

Aug 89

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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LINK

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16TH

10.30 a.m.

Bring and Buy

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

Annual subscription is £2.00. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

Advertising Enquiries to: Rev'd Margaret Booker. Tel: 812684.

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
10th August for September issue
14th September for October issue

Printed by 'The Print Shop', Bishop's Stortford



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

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

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St. John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel: (95) 23296

Group Secretary:

Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport, Essex
Tel: (95) 41216

Stansted Contact:

Mrs. Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services: 11 a.m. each Sunday

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

A couple of months ago I wrote about how words change their meaning over the years. Particularly, I mentioned the New Testament word "Comforter". Another such word would be 'prevent' which used to mean 'go before' or 'precede'. Quite different from our modern use of the word. A modern example is the word 'gay' which in recent years has become virtually unusable in its former sense.

Words also change their spelling. We simply could not read Wycliffe's Bible in its original form, nor Chaucer's poems. Spelling has changed so much. Cranmer's prayer book would be difficult also!

A word to consider is the word 'holiday'. August is the holiday month. I suppose we all know that the word is really 'Holy Day', just as we know that 'goodbye' is really 'God be with you'. (God is good - what is good is of God). All modern holidays derive from Holy Days. Only the spelling has changed.

But, is that all that has changed? The modern, commercial assault on Sunday is an attempt to finally destroy the original 'Holy Day'. Other 'Holy Days' (i.e. days of rest from work and marked by worship) were religious feast days, widely observed. Do we think of our holidays as in any sense Holy Days? That is, days given to us by God; days set apart, therefore holy days?

At least let us not take a holiday from worship when we are on holiday. This would be the ultimate denial of the true meaning of the word 'Holiday'.

Have a happy, safe holy day.

Eric McIlwain

Services for August

6th 11.00 Holy Communion -
Rev. Lydia Rapkin
13th 11.00 Mr. McIlwain
20th 11.00 T.B.A.
27th 11.00 Mrs. Rapkin

September

3rd 11.00 Holy Communion - Mr McIlwain

Mrs. Rapkin will be on holiday for the first 3 weeks of September

Church of England

Clergy: The Rev'd Bob Wallace
The Rev'd Brenda Wallace
The Vicarage, St John's Road.
Tel: 812203

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

The Rev'd Margaret Booker
Moorlands Cottage, Burton End.
Tel: 812684

The Rev'd Christopher Kevill-Davies
The Old Bakery, Berden.
Tel: 78625

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

Holy Communion - 8am
Family Communion - 9.30am
Children's Church - 9.30am
Creche - 9.30am
Holy Communion (1662) - 11.30am
(1st and 3rd Sundays)
Evensong - 6.30pm

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday - 7.30pm
Wednesday - 10am
Thursday - 9.15am
Friday - 8am

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



Since the letter in last month's magazine about the clergy in the parish, I am very pleased to announce that I have been able to appoint a curate to the parish who will follow on when Tony leaves in September.

The Revd. John Cardell-Oliver and his wife Rachel will be moving here in late September and John will begin duties on 1 October. John will be formally licenced and welcomed to the parishes on Thursday 12 October at 7.30 p.m. during Evensong at St. John's, and we hope that this will be a well supported occasion. Meanwhile please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to move here.

Between now and then most of us will be taking a summer holiday. Brenda and I and the children are looking forward to our first visit to Holland. Wherever you are going, or even if staying at home (something which is difficult for clergy) we hope that you will find some time of rest and recreation. Our teachers are particularly ready for a good rest after a very long term, and we wish them well and thank them for all their work with our children over the past year.

If you are going to the seaside this year, this seasonal story may give you some food for thought. St. Augustine, the great Christian Bishop, was a great thinker who wanted to know all he could about God. One day he had a dream about a small child on the seashore near his home. The child had dug a big hole in the sand with his spade and was running to and fro to the sea with his bucket and pouring the water into the hole. In his dream, St. Augustine asked the boy what he was doing and the boy replied that he was going to put the whole ocean into the hole. St. Augustine told him that he would never be able to get the whole ocean into the hole. Then the boy turned into an angel and told St. Augustine that he would never be able to get all there is to know about God into his head. There is always more to know about God and always more to learn about his world.

