

May 89

The LINK



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House to House Collection

Market - Saturday 20 May 10 - 12 a.m.
Friends' Meeting House
Chapel Hill

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
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15th June for July issue

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

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am.

I was somewhat perplexed recently to see the early Quakers described as 'inspirational, idealistic, infinitely courageous, but none the less hooligans'.

The word hooligan is not one that readily springs to mind when I consider the Friends with whom I share the silent communion of Meeting for Worship. And yet the antics of some early Quakers must have seemed as disgraceful to the more respectable members of 17th Century society as do those of the modern day 'lagerlout' to us.

Pepys noted in his diary:

.... this day aman, a Quaker, came naked through (Westminster) Hall only very civilly tied about the privities to avoid scandal, and with a chafing-dish of fire and brimstone upon his head did pass through the Hall, crying "Repent, repent!"

But this was just one aspect of a movement which grew from the spiritual experience of George Fox. Had Quakerism not encompassed much more it would surely have followed numerous other transient cults into obscurity. As it is the lives of many early Friends remain a constant source of inspiration, and their words ring as true today as they did 300 years ago.

William Penn might have been anticipating the conflicts and divisions that we witness today when he said:

"The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious and avout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another, though the divers liveries they wear here makes them strangers. This world is a form; our bodies are forms; and no visible acts of devotion can be without forms. But yet the less form in religion the better, since God is a Spirit; for the more mental our worship, the more adequate to the nature of God; the more silent, the more suitable to the language of a Spirit."

John Millington

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside.

Priest: The Rev'd John Meehan
The Presbytery, St. Teresa's
12 Millside, Stansted, Essex.

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

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

Pax Christi is a peace movement born amid the suffering of war. It began during the winter of 1944-45 in the south of France when a small group of Christians who had lost husbands, fathers, children, started meeting to pray for their enemies. Their patron, Bishop Theas, had offered Mass for his captors while he was imprisoned in a concentration camp. After the war, Pax Christi became a channel for acts of atonement and reconciliation between France and Germany. With Pope Pius XII's blessing on its work the movement spread to other European countries, then to the United States and Australia.

Drawing on the Catholic peace tradition for its spirit and message, Pax Christi is still growing today. There are 18 National sections worldwide and sections are being formed in the Philippines and Sri Lanka and also in Latin America. In a war torn world and a society shaped by violence, the need is great. If we would be peacemakers like that first Pax Christi group in France we must search our hearts. What does it mean to witness the Pax Christi - the Peace of Christ in our world today?

The Peace of Christ is Prayer, Fasting and Action. Pax Christi's concept of peace is based on the teaching of Christ in the Gospel: the spirit of the Beatitudes and the commandment to love not only our neighbours but also our enemies. It begins in the heart and mind of each of us as we turn from violence to non violent love.

Pax Christi believes that the major task of reconciliation today is to improve relations between the peoples of Eastern Europe and the West, to lessen the tensions between them and to build up mutual confidence.

In Northern Ireland Pax Christi believes that any political solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland should be arrived at by genuine dialogue and consensus. Their policy is to work for a peaceful resolution which respects the traditions and cultural identities of both the Protestant and Catholic communities and in which there is a social and legal justice for all. The movement seeks to bring about change through influence, openly given and freely accepted.

Through prayer, study and action Pax Christi members try to motivate the whole community to respond to build God's Kingdom of peace on earth.

If you would like to know more about Pax Christi and the work that they do they can be contacted at Pax Christi, Christian Peace Education Centre, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH.

E. 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.

On Saturday, 11th March this year Jim McCartney, 32 years old, went to work in the evening. He was a doorkeeper at The Orient Bar on Springfield Road, Belfast. It was the last time he did so. That evening he opened the door to what he thought were customers and was shot several times by two Protestant Terrorists in a mindless, tit-for-tat sectarian killing. He died instantly.

Two days later I was in Belfast together with three Catholic and two Anglican friends on a fact-finding and peace mission. I was accommodated at the Redemptorist Clonard Monastery - one hundred yards from Jim McCartney's home and less than two hundred yards from where he was murdered. Father Gerry Reynolds took Canon John Richardson and me to Jim's home. It was only 40 hours after his murder and four from his funeral. Gerry introduced us to Lily, Jim's wife, Nellie, his mother, two of his three children (youngest being looked after elsewhere) and a cousin. Lily was stunned into total and anguished silence. Her two children were caught between trying to be ordinary, lively youngsters and yet being bewildered, suddenly thrust from the world of childhood's innocence into the world of adult horror. Nellie's grief was readily vocal as she repeatedly insisted God was not to blame and that their tragedy came from the evil in wicked men. She was defending her Faith and her God. And rightly. Jim and Lily's home carried the marks of hardship and poverty, but it was a home of deep love and was not made desolate. At 5 p.m. on Monday 13th March I was thus face to face with the unspeakable agony and the impenetrable hatreds of Ulster. But also with the source of ultimate hope - unyielding belief in a God of love.

