

Mar 37

The *LINK*



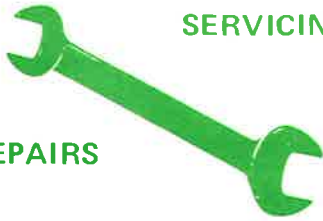
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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(Interdenominational)



FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1987

2.00 p.m. St. John's Church

Theme: COME AND REJOICE!

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 March for April issue
16th April for May issue

SACC

LENT '87

As in Lent '86 we hope to have ecumenical house groups meeting each day of the week (Mon-Fri) and Ecumenical Services on Sundays, 6.30, as listed below. You will be asked to fill in a form indicating which weekday night suits you best. Perhaps you might wish to 'host' one of the groups. Groups begin Monday, March 9th. The general theme to be introduced each Sunday evening for the following week is "Our Tradition and Experience of Prayer".

BELGIAN VISITORS

We have heard from Chevetogne that our Belgian friends would like to come to Stansted over the weekend of May 31st. We have replied 'come on over!' but have yet to hear how many. By the next issue of Link we should know more details but this will certainly be a highlight of our year.

EXCHANGE OF PULPITS

A suggested exchange of pulpits has begun and by the spring all the clergy should have preached in at least one of the other church's services.

At its recent Executive Meeting, S.A.C.C. expressed its great sorrow in the death of Mr. Joe Burton who has been our faithful friend and LINK Treasurer for many years.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- March 8th - at U.R.C.
- March 15th - at St. Theresa's
- March 22nd - at St. John's Church,
led by the Methodists
- March 29th - at Quaker Meeting House

(All above services at 6.30 p.m.)

- April 5th 7.30 p.m. - The Agape
supper in the
U.R.C. Lecture Hall

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.

Forgiving and Forgetting by Robert Llewelyn
(an extract from A Doorway to Silence)

'I can forgive but I can never forget' No doubt the worth of the saying depends on the tone of the voice. But theologically speaking it is unexceptional. We do not have to forget. For Christians the greatest influence in the world's history was the crucifixion of its Lord. Far from forgetting the suffering and death of Jesus we enshrine it in the heart of the liturgy. And every time we say the creed we recall his death. But there is a type of forgetting which we are to exercise as Christians. We are right to forgive the crucifixion of Jesus in the sense that we do not remember the offence against those who were responsible. And this type of forgetting is what we mean by forgiveness.

It is a type of forgetting which softens the heart of the offender leading to the repentance which allows forgiveness to be consummated. One should not expect to be forgiven because one has changed for the better; neither should one make such a change a condition for forgiving other people; it is only because one is forgiven, one is loved, that one can begin to change, not the other way round. And this we should never forget; though we always do.

While God does not and man dare not, demand repentance as a condition for bestowing pardon, repentance remains an essential condition for receiving it.

THE MISSION

In the assembly hall we were told to prepare ourselves for the mission of 1987. A great murmur of confused voices vibrated around the room. 'The mission' we were told, is when five priests from the Redemptorist orders all over England will come to our school for five days. They would invade us with their strong faith, their devout love for others and to help us find our mission in life. We were to experience a great uplift in our spirits, even those who class religion as unfashionable and not trendy!

During the week more and more people realised what faith and prayer can really do. Some of the girls and boys in my year (5th year) were deeply moved and experienced a good side of having a faith. This faith was free and voluntary - not something they were pushed

URGENT!

Help required

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

into.

At 12.10 - 12.30 there was a voluntary mass. If you felt that you wanted to contribute then you were very welcome. The priest didn't appear to everyone as the alien Sunday priest - but as normal humans with great spirituality. They all had their differences - there was Fr John, the leader of the group, he was quiet and then there was Fr Ian, he was Scottish, very loud and led the musicians extremely well. Fr Gaby, he was the eldest, people often avoided him because he looked old and serious, but really he is lovely and took people for who they are not what they look like! Then Fr Ralph, he was also quiet but soon revealed himself. Last but not least there was Fr Joe, he was shy and fairly nervous.

The five visited every class every day. Each has their own penitential service - they were very moving. Our one, made quite a few people cry.

On the last day there was a big mass. These were also very moving but full of high spirits. It was sad when the priests went but it was a great success.

We all miss them being around as they helped everyone to find their mission and experienced a fellowship which is unique!

Rebecca King (16)

A Poem written by one of the pupils after the Mission held recently at St Mary's Catholic School.

THE PASSION OF INCENCE

Incense, atmosphere
Drifts to the soul
of delight ...
Drunk with words of depth,
Words of conviction.
Pensive fire, they stand bare
About His candlelit table -
Crude but wooden, not flesh.
Full of passion
Softly waiting;
gently listening, arms outstretched
wide in mental apprehension.
Welcome hugs of spirit
as soul touches soul
and breathes a dove-breath of liberty.
Absolution comes clean.
Absolute forgiveness, absolute love,
and discovery of tears
(newfound in forgiveness
of self).

BIBLE SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

The ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING in aid of Bible Society Funds will be on WEDNESDAY APRIL 8TH, 10.30 - 12 noon at 58 CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED.

Admission will be 50p (including coffee).

There will also be a bring and buy stall.



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.

CHEVETOGNE RETURN VISIT

We have heard from our friends in the Parish of Chevetogne, Belgium, that they would like to come to Stansted over the weekend of May 31st. The S.A.C.C. member churches have agreed to this and we have written back to say "come ahead". Thus far we do not know how many will come, although they have been told that we could accommodate a good few. We assume that they would come in cars and take the 60-hour ferry special return. They would then arrive on Friday evening and leave early Sunday afternoon.

The hospitality we received in Belgium was "four star" and I am sure we can do the same.

So, if you can afford hospitality please let one or other of the clergy know, or Angela Gough, S.A.C.C. Secretary. Knowledge of French is not essential since we found that many in Chevetogne had quite good English.

As this is the March issue of LINK it's not too early to circle the weekend on your calendar and we'll have more detail in the April LINK.

See you at the Lenten evening services? They start on March 8th, 6.30, and the first service is at the U.R.C.