Happy holidays.

Rob Wallace

Our annual lunch was held on a hot sunny day in Doreen Newby's garden. There were 18 of us, including two of our household members and the Vicar and Tony King.

Although it was such a lovely day and we all enjoyed our lunch, the occasion was a sad one - for it was our last meeting as a branch. Margaret's six years as Enrolling Member has come to an end, and alas no one from the M.U. felt that they could take the job, and also our numbers are declining. So for the foreseeable future there will be no M.U. branch in Stansted. Those who belong to the Indoor Members group will continue to receive their quarterly prayer material, and some members are considering joining another branch in the deanery.

Thank you all for your support of the branch and of myself and thank you all for the very generous token which you gave me last Wednesday - I shall buy something that will daily remind me of you all and your love and support.

Margaret

The Church's Healing Ministry

Is anyone among you in trouble? He should pray ... Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord ... pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5: vs. 13-17

A sense of well-being or good health rests not just on physical well-being, but on mental and spiritual well-being. Many ailments today are recognised as being stress or anxiety-related.

Our Lord recognised the importance of mental, physical and spiritual well-being for our general health. In his healing ministry he was not only concerned to restore physical well-being, but to rid people of feelings of guilt (through the forgiveness of sins), to make them feel loved, wanted and cared for (the assurance of God's unconditional love), to release them from fear, resentment, bitterness or greed which had taken hold of their lives.

Traditionally then, Christian healing has been concerned with the whole person (a trend being reflected in the medical profession today) and it is in this sense that the church has a mission to exercise a healing ministry. Such a ministry focuses on maintaining love and support for individuals throughout their illnesses or troubles by prayer and caring, trusting that although we do not always see physical recovery God's healing power will be at work in all the troubled areas of their lives restoring them to a greater sense of wholeness, well-being and peace.

In St. John's church the healing ministry is being exercised in a number of ways. Firstly, the communion service itself is a healing sacrament - it celebrates the healing of man's relationship with God through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. It stresses that God not only forgives our sins but loves us just as we are.

More specifically, there are services of healing which take place in St. John's Church at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and also on 4 Sunday afternoons of the year. These quiet and short communion services are followed by a time during which those who are ill or troubled or who would like prayers said for someone else who is, can if they wish receive a few moments of private prayer accompanied by the laying on of hands with one of the clergy.

Finally, there is a box at the back of the church with cards on which may be written requests for prayers or healing. These requests may be put into the box and will be collected and passed on to just one or two other people in the church who have agreed to pray confidentially and regularly for the sick.

In both the healing service and with the cards, prayers can be requested for oneself or for others for physical illness, mental or spiritual problems, bereavement or disorders of relationships. God is concerned to heal every area of our lives to restore us to well-being and wholeness.

If you would like further information on the healing services please contact one of the clergy and if you would like further information on the card-request system please contact Ragni Whitlock on 816070.

Healing services will take place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. and also on Sunday 10th September at 4 p.m.

Ragni Whitlock

There is no August diary as the holiday month means that many organisations and regular meetings do not take place. However services in church continue as usual as will the services at Mead Court (Tuesday 1st August at 10 a.m.) and Normans Court (Thursday 3rd August at 10 a.m.)

Registers

Baptisms

25 June Elizabeth Jane Foster
Martin Anthony Child
Mark Edward Reed
Sarah Kathleen Makepeace
Jennifer Lauren May Barnard

Weddings

17 June Gordon Greig Murray &
Beverley Ann Hitchings
Howard Julian Toynton &
Deborah Ann Keens
24 June Luke Charles Pearman &
Jill May Leighton

Funerals

30 June Muriel Ena Buttery, 80
4 July Charles Frederick Broadhurst, 51
6 July Elsie Hyland, 79

YOUTH

FOCUS

As I write this letter we are busy making our last preparations for our Mundesley holiday. On our return we will be reopening youth club and making the most of the remainder of the summer sunshine. As you may know you are able to join our youth club if you are 11 years or older. Please contact myself or Brenda Towle if you are interested in joining us. I hope you are having a happy summer vacation and if you are awaiting exam results not getting too worried!