Three days later all six of us were right on the outskirts of Belfast at Lagan College, Northern Ireland's first all-ability, integrated (open to all without distinctions of religion) secondary level school. It is a magnificent venture, attempting to educate older children together so that sectarian divisions are overcome and enabling youngsters of any religious persuasion and of none to grow up together naturally in real knowledge, understanding and trust of each other. The College has to raise very much of the money it needs. Staff have voluntarily taken cuts in salaries to help financially. Teaching goes on at two sites some three quarters of a mile apart. The older site is on a hillside and the mobile classrooms have to be irregularly placed to fit the terrain. It makes working conditions very difficult. The newer site is much better and has new, planned and integrated buildings.

Some 15/16 year-old students told us how some of them have been beaten up by some of their peers in their own religious communities because they go to an integrated school and of how the buses taking them there have sometimes been stoned. But they said they still wanted such schools, would continue to go there and would send their children there. The staff and pupils have great courage and conviction and are a fine sign of hope.

I have told of experiences near the beginning and at the end of our visit. Between them we met so many wonderful people - brave, loving, open-minded. We heard of so much pain and loss, saw so much darkness, but also met groups and activities of incredible love and unyielding hope. Ultimately the future of Ulster must be in their hands. Their future can be safe nowhere else.

Love to you all.

Harold Fisher

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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.

It almost looks as though for some people the word 'Whitsun' has disappeared from their vocabulary. Time it was when the only Bank Holiday between Easter and August was that of Whitsun, but now, with the advent in the last few years of Bank Holidays for May Day, and in celebration of the Spring, Whit Sunday has become exclusively a festival of the church, with no day of celebration to follow, and consequently seems to have been forgotten by the majority.

Very few can have failed to take note of Easter this year. The Bishop of Durham has seen to that. Differing viewpoints regarding the resurrection of our Lord have been expressed by many contributions to press and media, some from quite unlikely sources.

I doubt whether such media attention will be given to Whit Sunday, however, although for Christians the festival is a time of great importance and joy. Whitsun resulted in the founding of the church by a group of men transformed and emboldened by the Holy Spirit, who had entered their lives, giving them power to fulfil God's purpose in His church.

The church in the North of England has long shown its joy in the festival of Whitsun by holding Whit walks in cities and villages. I remember hearing the Archbishop of Canterbury talking some time ago about these walks of celebration of the birthday of the church. He described the three days of celebration held in Northern cities. When Christians, dressed in white would walk together through the streets proclaiming the joy they felt in the gift of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Although as far as I know there will be no Whit walk in Stansted, the Whitsun festival will be celebrated in all of the churches on Sunday May 14th, and a very warm invitation is extended to everyone to join with us on that joyful occasion to thank God for the gift of His Spirit at Pentecost, the first Whit Sunday.

Lydia Rapkin

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.

MAY DIARY

- 2 10 am Communion Mead Court
8.15 P.C.C. at the Vicarage
- 3 8.15 Fellowship Group 31 Park Road
- 4 ASCENSION DAY
Communion Norman Court 10 am
10 am Holy Communion (St John's)
8 pm Sung Eucharist
- 14 Whitsunday - see notice
- 17 8.15 Fellowship Group, 38 Bentfield Rd
- 24 2.30 Mothers' Union communion

June

- 1 10 am Communion Norman Court



PARISH FESTIVAL

ST. JOHN'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

JUNE 10TH AND 11TH

Keep these dates free and help to make these two days memorable occasions. The two main events will take place on Sunday June 11th. Sung Eucharist at 9.30 a.m. when the preacher will be the Right Rev. Roderick Coote, and Deanery Choral Evensong at 6.30 p.m., preacher the Ven. Roger Sainsbury.

Come and see the flower displays which will follow the theme "Thanks be to God".

The "Centenary Grant Dance" will be held at the Mountfitchet School on Saturday June 10th at 8 p.m. Tickets available, £8, including Supper from Stuart Ayres, tel. no. 814706.