Eric McIlwain

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Mar 1	11 am	- the Rev Eric McIlwain - Holy Communion
8	11 am	- the Rev Lydia Rapkin - Family Service LENT I
15	11 am	- the Rev Eric McIlwain LENT II
22	11 am	- the Rev Lydia Rapkin LENT III
29	11 am	- the Rev Lydia Rapkin LENT IV

LENT HOUSE GROUPS BEGIN March 9th -
"TRADITIONS IN PRAYER" (Silence, Prayer
Book, MISSAL, Bible and Hymns)

SUNDAY EVENING LENT SERVICES - these will
be outlined elsewhere in the LINK, but
the U.R.C. will be host to the first on
Sunday March 8th at 6.30. The final AGAPE
service will be in our Lecture Hall at
7.30 on Sunday April 5th.

(See S.A.C.C. news for details of Lent
Groups and Services).

REPORT FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GUILD

"The journey of a lifetime" should have been
the title of the talk given by Michelle
Trundle - with slides - at our second session
of our Guild. She went with other students
from the convent on a wonderful journey which
took them through Belgium, Holland, Germany,
Sweden, Finland and Russia. We saw slides of
the journey and many lovely views of
Leningrad and Moscow. It was nice to get
first hand information of both people and
places and to know they they were able to go
about quite freely.

Michelle spoke highly of the people and the
trip and she must have put in many hours of
preparation to be able to give us such a
well informed and interesting talk.

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 are once more coming to Lent when, amongst
other things, we will be meditating on our
Lord's Temptations (or Testing) in the
Wilderness. We usually focus mainly on the
longer accounts in Matthew or Luke. I suggest
we give some thought to Mark's much shorter
account. He is a master of brevity and
compactness and says much in a little. We
read, immediately after the Baptism of Jesus
"At once the Spirit sent him out into the
desert, and he was in the desert forty days,
being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild
animals, and angels attended him".

He was brought to this Testing by the Spirit,
God's Holy Spirit. So it was vital to the
divine purpose. Testing would accomplish and
manifest what nothing else would. This of
course is true for all of us, but there was a
unique purpose in the Testing of Jesus. There
is a comparison here, which Mark does not
mention but which was surely in his mind.
Adam was tested in the bliss of paradise and
failed, thus bringing, we are told, a
fundamental and continuing disharmony into
both the human race and creation. He had been
given lordship over all other creatures to
order them in peace, harmony and well-being.
His rebellion against God ended all that and
brought tragic disharmony in this world,
ending paradise.

The prophet Isaiah (Chapter 11) proclaims
that God's Messiah will restore harmony to
creation. "The wolf will live with the
lamb, the leopard will lie down with the
goat They will neither harm nor
destroy in all my holy mountain". We find
this happening with Jesus himself in the
Wilderness. He completely resists evil and
triumphs fully in the will and way of God
through the presence and power of the
Spirit. So he was "with the wild animals"
without any harm and in full peace and
harmony. And his perfect relationships
extend beyond this earth for, we read
"angels ministered unto him". Beings
without taint of evil accept Christ's
Lordship.

Adam, even with all the bliss of paradise,
falls in his testing. Adam is Man,
representative man, you and me. Even with
the best of things we can get things wrong
and make them wrong. Jesus, even in the
rigours of the Wilderness follows God's
will and way totally and in his relation-
ships with both wild beasts and angels
Paradise begins to be restored. Jesus is
a New Adam, the beginning of a New
Humanity, the sign and embodiment of the
Kingdom of God. In him all the nitty-
gritty of life is made new. As we read of
him travelling through Galilee and going
up to Jerusalem, teaching, forgiving,
healing, encouraging and reconciling, we
are seeing and hearing the way of the
Kingdom. As we see him conversing with
many kinds of people and dealing with all
sorts of situations, we are witnessing the
Kingdom in action. Here is what the New
Humanity, the New Adam in whom God truly
reigns, is really like and how it lives.
And "if any person is in Christ he is a
new creation". God help us to go further
in that new creation this Lent.

My love and best wishes to you all.

Harold Fisher

SHALOM GROUP

All meetings at 7.45 pm

9th March 7 Burnells Way
23rd March 23 Burnells Way
6th April 1 Blythwood House, Blythwood
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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) (1st and 3rd Sundays)	-	11.30am
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

Our Lent programme has been published and if you have not received a copy please take one from the back of the church. As in previous years we have visiting preachers, house groups, unity services, house communions and special services. The idea is to give us all an opportunity to grow as people and as Christians. Our Lent programme provides us with enough messages and religion so this month I would like to draw your attention to one or two other matters.

On Saturday June 13th Margaret Booker is to be ordained deacon at 11 am in Dedham church. Up to now deaconesses have not been ordained as clergy and officially they are still laity. This whole matter has been debated in the Church at all levels and eventually General Synod decided that deaconesses should, if they wished, become deacons - but not priests. This decision was ratified by Parliament.

In this diocese the deaconesses from our three episcopal areas are all being ordained on the same day but at three centres.

Then on June 21st Fr Tony will be ordained priest in Chelmsford Cathedral. So it will be a week of ordinations!

On March 30th we have our Parochial Annual Meeting. Last year the attendance was

disappointing despite the fact we invited by letter all those on the electoral roll. I hope you will make every effort to be present. At this meeting we elect churchwardens and church council members and this year we elect four deanery synod representatives. This is a very important meeting because those elected do have power. You also have the chance to raise any matter and take stock of parish life. Our reports will be submitted in writing and available on Sunday 29th March.

When I was ordained there were 17,000 clergy in the Church of England. Now there are 10,000. We are all aware that many parishes no longer have their resident parish priest. We all need therefore to realise that things cannot go on in the same way for ever and ever: there are not the resources. With our being joined to Farnham we have therefore to make some adjustments to our Holy Week Services. On Palm Sunday we will begin at 9.20 am in the hall for the procession. Hopefully we will arrive in church by 9.30 am and so if any arrive late they can go straight into church and be with those who do not join in the procession.