All the best,

Fr Tony

Fr Tony 814463
Brenda Towle 813712
Martin Corbishley 813040
Ian Lauder 813235
Richard Hart 84 3705





CHILDREN'S TALENT COMPETITION

Would you like to take part in a Talent Competition in St. John's Hall, Stansted? If you would and haven't received an application form see Mrs. Marion Johnson at 62 Chapel Hill, Stansted. There will be a fee of 50p each for individuals and duet acts, with a group fee of £1.25 for each act with three or more children.

There will be three preliminary rounds and a grand final. Preliminary rounds will be on the following days:-

- Category A: 7-10 years on Saturday, September 9th at 3.00 pm
- Category B: 11-14 years on Saturday, September 16th at 3.00 pm
- Category C: 15-16 years and group acts of 3 or more children on Saturday September 23rd at 3.00 pm

The final will take place on Saturday October 7th at 3.00 pm.

If there is a huge response we will have to limit the number of entries and this will be decided on a first come, first served basis for each age group.

Parents and friends are invited to form an audience on each of these days and light refreshments will be served.

Any profit made will go to the "Church Urban Fund" which aims to help people in the urban areas of Chelmsford Diocese.

Any further enquiries please contact Mrs. Ragni Whitlock on 816070 or Mrs. Marion Johnson on 812284.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am.

We have recently been visiting the Forest of Dean. It is a beautiful part of the country between the rivers Severn and Wye. Industry in the Forest began around 500 B.C. and activity dominated the area for two thousand years. Today, visitors are one of the main activities and you can wander at will through one of the few remaining ancient Royal Forests of England.

One day we walked the Sculpture Trail. This project organised by the Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, in collaboration with the Forestry commission, is an exciting idea. There are fourteen or fifteen permanent sculptures by different artists; more will be added, designed to harmonise with the forest landscape and making a walk of about four miles. It is great fun and stimulating to discover each sculpture round the route.

A little map is available plus a coloured brochure containing notes about each artist and a description of each work.

To enjoy our forest walk to the full we had to each respond in our own way - not follow the instructions so carefully that we were disappointed when our response was less excited than suggested, nor when the sculpture failed to resemble its description at all! The map too was sometimes confusing.

I could not help thinking that this was like our everyday lives. We have guidelines which help us round the trails which compose our lives, but when we come to our various stages the reality is so often different from what we have anticipated; to what others have described.

Our experience while in one way common to all is unique to each one of us. Our religious beliefs and practices, our guidelines, help us on our path but sometimes when a problem arises there is no easy solution and although theoretically prepared we can be at a loss to know how to deal with a situation.

It brings to mind the postscript to an epistle to "brethren in the north" issued by a meeting of Quaker elders at Balby 1656.

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light that is pure and holy, may be guided; and so in the light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled with the Spirit, not from the letter, for the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life.

Mary Rice

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
The Presbytery, 12 Millside.
Tel: 814349

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

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

The School Reunion

Imagine my surprise when I received a letter from an old school friend, whom I had not seen for 20 years, telling me of a school reunion to be held at our old stamping ground. She encouraged me to go saying it would be 'fun'. I was somewhat dubious. I hadn't seen anyone else from school for over 30 years and gazing at my overweight silhouette in the mirror I doubted if anyone would even remember me let alone recognise me. However, I sent off my acceptance note, curiosity having got the better of me.

On the 'day' - this was to be a lunch in, of all places, the old school canteen, we were given badges on which our maiden name was printed in order to recognise each other.

Have you ever been to one of these occasions? It is most embarrassing having to go round peering at the breast of a total stranger in the vain hope you might recognise the name pinned to it, if not the face above it! After doing this for a bit, I stood there totally overawed for once at the sea of faces and babble of voices, they all knew each other! Could I see a familiar face, I could not.

I was just beginning to think I had spent my entire school life with a paper bag over my head when I heard someone call 'Mary, Mary, you are here - you haven't changed a bit'. All my old friends had arrived en masse and things were great fun after that.

We remembered all our old teachers, who turned out not to be that old after all. We remembered all the pranks we played on April Fools Days, we thought we were so clever then. What a pain in the neck we must have really been. We laughed and we coughed and I ached at all the news. We remembered only the good times which is how it should be.

