

Sep 89

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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813219

S . A . C . C .

HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

(not long now!)

BOOK THE DATES!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH
St. John's Hall, 6.30 p.m.
HARVEST SUPPER

SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 1ST
S.A.C.C. UNITED SERVICE
St. John's, 6.30 p.m.



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
14th September for October issue
12th October for November issue

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

On 4th September we shall hold our Annual General Meeting.

It is at 8 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall.

It is NOT a "representatives only" meeting.

It IS for everyone who wishes to see the Ecumenical movement grow in strength.

You do want that don't you?



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.



Services

Please Note:

On Sunday 10th September all services will be held at St. Mary's Church to celebrate the St. Mary's Patronal Festival. However, Children's Church will be as usual in St. John's Hall, so leave yourself time to drop your children off and pick them up after the service.

September

- 4 SACC AGM, 8 pm, United Reformed Church Hall
 - 5 Prayer Group, 8.15. Rosemary Minshull's
 - 6 Overseas Group, 8 pm, Alistair Richardson's
 - 9 Essex Cycle Ride
 - 10 Healing Service, 4 pm, St John's
 - 11 PCC, 8 pm, The Vicarage
 - 12 Tiny Tots, 2.15 pm, The Church Hall
 - Tuesday Club, 2 pm, Doreen Newby's
 - 17 Fr Tony's last Family Eucharist 9.30 am followed by Fun Run
- Fr Tony's farewell party - 7.30 pm in the Church Hall
All are welcome!
- 19 Pastoral Care Group, 8.15 pm, the Vicarage
 - 26 Tiny Tots, 2.15 pm, St John's
 - 28 School Harvest Service. 9.15 am, St John's Church
 - 30 Harvest Supper, 6.30, St John's Hall

October

- 1 Harvest Services
- 2 OAP Harvest Service, 2.30. St John's
- 12 Licensing of Fr John, 7.30. St John's



CHILDREN'S TALENT COMPETITION

This will now take the form of a Talent Show on Saturday October 7th with a full dress rehearsal on Saturday September 16th, both at 3 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Parents and friends are invited to form an audience on both these dates.

The new date for returning forms is Sunday September 10th. Forms may be obtained and returned to either Mrs. Ragni Whitlock, 38 Bentfield Road or Mrs. Marion Johnson at 62 Chapel Hill.

Any proceeds made will be given to the Urban Church Fund which aims to assist parishes in the Urban areas of the Diocese.

Registers

Baptisms

July 30th Charlotte Marie Ingold

Weddings

29th July Nigel Allan Morris & Glynis Dawn Jones

Michael Charles Franks & Alison Fiona Hurren

Richard John Thurley & Carol Ann Welsh

Funerals

Jennifer Kempson : Age 83

Freda Wright : Age 79

Arthur Day : Age 81



FUN RUN

We still have a further £3,000 to raise off our contribution towards the Church Urban Fund. With this in mind there will be a 3 mile Fun Run immediately after church on Sunday 17th September. We will start at St. John's at 11 a.m. However, running is not the only way of moving. Participants are asked to consider ways of transporting themselves three miles that will pose a bit of a challenge and give sponsors their money's worth. You could be pushed in a wheelbarrow, be tied to a partner, the possibilities are numerous. Of course, you can simply run or walk. Please join us and ask any of the clergy for a sponsor form.

Fr. Tony



Friends of Essex Churches

Sponsored Cycle Ride
Saturday September 9th 1989

Are you ready? Bike and sponsor forms?

Everyone is welcome to participate, walking or cycling, to raise money for your church.

Sponsor forms and stickers obtainable from

Fred Boyd - Methodists & Quaker Meeting House

Mike Thompson - St. Theresa's

Geoff Booker - St. John's & St. Mary's

Any queries to Geoff: 812684



'LIGHT' is the theme of the Church Urban Fund Week which runs from 17 to 24 September. That carries on the theme begun in the Church Urban's Fund's inaugural service in Westminster Abbey 18 months ago.