On Easter Day we have dropped the 7 am Holy Communion (BCP) in St John's and the 11.15 am Holy Communion in St. Mary's. We have put a said Communion in St John's at 11.30 am (BCP) but communion may have to be given from the reserved sacrament with myself being at Farnham. We publish Holy Week Services elsewhere in this magazine and you will see that we have two services in both our churches - one said and one sung. Also in both churches we have a Prayer Book and as ASB service. If there are some who want a 11 am Communion (Rite B) with hymns then that service will take place at Farnham.

It was a great sadness to us when Joe Burton died so suddenly. He had been ill for some time but we did not expect his death so soon. Joe served Our Lord and His Church well. A man of finance he put his talents to good use and we are all grateful for his example and work. He was also committed to Christian Unity. We pray he may rest in peace and we remember Margaret in our prayers.

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Feb 1st Christopher Daniel Fordham
41 Woodfields

DEPARTED

Jan 23rd	Cyril Watts 29A Lower Street	87 years
Jan 29th	Alfred Joseph Burton 5A Blythwood Gardens	75 years
Jan 31st	Dorothy Cocks Redbourne Lodge, Dunmow	82 years
Feb 12th	Victor Ferrier 10 Manor Road	82 years
Feb 12th	James Osbourn 37 Bentfield Gardens	79 years
Feb 13th	Gordon Cramphorn Rands, Burton End	60 years

MONTH'S GOOD CAUSE

Last year the following amounts were given by the congregation. In addition the Church Council gave £40 a month. This year we are giving £50 a month to the good cause plus what is given by the congregation.

Jan	Help the Aged	15.02
Feb	Corrymeela Link	34.26
Mar	Shelter	39.50
Apr	Church Army	23.85
May	Marie Curie Nurses	36.25
Jun	Columbia Disaster	36.04
Jul	Headway	39.34
Aug	USPG	7.50
Sep	Cameroon Disaster	17.55
Oct	Cancer Research	22.95
Nov	Additional Curates Society	12.10
Dec	Helen House Hospice	48.40

In addition the following was given to causes outside the parish:

Christian Aid £158 (not including Christian Aid Week): USPG £167: Church of England Childrens' Society £190: Bible Society £21: Bishop's Ordination Fund £52: Thora Hird Fund for Homeless Children £144.

Total given last year then was £1,544.

ST JOHN'S APPEAL

We are making plans for Phase 4 of the work on St. John's Church. This will include removing and repairing the west window, reroofing and repairing the north porch, relaying the floors near west and south walls, internal brickwork repairs. The cost is likely to be in the region of £30,000 plus fees. We have some money to put towards it and we are hoping that English Heritage will give a grant but there will still be a shortfall so we hope that over the year some more money will come in.

In a recent report on the church the architect wrote that he thought the south porch of St. John's was one of the finest in the county. Just lift your eyes next time you go in.



PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8pm

Church Hall

ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL?

Forms available from:

Mrs P Clower, 12 Clarence Road



Many thanks to those who helped and attended our Ecumenical Service. It was a lively evening with excellent music and drama.

Please contact me immediately if you are interested in our Youth Holiday (Aug 16th - 22nd).

Our programme for March is as follows - all are welcome!

March 1st - 'Things are never what they seem' - 7.45 St John's

March 8th - 'Hidden Talent Evening' - 7.45

March 15th - Trip to Saffron Walden Sports Centre - Dept 2.30

March 22nd - Social Evening - 43 Gilbey Crescent

M O T H E R I N G S U N D A Y

29 MARCH

PARISH COMMUNION - 9.30am

(Distribution of Flowers)

Stall with suitable items for children to buy - 22 and 29 March



MOTHERS' UNION

No meeting this month - but a Deanery Service at Henham on Wednesday March 25th at 3 pm. Please let me know if you wish to go and need transport.

CHURCH DIARY

March

- 2nd PCC Meeting 8 pm
- 3rd Holy Communion at Mead Court 10 am
Pate and Punch Evening in St John's Hall
- 4th Ash Wednesday School Communion 9.15 am
Holy Communion 10 am Sung Eucharist 8 pm
- 5th Holy Communion at Normans Court 10 am
- 8th Lent 1. Preacher at 9.30 am
Rev'd Brian Beck
Unity Service in URC 6.30 pm
- 9th Servers Gathering 7 pm in St John's

- 10th Tiny Tots 2.15 pm
Tuesday Club 2 pm The Vicarage
House Communion at 3 Wetherfield
7.30 pm
- 15th Lent 2. Preacher at 9.30 am
Rev'd Andrew Linzey
Unity Service in St Theresa's 6.30 pm
- 17th Prayer Support Group 8.15 pm
22 Bentfield Causeway
House Communion at same address 7.30pm
- 22nd Lent 3. Preacher at 9.30 am
Canon Wesley Carr
Unity Service in St John's 6.30 pm
- 24th Tiny Tots 2.15 pm
House Communion at 43 Stoney Common
- 25th Annunciation to the B.V.M. Holy
Communion 10 am and 7.30 pm
- 28th Confirmation Group Worship Day
- 29th Lent 4. Mothering Sunday. Flowers
at Parish Communion
Unity Service at Quaker Meeting Hall
6.30 pm
- 30th Parochial Annual General Meeting 8 pm
Church Hall
- 31st House Communion at 43 Gilbey Crescent
7.30 pm

April

- 1st Norman Court Holy Communion 10 am
- 5th Lent 5. Passion Sunday. Preacher at
9.30 am Clare Amos
Agape Meal in URC Lecture Hall 7.30 pm
- 7th Holy Communion Mead Court 10 am
- 12th-19th HOLY WEEK. See separate panel



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	Holy Communion 8am Blessing of Palms, Procession and Parish Communion 9.20am	
Monday and Tuesday	Holy Communion 7.30pm Stations of the Cross 8pm	
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Stations of the Cross 8pm	
Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist 8pm Chain of Prayer 9pm to midnight	
Good Friday	Holy Hour 12 noon, conducted by the the Vicar Children's service 2pm Stations of the Cross St Theresa's 7.15pm, followed by procession to St John's. Unity service in St John's 8pm (approx).	
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil service of Light 8pm	
Easter Day	Holy Communion 8am	St Mary's
	Parish Communion 9.30am	St John's
	Holy Communion 11.30am	St John's
	Baptisms 4pm	St Mary's
	Sung Evensong 6.30pm	St Mary's

SPECIAL NOTICE!