How amazing to see short fat good fun Roberta had blossomed into a tiny, slim attractive woman with a high-powered job as a theatrical agent. How incredible that Shirley, deadpan, witty, wizard with the inkblots had married a vicar! 'Just waiting for fulfilment really' she said when we reminded her of her pranks. What a shame that our old head girl, lovely, brilliant had done nothing with her life after getting her degree, either professionally or voluntarily. How awful that beautiful auburn-haired Margaret had peroxidized her hair at eighteen a vivid brassy blond and it had stayed that way ever since, because we called her 'Ginger'. I gazed at her wondering if I too was responsible for that unattractive transformation. How surprised I felt when they all said 'You're just the same - you haven't changed a bit' in spite of that last remark I do believe of course that we all change on our journey through life, we have to, we have too many challenges for it not to make any difference to us. It struck me as we drove away having said our goodbyes, each to return to her own place in God's plan, that we are only given this one chance to make the best of ourselves as real people as God intended us to be. How we meet peaks and lows in our lives over 30 years and more shows in our attitudes and our faces. If we can keep bobbing up to the surface in spite of everything, perhaps we can still appear to be the same to others 30 years on.

Mary Warnett

The annual Bradwell Pilgrimage this year was held on 1st July and the address was given by Bishop MacMahon. A small band from the Stansted Churches joined in the occasion as usual and it was made all the more interesting because as 1989 is Essex Heritage Year many of those attending were dressed in period costume. There were pilgrims in peasant dress, Hanoverian and Stuart period, flappers, nurses and soldiers uniforms from both World Wars. It was a wonderful reminder of the continuity of our Christian faith.

Part of the liturgy made this very clear to us all:

'This life becomes for us a pilgrimage towards a definite destination, not undergone in isolation but in the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ, who encourage us and keep us moving in the right direction!'

F. Quinn



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.

"AND DID THOSE FEET"

It is only a legend. For me, it was a discovery. According to Roman Law the relations of a man who had been executed could claim his body for burial, and it was in exercise of that right (so the legend says) that Joseph of Arimathea claimed from Pilate the body of Jesus. Joseph it is said was a relative of Jesus and was in fact the uncle of his mother Mary. He was a tin merchant and travelled to Cornwall in search of tin. The story says that on one of these journeys he took his great-nephew, the teenage Jesus.

Is it possible that Jesus came to England? The idea has fascinated many people, none more than William Blake, intrigued with the thought that Jesus had set foot in Cornwall. Was it really possible he mused? Did those feet in ancient time, walk upon England's mountains green? I have always thought of the dark satanic mills being the wool and cotton mills of northern England. Could they have been the tin mines of Cornwall?

This question inspired Blake to write in the second verse a vision of an England fit for Jesus to walk in - a Jerusalem built in England's green and pleasant land.

It is a haunting challenge and an inspiration for all of us.

Bruce Harrison

Kathryn Spencer

—Reflexologist—

3 Churchill Corner,
Stansted,
Essex,
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Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

August

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 2 | 6.45 | Day Centre Car Park
Garden Club visit to Mark Hall
Gardens |
| 5 | 9.30 | Conservatives White Elephant
Sale "Savages" Lower Street |
| 28 | 2.00 | Windmill Fete - at the Mill |

September

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 2 | a.m. | Huw Johnson Club for Handicapped
Children. Garden Party |
| 16 | 12.00 | Conservatives Country Fayre
Priors Hall, Stebbing |
| 27 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Stansted Carnival
A.G.M. |



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Mountfitchet Garden Club's annual evening visit is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd August and will therefore REPLACE the club's usual monthly meeting.

This year we are viewing Mark Hall Gardens in Harlow. Would all interested members and guests assemble at the Day Centre car park, Chapel Hill, Stansted, at 6.45 p.m.

Transport will be provided on a car sharing basis; alternatively you can catch us up at the venue at 7.30 p.m.

Business will be back to normal in September with our monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday 6th September at 8 p.m., the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Sue Wilkinson



STANSTED AFTERNOON

June is the month when the members take over the running of the meeting. This year we were in the capable hands of Miss Dorothy Oswald as President and Mrs. Joan Freeman, Secretary, ably supported by a hard working committee, who provided an excellent tea and even waited at table.

