

Dec 90

The LINK



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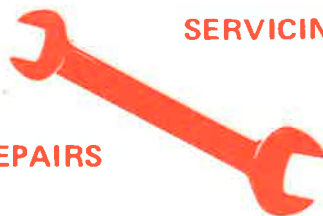
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S.A.C.C.

CAROL SINGING
FOR CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

7 P.M.

MEMORIAL GARDENS

Please bring a torch

SOUP in St. John's Hall afterwards



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

Cost is 25p a month; £2.50 for the year. To order your copy please contact:
Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

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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.

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

Note Earlier Date Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
6th December for January issue * * *
17th January for February issue



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

CAROL SINGING 1990

An intrepid group will again be assembling to bring the Christmas message to as many Stansted homes as time and weather permit. The collection will be made for the newly formed St. Claire West Essex Hospice Trust which will shortly be using the Day Centre for some of its services.

Singers or instrumentalists of any ability would be most welcome, but if anyone feels that their singing prowess is not appreciated, they would equally be welcomed as collectors. Please mark the dates and come along. If you are one of the lucky people who hear the carollers outside your house, please give generously. Thank you.

Wednesday December 19th
Meet at corner of West Road and Stoneyfield Common.
Saturday December 22nd
Meet at corner of Chapel Hill and Spencer Close.
Sunday December 23rd
Meet at corner of Bentfield Causeway and Wetherfield.
Monday, Christmas Eve
Meet outside Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill.

Assembly time: 7.30 p.m. each night.

Derek Honour B/S 813160
Judy Coddard B/S 812498
Peter Jones B/S 813252
Helen Baker B/S 814865

SHALOM GROUP

Monday 3rd December Now moved to Ruth Rawlinson's at Moat House, High Lane, Stansted. This will be a welcome return of Ronald Rawlings. Time 8 p.m.

Monday 17th December Shalom Christmas Party, 8 p.m. Prayers and Carols at Jim Collins' new home at Bentfield Green (opposite side of road and a little east of Rose and Crown). We look forward to seeing all Shalom members who, no doubt, will "Bring and Share".

Monday 7th January 8 p.m. Prayer and Praise at a venue yet to be decided but please book the date. Thank you.

Minister: 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: 11am each Sunday

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

I wonder, will this Christmas bring you happiness?

It will for the children I'm sure, as they make their preparations at home and at school, all the while looking forward to the great moment on Christmas morning when anticipation becomes fact as they eagerly explore the contents of their Christmas stocking.

It will, I'm sure, for parents, as secrets are uncovered and parcels carefully hidden for weeks are greeted with exclamations of surprise and joy by the family.

It will for others too, who have cause for special happiness this Christmas. Newly-weds, spending their first Christmas in their new home, couples happily awaiting the arrival of a much longed for baby, many others for whom the past year has brought special happiness in a variety of ways. Christmas for all of these will be a time for thanksgiving and joy.

But in the midst of Christmas joy for many, there will be those for whom this Christmas-tide will not bring the happiness associated with the season: some who face their first Christmas after losing a loved one; some who are in constant pain; some who will spend Christmas watching over the sick bed of friends or family; the homeless, the unemployed, those who face the future with fear and trepidation.

For such, and for all in special need this Christmas time we pray that the happiness of the season may not pass them by, but that they might be aware that abiding Christmas joy is to be found, not in outward

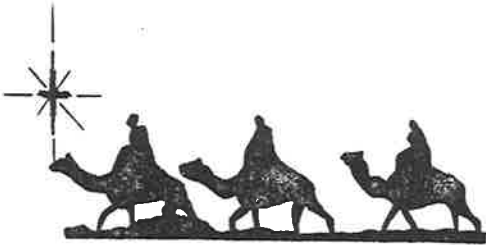
circumstances, however much we rejoice at times of celebration and festival, but in the true message of Christmas, of the fulfillment of God's promise in the gift of His Son, born as a babe in Bethlehem, to be the Saviour of the world. In acceptance of God's great gift of love this Christmas true happiness may be found.

To you all a very happy Christmas.

