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The LINK

Volume X No. 2

December 1989

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



Special Greetings to Rev. Eric & Mrs. Doris McIlwain as they leave the Stansted Association of Christian Churches and the service of LINK. Thanks recorded overleaf.

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

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Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

Advertising Manager: Mrs L Everitt, 12 Meadowcroft. Tel: 813504.

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.

* Please note Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
7th December for January issue
11th January for February issue

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SACC



Goodbye!

As you will read in Eric McIlwain's letter, this is his last letter in "Link" - Eric is about to retire. We shall all miss his ministry among us for he has been part of the church and village for 12 years and all of us in the Association of Churches will miss his quiet wisdom - I think we can say that Eric's retirement marks the end of an era, from next year I understand that the United Reformed Church will be served here in Stansted from Saffron Walden and not have its own minister. Eric was laterly only part time, however, the number of times one saw him at meetings and visiting in the village, it seems that he made it more of a full time job. I know how much his parishioners have been supported and helped by his ministry and also that of Doris. He will be missed by all of us at ecumenical services and social events - how can we forget those harvest supper sketches!

One of Eric's major contributions to Stansted has been his involvement with "Link". He was one of its founder members and has served as chairman - Chief "paster up" and "stapler", his speed in stapling "Link" is phenominal!

But as chairman of S.A.C.C. his founding of our link with the Belgian parish of Chevetogne has produced lasting friendships and encouraged the learning of French by many who thought their days of learning were over! Our exchange visits have added a new view of other's faith and worship.

Thank you Eric and Doris for all that you have done in Stansted and beyond and we wish you both a very happy retirement. We shall not forget your years in Stansted and your retirement for it is the end of an era in Stansted for you have been a well loved Reformed Minister, and for being a founder member of LINK and the instigation of our exchange Chevetogne visits.

May God bless you both.

There will be a chance to show our appreciation and wish Eric and Doris goodbye on Saturday January 13th
3 - 6pm in the U.R.C. Hall.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The United Service at the war memorial and later at the United Reformed Church was exceptional this year for the wonderfully large attendance of the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies as well as adults, uniformed and "other". The U.R.C. church was filled for the occasion and the service led by the Revd. Eric McIlwain and Deacon Margaret Booker was a most sincere one. The message given by Mr. McIlwain, sadly his last address to a S.A.C.C. United Service, was a challenge for us to use remembrance to urge us into action for human rights (e.g. for war-widows) and for the peaceful use of our vast national resources.

A collection made during this service raised £110 for the Poppy Day Appeal Fund.



SHALOM DATES

- 4.12.89
Bible Study led by Derek at Michael Dyer's, 1 Blythwood House
- 18.12.89
Bring-and-share Christmas Party at Judy Goddard's, 23 Burnell's Way. All past and present members are most welcome. We would like to see you again even if you have not attended for many months or years. Carols and meditation will be led by the Fellowship Group.
- 8.1.89
Shalom starts again - details in January's Link.

Methodist

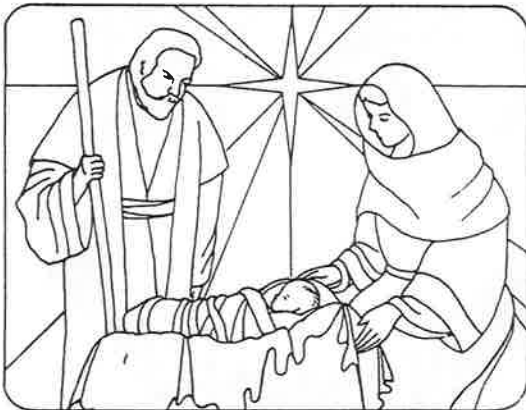
Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill,

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

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

This month brings, very sadly, the end of the ministry in Stansted of yet another greatly loved member of the clergy. I refer, of course, to the Rev'd Eric McIlwain. Eric has been with us for twelve years and has exercised a wonderful ministry not only to his own United Reformed Church but also to all the Christian Churches of Stansted and to the whole community. He has given himself unstintingly to this work and has been a pillar of the Stansted Association of Christian Churches. He has most readily and tirelessly commuted from Cambridge for many, many and all kinds of occasions. His fine abilities have been fully available to all people and every need. And in all the gifts he brought to his ministry the greatest was the gift of himself. We will all miss him very much and will find him irreplaceable.

In all of his work Eric has been ably generously and constantly supported by his wife, Doris. We thank them both very, very much and wish them a long and very happy retirement and look forward to seeing them from time to time in the future. "Eric and Doris, it has been so good to have your friendship and leadership. God bless you both now and always".



I would also wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a New Year of love, joy and peace. I have just come across this poem by Jennifer Dines; I think it should be well known and I share it with you.