There, representatives from each Church of England diocese took back a candle, lit by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to their own cathedral, to pass on the light to each parish. This month, in churches and homes of every parish in England, a million candles will be lit.

They will demonstrate the commitment to put light into our inner cities. They will also help that to happen - by raising further money towards the Urban Fund: although the candles are not for sale a donation of £1 per candle is suggested. The 'candles' are nightlights in red plastic holders inscribed with the words 'Church Urban Fund'.

Make sure you have **your** light, ready to shine! (In case of difficulty ring the Fund direct on 01-620 0917.)

'LIGHT IN THE CITY'



Youth Club

An excellent time was had by all on our recent Mundesley holiday. The sun shone, the sea was warm and the beaches were great. Owing to a couple of young ladies, not from our party I hasten to add, bathing topless on the beach we never had to look far to discover where the boys in our group could be found.

The fact that our holiday went so well is a reflection on our Youth Group Leaders, including Ray Towle, who joined us for the holiday, and especially to Brenda Towle, who put in a lot of pre holiday planning. Many thanks to Ray and Brenda as well as Martin Corbishley and Richard Hart for all their hard work.

Youth Group is now underway at the usual times. Contact Brenda Towle for details.

Fr. Tony

Brenda Towle 813712

Richard Hart 843705

Martin Corbishley 813040

Ian Lauder 813239

GROWN OUT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL?

We are starting a new post-confirmation group for those who have been confirmed and/or have left Junior School. Come and join us on Sunday mornings from 9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. starting from 10 September in the gallery room of the Church Hall. We also intend to hold a few social events during the year. So come along to an initial get-together on Saturday 9th September at 2.30 p.m.



MIDVALE COMMUNITY LUTERAN CHURCH MADISON, WISCONSIN

During July we had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Lowell Mays and his wife Barbara, from Madison, Wisconsin. Although as a Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lowell's responsibilities are far wider than Midvale alone, he and Barbara have strong ties with Midvale where Barbara plays the organ.

Having been deprived of their morning and lunch in Stansted by the rail strike, Barbara and Lowell spent the afternoon wandering round the village and visiting, in particular, St. Mary's School and St. Mary's Church where Barbara enjoyed half an hour playing the organ. Later they were able to share in the Tuesday evening Eucharist before returning to London.

It was clear from their visit and from what they were able to tell us of Midvale, that the link between Midvale and ourselves is important to them, as it is to us, and the visit served well to maintain the warmth and vibrancy of the relationship. Midvale have set up a "Welcome Line" for us similar to that which we set up last year for them and we were reminded that a warm welcome in Madison awaits any visitor from Stansted... If anyone is travelling to the U.S. and would like to visit Madison, Marion Johnson (812284) or I can establish a contact with Midvale.

Alastair Richardson
815518

Wishing God Speed to Father Tony

Three years has gone very quickly since Tony arrived in the parish - and now we have to say goodbye to him and Helene and thank them for all that they have given to this parish. We shall miss them -

Come and wish them every blessing and happiness in their new ministry in Zambia, after a short time at Selly Oak College in Birmingham.

A get together on Sunday September 17th, 7.30 p.m. onwards in St. John's Hall - Everyone is welcome.

If you wish to contribute towards a present, please give it to Alan Corbishley or Derek Honour, S.A.C.C. donations to Joan Mercer, 47 Bentfield Gardens.

Margaret



Farewell Letter

How difficult it is to describe the passing of time. We quantify it in terms of seconds, hours, years, but such terms fail adequately to express the substance of time; the events, experiences, emotions which bundled together great 'our life'. A few seconds of time can have far reaching effects for us and yet sometimes months pass by without anything of consequence occurring. I have heard people speak of 'quality time' referring to time which is well spent, lived to the full. Busy people are encouraged to play 'quality time' with their family when they are not too tired and worried to enjoy it properly.

As my ministry in Stansted draws to end I have been reflecting on my time here. In some respects it has 'flowed by' and yet it has held for me experiences which will be with me forever and have already left me a changed person. There have been many quality times. Times that have given my life purpose and worth.