Lydia Rapkin

Stansted Services for December

2nd 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin (Communion)
 9th 11 am Mrs. Deveraux (Family Service)
 16th 10.30 am Rev. L. Rapkin
 Group Christmas Gift Service
 followed by refreshments
 23rd 11 am Service of lessons and carols
 25th 10.30 am Rev. L. Rapkin
 Christmas Day Group Service
 30th 11 am Group Service at Clavering
 Rev. L. Rapkin



Church of England

St John's Church, St John's Road

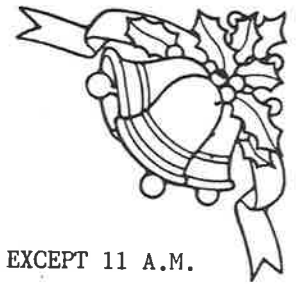
Clergy: The Rev'd Bob Wallace
 The Rev'd Brenda Wallace
 The Vicarage, St John's Road.
 Tel: 812203

The Rev'd John Cardell-Oliver
 43 Gilbey Crescent.
 Tel: 814463

Services: 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 - 9.30am
 Friday - 8am



Diary

(ALL SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S EXCEPT 11 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY)

- 2 9.30 am Advent Sunday Family Communion
6.30 pm Advent Carol Service
- 3 8.00 pm PCC in the Vicarage
- 4 8.15 pm Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
- 8 7.30 pm Christmas Concert by Nesseswell Youth Band
- 9 6.30 pm British Legion Carol Service
- 11 2.00 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.00 pm Tiny Tots Christmas Service and Party
- 6.00 pm Guides & Brownies Carol Service
- 16 6.00 pm Carols and Christingles at Farnham (No evening service at Stansted)
- 20 10.30 am Service at Mead Court
10.30 am Service at Norman Court
2.00 pm St Mary's School Carol Concert
- 23 8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
3.00 pm Children's Crib Service with Carols
(No 6.30 pm service at Stansted)
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
11.30 pm Midnight Mass
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Family Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion with Carols - ST MARY'S CHURCH
- 26 ST. STEPHEN'S DAY
10.00 am Holy Communion
- 27 ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
9.30 am Holy Communion
- 30 8.00 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
6.30 pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

REGISTERS



Baptism

28th October Luke James Welsh

Weddings

13th October Kenneth Anthony Everall and Claire Louise Pearman
 20th October Peter Robert Stocking and Alison Clare Rice

Funerals

4th October Richard Thomas Miles, 70
 10th October John Cadwaladr Jones, 87
 Norah Thurston Monk, 89
 23rd October Lily Browne, 68
 29th October Gladys Richards, 75
 30th October Kathleen Elsie Grubb, 83

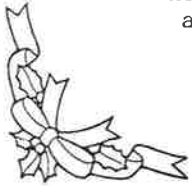
Roman Catholic

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.



I was reminded recently that it was time to submit an item to Link. I was amazed to realise it was almost Christmas and over two years since I came to Stansted.

I feel strongly that information is so important in all our lives and to be informed so helpful that I decided to perhaps tell you a little about the parish of St. Theresa's in Stansted.

Our Church is situated in the village of Stansted but its interests and management reach far beyond the bounds of our local village. As Parish Priest of Stansted I am responsible for the shepherding of thirteen villages, viz. Henham, Ugley, Elsenham, Manuden, Clavering, Quendon, Widdington, Berden, Broxton, Farnham, Burton End, Birchanger and Stansted. Our people from these villages form the parish family of St. Theresa's. We also have a Mass centre at Henham.

My primary concern is to care for the spiritual needs of my people - to sanctify through the Sacraments in the Sanctuary and to manage affairs of our parish and its many interests - in the Deanery - in the Diocese - the national Church and the international Church with all the varying responsibilities from care of the sick - teaching - moral direction - general Christian formation and continual Renewal within the magisterium teaching Church of Christ.

As the Roman Catholic Christian Church we are not a democracy, we belong to the Church of Christ and are led by its teaching - together Pope - Bishops - Priests and People combine to form the Body of Christ.

At Stansted, we are aware of the many changes taking place with the developing airport, etc. and we as a parish are working to establish a truly parish complex to meet these needs.



