very lovely time and would like to go again on a PTA trip".

Emma Stevens 3S

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### Careers Convention

On Monday 10th November a Careers Convention was held at the St. Mary's Convent School. There were two sections 4-6 pm and 7-9 pm. There were stalls with people to talk to about various careers. There were also colleges such as Harlow, Ware, Braintree, Reading and Cambridge.

Lots of third years went from this school. They started to get more ideas about the future and what sort of career they can work towards.

Obviously their plans for the future will influence their option plans for the near future.


### Quiz Evening

20 teams of adults from surrounding villages took part, including teams from Stansted, Manuden, Lt. Hallingbury, Henham, Hatfield Broad Oak, Great Dunmow and five teams from Takeley. The teams answered ten rounds of questions on General Knowledge, Sport, Music, Hits of the late 60's 70's 80's, Current Affairs, Blockbusters and Famous Faces.

Winning team was St. Mary's Primary School Parent Teacher Association of Hatfield Broad Oak who were presented with a shield.

Over £500 was raised by the event for the funds of the Mountfitchet High P.T.A. Additionally another £100 was raised in a collection for the Children in Need Appeal.

Angela Collis



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### Sponsored Skate

On Friday 28th November pupils from all years took part in a sponsored rollerskate. It was held to raise money for the eye camps in India. The pupils were asked to bring in their own rollerskates. And they rollerskated around our playground all lunchtime. It was good fun but we were all thinking about the people in India more.

Anna Neish and Jakki Edwards both deserve a lot of credit for organising the event.

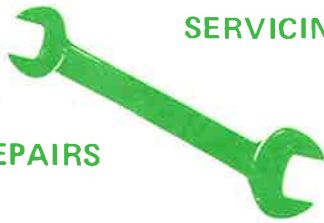
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