Help to make the weekend a success either by arranging flowers, manning a stall or acting as a steward. Contact Marion Johnson, tel. no. 812284.

REGISTERS

Baptisms

25th March Lorna Katherine Ruff
26th March Jack Webster
Laura Elizabeth Carol Ireland
2nd April James Laing Wright

Marriages

11th March Mark William Chisnall and
Lisa May Jenkins
25th March Robert Graham Looker and
Diane Hilary Brown

Funerals

4th April Maureen Broadhurst, 56
7th April Harry Miller, 78

Kathryn Spencer
—Reflexologist—

3 Churchill Corner,
Stansted,
Essex,
CM24 8UA

Tel. (0279) 813603

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Dear Friends,

I must admit to being very partial to a "cat-nap" in the late afternoons especially if the television is on! Maybe I only sleep for 5 minutes or so, but when I come to I feel refreshed and ready to start life again.

If our bodies need these brief moments of sleep and relaxation, surely then our spiritual selves and our minds need time to be renewed and refreshed as well. In July (the weekend of the 14th-16th) there is a chance to do just this - to have a spiritual "cat-nap"! We have booked 8 places at Pleshey - our Diocesan Retreat House, along with people from two other parishes in the Diocese - to have a weekend retreat - a chance to deliberately stop - and step out of the bustle of life, in order to be still, to listen and discern the deeper realities of life.

Pentecost - the season of the Church's year that starts on Sunday May 14th reminds us that living our faith day by day depends upon the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit - the same Spirit that God granted to the Church that first Pentecost in Jerusalem - the Spirit that changed their lives - let it change your life! So stop and listen to "the still small voice of God" in the silence and peace of Pleshey.

Marion Johnson (812284) will give you all the details or one of the clergy.

I wouldn't miss my "cat-nap" each day - nor my annual spiritual one - so I'm sure you will find it real help and inspiration.

Why not try it!

Yours
Margaret



Our meeting in May will be on Wednesday May 24th at 2.30 p.m. There will be Holy Communion in St. John's at 2.30 p.m. followed by tea in the Vicarage, thanks to the kind invitation of Bob and Brenda.

On Friday May 26th at 10.30 a.m. there is a Deanery Coffee Morning at Quebec Cottage, Berden. Bring and Buy. Please let me know if you wish to go.

Margaret

YOUTH

FOCUS



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Hugo Richardson has been appointed as Assistant Youth Leader to our younger youth group, and I am sure you will join with the young people and the youth leaders team in welcoming him to our group.

I would also like to add our very grateful thanks to three of our younger youth group who took it upon themselves to raise £19.00 by washing cars for our Mundesley holiday. Thankyou Ben, Luke and Lea.

Last month we had a very successful evening when we invited Birchanger Youth Group to join us, and we look forward to entertaining them again in the summer months for outdoor games.

On Sunday 9th April after a very enjoyable evening of outdoor games (the success due largely to the help of Hugo and John Savage) the young group rounded off the evening by having a 'Youth Club Awards' presentation. This was organised completely by Steven Crommie and David and James Hobday. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and very witty commentary - mind you Fr. Tony and myself are still wondering why we didn't get an award (or was it we were relieved not to get one).

We are hoping to hold a car boot sale on Sunday 4th June (£5 a car) at 11 o'clock. Any enquiries please telephone 813712 or Fr. Tony 814463.

- * Saturday 6th May
- Jumble Sale 11 o/c St John's Church Hall
- Sunday 7th May
- 6.30 Hall Group 8.00 Hall Group
- Sunday 14th May
- 6.30 Quiz Evening 8.00 Quiz evening
- Saturday 20th May
- Race Night 8 o/c St John's Church Hall
- Adults £1.00 Youth Club members 50p
- (proceeds towards youth club holiday and Urban renewal fund)
- Sunday 21st May
- 6.30 Games evening 8.00 Games evening
- Sunday 28th May
- Rehearsal for Youth Service and Games

* If you have any jumble please telephone 813712 for collection.

Fr Tony 814463	Brenda 813712
Ian 813239	Martin 813040
Richard 84.3705	Hugo 815518

ASCENSION DAY
THURSDAY MAY 4TH
SUNG EUCHARIST
8 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S



SUNDAY MAY 14TH
ALL SERVICES
AT ST. MARY'S

- 8 a.m. Holy Communion
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
- 6.30 p.m. United Service for the beginning of Christian Aid Week

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Jean M. Gill.