The speaker for the afternoon was an old friend, Mr. Doug Alcock, assisted by Mr. Thomason. We were taken on a trip to India with some beautiful slides as well as detailed comment on the views being shown.

The competition for a handcraft made by the member was won by Mrs. Cilla French, with a delightful lace sea horse.

Our July meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of Mrs. Muriel Buttery, a longstanding member, who died recently.

We are holding a ploughman's lunch in the garden of our Treasurer, Mrs. Trix Little, on 18th July (let's hope the sun shines).

Members were asked to help at the annual visit of pensioners from London on 9th August when we provide tea, produce and entertainment for about thirty members of an Age Concern group. This event is very much enjoyed by both the visitors and the hostesses.

Also in August we will have a coach trip round the Suffolk villages which will include tea.

A report on the A.G.M. in the Albert Hall, which took place in June, was given by Mrs. Pauline Cianciola. It was on a day when the Underground was on strike and the journey proved to be almost as eventful as the meeting itself.

At the A.G.M. in July our entry in the Essex Show and the Floral Streeter Cup the next day were the main business, failing a speaker. The afternoon passed quickly and pleasantly. The competition for a tapestry picture was won by Mrs. Banks.

Pauline Cianciola
814487

STANSTED EVENING

Before the usual singing of 'Jerusalem' at our July meeting members stood for a minute's silence in memory of Ruth Robinson, a dedicated member. She died recently after a courageous struggle with illness.

The President then announced that Margaret Chasteney and Vera Ansell had been awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the competition for the Streeter Floral Challenge Cup at Braughing that day. They were warmly applauded.

Our speaker was Mrs. Sellwood who brought some of her very beautiful boxes in a variety of shapes which are padded and covered in material. She makes and embroiders them in various ways including lace, crochet and quilting and illustrated her talk with slides.

Members will be going to Steeple Bumpstead on Monday evening to a demonstration of making chocolates.

During the social time members were asked to guess the eleven on the committee from a collection of childhood photographs.

Visitors are welcome to join us on the second Thursday of the month.

Vera Ansell
815949

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- Friendship, Discussion
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No NWR meetings during August, but please don't forget to ring Eileen before September 1st to book your seat for the visit and tour of the airport on 6th September. Children over 7 and husband's welcome. Visit starts at 6.30 pm.

We are now holding meetings monthly instead of fortnightly and hope this will encourage our members to come to every meeting. Generally the national membership of groups is declining and we would consider it a great pity if the Stansted group joined the long list of demised groups!

We receive a National newsletter in spring and autumn of each year which contains up to date details of the National Group, of forthcoming events, of local groups and their news. It also provides an opportunity for members to express their ideas on anything at all and to become familiar with what other members are doing. We also hold day conferences which allow time for discussion and an opportunity to meet other members of individual groups.

If you cannot get out very much but enjoy writing and receiving letters you could join one of our Correspondence Magazines. A magazine has about 12 members, each of whom contributes a monthly letter expressing views on matters of interest and passing on personal information about families, work, etc. It is a chance to form friendships and to voice your opinions.

At every local planning meeting you have the chance to come and make the choice of programme yourself; we vote on every idea put forward but try to avoid the more obvious domestic issues and we are very democratic whatever the subject if it receives enough support it will go on the programme and be discussed at one of our monthly meetings. We exist to encourage the expression of all points of view for the purposes of discussion so if you have a bee in your bonnet and would really like to make your opinion known and talked about please come along.

We welcome new members, women of all ages whatever their marital or domestic status. A programme can be obtained by ringing the organisers Stephanie on 812137 or Eileen on 812109. Membership is only £4.50 per year and 40p for each meeting. If you don't have transport - no problem - someone will willingly collect you and take you home. We hope to see you after our summer break!

Eileen Quinn



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Cleverdon Tournament held at Thaxted Tennis Club on Sunday 25th June was won by Chris Hollis and Joy Lafferty. The following week, Chris and Joy were runners-up in the Hopkins Tournament held at Dunmow Tennis Club.