For us there are no certainties, no
star
blazing our journey, no decisive
dream
to reassure hurt hearts or warn us
when
it's time to move. The shepherds,
harassed men,
are given answers to the questions
they
have never thought to ask. Told
where to go
and what to look for. We try out
our way
unlit with angels, wondering "How
far?"
Yet in the story we find who we are:
the baby is told nothing, left to
grow
slowly to vision through the
coloured scheme
of touch, taste, sound; by needing
learns to pray,
and makes the way of the flesh, dark
stratagem
by which God is and offers all we
know.

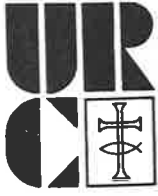
This sonnet says so much and reminds me of the saying of one of the Fathers of the Church: "The Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God". In Jesus we discover our real nature and destiny "in the story we find who we are". May the discovery deepen within us this Christmas.

God bless you all.

Harold Fisher

METHODIST NOTES

Methodists have had some varied Saturday programmes this winter: a chance to hear our President speak at a celebration service for Local Preachers at Wesley's Chapel, City Road; a Home Missions Rally at Bishop's Stortford addressed by the retired Methodist Deputy Chaplain General to the Forces and Ron Cox on the valuable work of the Whitechapel Mission at their home for young offenders; and lately a conference at our Chrishall Church on 'The Church in Rural Life' led by Rev. John Clarke "Headquarters" Secretary for Rural Church Strategy. We also heard from a Lay Pastoral Assistant in Eastern Essex, from the Chairman of our London N.E. District and from our own two circuit ministers - a very useful, instructive and enjoyable day.



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) 41210

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.

This December Link will be the last to which I shall contribute as one of the Ministers of Stansted U.R.C. Group.

May I just take advantage of the opportunity to express my thanks for all the other 'links' which have been forged during my 11 years with Stansted. It has been a great joy to have such close fellowship over the years with the clergy and people of St. John's and St. Theresa's; with Harold Fisher and the Methodist flock; with all the Friends; and of course with my own dear people of the U.R.C. Group.

We will still reside in Cambridge so wind, weather, age and infirmity permitting, we shall hope to see you as the occasion and opportunity and propriety permit.

So, a Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all, a Prosperous (in the Biblical sense) New Year and may S.A.C.C. go from strength to strength as we prove that we "are one in the Spirit and one in the Lord".

God bless you all.

Eric McIlwain

U.R.C. Services for December

Sunday December 3rd - 11.00 -
Holy Communion, Rev. E. McIlwain
Sunday December 10th - 11.00 -
Rev. Lydia Rapkin
Sunday December 17th - 10.30 -
Group Service - Gift Day
Sunday 24th December - 11.00 -
Carols and Lessons
CHRISTMAS DAY - 10.30 - Special
Christmas Service
Sunday December 31st - 11.00 -
Rev. Lydia Rapkin

S.A.C.C. Carolling at Christmas
7.00 p.m. December 20th (Wed.) at
the Memorial Garden, Chapel Hill.

During Advent the children will be lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath as we look forward to Christmas and the Celebration of Jesus' birth. You are very welcome to share in any or all of our December Worship Services.

Joy to the World



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 John Cardell-Oliver
 43 Gilbey Crescent.
 Tel: 814463

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

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

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------|
| Tuesday | - | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday | - | 10am |
| Thursday | - | 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.



At the start of December, the church begins the season of Advent, when it looks forward to Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation, but also a time of anticipation, as we look forward to celebrating again the birth of Jesus.

It is difficult to keep the season of Advent properly nowadays when the shops are already full of Christmas goods, and we ourselves become pre-occupied with our domestic preparations. It is useful, therefore, to have something to remind us of the need for spiritual preparation.

In church this year we will have an Advent Ring to help us look forward to Christmas. This is something which can easily be copied at home and is a more fitting symbol than modern Advent calendars which are purely secularised.

The Advent Ring has very ancient origins. It consists of a circle of evergreen with four candles spaced round it with a fifth larger candle in the centre. The evergreen and the circle are symbols of creation and of eternity; the candles are symbols of the light which Jesus brings into the world at his birth. In practical terms this can be made with a circle of Oasis on a large plate or tray. Try using it on the dining table, and lighting the candles before lunch on each Sunday.

The candles, too, have their own symbolism. They remind us of people who are looking forward to Jesus' birth. The first candle, lit on the first Sunday of Advent (3 December) reminds us of the Prophets of the Old Testament, who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

The second candle, lit on the second Sunday, reminds us of John the Baptist, who came to prepare people for Jesus' birth and called them to repent of their sins.

The third candle reminds us of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, who looked forward to the birth of her son, knowing how special he was to be.

The fourth candle reminds us of all God's people - including ourselves - as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

The fifth candle, in the centre, lit on Christmas Day, reminds us that Jesus has come into the world and shines as a light in our hearts and lives.

This prayer can be used as each candle is lit:

Eternal God, you have declared in Christ the completion of your purpose of love. May we live by faith, walk in hope, and be renewed in love, until the whole world reflects your glory, and you are all in all. Even so, come Lord Jesus.
 All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

May God bless you as you keep this holy season of Advent, and shine in your hearts as you celebrate again the birth of his Son at Christmas.