SACC

CHEVETOGNE

Our friends from Chevetogne, our "link parish" in Belgium will we hope be with us for the weekend of May 26th-29th.

If you can offer hospitality for one or more of our visitors please contact Eileen Quinn, 812109.

A programme of visits and events has been drawn up to entertain them and we hope to give them as happy a weekend as they gave us last year.

SHALOM DATES

- 1st May - Harold Fisher talking on Northern Ireland at Monica's 88 Stansted Road, B.S.
15th May - Visitors from Russia at Marion's, 7 Blythwood Gdns
5th June - Derek Honour leads a Bible study at Judy's, 23 Burnell's Way

Everyone is most welcome to join with us on the above occasions. Further information from Rita on B.S. 659038.

Michael Dyer

**GOD'S WORD
is TRUTH.**



BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible Society Coffee Morning held on 12 April raised £90 and together with Bible Sunday envelopes a total of £154 has been sent to this worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who supported in any way this yearly event.

WOMENS' OWN

Mondays at 2.30 U.R.C. Hall

May 8th Mr. Horwood (Saffron Walden)
May 15th Mr. Whitefoot
May 22nd Mr. Lindsay (Royston)
May 29th Rev. L. Rapkin

June 5th Rev. H. Fisher
June 12th Brenda Scarr
June 19th Mrs. Graves (Debden)

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

May

- 4 8.00 St John's Ascension Day
Sung Eucharist
8 8.00 URC Hall S.A.C.C. Executive
Committee
8-11 Civic Amenity Skit at Crafton
Green Car Park
10 11.00 Day Centre. Barnardo's
Morning Market
10 8.00 58 Chapel Hill. LINK committee
14 6.30 St Mary's. United Service for
Christian Aid Week
18 7.45 Day Centre. Royal British
Legion (Women) Talk on
"Homemade chocolates"
19 8.00 St John's Hall. W.I. (Evening)
Potato Marketing Board
Demonstration £1.50 Tickets
Tel. 812725
20 11.30-2.00 St Mary's School May Fayre
23 8.00 Newport School. S.E.N.T.A. AGM
(See notice)

June

- 3-4 Skip at Crafton Green
10-11 St John's Centenary Festival
10 8.00 Mountfitchet School
St John's Centenary Grand Dance
26-29 Skip at Crafton Green

S.E.N.T.A.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of SENTA is taking place at Newport School at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 23 May 1989.

This will be an excellent opportunity to tell senior executives of British Rail your views on all the aspects of service that they provide. At least three British Rail representatives are expected, two from Cambridge and one from [Liverpool] Street. In addition we expect a representative from the T.U.C.C.

Inevitably the introduction of the 321 class, and the recent disruption at Liverpool Street will give rise to many questions and comments, but there are likely to be other matters that members have to raise. Please come, and bring your questions and comments with you.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The adage about 'absence making the heart grow fonder' has been tested! Have you missed us? We hope so.

"OUR VILLAGE"

"When was football first played in Stansted?" A question asked after our mention of this sport in a past issue. Unfortunately there is no complete answer available; researchers into the origins of this game have come up with many varied suggestions far too involved to talk of today.

So where may we start? Possibly you could well imagine some sort of ball game being played by the village when in 1314 a Proclamation in the name of King Edward II was made by the Lord Mayor of London "For as much as there is a great noise in the City caused by hustling over large footballs in the fields of the public from which many evils might arise which God forbid; We command and forbid on behalf of the King on pain of imprisonment such game to be used in the City." What, we may wonder would John de Malteby the then Rector of Stansted make of this news?

Over the next several hundred years the game was kicked around until the mid 1800's when football started to become organised. Prior to 1891 control of matches was down to two umpires, one for each half of the field with a Referee only consulted if Umpires could not agree. But the year 1891 was to see a change as from this time a Referee was able to take to the field of play and Umpires demoted to Linesmen.

By sheer coincidence it was this same year on February 7th 1891 that the first venture of a newly formed Stansted Football Club played its first match against a side from Saffron Walden, the venue being a site on part of the old Stansted Cricket Ground (this area today plays host to the sporting activities of Mountfitchet School). This match resulted in a win for the visitors by 5 goals to 2. However the Football Club's home ground was soon to move for by the very early 1900's Mr. Green had granted use of his ground for football matches. It was to become well known to the village and opponents as "Greens Meadow". But the contests played thereon must be told another time.