P A L M S U N D A Y

+

ST JOHN PASSION

by

HANDEL

+

Sung by the Choir

+

St John's Church at 6.30pm

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk:

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

Meeting for worship: 11am.

Few of us have been unaware of the concern felt for old people living alone during the very cold weather in January. Perhaps you saw the little advertisement in the national press? "Old people dying of cold? Not in an Abbeyfield house". Other problems than keeping warm can be solved, not the least of them, loneliness.

The Abbeyfield Society is a national federation of voluntary local societies, each with the status of a charity, which set up and manage family-sized houses to provide accommodation for elderly people who, although reasonably fit for their years, are no longer willing or able to live alone.

A small staff at the national headquarters in Potters Bar co-ordinate and advise and keep in touch with all societies.

Apart from the housekeepers (perhaps an inadequate title, but no better one has been found) and part-timers for domestic help and garden maintenance, everyone in the extended Abbeyfield Family is a volunteer. So, there must be about 20,000 people in this family as well as friends and well wishers. Many skills are used, from those of the financial and legal experts, to the near utopian skills of the house committee chairman (women) who organise their little bands of helpers to support both the housekeeper and the residents.

Privacy is maintained in the houses by everyone having their own bed-sit, with facilities for providing their own

breakfast, hot drinks and so on. Of course, too, bringing their own furniture and treasures.

Sometimes when the great task of setting up, furnishing, wrestling with grants, Building Societies, Planners and the like, is complete, it is tempting to sit down and relax again. But, Abbeyfield like any other human organisation, must face change and plan for growth. Such a development is the need for further care of an individual, when as sometimes happens increasing age makes the old supportive pattern insufficient.

1987 will see further ideas and initiatives come to fruition. It is also the year of the 1000th house. The story began when a group with an idea met in Abbeyfield Road and planned the first house opened in Bermondsey in 1956.

The Abbeyfield house in Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford, began in a similar way. Edith Helliwell, who was a member of Stansted Meeting, held the early planning meetings in her home; though it had no especial connection with Friends.

Belonging to the Abbeyfield Family is a lot of fun. There is a newsletter, covering all the houses, which links them up. Contributions come in, perhaps poems or fascinating memories of very long lives are related. Abbeyfield has spread to other countries, Irish Republic, Canada and Australia and lately to Holland.

Today there is much talk of community care. Sadly the reality can be a bit of pie in the sky, but Abbeyfield is one tiny bit to help. It certainly does not have all the answers; many people will see the work as merely a drop in the ocean.

But what is an ocean made of if not little drops??

Mary Rice

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.

Village News



AND

FUTURE
EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- | | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| 5 | 8.00 | Day Centre. 1st Meeting Stansted Local History Soc. (see notice) |
| 6 | 2.00 | St John's Church Women's World Day of Prayer Service |
| 7-8 | | Crafton Green Amenity Skip available |
| 13 | 8.00 | Conservative A.G.M. Day Centre |
| 18 | 10.30 | 55 Chapel Hill Royal British Legion Womens Section Coffee a.m. |
| 19 | 8.00 | Peter Kirk School Annual Parish Meeting |
| 20 | 8.00 | Day Centre "Stansted in the 1830s - a divided village" Mr P Sanders (Stansted Millers A.G.M.) |
| 22 | 10.00 | Re-opening ceremony of Fountain |

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The night we went to Harlow Playhouse to see Aladdin we could not have had worse weather, with thick freezing fog. We all had a slow journey there, but it was worth it!!! We had a smashing time. Thank you to the United Reformed Church Congregation for the big bag of sweets some of which the children ate while watching the pantomime.

In true tradition there was lots of Booin and Cheering, most people having a favourite character. Kieran was always pleased when the two policemen came on stage to Laurel and Hardy music, which he recognised because he loves watching Laurel and Hardy. The same policeman were also in the slapstick scene, with lots of water and shaving foam everywhere.

Richard sitting next to me must have been exhausted by the end of the evening, he was so excited he was wriggling about and bouncing up and down: he just could not keep still. The dancers were scantily dressed - James said he thought they were disgusting, but was perched on the edge of his seat so he would not miss anything. Everyone enjoyed themselves as we found the next week when they were all chatting about their favourite parts of the panto.

Thankyou to Terry and his customers at The Three Colts for the Twenty Eight Pounds, which was collected in a bottle on the bar.

Jean Stone

BISHOP'S STORTFORD RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Next meetings in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.
on Thursday March 12th and March 26th.

March 12th

Weiner - Divertimento No. 2 for Strings
Op. 20
Dohnanyi - Serenade in C Op. 10
Glazunov - Romantic Intermezzo in D Op. 69
Glazunov - Serenade No. 1 in A Op. 7
Foerster - Symphony No. 4 in C Minot
"Easter" Op. 54

March 26th

Dvorak - String Quartet in E flat Op. 51
Elgar - Miniatures
Bach - Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G
Beethoven - String Trio in D Op. 8
(Trio serenade)

Mary Scholes
813155

MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

During January, as everyone knows, we had some very bad weather! The temperature dropped well "below", so our first meeting was a very "ordinary" one.

However, at our second meeting we made up for it, when we had a splendid speaker in P.C. Alcock. He gave us a lively and interesting talk on life as a policeman. Also he warned us about the various "cons" played on elderly folk.

P.C. Alcock described the type of "con" practised on us. He told us about the one where the school children knocked at the door and asked for a glass of water. Whilst the glass of water was being fetched, one of the callers would slip inside and take away any jewellery, money, etc. which are easily put into a pocket. It is a warning such as this for which the elderly folk are so grateful.