Brenda Wallace

YOUTH

FOCUS

The last few weeks have been busy ones for both youth leaders and youth club with regard to our schedule. It started with a Quiz Evening which was very much enjoyed. Night games were the following week and as usual our version of escape from Colditz was very well attended. Last Sunday was a busy day for us, with toy collecting in the afternoon (for our Christmas market Nail Game) and a small firework display in the evening. On behalf of the youth leaders can I thank those who gave their time and effort for both these events.

This brings me to a forthcoming event which comes in the form of another Talent Evening which was very well supported last time. It will take place on 10th December at a charge of £1.00 adults, 50p children.

December Youth Programme

- 3.12.89 Family Service 9.30 a.m.
- 3.12.89 Hall Group 6.30 8.00
- 10.12.89 Rehearsal 6.30 6.30
- 10.12.89 CHRISTMAS TALENT EVENING
8.00 p.m. Adults £1.00
Children 50p
- 17.12.89 Christmas Party 6.30-8.30
8.00-10.00
- 24.12.89 Christmas Eve NO YOUTH CLUB
- 31.12.89 New Year's Eve " " "



REGISTERS

Baptisms

October 29th Lewis Edward Whitmarsh
Katy Laura Stacey Pinner

Wedding

October 21st Gary Thomas Borrett &
Hazel Margaret Chapman

Funerals

October 16th Leslie Cyril John Graves
51
October 16th Edward Livings, 85

DIARY

December

- 3 ADVENT SUNDAY
6.30 pm Advent Card Service
- 12 2.15 pm Tiny Tots Service & party
- 17 3.30 pm Christingle
(No 6.30 service)
- 19 10 am Service at Mead Court
- 21 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
- 24 } See note of Christmas services
- 25 }
- 31 3 pm Nine Lessons & Carols -
St Mary's (no 6.30 pm service)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Dec 17th 3.30 pm Christingle Service
- St John's
- Dec 24th 8 am Holy Communion -
St Johns
9.30 am Parish Communion -
(no 6.30 pm service)
11.30 pm Midnight Mass -
St John's
- Dec 25th 8 am Holy Communion -
St Mary's
9.30 am Parish Communion -
St John's
11 am Holy Communion &
Carols - St Mary's
- Dec 31st 3 pm Nine Lessons & Carols -
St Mary's

CONFIRMATION

We shall be starting Confirmation Classes in January for confirmation by the Bishop on May 13th. If you wish to consider confirmation - adults or children - there will be an enquiry evening on January 17th 1990 at the Vicarage at 8.15 p.m. This does not commit you to confirmation but is purely an enquiry. More details from any of the clergy.



EPIPHANY

Saturday January 6th, said Communion
9.30 a.m. St John's
Sunday - Sung Eucharist for the
Epiphany.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am.



Intimations of Mortality

It may be the dying of the old year that has made me think of some paragraphs in our Questions and Counsel. They urge us to "Approach old age with courage. It may bring wisdom and serene detachment as well as pain and loneliness. Look for new opportunities for praying and listening".

"Grow old along with me
The best is yet to be"

were the Robert Browning words I often heard my father repeat to my mother while I, with the brashness of early middle age, urged her to "grow old gracefully".

Now that I have come to that stage of life myself, I understand what a task I set her. Constantly we hear of or come to know people who are beset by the ugly and humiliating ailments of old age and we wonder how "gracefulness" can possibly exist. What grace is there in -

"Second childishness, and mere oblivion,
Sans eyes, sans teeth, sans taste,
sans everything?"

Some weeks ago we heard of the passing from life to eternity of Dudley Robinson after many long years of Alzheimer's Disease. What will remain with us is the sweetness of his nature and the truthful ring of his ministry in Meeting: and this even after his mind was becoming clouded. A reminder that, quite apart from the body and mind, a soul too undergoes training through a lifetime.

I have for long cherished a paragraph in Dame Felicitas Corrigan's biography of Helen Waddell, the medieval scholar and author of Peter Abellard. Her life, it seemed, had ceased to be as the result of organic brain failure with "the total eclipse of her dazzling gifts of intellect, winning charm, balance and humour, her ripe scholarship and deep spirituality. Mute, unheeding, unfeeling, blind to all beauty, a stranger to the family she had so loved, she sat day after day before a picture of Christ crucified, and in that darkness of soul and body, who shall say what mighty work was being wrought in and by her spirit? Mankind was redeemed by a man stretched out with hands and feet fastened by nails to a cross."

Paragraph 36 of Questions and Counsel includes the words: "In despair, remember that Jesus too felt despair on the cross. By accepting the fact of death we are freed to live more fully".

In that is our hope - and we can with a cheerful heart wish each other a Happy Christmas.

Mair Muir



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.

Christmas 1989

"Joy to the World
For the Lord is among us
in flesh and blood"

Leading my Parish Family at Holy Mass on the joyous feast of All Saints I found myself reflecting on the PILGRIM CHURCH and the hope to be part of the Community of Saints. How joyous and grateful we should be for the gift of Faith!