We hope to form a new Parish Complex - a Church, a Presbytery, and Social Centre with adequate car parking, and we are working slowly to this end. Today one must have a vision of required development - or get it all wrong with far reaching effects.

As the Parish of St. Theresa's we are trying to tune to the needs of our times and provide a suitable place of worship for our growing congregation and to give ourselves a suitable building to this end, as our present facilities are very limited.

We have a Mass attendance of nearly 200 people every Sunday and growing continually. I think we are all aware that we the people together make up the Church but a suitable temple of worship and management is necessary to function in daily witness. Hopefully we live our Christian faith truly and share the great Commandment of the Lord - to love the Lord our God and one another. We are workers for the Kingdom here and now and we strive to grow in the gift of faith, hope and love and thus merit the Eternal Kingdom of Glory.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and every blessing of the Infant Saviour.

Fr. J. D. Meehan



Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

Just a short note from Tom.

I thought it would be good for me to say myself how things are going with my treatment. The first thing is that it's wonderful, Praise the Lord. I am today (8 Nov.) halfway through and by the time the Link comes out it will be nearly over. I am gradually improving and the doctor is very pleased with me. So pass this info on, and express my thanks to all those who have been praying, God is doing a mighty work.

God bless you all.

Tom Allen

As we respond to your letter in last month's "Link" we want to say "thank you". Thank you for your enquiries, letters, cards, phone calls and all your many kindnesses. Our overwhelming impression has been of being held in love and prayer and we are truly grateful for this.

As last month's Link indicated, it was, and still is, our intention to invite the joint membership of Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Braughing to our home. However, God had a more glorious way. The first thing that has happened in our new appointment is that He has united us through prayer. We are closer at the end of three months to you all than ever a trip to the Manse could have brought us. And we praise God for this.

As we go into Christmas we would like to share a verse from a prayer by David Adam from his book 'The Edge of Glory'.

This is the day that you are born
 Let every day be a Christmas morn
 Glory to God on earth peace
 Let this song never cease.

During Tom's illness we have found every day to be special. Each day God has shared with us another fragment of his glory. As we offer each new day to Him let us ask ourselves, "What will I see 'today' of His glory?" As we ask the question, He will reveal the answer.

May God's blessing be with you this Christmas time.

Tom & Kathleen

Methodist Youth

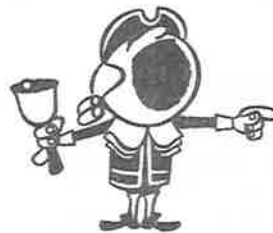
"A world of difference ..."

The idea of spending a weekend with a group of boisterous teenagers out in the wilds of Norfolk was not particularly appealing, but I will do anything to get out of the household chores! As it happens, the theme, "A world of difference", was most appropriate. It was the occasion of the Circuit youth weekend, and twenty-three eager teenagers with six "wrinkly" leaders set out north from Bishop's Stortford, Stansted, Saffron Walden and Chelmsford for the long trek up the All to North Pickenham near Swaffham. On arrival at the Pickenham Centre we were glad to gorge ourselves on a diet-free meal that was more than a match for many of us, and it set the tone for a "full-filling" weekend.

The food was not all for our stomachs; our spiritual nourishment was served up most appetizingly by Chris Jones, our regional youth officer. He led us through the weekend with games, role play, drama and Bible study. We discovered what "a world of difference" a strong Christian faith made to people like the apostles, as well as more recent believers such as John Newton and John Wesley. Of course the bottom line is, not only what "a world of difference" the Christian faith can make to how we cope with our own ups and downs, but equally important is our effect on other people. We all came away with food for thought, and plenty to share. The verdict was "Why do we have to wait two years before the next youth weekend?"