I would like to hear from anyone who may hold information or programmes of the Club's early years.

P. J. Brown

The reason for absence is that the Committee took a 'winter break'. Our new chairman, Mrs Kath Stevens, had the misfortune to be taken ill on Christmas Day and spent some time in hospital. We are delighted that she is now well enough to take up the reins - and call us to order. (Mixed metaphor!) The Service Committee did not hibernate, however; its work continued.

There were a number of changes on the Committee resulting from the AGM in November. Col. Austen Finn felt he had earned a rest after serving first as secretary and then for two years as chairman. John Summers, the treasurer, also decided to stand down after his labours. Both had shown great commitment and energy. Thanks Austen and John - we'll miss you. Fortunately we have had an infusion of new blood on to the Committee - and it has been particularly gratifying to welcome a member from Elsenham, Mr. Seager.

Since resuming meetings in March the following matters have arisen -

The 1988 Poppy collection in Stansted and district raised £2,688; an increase of 54% over 1987.

It was decided we ought to have a Vice Chairman: Mr David Challis was appointed.

With some misgivings, we agreed to participate in the national register of members held on computer. Members will be informed of the implications of this after the National Conference.

Preliminary consideration has been given to social events; more of this later.

On July 8th (which is a Saturday) the WINDSOR SAFARI PARK is offering specially reduced admission prices to ROYAL BRITISH LEGION parties, i.e. members and guests. If sufficient people are interested (not necessarily members) the branch is prepared to arrange a coach. The admission charge would be £3.50 each for both adults and children, but children under 4 are free. To this would be added

the cost of the coach travel. (The normal admission charge is £6.50 for adults and £5.50 for children). Anyone interested please ring 813562.



STANSTED AFTERNOON

Speaker for April was Mr Long on "Hairstyles through the ages", illustrated by coloured pictures of the various head gear worn by men and women from the Ancient Greeks to modern day. Mr Long talked of his days as a theatrical make-up artist and master craftsman in hairdressing, also for the theatre. A very interesting and amusing speaker.

Our President announced that £118 was raised at our coffee morning on April 8th for the Macmillan Trust. She thanked everyone for the support given.

Later in the year we shall have a half day coach trip around the Suffolk villages. Our handicraft afternoons have started and we hope to have continued support for this venture. A relaxed afternoon, where members can learn new skills from each other, or get assistance for some they already practise.

Details were announced for the Streeter Cup competition, a floral inter W.I. annual event held this year at Braughing. Mrs Joan Rumney will be our representative.

The competition for a hair adornment was won by Mrs Edna Reed with a pretty daisy chain circlet. Mr. Long, who judged the competition, especially made it his choice as it was the only entry hand made. There were nine entries. Raffle winners were Mrs Brenda Scarr and Mrs Pat Clower.

Pauline Cianciola
814487



BARNARDO'S MORNING MARKET

Wednesday 10th May at 11.00 a.m. Keep this morning free - for the Barnardo's Morning Market. Again, we're holding it at the Stansted Day Centre, in the centre of the village. Everyone is welcome.

There's the usual generous raffle with lots of prizes, 'bring and buy', cakes, delicatessen, plants, flowers, 'guess the weight' of a turkey and a cake, etc. Bring your friends and enjoy yourself in a good cause. Entrance 50p, including refreshments.



STANSTED EVENING

At our April meeting a talk was given by Mrs Planterose on the work of the W.R.V.S., formed in 1938 by the Dowager Marchioness of Reading, when war was imminent, to help with the problems caused by air raids: the homeless, emergency feeding and giving general comfort. They in fact proved to play a large part in the evacuation of children. They have carried on their caring work ever since, part of this being 'meals on wheels'.

The president reported that £192 was collected for Comic Relief from commuters at the railway station and Audrey Fry and her helpers were warmly applauded for the considerable effort put into this.*

A beautiful collection of daffodils and tulips were entered for the competition which was won by Jean Fuller, 2nd Sally Smith and 3rd Olive Bunting.

At our May meeting we will be discussing Resolutions for the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall in June.

Vera Ansell
3 Park Road
Tel: 815949

* May I add my congratulations to the Evening W.I. on this enterprising piece of public service. Ed.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL - STANSTED

MAY FAYRE

Saturday 20th May
11.30.a.m. to 2.p.m.

Bar.B.Q - Home made cakes -
Tombola - Maypole dancing
Train rides - games .
and much more, come along
and have fun.