At our first meeting in February we were shown slides and given a talk on Crete. Mr. Tabor reminded us that Crete is a very historical and scenic island. However, the slides and talk ranged from historical times to the present day. Also Mr. Tabor described, as well as showed us, the scenery. There were slides of the fishing villages, with their fishing fleets as well as slides of the hilly interior. We were told how pleasant the Cretans are and what lovely food there is to eat. Altogether it was a delightful afternoon enjoyed by us all!

May we have many more!!

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

In March the get-togethers for expectant mums and under ones on Fridays 10.30 am - 12 noon are at the following addresses:-

6th March at Jacky's, 30 Rainsford Road
13th March at Viv's, 2 Croasdaile Close
20th March at Liz's, "Moorlands", High Lane
27th March at Fran's, 22 Longcroft

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

5th March at Cathy's, 43 Stoney Common
12th March at Jenny's, 26 Longcroft
19th March at Nikki's, 28 Rainsford Road
26th March at Frances', 31 Elm Close,
Elsenham

We are holding a "Nearly New Sale" of children's clothes, toys and equipment on Wednesday, 18th March between 2 - 4 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall. There will be a small charge of 20p entrance per mum but there are bound to be plenty of bargains so make sure you come along. I'll put up some posters nearer the time to remind you. Everyone will be welcome.

Jacky Moore 814424

STANSTED MILLERS A.G.M.

Friday 20 March 8.0 p.m.
Day Centre

Talk:- 'Stansted in the 1830's -
a divided village'
Mr. P. Sanders

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex CM24 8AG

Clerk: Mrs. Janet Buttery
In Attendance Monday to Friday 10.00 to 12.00

Phone: Bishop's Stortford 813214

FOUNTAIN - the Fountain is now back restored to its former glory. Many thanks to all who supported the public appeal, especially the Morton family who so generously made up the balance. An "opening" ceremony is planned for Sunday, 22nd March at 12 noon when Mrs. I. Sanders will unveil a commemorative plaque. Everyone is welcome to attend.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - make a diary note to keep the evening of Thursday 19th March free since this is the date scheduled for the Annual Parish Meeting - 8.00 p.m. in the Peter Kirk School Canteen.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDMILL - another set of dates to put in your diaries -
Saturday 29th August, Windmill Celebration
Barn Dance at the Mountfitchet High School.
Monday 31st August, Grand Windmill Fayre to be opened by Lord Blyth - watch noticeboards for details of all anniversary events.

CIVIC AMENITY SKIP will be in Crafton Green on:

Sat-Sun	7th - 8th March
Mon - Thurs	27th - 1st May
Sat - Sun	13th - 14th June
Sat - Sun	5th - 6th September
Mon - Thurs	19th - 23rd October
Sat - Sun	5th - 6th December



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Our January meeting was cancelled owing to bad weather. In February we enjoyed an excellent cookery demonstration; and in March, Thursday 19th, we shall be welcoming Brian Wood for a Nature talk with slides when we look forward to seeing members of the Royal British Legion.

Our Group Meeting will be at Berden on Wednesday, 11th March - coach leaves Stansted at 6.50 p.m.

On Wednesday 18th March we are holding a coffee morning at Mrs. Gabb's, 55 Chapel Hill 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon - please come along.

Pat Clower

STANSTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

Once again the Alliance New Year Party proved a great social and financial success. On 31 January about 100 people gathered at Stansted Hall. A few non-residents of the village confessed that they had come partly to see inside that splendid home. They had the bonus of food, wine, dancing and entertainment: satire from those talented people the Liberals and music from a splendid Barbershop quartet. If you missed the fun this year, take note: 1988's party will (as always) be advertised in The Link!

The party's organisers picked themselves up and went on to arrange a public meeting about the Crest Homes' planning application on 2 February. And by the time you read this, there will have been a Jumble Sale* and a coffee morning If you would like to be involved in some of this activity, or would like to know more about the Social Democrats or the Alliance, contact Alan Dean on 813579 or Tim Richards on 812748.

*STOP PRESS: Jumble Sale raised £160.

STANSTED AFTERNOON W.I.

The meeting was the first of the new year. The President, Mrs. Stiles, opened by paying tribute to the late Mrs. Levy who had been a committed and loyal member from 1935 until her death in December.

After completion of business the speaker, Mr. D.H. Coleman, was introduced. The company were enthralled as he unfolded his career as a craftsman in wood, telling of his beginnings as an apprentice through to his prestigious business of making furniture for export. He managed to amuse with his anecdotes and amaze with his craftsmanship.

6 members received birthday posies.

The competition was won by Mrs. Mary Walker and the raffle by Mrs. Bowman. Ann Calver
812471

"OUR VILLAGE"

With lasting thoughts of January's bitterly cold weather our village was on 12th January recorded as being the coldest place in the country with a day temperature of -8° or 18° f, but compared to other parts of East Anglia our suffering from snowfall was slight.

It was due to these extreme conditions that the "Special" Electric Train was cancelled. This was to have been a grand opening by British Rail of their new electric service from Cambridge to London. The event was scheduled for Saturday 17th January with many invited guests aboard to show off the new system. However the first passenger service started on Monday the 19th. This multi-million pound project is expected to give a faster better service although some teething problems are said to be unavoidable. It must be left to regular travellers to "Express" their views. At this time of writing the sight of these new units has yet eluded me. It may be of interest that in the very early 1900's the then Great Eastern Railways were giving thought to electrify suburban lines as a solution to congested traffic problems.

Now right up to date in early February the British Railways Stansted Bill was given an unopposed third reading in the Commons. It now needs to be approved by the Lords then the way should be clear for work to begin on the Rail Link to the Airport. It is amazing at what height and by whom our future village transport plans are discussed. Who of them would remember the Station Book Stall of W.H. Smith & Sons that stood just beyond an iron footbridge that provided shelter for delivery bicycles? Both stall and bridge being destroyed during station alterations in 1985. Although these premises had not been used for several years, it once offered a reading service for passengers. Opened in 1931 replacing an earlier arrangement that stood to the right hand side of the main station entrance. The new building was of timber construction and had the advantage of an entrance on to station yard in addition to the platform side door that was between two display areas: near side for papers, magazines, etc. far side for books.