Village News

Christians begin the life of Christ from Baptism. We accept the Christian identity in the love of a personal and close God. A love always with us and so special to us, urging us to continue renewal and sanctity as the children of God. A love that inspires us to strive to be part of the Communion of Saints. We strive by useful lives in the Service of God and one another.

Christmas is such a special time for us - a new beginning. In this joyous time Holy Mother Church structures the call of salvation in a leading of us to Easter glory and joy of new Life. Salvation is revealed in the saving love of Christ. We become aware of the signs of salvation, of light and darkness of joy and sorrow, in the glory of the Cross of Christ. A child is born to us who is the Son of God. We are called out of the darkness to walk always as the children of the light.

Christmas brings us the God made Man in Christ, a great light burning brightly showing the way to salvation. It brings great joy. The Church centres the birth of Christ after the longest darkest night. The DAWNING call of peace and love; of Hope and Sanctity - 'As I have loved you, let you love one another'.

We are the Easter people and Allelujah is our song. Christ is born and the loving service of his Church proclaims and heralds his love in humility and joy.

Christmas is hailed 'O Holy Night - O Night divine'; when Christ is born A joy to be shared in celebrating and renewal; in peace and greeting.

In the Holy Season we salute each other in loving appreciation of the Lord. We try to feed the hungry. We visit the sick and the lonely. We pray for the peace of the Kingdom. It is the season of goodwill and tolerance. We pray to be worthy of the gift of faith and renew ourselves before the infant Saviour.

May the blessing of the Infant Saviour touch our hearts in the continued loving service and care of each other always in this most joyous season.

God Bless You Always.

J. D. Meehan



FUTURE EVENTS

December

- | | | |
|-------|---------|--|
| 6 | 11.00 | Stansted Hall, Burton End Barnardo's Christmas Fayre |
| 7 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Local History Soc. "History of the Christmas Card" |
| 11-14 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 11 | 12 noon | Day Centre Christmas Lunch |
| 17 | 3.30 | St John's Christingle Service |
| 20 | 7.00 | Memorial Gardens Chapel Hill SACC Carols |

January

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| 2 | 10.30 | Day Centre re-opens |
| 4 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Local History Soc. "19th Century Clavering" |
| 8-11 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 6 | 8.00 | Stansted Hall. Conservatives New Year Supper Dance |
| 19 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Helpline volunteers get-together Talk on CAMTAD |



Calling all HELPLINE volunteers

to

A "GET-TOGETHER"

Friday 19 January 1990

8.00 pm - 10.00 pm

at the Day Centre

Mince Pies

Coffee

* Geoff and Girlie Baker will *
be there to tell us about
* the work of CAMTAD *

So Please Come Along

Anyone interested in voluntary work with HELPLINE or CAMTAD will be welcome

SPECIAL NOTICE!

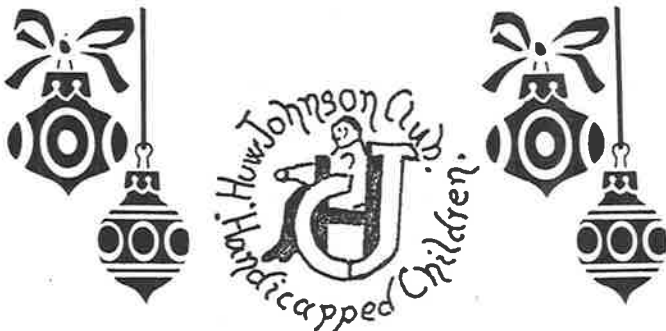


THE PETER KIRK SCHOOL

The Governors and parents are concerned that the Peter Kirk School faces closure owing to a falling role. Whilst we understand the Government's philosophy of integrating handicapped children into main stream schools, we do feel that parents should have the benefit of being able to look at all types of school in order to make an informed and proper choice. If any parents feel that they have been denied this choice, or who feel that their child would be better served by going to a special school, we should like to know. All discussions will be confidential unless permission is given to disclose parents' names.

Brenda Scarr
Chairman, Governors
813080

Kim Linford
Chairman, PTA
813466



November 9th was the day of our belated firework party held at 62 Chapel Hill. Thirty six members gave the first rocket a resounding send off and the excitement grew with each cascade of stars as firework after firework was exploded. At the half-way mark we all went indoors and tucked into soup, beefburgers and chicken which warmed us up ready for another session of fireworks and sparklers. Fortunately the rain kept off until the very last rocket zoomed into the sky.

A very big thankyou to the staff and customers of the "Cock" Public House for filling a bottle with money for club funds. £69.51 was the grand total which will go a long way towards paying for the trip to the Pantomime at Cambridge in the New Year. All the children join in saying "thankyou".

M. G. Johnson

SIDEWAYS NURSERY SCHOOL

Hello everyone!

We are now well into the second half of term and looking forward to Christmas.