There will be tennis coaching at the Mountfitchet High School organised by the Parish Council during the weeks starting 31st July and 7th August. Please contact Janet Buttery the Parish Clerk - B/S 813214.

Chris Hollis is organising junior coaching and tournaments on:-

Thursday 24th August - Age 11 and under
9.30 - 10.30 - Coaching
10.30 onwards - Junior Singles Tournament

Friday 25th August - Age 12 - 16
9.30 - 10.30 - Coaching
10.30 onwards - Junior Singles Tournament

The cost is £3 (inc.)

Last day for entries Wednesday 23rd August.
Please contact Janet Hollis B.S 812073.

The Tennis Club Finals will be held on Sunday 10th September.

All other enquires to Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

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STANSTED CARNIVAL

Our Carnival this year was a great success. The weather was perfect and everyone had a marvellous day out. £342.93 was taken in the street collection and this will be presented to the Stansted Carnival Trust Fund which helps needy children in Stansted.

Our A.G.M. this year will be held on Wednesday 27th September at 8.00 p.m. in the Day Centre where we will be presenting cheques to our 1989 beneficiaries. Do come along, we will be pleased to see you. Also new committee members are always needed to help lighten our load, can you help?

Should anyone wish to be considered beneficiary for next year please contact The Chairman Brian Harris, 10 Highmead, Stansted, tel. 815885 or the Secretary Sue Reed, Castle Cottage, Grove Hill, Stansted, tel. 812461. Alternatively, come along to our A.G.M.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel. 813214

Mrs. Janet Buttery, Clerk
Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL HARD PLAY AREA

Just a reminder that the hard play area is available for hire, evenings, weekends and all school holidays. Suitable for tennis, netball, football, roller skating, children's parties, etc. Contact the Clerk for details.

CRICKET & TENNIS COACHING - there are a few places available for both course - further details from the clerk.

BENTFIELD CAUSEWAY PLAYING FIELD - don't forget - this playing field can be hired for supervised use only - details from the clerk.

GARDEN REFUSE SACKS - the Parish Council has decided to hold a stock of the garden refuse sacks on a trial basis. More details from the clerk.

SKIP DATES - the skip will be in Crafton Green car park on the following dates:

- Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th August
- Monday 21st - Thursday 24th August
- Monday 25th - Thursday 28th September
- Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th October.

Good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

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STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the Carnival Association for a well planned event. Perfect weather, perfect setting and a good day out resulted in a most enjoyable occasion.

The Sports Association were involved in the running of the Family Sports events. The winners were presented with souvenir rosettes of which we have three unclaimed. If the athletes concerned would give me a ring, 812148, I will arrange for them to be handed out.

1st Junior Wheelbarrow Race.
(Either S. Wagstaff or J. Barnes)

3rd Adult Wheelbarrow Race.
(L. Wright and I. Wright)

Fred L. Boyd
Chairman



Which do you want first - the good news or the bad? There are two items of each. Let's try the good first!

The final figure for the Poppy Appeal collection last year, as promulgated by headquarters for Stansted and District, exceeded all our aspirations. The November edition of Link will feature what we need to do to beat the 1988 effort!

Social events are now taking shape. On 1st August a reception is being held to present long service awards to stalwart poppy collectors. More of that next month - after the event. On 6th October, a Friday, a supper evening is to take place at the Day Centre. This is intended to be a fun-for-all function, with licensed bar. Tickets £5 each plus raffle. We hope it will be well supported as it is the main fund raising event in aid of branch finances - and ultimately the Service Committee.

The proposed outing to Windsor Safari Park had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour owing to insufficient support. Our apologies to all those who were disappointed.

Now the most bitter pill - perhaps. The annual conference of the RBI has taken decisions which will necessitate subscription increases. Subject to ratification at our branch A.G.M. subscriptions will have to rise to £5 from October next, with a concession rate to OAP's of £3.50. All members will be circularised shortly explaining the reasons for the increase - and the benefits conferred.

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Our quarterly Group Meeting was at Saffron Walden on the very hot evening of 14th June when 49 members from 6 villages met to discuss business, enjoy some delicious refreshments and be amused by sketches and poems by two very talented local ladies.