During 1936 it was repaired and repainted at a cost of £15. Mr. Wright probably being in office around this time. Later Mr. and Mrs. Prike were to become managers with Mrs. Prike holding the fort during the war years. Inside there was a small partitioned office; heating consisted of a tortoise stove. All in all there was not too much room but when shutters were up business would be in progress. A library service was also found here, 365 days reading for 12/6d (62½p). Books could be changed as often as you liked at any branch of W.H. Smith. How many recall doing their paper round from these premises?

Mrs. E. Turner is well remembered giving around 20 years dedicated service, delivering daily newspapers in all weathers to the Henham District, her only assistant being a bicycle with fully laden panniers strapped aside the rear wheel. Mr. J. Walker

and Mrs. Bush also gave long service. Further memories or a photograph of this Book Stall would be most welcome.

P. J. Brown

DAY CENTRE

MARCH EVENTS

Tuesday	March 3rd	Bingo 2.00 pm
Thursday	" 5th	Keep Fit
Tuesday	" 10th	Beetle Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Thursday	" 12th	Keep Fit
Friday	" 13th	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p
Tuesday	" 17th	Bingo 2.00 pm
Thursday	" 19th	Keep Fit
Thursday	" 26th	Keep Fit
Friday	" 27th	Whist Drive 2.00 pm 25p

STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

New Year Dance

Nearly 200 people attended the Conservative Association Annual New Year Dinner and Dance held at Stansted Hall on Saturday 10th January.

The committee served an excellent dinner with nearly all the food made and contributed by members and their friends. This was followed by dancing and the raffle winners tickets were drawn by Angela Hazelhurst and Anne Curry.

The principal guests were Alan Hazelhurst, M.P. for the Saffron Walden constituency and his wife Angela; Kenneth Baker, constituency agent for many years, who retires shortly; Dirk Vetwinkel, the new constituency agent and his wife Doreen and David Curry, Euro M.P. for North-East Essex and his wife Anne.

Other people present were Frank Brooke, constituency chairman; John Summers, constituency vice-chairman; Richard Shervington, Stansted Branch President, Alan Corbishley, Stansted Branch Chairman and Bridget Gott, Stansted Branch Ladies Chairman.

The Ladies Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Day Centre. The speaker will be Cyril Townsend, M.P. for Bexleyheath. Wine and a Ploughman's Lunch will be served and tickets will be £1.

The Joint A.G.M. will be held at the Day Centre on Friday, 13th March at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Alan Hazelhurst.

For further information, or any other enquiries, please contact:-

Alan Corbishley - B/S 813040 or
Bridget Gott - B/S 814440.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

A coffee morning will be held at 55 Chapel Hill on Wednesday, March 18th, 10.30 a.m.

Bring and Buy, Raffle and other stalls.

A CAUTION-ARY TALE

"A policeman came to school today and arrested the Headmaster. He put handcuffs on him 'cos he stole the dinner money". Well now, I know that teachers, even headmasters, are not the best paid in the land, but to resort to this!

"And then he arrested Debbie's teacher aswell". So he had an accomplice. Were they planning to run off together with their ill-gotten gains? There might be an even greater scandal here. I must contact the Education Authority immediately and protest that my children are being taught by criminals.

"Then the policeman threw Mrs. Johnson's hat into the sand pit". Now wait a minute. Surely he was exceeding the line of duty here. It sounds as if someone should have put the handcuffs on him. "And his dog went and got it back".

Now the penny (or should I say the copper?) begins to drop. The policeman was not retaliating, and the arrest of Mr. Compton and Mrs. Cashman was a visual aid demonstrating the duties of the local bobby. The purpose of his visit was to forge (opps sorry!) foster good relations between the community and the constabulary. Well, that's very laudable and I am much relieved.

However, just in case, I shall still regard it as an object lesson and my daughter will continue to take a packed lunch to school. After all, I now have a new meaning for "hot dinner money".

Catherine Dean

EXTENSIONS
GENERAL BUILDING
RENOVATIONS

CRE BUILDING AND DECORATING

PHONE:
BISHOP'S STORTFORD (0279) 813140
or BISHOP'S STORTFORD (0279) 813599

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

An attendance of 50 enthusiastic people at the inaugural meeting showed the interest in forming a local history society. A committee was elected consisting of Mr. Peter Sanders (Chairman), Mr. Charles Sherratt (Treasurer), Mrs. Peggy Honour (Secretary), Dr. Jane Freeman, Mrs. Jackie Worthington, Mr. Peter Brown and Mr. Tony Wellings.

At the first general meeting the Constitution will be approved and the organisation officially set up, so if you are interested in any aspects of Stansted's history, do come along at 8 p.m. at the Day Centre, on the following Thursdays:-

- 5th March 1st General Meeting. Display and talk on Old Tools and Byegones by Tony Wellings
- 2nd April Mr. Wright on Timber Framed Buildings.
- 7th May A member of Chelmsford Archeological Trust on Prehistoric and Roman Times in this area.

Peggy Honour
(B/S 813160)

RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

Adult and Youth Centre
Lower Street

Under 4 - Tuesdays & Thursdays
9.15 - 12 noon

Over 4 - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
9.15 - 12 noon

Good news at Rainbow Playgroup. All children have very much enjoyed Auntie Ann's topic for the first part of this term. "Five senses" was the theme. Everyone had a taste of the bread pudding which they made under the supervision of our leaders and mum helpers. It smelt delicious in the centre and it tastes equally as delicious. But music has been the favourite part of the topic with an adequate display of instruments and musical appliances. Singing and musical games, they enjoyed every minute of it especially when a special guest paid them a visit. Father Tony King sang and played the guitar with the children. Both leaders and mothers are extremely grateful to him for sparing his time.

More News: Every other Friday, a professional teacher comes and teaches music and movements to the four year olds.

The Playgroup Committee with great help from the mothers has had a successful fund raising on the Bishop's Stortford Market Stall on 12th February. Many thanks to the helpers.

Our photographer will come to our premises on Wednesday 11th March from 8.30 to 11 a.m. Any mother with their baby and child are welcome.