The Children's Sponsored Nature Board raised a tremendous amount, most of which is being used to buy new equipment, i.e. large items for the Home Corner and a Petrol Pump for the end of the morning's play when the Big Toys (cars, tractors, etc.) are used. Also lots more educational playthings for the activities tables. The remainder will be sent to "Children in Need" to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks to all those who sponsored the children. You were very generous!!

Once again the childrens happy faces were captured on camera by Elaine Lockerby. The results were excellent and repeat photos for Christmas presents for grandparents and other relatives are a good idea.

Our friends the policemen called in to see us to talk to the children about the dangers of fireworks and bonfires. They also brought their patrol car in for the children to climb over and touch and fiddle with everything in sight.

We would also like to say a special thankyou to the regulars of the Bell & Feathers for their generous donation collected over the years in a giant whisky bottle.

Christmas preparations are well in hand. The Nativity Play has been cast, the parties and entertainer have been organised and we have written to Father Christmas to ask him to visit us, if he is not too busy.

The AGM will be over by the time this appears. I hope the support will be as good as last year.

Many thanks to all those mums who help out at Nursery School; also to Nanny May and Auntie Joan whose help on a regular basis is marvellous.

Auntie Helen



MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

Since last reporting in the Link we have had a Mrs Bentley visit us selling new clothes. Quite a number of our members took advantage of this visit and we hope that Mrs Bentley will visit us again in November.

On September 6th the Vicar paid a visit and gave a talk on a women's prison. We all found the talk most interesting. We also celebrated the Golden Wedding of Mr & Mrs Palmer who were presented with a bouquet by the Vicar and a card with the Club's congratulations.

Mr Sharratt of Stansted Hall also came and gave a talk on the work that is carried out at the Hall. All who were present enjoyed the talk very much.

On October 7th our Annual Sale took place and was very successful. We should like to thank all the shopkeepers of Stansted who gave raffle prizes and all who supported the sale by coming out on such a wet afternoon.



DAY CENTRE

The Christmas Lunch will be on December 11th, doors open 12.00 noon. The Centre closes for decorating on December 15th, 4.00 pm. Re-opens January 2nd 1990 at 10.30 am.

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to visit the Day Centre at least once a week for tea, coffee, a snack or lunch?



This feature is being written in the week preceding Remembrance Day. It is too early to judge how the 'poppy collection' is going - although our 'team' is making an even greater effort this year. Next week our branch has its AGM. So what, you may ask? It is a paradox - or perhaps inevitable by the very nature of things - that at a time when the Legion is being called upon to exercise an increasing benevolent function (via the 'poppy appeal' proceeds), there are fewer active members to perform the imperative roles at the grass roots - i.e. the branches.

There are still many 1914-18 survivors (in all senses) to be looked after; the 1939-45 'veterans' are of an age when, through failing health and hard times, they are deserving of help. And we must not forget that their dependents are looked after too. Subsequent conflicts since 1945 have also produced their victims.

This branch has recently bade farewell to two of our number - Fred Boyd and Fred Harris. "We will remember them". Our branch presently numbers some 70 members. Many can no longer play an active part - but still gladly pay their subs (£5 standard or £3.50 at pensioners' rate). There must be many ex-servicemen (and women) out there who could fill the gaps and swell our ranks - to do the work of the Legion, which must go on for many years to come. Nor is membership confined only to ex-service personnel; others can become 'associate members'. The old service adage about "don't volunteer for anything" is misplaced in this case. In fact "your branch needs you". In particular we are looking for branch secretary material. Repay the giving of their 'today' by giving your tomorrow in service of the Legion.

If you are interested please phone 813562. To illustrate the dedication of some (one at least), next month's centre piece will be "The London Marathon".





Our AGM was held on 19th October and, despite the unpopularity of AGMs, over 40 members attended.

Our President, Mrs Gabb, thanked all officers and members for making the past year so successful. In particular she referred to the hard work and dedication of our Chairman, Mrs Little, who unfortunately feels she can serve for only one more year.

The Secretary reported on the numerous activities in which the branch had been engaged.

In her report the Treasurer told us that we now have 81 members, and she appealed for somebody to come forward, not only for the job of chairman, but also for that of secretary, since our present secretary intends to serve for only one more year.

The Chairman reported that we had had a very good year financially. She said we are all getting older and enthusiasm is hard to keep going. Our President had been very generous with her house and garden; Mrs Fuller's help as Vice-chairman had been invaluable; and our secretary and treasurer had both been marvellous. The committee had been most supportive, but best of all had been the support of the members.

Officers and committee for the coming year are:-

President - Mrs Gabb
Chairman - Mrs Little
Secretary - Mrs Whall
Treasurer - Mrs Levey
Committee - Mesdames Clower, Fuller, Measures, Patmore, Snow, Steele, Traveller, Wedlock, Wiffen.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Hancock, RBL County Youth Involvement Officer. He told us an enormous amount about what the RBL is now doing with youth and other organisations.