On the following evening at our branch meeting Dr. Huey from the Newport Group Practice gave a wonderful talk on her visit to war graves as medical attendant with parties of war widows. She said that all Commonwealth cemeteries are lovingly attended by the local people under the auspices of the War Graves Commission and that walking into a cemetery is like walking into an English garden, but one filled with sadness.

No meeting in August, but in September we shall have our annual Harvest Bring and Buy and preparation of poppies.

Pat Glower
815220



MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

At our meeting on 21st June the Club celebrated the occasion of Mr & Mrs A. Grubb's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. A large decorated cake was presented by the Club together with a card and a basket of flowers. A reporter came from Bishop's Stortford and took photos and during the afternoon Mr H Ashcroft played some delightful songs on the piano which were most appropriate to the occasion. The Reverend Margaret Booker was kind enough to pay us a visit.

On our first meeting in July Mr & Mrs Irwin gave the club an invitation to a garden party in the large grounds of their house. It was a lovely summer afternoon with a delicious tea provided by our host and hostess. An afternoon to remember during the cold of winter.

The Club suffered a very sad loss on the death of Mrs M Buttery who for many years was Club Treasurer and more recently volunteered to be our Secretary and although confined to her house carried out these duties most efficiently. Her bravery in coping with a crippling illness was a lesson to us all.



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

Carnival Day was great fun. The Rainbow Playgroup float was full of little Morris Men and Women who looked lovely and were as good as gold. The float won the Youth Organisations Cup. Many thanks to all who worked so hard, especially Cheryl, and not forgetting Phil Pope and George Precious who were just great.

The visit of the bigger group to Harlow Park was postponed twice because of the rail strike and foul weather, but they made it in the end. There is a good pets corner, a paddling pool and an adventure playgroup and it's all quite close to the station, so it makes rather a good day out.

Sports Day is the last event of the term and will be held at Mountfitchet School.

Have a lovely summer holiday.

Rainbow Playgroup re-opens on Monday 11th September. If you would like to know more about it ring Ann Conroy 812457.

P. Duncan



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

Garden Party Saturday September 2nd

Our next big venture is the Garden Party to be held at 62 Chapel Hill, Stansted. This is our main fund-raising event and once again we are asking for your support. There will be the usual sideshows and stalls, including a raffle and tombola. Gifts for these may be given to Marion or Tom at 62 Chapel Hill or any Club Committee member.

At the Garden Party we also serve lunch and tickets for this can be obtained from Marion and Tom, £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for children under 13 years of age.

Please help us in any way you can as your support means that our members will continue to enjoy the many activities and outings which we arrange for them throughout the year.

Marion Johnson



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The outing to Burghley House and Stamford on Tuesday 11th July was very successful and most enjoyable with beautiful weather. We would all like to thank Pam Sutton for her tremendous hard work in organising it all so very well.

Saturday August 5th at 9.30 a.m.
White Elephant Sale at Savages
Lower Street, Stansted (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Peter Jones).

Saturday September 16th 12 noon
COUNTRY FAYRE - a Constituency event to be held at Priors Hall, Stebbing.

All enquiries to:

Bridget Gott - B/S 814440 or
Joan Summers - B/S 814854.



THUNDERCATS

When I grow up I don't want to be a Communist - A letter from Hong Kong

"Dah Doh Li Peng", "Dah Doh Deng Xiaoping", the crowd chanted in unison as they marched their way through Hong Kong's Business Centre. This continuous snake of people headed its way towards the New China News Agency in Wanchau (about 3 miles away), to show their comradeship with the students in Beijing. The Hong Kong people, normally so politically apathetic, incredulously on May 21st 1989 came out in their thousands. 'What is happening in China today is Hong Kong's tomorrow' as one man put it.

People from all walks of life packed the streets for miles, the very old to the very young-in-arms. The people at the edge of the demonstrators joined hands to keep everyone together and cause minimum disruption to Hong Kong's busy traffic. But the sheer volume of people meant that this was often paralysed, yet even the usually impatient motorists did not complain, but cheered them on. People hung out of the motionless bus windows waving banners and joining in the singing of patriotic and revolutionary songs. Crowds lined the streets and waved from high-rise buildings all

cheering and shouting slogans at the marchers who just kept coming and coming.