THERE ARE VACANCIES IN BOTH AGE GROUPS.

MUM & CO every Wednesday afternoon during school term from 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.

Toddlers can enjoy all the facilities of the Playgroup while learning how to mix and cope with others and also get accustomed to the happy, noisy environment so that they will be ready to start playgroup.

It is also a great opportunity for mothers to meet new people and Ann Conroy our playgroup leader. Of course, mummies with infants are welcome - each session costs 75p, including tea, squash and biscuits.

For further information please contact:

Auntie Ann: a.m.: BS 813319
p.m.: BS 812457

IS ANYONE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR AN ALLOTMENT?

I would be pleased to come to an agreement with someone who would like to come and work my garden as just that!

Call or 'phone 815433
Mrs. C. Francis, 28 Millside
(near the windmill)



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

A very successful Annual Christmas Dinner was held at The Old Hoops Restaurant in Saffron Walden on Friday, 12th December.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Tuesday, 24th March at 8 p.m. at Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. We are always pleased to welcome new members and particularly people who may be interested to serve on the committee.

The LTA/Prudential Coaching Scheme for 8-14 year olds takes place on 6 Tuesdays and 6 Saturdays this year. The Tuesday coach will be Joanna King and classes start on 28th April from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. The Saturday coach will be Chris Hollis and classes start on 18th April from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Joanna and Chris are both Lawn Tennis Association qualified instructors and the 6 hours instruction costs £5.25p. Balls are supplied. You will need plimsolls and a racket.

Chris Hollis is also doing 4 classes for adults from 11 am to 12 noon from 18th April to 9th May inc.

The Club is planning to have the courts resurfaced in October.

We have a great many used tennis balls for sale at 10p or 20p each depending on quality.

For all information please contact Janet Hollis - B/S 812073.

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

School

School is sometimes boring
Sometimes I don't like it much
Some think it was a good idea
Thought up by the Dutch

Schools not always boring
Thought up by the Dutch
Or maybe it was a German
I still don't like it much

Paul Morrison

Quiet Room

All in the class room
Quiet as can be
When suddenly
Teacher speaks to me

Go in the quiet room
Go do the test
Go in the quiet room
Go do your best

Me in the quiet room
All on my own
When suddenly I heard
A moan

"Go on do a dare"
"I might get caught"
"Go on balance on the chair" - "oops"
It's not my fault"

Allison Ford

Once upon a time there lived a Zebra and his name was Zippy but he was not a very happy Zebra because the man who owned him was not very nice. Firstly he did not give him half as much food he should do and secondly he only took him to a water hole once a day, and thirdly he never let him out. However one day a clown came to their little hut and his name was Joy clown. He knocked on the door and the man opened it and as he was not a very nice man and also not very polite he said "push off". Now the clown did not like that and so he put a custard pie in his face. They then started to argue. Now Zippy heard all this so he kicked the door off his stable down and as he did not like master he kicked the man, who fell over and he rolled down a hill into a pig sty. When he got up his face was covered in mud. When he got to the hut Zippy and the clown were nowhere to be seen so he was very angry. Meanwhile the clown was teaching Zippy tricks. When he had finished he gave Zippy a drink and food and they lived happily ever after.

Nina

Noises

I like quiet sounds like the ring of a bell.
The buzz of a bee.
Then there's the rushing of a silent wind.
And the moan of a door.
But then there's the loud sounds.
Like the crack of thunder.
The roar of a lion.
But then there's one sound we all like and that is silence.

Noises at Night

At night I hear noises
like the wind whistling through the trees
The owl hooting
Softly and faintly
I hear something moving through the grass
I hear an engine of an aeroplane ready to go
When it is midnight it is so calm I fall asleep.

I Wish I Could Hear

I wish I could hear the trees swaying from side to side
I wish I could hear the wood worms in the wood
I wish I could hear the calls of people in Africa
I wish I could hear the crows flying into the distance
I wish I could hear the ants calling in the army
I wish I could hear all of these things.

Different Name

Down by the station
We're looking at the timetable
Mum walks off
Left!
Alone!
On my own
What should I do?
I felt afraid
Should I look?
Should I run?
Should I go home?
I don't KNOW!
I was only about 4
Then I started to cry
A policeman came up to me
Why are you crying?
Lost! I said
What's your name? he said
Sarah I said
Okay Sarah where do you live?
I felt frightened
Scared!
My mum should have come by now
Mummy! I cried
My mum went back to the station
I knew I'd forgotten something said mum
Bye Sarah! said the policeman
Oh dear what a pickle!

Philippa Baldock

Our Class

Our class is really untidy,
After school the cleaner cleans.
But when the class get's even worse,
She almost nearly screams.

Mrs. Cashman is our teacher,
We work hard every day.
But some of us would really like
to go outside and play.

The bell has just been rung by James,
Everyone goes out.
Mrs. Cashman marks our work,
Sometimes she's in doubt.

Later on that morning,
the bell was rung again.
Then we sing our morning prayer,
And at the end - Amen.

Andrew Turner

Horatio Honker and The Tent

We were on the camp site in Cornwall
We were woken up in the night,
partly by rain, partly by the honking
of a car horn honking away
YUCH!

The rain came pouring in
Where's my mum?
Where's my dad?
They must have gone barmy, they must
have gone mad
Shovel, shovel, shovel
Plop, plop, plop.
Mum and dad are digging.
Attempting to stop the rain.

We had to leave next day.
As for the honking
It was the motorbiker's fault
A woman honked to stop the bike
noises
But she made more noise herself.

Ben Thrush

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



History Trip to London

On Monday 9th February a party of 40 first year pupils accompanied by staff and parents travelled to London to visit the Prehistoric Britain Exhibition at the British Museum.

The main attraction at the exhibition was the remains of Lindon Man. It is believed that 2000 years ago this man was sacrificed to the Spring Goddess and his distorted remains were preserved by the marshy conditions.

In the afternoon we visited the Egyptology section of the museum which has numerous finds from Egyptian tombs. These included many mummified remains and models which the Egyptians placed in the tombs to take with them to the after life.

Everybody on the trip had a very educational and enjoyable day.