Entrance 20p.
Senior citizens & children
FREE



The National Womens Register was formed in 1960 following a letter from a lonely housewife to a national newspaper asking why a register of women could not be set up for those with "liberal interests and a desire to remain individuals". This register would enable them to contact each other upon moving to a new area. The response was overwhelming and groups sprang up all over the country offering women an opportunity to take part in informal discussions on a wide range of subjects and to promote friendship and better understanding of both self and others.

The women who make up the register are women of all ages and from all walks of life. The register now contains more than 20,000 members in Great Britain and overseas.

Your local organisers are Stephanie McDowall, tel. 812137 and Eileen Quinn, tel. 812109. If you would like to come along to a meeting or would like a programme please ring one of the above.

MEETINGS IN MAY

Wed May 3rd Eileen's 812109
Do you see everything you think you see? Eileen will test your powers of observation and find out how good a witness you could be!

Tue May 30th Stephanie's 812137
HUSBAND'S QUESTIONS - Anonymously! Find out what men really want to know. They might surprise - or horrify you!



CRUSE IS COMING

At last there is to be help for the bereaved in Uttlesford. Following an initiative by the Rev Geoff Burditt, Curate at St. Mary's, Saffron Walden, the UCVS and he are setting up a Steering Committee which will work towards creating a branch of CRUSE in Saffron Walden.

We hope to set up similar branches in Dunmow, Thaxted and Stansted afterwards.

The Steering Committee has representatives on it from the Medical profession, social services, district nursing service, Crossroads and the UCVS

while the Area Organiser for Cruse is Chairman. The Secretary of this Steering Committee is Miss Margaret Cooper and any enquiries should be addressed to her at 28 Lambert Cross, Saffron Walden, or to the UCVS.

A Training Course for those interested in caring for the bereaved is being organised and we hope that this will begin in September. In the meantime a Meeting at Saffron Walden Town Hall has been arranged for TUESDAY 9 MAY at 8 pm when Margaret Foster from Cambridge Cruse will be the guest speaker.



MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

During the meeting on March 1st Mr. Pole, curator of Saffron Walden Museum came and showed slides and gave a talk on various items and subjects connected to the Museum. This was extremely interesting and greatly enjoyed by us all.

Two of our members, namely Mrs Winder and Miss Tame - are our representatives on the Committee which has been formed in connection with the Best Kept Village Competition.

At our last meeting Mrs Anne Calver gave a most interesting talk on the Salvation Army. She has been an officer in the Salvation Army for many years so was able to describe many incidents that had happened to her and some of the work that the Salvation Army carries out.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214

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

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - this year is on Wednesday 24 May 1989 at 8.00 p.m. in the Day Centre. Make a note in your diary now. Mr Brian Perkins, Director of Planning, Uttlesford District Council, will be the guest speaker. In addition there will be information available including plans and photographs on the Parish Council's Village Plan proposals.

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

Monday 8th May - Thursday 11th May
Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June
Monday 26th June - Thursday 29th June.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - we have again entered Stansted into this competition. We shall do our bit and we hope you will do yours! Please help by keeping your gardens, window boxes, etc. neat, tidy, colourful; not dropping any litter; removing out-of-date notices from noticeboards; taking down any flyposters (even if up-to-date!) and anything else which you can think of to make the village look well-kept and cared for. Thank you.

The National Childbirth
Education for Parenthood



Maggie Garrett
42 Bentfield Causeway
Tel: 813541

The NCT had several successful events ranging from the nearly new sale at which we hope you all found some useful bargains, to a very enjoyable toddlers Easter party. Jane Stoneham very kindly hosted the AGM in April at very short notice.

Here is the list of coffee mornings for May/June. All are from 10-11.30 a.m. Do come and join us. You or your toddler can find a new friend.

Under 1's and Expectant Mums

- May 2nd Pascale Fowell
57 Woodfields 812500
- May 9th Angela Mason
6 Station Rd, Elsenham 812545
- May 16th Rachel Smith
25 Bedwell Rd, Ugley Green
815745
- May 23rd Louise Storey
The Laurel, Hailes Wood Close
Elsenham 814425
- May 30th Pauline Burnard
20 The Street, Manuden 814600
- June 6th Helen McCullagh
41 Bentfield Gdns 813993
- June 13th Jenny Foster
31 Blythwood Gdns 813591
- June 20th Elaine Byrne
47 Chapel Hill 812780
- June 27th Ann Kitson
24 Spencer Close 813107