However, my time in Stansted has only been so valuable to me because people have allowed me to share in 'their time'. Times in their lives which have been important to them. For this I am extremely grateful. I consider it an enormous privilege as a priest to be allowed into some of the private moments as well as the public ceremonies around which our lives are lived. Also, day by day I have really appreciated the chats, smiles, cups of tea and coffee which keep us all going. So thank you for all the love and support you have shown me.

Now it is time to move on. Helene and I are to work as missionaries in Zambia, although I am told the real mission is to the Western World when we return. We will keep in touch through Link and tell you of our little adventures.

I do wish you every blessing on your Christian Pilgrimage and try to remember the Kingdom of God is probably closer at hand than you realise.

Love
Fr. Tony

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 have four children and recently I have been reminded time and again of the wonderful words about children from Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* and would like to share them with those of you who do not know them:

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backwards nor carries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that his arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Rosemary Holmes

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.



ICTHUS ON THE GRAND UNION

Sat. 29th July - 6th August

Amid a great deal of excitement we arrived at Nash Mills to find Narrow Escape, our home to be for one week. Together with our gear (of course not forgetting the dog) all twelve of us clambered warily on board and set about making ourselves comfortable in the limited space available. We began our journey of 93 miles with the prospect of 112 locks clearly in mind. It was not long before our inexperience in these matters became obvious and we amused ourselves trying to get some sort of

teamwork organised. Those first few locks were soon forgotten amongs the dozens that followed.

Discovering the shops was often quite a walk into the nearest village and often we had to endeavour to moor up conveniently by a pump-out or water source; reversing a 65 foot boat is no joke! Meanwhile the dog was feeling extremely unsure of this craziness all about him and probably felt seasick, even though we were cruising at a mere 3 mph.

In between duties we found time to sit and watch life at a different pace. We could have been in another world; drifting through so much peace. So much nature to take in; birds on and above the water, flowers on the banks, trees sweeping alongside their reflections and cows and sheep everywhere. But down came the rain and it certainly did wash us out but determination was the victor. Although it has to be said that a couple of times the steering post was the only one left filled!

There were peaceful times but we definitely had our moments! Most evenings we managed to moor beside or near to a pub in order to give the adults a break. After 'Time' we played cards on the deck, fished until hypnotised by the light of the torch on the water, and lay on the deck gazing at stars, singing and simply thinking (or sleeping as the case may be).

Two hours on Tuesday were spent in Milton Keynes for those who had the energy, and we came back with flowers for a 25th wedding anniversary celebration. But most days were spent close to the boat as there was enough to see, do and talk about without interruptions from the outside world. We arrived at Stoke Bruene, just south of Northants on Wednesday, discovering it was necessary to travel 25 miles a day in order to be back on time. After lunch we set about on our return journey, with a little feeling of regret. We travelled some of the way with a horse drawn trade boat. The cobs name was Crunchie and he did not seem to mind pulling 12 tons!

As we got more south the sun came shining through and we spent a glorious day enjoying the warmth of our last day; regretfully we moored for the last time.

Inevitably there were times when irritableness crept in with the late nights and early morning starts but spirits were high from beginning to end. The company was just brilliant, the pace beautifully relaxed and the friendships made, closely bonded. Just the tonic needed!

Caroline King

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.

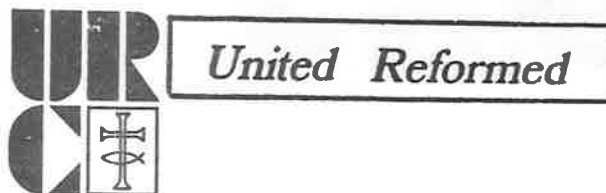
September marks the beginning of the Methodist year; a time for taking stock of what has happened during the past year so as to do better in the next. It is surely appropriate that this coincides with harvest time; when the fruits of our labours, or at least of those who labour on our behalf, are gathered in. The size and quality of the harvest is partly dependent on the skill of the husbandman, and partly on the weather that has prevailed during the growing season. In a similar way, the effectiveness of our witness as

Christians is partly dependent on the skills and experience that we have already acquired, and partly on the working of the Holy Spirit. God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, and this can sometimes be frustrating; whether the farmers are suffering from a dry summer or we are doubting the Spirit's power. There is no doubt that some of mankind's activities are beginning to affect world weather patterns in an alarming way, but thank God, He does not change, and we can rely totally upon His Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need in order to bring joy to the lives of our friends and neighbours.