At around 4.00 pm news came over the radio that the troops of the Peoples Liberation Army, which had been advancing towards the student occupied Tiananmen Square in Beijing, had turned back. As this triumph was relayed down the marching line, euphoria spread. For the girls near me it was too much and they burst into tears, it felt as though the Chinese students had won.

Two weeks later, early on Sunday morning June 4th the PLA returned to Tiananmen Square and fired indiscriminately on unarmed civilians, killing thousands and wounding many more, in a horrific massacre that the Chinese Government now denies happened.

Hong Kong awoke on that Sunday morning, in a state of disbelief as the tragic events became clearer. An estimated one third of the population (of around 2 million) poured into the streets. This time the festive spirit of the earlier demonstrations was gone. Hong Kong was in mourning, bitter, angry, afraid. Most people adorned themselves with black armbands and headbands. Strips of black material were tied to car aerials and banners were hung from buildings demanding "blood for blood". There was little criticism of the troops themselves, believed to be young uninformed boys brought in from far away - areas where mandarin isn't spoken - and bribed. People marched down the street carrying effigies of China's Prime Minister and Supreme Leader. In Central a vigil was organised to sing poignant and moving songs. American tourists could be seen wandering about saying "Wow, this is amazing", whilst thousands of Hong Kong Chinese mourned their dead and saw their future explode with the PLA gunfire.

For three nights slow processions of vehicles circulated Kowloon (on the mainland) and Hong Kong Island from 9 pm until dawn. Taxi drivers, vans full of youths, privately owned cars with passengers and drivers all crying out to the crowds on the streets their counter-revolutionary demands. Shopkeepers came to their doors to offer their support, whilst horns blared in 5 minute long salutes to the dead in Beijing. Mrs Rebecca Lo told me that she had taken her 8 year old son out in the car to join in "It is his generation that will be students in 1997 when China takes over the control of Hong Kong. I want him to know what is going on now, and what the Chinese government is like, so that he can fight to keep Hong Kong democratic".

Only one small riot to the north of Kowloon marred the otherwise admirable peaceful show of concern. A General Strike planned for June 7th was cancelled due to rumours that the Communist agitators were going to cause trouble. Despite this many companies held independent marches to the New China News Agency and no trouble occurred.

Now all activities have died down and the people's immediate concern returns to money making, this time with a more desperate urgency than before, in order to save the required amount to emigrate to Australia, Canada or the States. Already many of the wealthier population have left for these destinations, causing fresh problems and marital break-ups. The men remain in Hong Kong, spending the minimum required period only in their new countries, because they cannot afford to move their businesses. The women are being left alone in a strange new world, with the children and often unable to get the work which matches their capabilities, isolated and lonely after the compact society of Hong Kong. Nobody really wants to leave Hong Kong - a magical consumer world, where dreams come true; but these people are raised on capitalism in its purest form; they could never adapt to life in a Communist Hong Kong. For many their only hope is the British Government recognising them as true British citizens. It is of general opinion that only a small percentage of those eligible would in fact go to Britain. They would just like the security of somewhere to go in the event of tanks rolling down from mainland China.

On 17th June a statue of the Goddess of Liberty was erected in Victoria Park, a replica of the one that the Beijing students had erected in Tiananmen Square. The government here doesn't seem to share the peoples' hopes for the future, they say it can only remain for 8 days. One can only hope that the Statue's short life is not a prophecy of what will happen to Liberty here in the future.

Joanna Colliver
Former pupil of the
Margaret Dane School
Hong Kong June 1989

Joanna has spent the last 18 months working her way round the world. Last year she spent six weeks in China, which she had hoped to revisit next month. She is currently teaching English to Chinese students in Hong Kong which she also did last year. After a trip to the Phillipines she is due to return to Stansted in August.





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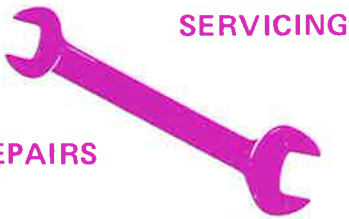
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