Toddlers

- May 5th Vivien Neal
2 Croasdale Close 813981
- May 12th Claire Hay
27 Gilbey Crescent 816772
- May 19th Jane Stoneham
52 Bentfield Rd 813138
- May 26th Penny Brooks
42 Bentfield Gdns 814763
- June 2nd Jackie Weston
6 High Street Elsenham 816282
- June 9th Julie Lunn
69 Brook Rd 814386
- June 16th Jackie Feehan 'Cordwents'
Stansted Rd Elsenham 813206
- June 23rd Isobel Atkinson
12 Coltsfield 814176



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

TENNIS COACHING

There are three vacancies for coaching for 11-14 year olds on Mondays starting on 8th May 4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. with Joanna Parkin (nee King).

Sylvia Banks' Wednesday class for 8-10/11 year olds is fully booked, but she is trying to arrange another class, so if you are interested please contact Janet Hollis B/S 812073.

The cost for these classes will be about £10 for 10 lessons (classes of 12 children maximum).

We are hoping to have a practice evening for Juniors on Thursdays arranged in age groups. To do this it is essential that parents of children volunteer to help on a rota system.

If you are interested in Adult Coaching please contact Janet Hollis.



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

I have only been a helper at the Huw Johnson Club for a short while but already I feel that I have been going for years because I enjoy it so much and it was so easy to slot in on my first night there. Everybody welcomed me with smiles, "hello's" and even a handshake but no more fuss than that. So often walls of reserve need to be broken down before friendships can be made but soon my inhibitions disappeared and I was laughing and chatting along with the next.

Every week in the Church Hall the routine is the same. The tuck shop organised by Mr. Johnson runs throughout the evening and supplies the hungry mobs with drinks, crisps and sweets and even raffle tickets for the weekly raffle. Around the middle of the evening orange or coffee and biscuits are produced and depending on the evening's theme, various activities, usually messy, take place. But it's not "Every week at the Church Hall" for Mr and Mrs. Johnson and the Committee continually arrange exciting trips and dream up new things to do, from a lesson on nail filing and hand care, to a visit to Stansted Fire Station where a full display, water and all, was given.

My impression that first night was of a big happy family and that is how I continue to see the Club. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and the Huw Johnson Club deserve all the support they can get for giving so much enjoyment to so many.

Evelyn Richardson

"SKIP AT CRAFTON GREEN"

(With thanks to the Parish Council for their kind invitation, so often repeated in "The Link")

O, who will up "The Hill" with me
To skip at Crafton Green?
Mountfitchet's own Amenity
Is waiting to be seen!

Turn cupboards out and "cast a clout"
And jettison your treasure
And come with me this 8th of May
To tread a merry measure.

Be ready, lest you miss this chance
(To horde your junk is mean)
O, will you, wont you join the dance:
"The Skip at Crafton Green"!

Phyllis Harrison



Hello again!

Summer term is here and what a busy one it is going to be. The children are busy learning new songs and rhymes for the end of term concert, and making masks and decorations for the windows. This term is always full of extra activities. Plenty of outings and visits are lined up for the second half of term. Also another popular idea, Dads' Morning (date to be decided).

There just a few places left in both groups at the moment.

Little Group - 2½ - 3½ yrs
Top Group - 3½ - rising 5.

If you would like your child to attend please call at St. John's Hall any morning for details or phone Auntie Helen, 813828.

We are still looking for another Granny or Auntie to help out once a week. If you like children, are active, with time on your hands, why not join us and have some fun.

Auntie Helen



HELP!

1ST STANSTED SCOUT TROOP

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US HANGING AROUND! WE ARE DESPERATE FOR A NEW SCOUT LEADER TO REPLACE PHIL WHO CAN NO LONGER RUN OUR TROOP. IF NO ONE COMES FORWARD OUR TROOP WILL HAVE TO CLOSE.

HAVE YOU SOME SPARE TIME ON FRIDAY EVENINGS? 30 STANSTED SCOUTS CERTAINLY HOPE SO. COME ON! PHONE OUR GROUP SCOUT LEADER FOR DETAILS, YOU WONT REGRET IT, WE PROMISE.

THE 1ST STANSTED SCOUT TROOP

TEL. 814487

(Pauline Cianciola, Group Scout Leader)



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS
THURSDAY 4TH MAY

SURGERIES

At the Parish Council Offices from 10 - 11 a.m. - attended by Conservative Parish Councillors on a rota system. Next date:- Saturday 20th May.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE

TUESDAY 11TH JULY COACH OUTING

To Burghley House, near Stamford. All very welcome. Please contact Pam Sutton, B/S 815070 for details.