Michael Dyer

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

December

- 2 6.30 St. John's Advent Carol Service
- 5 11.00 Stansted Hall, Burton End, Barnardo's Christmas Fayre
- 8.00 Day Centre, Mountfitchet Garden Club (see notice)
- 6 8.00 Day Centre, Local History Society "Audley End" (see notice)
- 7 6.00 St. Mary's School PTA Fayre
- 8 7.30 St. John's, Netteswell Youth Band Christmas Concert
- 9 6.30 St. John's Royal British Legion Group Carol Service
- 23 3.00 St. John's Sunday School Play, & Carol Service (see notice)
- 30 6.30 St. John's Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

January 1991

- 2 8.00 Day Centre. Mountfitchet Garden Club. Slide Show
- 3 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society "Essex Maps" (see notice)



BARNARDO'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Give yourself an hour and a half off! Come and enjoy the warm, comfortable, 'Christmassy' atmosphere of Stansted Hall - complete with relaxing armchairs! Stansted Hall, Burton End, is again the venue of Barnardo's annual Christmas Fayre. Wednesday 5th December from 11.00 a.m. finishing at 12.30.

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, plants, etc.

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

P. Garnell
 813124
 Barnardo's Committee



OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED

In my first article last January I wrote about footpaths and during the year have dealt with a few of the interesting things that may be seen, investigated or considered whilst strolling along these paths. Those who do walk in and around Stansted will sometimes have been frustrated by a path that is obstructed, overgrown, diverted, ploughed up, or has vanished without trace.

There have existed various laws concerning rights of way but they have not always been readily understood and rarely been implemented. The situation has now been clarified with a new law, the Rights of Way Act 1990, which came into effect in August. Briefly, some of the main points in the Act with regard to footpaths and bridleways are as follows:

The County Council Highways Authority is responsible for administering and enforcing the Act. It maintains a Definitive Map which is the official record of rights of way, a copy of which is available for inspection in the Parish Council Office. The Highway Authority is also responsible for signposting paths and maintaining their surface in reasonable condition. Any natural vegetation growing on the surface of the path and obstructing passage is its responsibility.

The landowner or farmer is required to ensure that the minimum widths of the paths are maintained - for a footpath 1.5 metres at field edge and 1 metre across field; for a bridleway, 3 metres at field edge and 2 metres across field. He must keep stiles in good order and must not obstruct or divert paths, and also keep them clear of any overhanging vegetation or encroaching crops. A farmer may plough up a crossfield path if it is difficult to avoid when cultivating the field, but the path surface must be restored and its line clearly marked across the field within 14 days of the first ploughing.

One might think that with these laws to protect our footpaths it will be plain sailing, or rather, plain walking from now on. Remember, however, that there are many laws governing our highways and rights of way which most of us flout constantly by speeding, parking on the footpath, dropping litter, letting dogs foul the pavement, and generally proceeding without due consideration for others. We cannot therefore expect all concerned to be completely diligent in looking after the footpaths. Undergrowth, nettles, minor diversions and other inconveniences can be taken in our stride, but major problems should certainly be referred to the Local Authority.

The most effective method of preserving a right of way is to use it! I finish my contributions to the Link with the suggestion that those who enjoy a walk could endeavour to traverse every path in the parish once a year, and those dog walkers whose daily outing is a circuit of the Recreation Ground or a playing field might venture further afield occasionally and help re-establish little used paths.

Felix

Dear Felix,

Your articles bring us so much "felicity", I cannot but hope and beg for more for 1991! Thank you for the happiness you are giving people - not forgetting those who can't get "out and about".

Every month I mean to write a word in answer to one of your queries or suggestions. Here, at last are three:

1) A Favourite View of/from Stansted

Walk down Gall End, turn up the hill footpath to the right, right again at the cottages, past the allotments (thro' little gate) and on to what I call to myself the common - a lovely view across the little valley back to Stansted or, right and north towards Norman House and the Essex Naturalists Trust woods.

2) Hedgerow Fruits - What a year!

As our avid "brambler" (and I do get some odd looks from passers-by) I gathered pounds of blackberries this autumn - right into November, devil and all! An old French friend staying here in September couldn't believe the riches we found in our hedges. She took 2 cartons home to Paris (hand-luggage - lunch - snack?!)

3) Footpaths A rambling group from Ugley W.I. with Stansted friends walk the footpaths around Stansted regularly: out to Farnham, Manuden, Tye Green, Birchanger (I mustn't mention the other walks from Quendon, Ugley and Newport!). Please keep us "Out and About"!