Michael Dyer

Worship on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. -

Sept 3rd - Harold Fisher
Sept 10th - Ronald Rawlings
Sept 17th - Harold Fisher (including Eucharist)
Sept 24th - Don McGregor
Oct 1st - Mike Valentine



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.

During recent weeks thousands of young people up and down the country will have been anxiously awaiting the postman, for August is the month when 'A' level results are known. By now those who have obtained their hoped for grades will have received the congratulations of their family and friends and will be excitedly preparing for the chosen future to which they looked forward during the anxious weeks of waiting.

But success does not come to everyone and there be those for whom the postman's visit brought disappointment, grades were not good enough, and the hopes they had cherished for the future failed to materialise.

For many young people such apparent disappointment will affect them deeply. Their plans will have to be changed and a new course of action explored.

They'll find it hard to believe just now that something which looks like an apparent disaster can turn out for good in the end.

The story is well known of how Dr. Barnardo looked forward in eager anticipation to a career as a medical missionary in China, a future to which he felt sure God had called him. However, while studying in London to achieve his ambition, the puzzled young man felt overwhelmingly that his future might not be in China, but among the pathetic homeless waifs and strays of the capital city.

Suddenly Dr. Barnardo knew that he must change his plan for life. 'With regret, but without faltering' as the story goes, he turned his back on China and offered his life to God for the sake of the unwanted children of London.

An unexpected change of plan can so often be God's will for us.

As I write we in the Stansted Group of churches mourn the death of a very much loved elder, treasurer, Derek Francis.

Derek held a very special place in the affection of us all and will be greatly missed from among us.

We assure Betty that she, Matthew, Stephen and all the family are very much in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

May God's love support and enfold them.

With Christian greetings,
Lydia Rapkin



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

September

- | | | |
|---------|------------|---|
| 2 | 10.30 | Garden Party for Huw Johnson Club at 62 Chapel Hill |
| | 3 pm | Lunch available |
| | 2.30 | Autumn show of Garden Club at URC Hall |
| 4 | 8.00 | S.A.C.C. hold AGM at URC Hall |
| 6 | 8.00 | Garden Club Meeting at Day Centre |
| 7 | 8.00 | Opening Meeting of Local History Society at Day Centre |
| 8 | 7.00 | Opening session of Huw Johnson Club at St John's Hall |
| 9 | | Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride |
| 14 | 8.00 | Opening session of Recorded Music Club at Day Centre |
| 16 | 12.00 noon | Conservatives Country Fayre, Priors Hall, Stebbing |
| | 2-4 pm | Stansted Evening WI Market at Day Centre |
| 17 | 7.30 | Farewell Party for Fr Tony and his wife at St John's Hall |
| 25 | 7.30 | Opening session of WEA course at Day Centre |
| 27 | 8.00 | Stansted Carnival AGM at Day Centre |
| 25 - 28 | | Skip at Crafton Green |



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214

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

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

We now have the results and although we did not win any awards our marks in many categories were higher than 1988. Many thanks to all who contributed.

GARDEN REFUSE SACKS

The Parish Council (on behalf of Uttlesford District Council) holds a stock of garden refuse sacks. These are available at 50p each.

SKIP DATES

The skip will be in Crafton Green Car Park on the following dates:

Monday 25th September - Thursday 28th September
Monday 23rd October - Thursday 26th October
Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th November
Monday 11th December - Thursday 14th December

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL FLOODLIT 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.