Stephanie Cumming thought the best thing was the Egyptian jewellery, Maria Crouch thought the best thing was the mummies, Damon Fargison thought the best thing was Lindon Man and Tania Fontinillas thought the best thing was the mummified cats!!

Extra Lessons

On Wednesday January 28th two fourth year pupils from the Mountfitchet School, Melissa Benyon and Ruth Vellacott, attended a course at Saffron Walden County High School, accompanied by a senior member of staff. The course, run by Essex County Council, was to encourage gifted children to spend the whole day immersed in a learning activity beyond the normal classroom routine. Both girls accordingly worked on tracing back a family tree from the present living relatives to the original James from Cambridge who lived from 1500 to 1540. Learning by doing, they consulted the memories of older relatives, were able to request entries from a simulated central Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and used records of entries from parish registers on their quest. The completed tree included over one hundred names.

Pupils are chosen from schools throughout Essex to attend the courses and staff from the Mountfitchet School were very gratified that their school was represented. Both Melissa and Ruth enjoyed their day so much that they are determined to attend the next course to be held in the area, probably in April. They, together with other pupils from the Mountfitchet, hope to go on a residential course for gifted children to be held in Chelmsford in the summer.

Sign for the Times

The school's news and information board is now far more prominent.

An extremely smart new sign has been positioned above the board to draw everyone's attention to the items that are displayed.

This noticeboard is used for reporting school news such as trips, sports reports and competitions as well as advertising forthcoming events.

Many thanks must go to one of the pupil's parents who donated the sign to the school. Mr. Luck of The Graphics Factory in Harlow produced both the design work and the finished sign. Many thanks.

Sponsored Jump

Three members of Form 1S (Nikki Pollard, Maria Crouch and Rachel Lench) have completed a sponsored trampoline to help raise money for the homeless people in London.

They raised £61.54 in total and have sent the money to Centrepoint which is a temporary night shelter for the homeless.

Altogether the three girls did 570 jumps. Miss Harmon helped the three to organise it all but the original idea came from Nikki Pollard.

Crystal Palace Trip

On Thursday 5th February Mr. Davies took a group of children to Crystal Palace to watch London BCP and Portsmouth play basketball. We left after school and arrived at 6 pm.

We arrived and we looked around Crystal Palace and watched squash and American Football. Some of us went swimming in the giant Olympic Pool. After swimming we went and had some refreshments and we went round looking for famous athletes for their autographs.

At 8 pm the game started and Zedric Fredrick started the scoring for Portsmouth. It was a really fast, skilful game. A London player got hit in the mouth and started bleeding very badly. The final score was 68-63 to Portsmouth.

After the game we attempted to go home. Coming out of Crystal Palace the clutch went on the bus. The police pulled the coach off the road and gave us all a cup of coffee. We finally arrived back at school 4½ hours late!

It was a really great trip!

Robert Greenfield 2S



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING W.I.

Julie Procuik got our February meeting off to a resounding start when she agreed to accompany us on the piano for the singing of 'Jerusalem'. It is many years since we have had a pianist in our midst, able and willing to do this and we all enjoyed 'a good sing'! Our President Janice Cooper urged members to support a forthcoming coffee morning given by Stansted Afternoon W.I. in aid of R.N.I.B., as we are unable to organise a similar event ourselves this year.

The Spring Group Meeting on Friday 10th April is to be held at Henham and will have a Pearly King & Queen as speakers. This should prove an unusual evening. Plans for our May Market are well underway and it is hoped that by having it at the Day Centre at 2 pm on Saturday May 9th we will attract

lots of eager buyers on the way to the library or just out for a stroll! There will be a tea bar as well as lots of stalls including cakes, savouries, preserves - some in small sizes for people living alone, beauty shop, plants and herbs and a bran tub and hoop-la for the children. Many years ago our W.I. always had a garden fete in May in Mr. & Mrs. Turner's garden at Bentfield End. This was always a very popular event and we hope that a 'May Market' on a smaller scale will also prove to be so. If anyone has any items they would like to donate, they would be gratefully received. Our secretary this year is Mrs. Pat Lock, 14 Gilbey Close, B.S. 815984. She would be pleased to receive items and myself also. We would also be glad to hear from anyone wishing to come along to meetings and wanting someone to come with.

Calligraphy Classes have been arranged starting mid-February and will consist of 6 two hour classes.

Mr. Edlington from Hatfield Forest, a warden employed by the National Trust for the last 21 years, gave us a delightful picture in words and slides of his work there. He has only recently started giving these talks, but his enthusiasm for his job and telling people is growing each time he says! Now that boats have been banned from the lake the number of ducks and geese breeding there have greatly increased. The lake is fed by 2 or 3 springs and is well stocked with fish, the largest one caught being a 25³/₄lb pike - strange how fishermen are quite happy to put them back almost straight away - I always thought you could take them home! Before the forest was given over to the N.T. in 1926 by the Buxton family, it was in the hands of timber merchants who felled many trees, but now by careful planting and pruning it is being allowed to return to its natural state. In season there are hundreds of wild flowers including wild orchids, oxlips, bluebells and primroses. Cattle are kept there to keep the grass down and are also useful for seed distribution!

The National Trust are very keen to encourage people to use it and to go on their marked nature walks.

Mrs. Christine Rowley thanked Mr. Edlington on our behalf.

The competition this month for an animal photograph proved very popular and there were some beautiful pictures to choose from. Sylvia Oxborne's photo of a squirrel came first, with Sheila Rolfe and Kath Johnson 2nd and 3rd.

Next month is 'Members Day' so we have to wait until the night to know what they

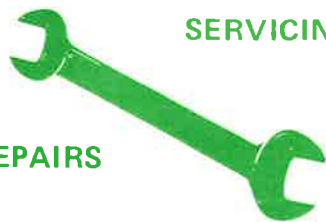
have planned for the evening. Why not come along and find out too.

Judy Colliver
10 Greenfields
812470

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David Nunn's
Garage

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STANSTED.

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812686

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STANSTED.

LES
OLDFIELD

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JUDY GODDARD

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