The RBL Carol Service will be at Newport Parish Church on Sunday 10th December 1989 at 6 p.m. - congregation must be seated by 5.40 pm.



Our tour of the airport at the end of October was most enjoyable. Transported around the vast area (2,400 acres) now under construction, we saw the skeleton of the new terminal building and the tunnel for the direct rail link. Our delightful guide told us that by 1991 Stansted will be able to handle 8 million passengers a year.

Remember - no meeting in December.

Pat Clower
Tel. 815220



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our varied programme of meetings for the 1989/90 season is well under way although unfortunately Spike Mays was ill and unable to come in October. He hopes to speak to us on a future occasion. Peter Sanders gave a talk instead on the General Elections of 1830 and 1831, when men went from Stansted to Chelmsford to vote. The proceedings then lasted for up to 15 days with much rowdiness and drunkenness.

On 7th December, Jackie Worthington will be telling us about The History of the Christmas Card, and on 4th January Eileen Ludgate will speak on 19th C. Clavering.

Various projects are proposed such as dating hedges, studying old Parish Registers and producing occasional papers. We would like to borrow old photographs and papers to copy for our records and it has been suggested that sketches, drawings or paintings of some scene or feature of Stansted as it is now could be collected for future interest and information. Sometimes an artist's eye sees an aspect even a camera misses and can give a vivid impression. Any offers please?

We would be delighted to have more members, of course, but if anyone would like to come to any particular meeting we would be pleased to welcome them (visitors admission 75p). All monthly meetings are in the Day Centre at 8 p.m. on the first Thursday in the month.

Peggy Honour
Tel. 813160

STANSTED AFTERNOON



STANSTED EVENING

Gale force winds and lashing rain failed to dampen the spirits of over thirty members who attended our AGM in November. Mrs Brenda Ryan, President of the Evening W.I. acted as Teller for our election. This year we have twelve committee members and Mrs Ann Calver was again elected as President. The 1989 committee report was given by Mrs Cilla French, our Secretary this year and the treasurer's report was presented by Mrs Trix Little.

Mrs Calver thanked all the 1989 committee for the support given all through the year, also those who helped, but are not committee members. Mrs Joan Grose gave the general vote of thanks on behalf of the members.

A report of the half yearly W.I. Council Meeting was given by Mrs Pauline Cianciola who attended as delegate.

The competition for a homemade item for the Christmas Stall had 14 entries all of a high standard. First prize went to Mrs Patmore whose entry was a lovely painting. Second Mrs Banks with a knitted doll. The overall winner of the year's competitions was Mrs Pauline Cianciola who will hold the cup for a year. After tea a light hearted competition regarding items in members' handbags was won by Mrs Margaret Gibbs after a tie breaker with Mrs Brenda Scarr.

Next meeting on Wednesday 13th December will be our Christmas Party.

Pauline Cianciola
Tel. 814487

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With our thoughts turning towards Christmas we invited Mrs Muir to our November meeting to demonstrate cake decoration. She showed us how to make an efficient job of covering a cake with sugar paste and then decorated the sides most attractively with layers of icing frills.

We also hold our AGM in November so we then turned to the business of the evening. After reports of the events of the past year, the new committee were appointed and Brenda Ryan was again elected as President.

Elsie Stoddart was presented with the cup for the highest number of points achieved in the monthly competitions.

A beautiful Christmas Cake was made by Betty Little and presented as one of the raffle prizes.

Next month will be our Christmas Party and visitors will be very welcome on December 14th.

Vera Ansell
815949



BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The warm, comfortable, 'Christmassy' setting of Stansted Hall at Burton End, Stansted, is again the venue of this year's Barnardo's Christmas Fayre. On the morning of Wednesday, 6th December from 11.00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome. There's a marvellous raffle with lots of prizes, Christmas stalls, cakes, delicatessen, 'bring and buy', 'guess the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc. And comfy armchairs for relaxing in too!

Come and enjoy yourself - and bring your friends. Barnardo's need your support. Perhaps those with cars could offer a lift to the less fortunate. Entrance 50p including refreshments.

Mrs Pauline Garnell
Tel: 813124



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

A Constituency Country Fayre was held at Priors Hall, Stebbing, on Saturday 16th September. A profit of £1,500 was made and members from Stansted helped with stalls and refreshments.

A successful Quiz Night was held on Saturday 21st October at the Day Centre. Various teams took part and the Quiz Master was Dirk Vettewinkel, the Constituency Agent. Supper was served by the committee and there was a raffle.

FUTURE EVENTS

A Christmas Drinks Party at "The Brambles", St. John's Road, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Richard Shervington, on Sunday 10th December 12 noon.

New Year Supper Dance at Stansted Hall at 8 p.m. on Saturday 6th January.

Jumble Sale at St. John's Church Hall Saturday 10th February at 2.15 p.m.

Conservative Parish Councillors

Surgeries will take place at the Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, between 10 and 11 am. Next date:- Saturday 27th January.