BENTFIELD CAUSEWAY PLAYING FIELD

Don't forget - this playing field can be hired for supervised use only - details from the Clerk.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mountfitchet Garden Club would like to invite you to visit our:

EIGHTH AUTUMN SHOW

on

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 1989

at

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL
Chapel Hill, Stansted

Commencing at 2.30 p.m. Admission Free

Refreshments Raffle Sale of Produce

On Wednesday September 6th the monthly meeting of Mountfitchet Garden Club will take place as usual at 8 p.m. at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Mr. Nice will be present to talk on "Choosing and Showing Daffodils".

Sue Wilkinson

THE RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

Meets on the second and the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre.

14th Sept. music by Moussorgsky, D'Indy, Novak, Kodaly, Liszt

28th Sept. music by Mozart, Beethoven and Janacek

12 Oct. music by Emil Von Reznicek

If interested please ring 813155.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On 1st August the Branch was delighted to organise a presentation of awards to long serving 'poppy' collectors by the County Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator. The occasion was a very happy one.

Those who received awards were Mrs. M. Belcher, Mr. & Mrs. F. Hoffman, Mrs. L. Ketteridge, Mrs. B. Patmore, Mrs. V. Ridgewell, Miss D. Salmon, Mrs. E. Snow, Mrs. C. Whall and Miss G. Trott of Manuden. Their outstanding service collectively totalled 180 years, each having achieved 10, 15 or 20 years. In addition, recognition was given to Barclay's Bank plc, Stansted branch, for having serviced the collecting tins for 25 years plus.

The next event in our diary is a social evening on 6th October. Tickets soon available.



A fascinating talk, illustrated by some lovely slides, livened up our July meeting. Mr. John Ansell took us on a picture tour of Holland - which he has regularly visited over a number of years - Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Volendam, Naarden, Bussum, the Keukenhof, to mention just a few, and told interesting facts about each. We also saw members of the Ansell family at various stages of their lives among the tulips and on the banks of the canals!

Our mini fete at Mrs. Gabb's on a lovely hot afternoon, raised £127 including donations and we do thank all those who so generously supported us.

Our Group Meeting will be at Littlebury on Wednesday 13th September and this will be the AGM.

On September 21st at 7.45 p.m. in the Day Centre we shall hold our annual Harvest Bring and Buy and prepare poppies for distribution.

Pat Clower
815220



W.I. (Afternoon and Evening)

August was the annual joint meeting which was well attended.

Mrs. Watling, President of a National Flower Arranging Society, gave a delightful and humorous account of the days before the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York, when she was responsible for the flowers in Westminster Abbey. There were 42 arrangers and 50,000 blooms, coming from the Channel Isles, Holland and various rose gardens in this country.

She illustrated her talk with flowers incorporated in the Royal Cypher of the College of Arms for Andrew and Sarah, similar to those seen in the Abbey. The 42 workers then had seats in Poets Corner on the great day!

The social time was a quiz which involved anagrams of flowers and items used in the garden.

There were some beautiful entries for the competition for a bride's mother's buttonhole which was won by Elsie Stoddart, 2nd Chris Tann and 3rd Margaret Meadows.

Vera Ansell
815949



STANSTED EVENING W.I.

MARKET

Saturday September 16th

at the

DAY CENTRE

2 - 4 p.m.

Cakes - Books - Plants - Preserves

Raffle - Teas

We would welcome a visit from you



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

59 Blythwood Gardens
Stansted

The new season's programme starts on Thursday 7th September at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre, with a talk by Alan Goldsmith on The Reconstruction of Mountfitchet Castle.

Thursday 5th October has been designated the Essex Heritage Year lecture with An Evening with Spike Mays.

In November, Peter Pallett will tell us about Stansted Airport 1942 - 1945.

All are welcome to come along either to join the Society or to an individual lecture (admission 75p). If you have any memorabilia relevant to the subject you are invited to bring it along.

Further information from Peggy Honour, B/S 813160.

W.E.A.

STANSTED WEA

Our autumn course will be "The Thames in History", the lecturer Mr. P. White, B.A. He writes in the summary of the syllabus - "The Thames is central to English history, central to the development of London and the southeast The course will lead from the Ice Age through Alfred's Wessex and the Norman conquest, to battles of the Civil War and earlier times, to the stately homes and great estates of more settled times, to the heyday of Victorian and Edwardian leisure, and to a study of the growth of London and its port as seen from the river." It is hoped to make an outing to some part of the Thames in connection with the course.