All other enquiries to:-
Bridget Gott - B/S 814440
or Joan Summers B/S 814854.



On 10th March we held a coffee morning at the home of our President, Mrs. Gabb, and made a profit of £121.75 including donations. Our thanks to all those who so generously supported us.

The evening of 16th March was marked by heavy rain and wet snow which prevented many of our members from getting to our branch meeting to hear Rev. Eric McIlwain. The twenty or so who did get there were rewarded with fascinating talks on Canada and Spain with some beautiful slides. Among the Spanish slides were several of the house in La Llosa Camacho where Laurie and Paula Hall now live.

Mrs. Julie Haylock will demonstrate "Homemade chocolates" at our branch meeting on Thursday 18th May at the Day Centre at 7.45 pm. All visitors will receive a very warm welcome.

Pat Clower
Tel. 815220

STANSTED DEMOCRATS

Melvin Caton and Alan Dean attended the party's spring conference in Bournemouth in March with other representatives from the Saffron Walden Constituency. Their wives Maureen and Catherine went with them.

Most of April was spent on the County Council election campaign supporting Ray Clifford, who is the Democrats' candidate. County elections give Stansted members the chance to get out into the smaller villages posting leaflets through the 6000 plus doors stretching from Birchanger to Arkesden. Political activity helps you keep fit!

Time was taken out from the election campaign on Saturday 16 April when a ploughman's lunch in aid of Shelter was held at Stansted Day Centre. In view of its success a further lunch will be held in June (see below).

Future events:

Thursday 4 May. County Council Elections.

Sunday 7 May. 12-2 pm Post election lunch. Stansted Day Centre.

Saturday 13 May. 10-11 am. Councillors' surgery at the Parish Council Offices.

Saturday 3 June. 12-2 pm Ploughman's lunch at Stansted Day Centre.

Sunday 11 June. 11 am - 5.30 pm. Coach outing to Wimpole Hall, Cambs. Tickets from Catherine Dean (813579) or Jane Sell (812408).

End June Stansted Carnival Stall.

For details of events contact Jane Sell (812408). For other information about the Democrats and membership contact Frances Spalding (813432).

Alan Dean
813579

BESIDE THE GATE, BENEATH THE TREES ...

What a charming harbinger of Spring were the host of daffodils and crocuses recently planted in the Parish Cemetery!

What a lovely thought for a memorial!

Vera Ansell



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

The Easter concert was followed by mountains of hot buns and coffee, and the Easter Bonnet Parade. What stylish hats!

All the children had made one at playgroup and they were all remarkable. Many thanks to the judge, Father Tony, who had a very difficult job, and congratulations to Eve Nicolson, Dominic Food and Maxine Stock who won the Easter

egg prizes for the best bonnets. all the children got a little egg, even the crabby one (mine) who refused to put his hat on at all.

Rainbow Playgroup also 'organise' Mum and Co. the mother and toddler group at the Youth and Adult Centre on Wednesday afternoons. This term there are some organised activities arranged for the older brothers and sisters, to keep them amused and out of trouble. These run from about two to three o'clock.

HELP!

Can anyone lend us a TRAILER for Rainbow Playgroup's float at the Carnival? It should measure about 8 foot by 6 foot and have sides. If you can, please phone Cheryl Nicolson, 814550.

For further information about Rainbow Playgroup ring Ann Conroy 813319 (am) 812457 (pm).



OLD MAY-DAY CAROL

We've been a-rambling all this night,
And some time of this day ...
And now returning back again,
We've brought you a branch of May.

A branch of May, my dear, I say,
Before your door I stand,
It's but a sprout, but well budded-out
By the work of our Lord's hand.


The hedges and the fields so green,
As green as any leaf,
Our heavenly Father waters them
With his heavenly dew so sweet.

O, we were up as soon as day
To fetch the summer home,
The summer is a-coming-on
And winter is agone.

And now my song is nearly done,
I can no longer stay;
So God bless you all, both great and small
And I wish you a joyful May!

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YET MORE ELEPHANTS
How do you know when an elephant is in your custard?
When it's ever so lumpy.
Why is an elephant large, grey, hairy and wrinkled?
'Cos if he was small, white, hairless and smooth he'd be an aspirin.



...and finally
What's the difference between a biscuit and an elephant?
You can't dip an elephant in your tea!



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