Where and when to see your M.P.

Alan Haselhurst

Friday 1st December 6.15-7 pm at The Guildhall, Town Street, Thaxted.
Friday 1st December 7.30 - 8.15 pm at The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden.

To write to the Member of Parliament address letters to:-

Alan Haselhurst, M.P.
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

For all further information please contact:- Mrs Bridget Gott, 814440 or Mrs Joan Summers, 814854.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214

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

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

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th December
Monday 8th - Thursday 11th January '90

Please do not empty sacks of rubbish around the skip - rubbish should be left in boxes or bags - think of the poor chaps who have to clear up!

Talking of dumping - may we remind you that the District Council do operate a heavy lift service and will collect any large or unmanageable items from your home at no charge - phone Environmental Services 94-875411 - please do not dump anything along the lanes, in the ditches or on the footpaths. Believe it or not people do this - just recently a settee and armchair were left on the footpath at Stoney Common. There is absolutely no need for anyone to do this. It is, of course, an offence and if you witness this then the offender can be prosecuted, so do not be afraid to report it.

MEMORIAL GARDENS - improvements to the path will be starting soon, followed by a tidying-up of the shrubberies and remedial treatment to the lawn.

WINDMILL FIELDS - the open space opposite the Windmill now belongs to the Parish Council and work on landscaping and planting will commence in the near future.

BULB PLANTING - many thanks to all the local organisations and individuals who have donated funds for buying bulbs. A complete acknowledgement list will appear in the next Parish Newsletter which will be available before Christmas.

Finally, we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!



CAROL SINGING 1989



STANSTED ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

The fine weather of the weekend of 14/15 October did not mean that everyone had to do their gardening as was demonstrated by over 2,000 people visiting the Art and Craft Market.

The demolition of the annexe had meant the loss of 8 craft stalls, but the 18 fitted into the remaining space, providing a wide variety of crafts and a selection of early Christmas presents for all ages.

Although the same number of artists showed paintings this year, it had been decided to limit the number that each painter could submit so that "only" 534 were exhibited. This meant that most paintings were able to be hung just a little better and this was appreciated by artists and visitors who were unanimous in their views that this year they were generally of excellent quality.

Statistics are nearly always meaningless but the event which we regard as a true village event produces monies to be distributed to village charities and good causes. This year's beneficiaries will be considered as soon as possible and although all accounts have not been received, it appears likely that well over £1,000 will be distributed.

The Committee are already, following the loss of the annexe, considering possible ways and means of catering for more craft stalls and improving the viewing of the pictures. This is of course a very vexed and complicated matter and a great deal of thought will be required, but the Committee are determined to ensure that the future of this event will be maintained far beyond this, its 11th successful year.

Greg Snow
Chairman

Gwen Hopkins
Secretary
Tel. 813714



This year the money we raise will be divided equally between 'The Link' and the District Nurses' Equipment Fund for a Pegasus bed.

Anybody and everybody is welcome to come - if you cannot sing you can carry a collecting tin and knock on doors. Please wear warm clothes and carry a torch. Carol sheets will be provided.

We meet each evening at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 21st December

Meet at corner of Cambridge Road and Croasdaile Road to sing in Croasdaile Close, Dove Close, Gilbey Crescent, Croasdaile Road, Rainsford Road and Longcroft.

Friday 22nd December

Meet at corner of Bentfield Gardens and Bentfield Road to sing in Bentfield Gardens, Cawkell Close, Cannons Mead, Bentfield Road, Wetherfield and Bentfield Causeway.

Saturday 23rd December

Meet at corner of High Mead and High Lane to sing in High Mead, The Campions, Coltsfield, Meadowcroft, High Lane and Brewery Lane.

Sunday 24th December

Meet at corner of Sunnyside and Chapel Hill to sing in Sunnyside, Woodfields, Recreation Ground, Spencer Close, Greenfields, Chapel Hill and St. John's Road.

All instrumentalists are warmly invited.

If we do not cover your area, donations may be left at Barclay's Bank, Cambridge Road. The account number is 71118935. Please do contribute.

For any further details please contact
Judy Goddard 812498
Derek Honour 813160
Peter Jones 813252





STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

A chronology of Stansted Mountfitchet is being compiled by Ken Turner in conjunction with the History Society. It was most interesting that at the meeting of the Society on 2nd November he announced that it was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Tennis Club. We know quite a bit about the Tennis Club over the last 50 years but not earlier than that. If anybody has any information at all about the early days of the Club we should be extremely interested to hear about it. Please contact Janet Hollis, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. B/S 812073.

A very successful tournament was held on Sunday 29th October. 16 people entered and we played from 10 am to 5 pm. A delicious lunch was served to 20 people by Richard Mott and Eddie Campbell, helped by contributions from committee members.

The final, played in near darkness, and rain, was won by Richard Crosby and Sue Frost who beat Richard Mott and Janet Hollis 6-4. The tournament was organised by Georgina Rose and David Penketh.