The ten meetings, as usual on Monday evenings, will be held at the Day Centre, starting on 25th September, first evening 7.30 p.m. to allow for enrolment, lectures at 8 p.m.

We look forward to greeting our regular class after the long summer break, and new members are always most welcome. If you have any queries please ring B/S 812214 or 815213.



"OUR VILLAGE"

On behalf of Stansted Fire Brigade may we send our sincere thanks to all who were able to respond to their recent Jumble Sale appeal which generously benefitted the Fire Service Benevolent Fund. Fortunately the day held fine enabling the sale to be spread far and wide over the Station premises but as the last customers were desperately searching for a missed bargain the heavens opened accompanied by a heavy thunderstorm resulting in the rear yard being awash with a lone duck seen afloat surveying a new formed lake.

When the first jumble sale (a charity bazaar of cast-off clothing, rubbish, etc. - English Dictionary) took place within the village we cannot be sure but they were certainly held by 1901, for on Wednesday October 9th 1901 a jumble sale was held at the Vicarage which, as the following report shows, was most successful.

"So many kind friends sent contributions that instead of being a small sale it turned out to be almost as big as the sale in the Central Hall in the summer.

£15.12s. was banked so that we shall be able to robe the Parish Church Choir as they ought to be. The sale was to have been altogether outside in the stable yard but owing to the threatening weather they were obliged to put the clothing stalls into the Coach House where the crowd at one time was very great. The tea in the kitchen was well patronised with takings of 19 shillings so a good many people must have taken tea."

The report concludes with grateful thanks to all, which just goes to prove very little has changed.

P. J. Brown



RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

Term ended at Rainbow Playgroup with a teddy bear's picnic for each group. Each child took a teddy bear, helped make the sandwiches and then they all went for a walk in the woods for a picnic.

Now the well-deserved summer break for all the helpers while mums are realising how much playgroup provides for their children. Roll on September

Term restarts on Monday 11th September (older group) and Tuesday 12th September (younger group).

We still have some space for new children: Tues & Thurs - Under 4's. Mon, Wed, Fri - Over 4's.

For further information please contact Ann on 812457 or Nikki on 814437.

And please note that our AGM will be held on Monday 25th September at 8 p.m. at the Youth and Adult Centre. There will be a guest speaker, wine and nibbles. All welcome.



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club's year ended with our usual boat trip on the River Stort. This year we started our journey at Sawbridgeworth and we turned around at Hallingbury Mill after passing through a lock which is always a cause of great excitement. Our supper was a great success thanks to Sandra Embleton who was responsible for cooking the main course. We say a big thankyou to Sandra and to all those who provided such delicious desserts for us to enjoy. Although this was a very happy occasion especially as we celebrated Julia's 18th birthday, it was saddened by the fact that one of our members, James, was leaving us after many years at the Club. James is going to a Catering College at Grimsby, but as he was given a pen by the Club we hope that he will write to us and let us know how he is getting on. We will all miss James especially Tom and I as he has had tea with us every Thursday for a long time and we will miss his witty remarks very much indeed, so we wish James all the best in his future career.

Don't forget Club begins again on Thursday September 8th. We always need new helpers and casual visitors are always made welcome with a cup of coffee and countless handshakes from our members. So why not pop into St. John's Hall one Thursda evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



"La Llosa en Festes 1989"

Everyone driving through our village last week was greeted by placards announcing "La Llosa en Festes" (Valenciano, not Spanish). Though the announcements were superfluous really, with so many indications of the fiesta. The streets all bedecked with flags, the rhythmic beat of bands, the inhabitants outside with their tables and chairs, their doors open to all. I'm sure most of you who have visited Spain have sought out far more impressive fiestas in large towns, but a village fiesta has an atmosphere all its own.

Last year, when newcomers, we were not much involved ourselves, but now we are accepted as members of the community, and know quite a lot of people, it's quite different. Each of the seventy households contributes twenty pounds, but the festivities must cost far far more. Morning, noon and night there are events going on and villagers' homes are packed out with friends and relations here to join in the fun. By Saturday night there are a thousand extra people here.

The fiesta committee, eight strong, have spent a year in preparation. They are feted at every function; collected from their homes with bands to attend every Mass, for instance. The ladies have sashes like orders and beautiful bouquets etc. A lot of the events are church-based and we had High Mass celebrated on three successive mornings for the three patron saints of La Llosa. After the inaugural one, the priests delivered lovely freshly-baked bread to every home, followed by a motley entourage. Each evening there were processions, when statues were paraded all round the village, with everyone joining in. Every man, woman and child and each dressed up to the nines, and carrying candles. The parades are always accompanied by bands and church bells - which seem appropriate - but also fireworks, which don't! Not pretty ones, but excessively noisy ones. Our dog Chloe spent the week cowering indoors bewildered and terrified by the constant explosions. And we live in the last house in the village!

The church-orientated events are the (comparatively) serious affairs. But the rest of the time is devoted to a

multiplicity of activities. Games of pelota, cycle and motor cycle races, games for the children, etc. etc. But the serious business of enjoyment begins at midnight when the temperature drops. There's a large platform erected beside the church and each evening a different "famosa orquesta" or "lakulosa orquesta" sets up its own amplifiers, lighting systems, etc. ready for the night's fun. (They are famous and expensive, but we would call them "pop" orchestras!) At midnight all the elderly people start arriving at the plaza, each carrying a chair from their homes. All the disabled are brought too to watch the fun. And there they all sit, for 3 to 4 hours enjoying the excitement and atmosphere. The youngsters are all close to the band, gyrating ecstatically and the middle-aged quick-stepping waltzing and twisting a little further up the road. Everyone is having a wonderful time. Usually the older generation would tire of the incessant noise and retire to someone's house for coffee, wine and comparative peace, but we left all the children in the plaza; after all, everyone was there till three or four in the morning, including the babes in arms!

One lovely little ceremony was the unveiling of a newly erected monument marking the Greenwich Meridian, which runs through La Llosa. It's a sort of Spanish-style lych gate, tiled, with a map of the world and La Llosa joined to Greenwich. The mayor, a very popular man, is a friend of ours - he is the builder who erected our new extensions. He's very modest and self-effacing but does a great deal of good in the village.

The grand finale is a great feast of paella served to everyone in the village - al fresco of course. Just like the jubilee or victory dates in England.

It's astonishing that people can keep going for all the days of fiesta, especially as it is so noisy all the time. But they do, and seem to enjoy every minute of it. We have had family or friends with children staying for both fiestas and hope to do so for future ones. For English children the experience is unique and unforgettable.

Oh - we did get the pretty fireworks in the end. We had a wonderful view from our house. But scheduled on the elaborate glossy programme for 10.30 on Friday, the Spaniards (never noted for their strict adherence to timetables) let them off at 10.15. So when folk wandered out to see them the lovely display was practically over.

Paula Hall

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SEPTEMBER 29 MICHAELMAS

Michaelmas gets its name from St Michael who wasn't really a saint but an angel. You can read about him in the Bible (Revelation, chapter 12, starting at verse 7). St Michael is thought of as the protector of people fighting against evil and he is one of the patron saints of soldiers. He is often linked with St George because they both fought dragons.

Michaelmas used to be celebrated as a holiday with special 'hiring' or 'mop' fairs, where people would go to get a new job. If you were looking for employment you'd wear or carry something so that people would know what you did. For example a shepherd would carry his crook or wear a twist of wool in his lapel, a milkmaid would carry her bucket. And if you didn't like your new job, lots of places had a Runaway Fair a week later so that you could find another place to work.



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What do you call a dinosaur with only one eye?

Do you think hesaurus

What's on the television tonight, son?

Same as usual, dad, the goldfish bowl and the lamp.

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