Our ladies and men continue to play in the Bishop's Stortford Floodlight Leagues and the Mixed League starts after Christmas.

Play continues every Sunday morning from 10 am to lunchtime. Winter membership until 1st April is half price.

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

CHRISTMAS DINNER Friday 15th December at The Prince of Wales, Broxted - please see notice in clubhouse with all details - menu, price, etc.



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Uttlesford Council

Projects which the UCVS has initiated include the Branch of Uttlesford MIND which helps people with mental health problems, a Hospital Discharge Scheme through which representatives from the Rural Over Sixties Clubs in North Uttlesford can help those newly discharged from hospital and the Uttlesford Community Transport group which organises non urgent transport to hospital. A branch of Uttlesford CRUSE, the bereavement care service, will be launched next spring and a Steering Committee is working on a Care Network of volunteers to cover the whole district. In late 1988 the W.H. Smith Willing Hands Scheme came into operation. People wishing to do voluntary work in the community can collect an application form from the Saffron Walden or Bishop's Stortford branch of W.H. Smith and send it in to the UCVS office and, as soon as the new network can organise it, the new volunteers will be placed.

Members of our organisation include Parish Councils, County and District Councillors, Churches, Women's Institutes, The Red Cross, St John Ambulance, W.R.V.S., Royal British Legion, Day Centres, Clubs for the Handicapped, Over 60s Clubs and Social groups. Individuals or groups can join the UCVS for an annual subscription of £5. Members are entitled to four copies of the quarterly newsletter, delivered free, the opportunity to place articles or advertisements in it, invitations to our meetings, access to information, advice and public relations services through the UCVS office with photocopying at cost (5p per sheet); in addition, of course, members can stand for election to the Executive Committee and take the opportunity to influence the way in which the UCVS will operate in the future.

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Eileen Quinn 812109
Treasurer: Katy Dockerill 812997

NWR aims to provide lively and stimulating meetings for women on a variety of subjects. Meetings are held in member's own homes and are organised by the members themselves with an occasional speaker. The Stansted group meet monthly but the evening chosen varies throughout the programme.

Subscriptions are £4.50 per annum of which £3.50 goes to National Headquarters and £1.00 to local funds. Evening Meetings begin at 8 pm. Please telephone the hostess in advance so that she can make appropriate arrangements for seats and coffee. We pay 40p per evening. 50p for speaker evenings. Transport for those without cars can be arranged.

December Meeting:
Thursday 7th. Christmas Games Evening. Come and join in the fun. It's not only children who enjoy playing games. Venue: Katy's, tel. 812997.

N.B. Important date in your new year diary, January 10th, Programme Planning Meeting plus bring & share supper.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE

THERE IS an old German legend which tells us how the evergreen fir tree became the first Christmas Tree.

St Boniface, who was born at Crediton in Devon, was sent to Germany to bring the good news about Jesus to the pagan tribes. One dark night he and his monks were walking through some woods when they found villagers preparing to sacrifice a young boy to their god, Odin. The boy was tied to an oak tree so Boniface freed him and cut the oak tree down.

Boniface and his monks had been carrying lighted candles and they put them on the branches of an evergreen fir tree. By the light of the candle-lit tree Boniface told the villagers of a loving God who had brought light and life to the world through Jesus Christ his Son.

Legend says that St Boniface told the people 'From this night, this tree shall be your holy emblem. It is the wood of peace, because your houses are built from it. It is the sign of eternal life, because its leaves are always green. It points to heaven, and so from this day it will be called the tree of the Christ-Child.'

What will happen to you at Christmas?
Yule be happy.

FIR-INSTANCE

All the answers to this word quiz begin with the letters FIR...

1. What FIR is the heavens?
2. What FIR is a weapon?
3. What FIR is a banger or sparkler?
4. What FIR is a small barrel?
5. What FIR is a business?
6. What FIR is before anything else?
7. What FIR is emergency help?
8. What FIR is made with coal and wood?
9. What FIR is a flying beetle?
10. What FIR is an outside staircase?

*A jovial fellow named Packer,
Pulled out a joke from his cracker.*

*It said 'If you're stuck
For a turkey, try duck -
You could say it's a real
Christmas Quacker'.*

*There once was a fat boy
called Kydd,
Who ate twenty mince pies for
a quid.*

*When asked, 'Are you faint?'
He replied 'No I ain't,
But I don't feel as well as I did'.*

Answers: 1. firmament 2. firearm
3. fireworks 4. firkin 5. firm 6. first
7. first aid 8. fire 9. firefly 10. fire
escape.

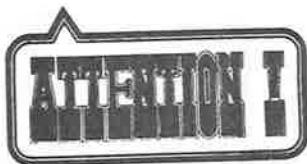
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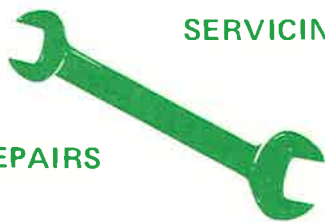
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