Your Editor



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

6th December - Rosanne Kirkpatrick on Audley End

3rd January - Essex Maps with Vic Grey

Both meetings at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre, Stansted.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



AGMs are not popular so we counted ourselves fortunate in seeing 30 of our members on 18th October.

In her address our President, Mrs. Gabb, thanked the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee for their help and support, as always, during the past year. She said it always pleased her to see members at the coffee mornings and fetes at her home. She was pleased to record that the Royal British Legion will be 70 years old in 1991, and we still have 74 members.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were encouraging; we have had some good speakers during this past year and made, and given away, a lot of money.

In her report the Chairman said that this past year had gone very quickly. She thanked Mrs. Gabb for the use of her house and garden and also thanked Mrs. Whall, Mrs. Levey and the Committee for their untiring help.

Officers for the coming year are:-

President - Mrs. M. Gabb
Chairman - Mrs. B. Little
Secretary - Mrs. C. Whall
Treasurer - Mrs. V. Levey

Committee - Mesdames Clower, Measures, Parry,
Patmore, Snow, Steale, Traveller,
Wedlock, Wiffen

We have no meeting in December, but we do wish all our members a very happy and peaceful Christmas and 1991.

Pat Clower
815220



The Recorded Music Society
meets in the Day Centre 8 p.m.
Second and the Fourth Thursday
in the month.

Further particulars ring 813155

The Annual General Meeting on 8th November was well attended and the interest shown by members was encouraging. Let's keep it up throughout the year.

On 9th December the Group Carol Service will be held in St. John's Church at 6.30 p.m. followed by refreshments in the hall. Will you be there? It will be a moving and memorable occasion - with VIP presence and with the standards of participating branches proclaiming the Christmas message.

It is too early to say whether the 1990 poppy collection achieved our hopes and expectations. We can, however, say a big thank you to everyone who engaged in the collection - and to those who gave in generous measure. Some of our regular collectors have served the cause faithfully for many years and now feel, because of age, it is time to 'retire'. Would you consider filling the breach next year? It only entails a couple of hours of your time! Bob Stoddart would like to hear from you (814015).

Finally on this theme, thanks are due to all the schools, businesses and establishments who hosted collecting tins, and to the Airport who provided facilities there for a display. Also several organisations deserve our gratitude for their labours in putting leaves on the poppies - not least the Cubs.



ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
P T A

FUTURE EVENTS

7 Dec 1990 Christmas Fayre
6 pm to 9 pm

9 Feb 1991 Valentines Dance
featuring the group
"From the Top"



Just as people thought that firework night was well and truly over, the peace of Stansted was shattered once again on November 8th as the Huw Johnson Club celebrated with a magnificent firework display followed by a hearty supper. All the "ooh's and aahs" came up to expectation and there were screams of delight and fright as even the "non-bangers" (!?) exploded and screeched loudly. The sparklers were waved about frantically by the brave and held timidly at arm's length by the not so brave. It was a cold night so everyone was very pleased to get indoors and tuck into baked potatoes, chicken and sausages. After this everyone felt warm enough to tackle an ice cream.

We had three birthdays to celebrate in November and we made short work of the two special "bonfire night" birthday cakes. Everyone had a good time and we are now looking forward to James Stratton's 18th birthday party on November 29th.

The club are collecting Green Shield stamps to aid their funds and help towards new equipment. If you have any to spare please give them to any club member or pop them through the letter box at 62 Chapel Hill.

With many thanks to all our friends who have helped us in the past we are now going ahead with plans for our club holiday next August.

M. G. Johnson

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

I would like to issue a warm invitation to anyone who is interested in the Club and its activities, to join us on Wednesday evening December 5th at 8 pm. The venue for this will be the well known Day Centre at Chapel Hill, Stansted. The evening will commence with a talk by Mr. Orris on Developing a Winter Garden. This will be followed by a raffle and Christmas refreshment. The monthly competition for December will be "A Table Decoration" with a maximum of 6" overall dimensions.

On behalf of the Garden Club I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and good health in the New Year.

Finally the first meeting of 1991 will take the form of a slide show on Wednesday January 2nd.

Sue Wilkinson



STANSTED EVENING



November is always A.G.M. time and the Stansted Evening W.I. meeting was well attended. The speaker, Mrs. Sanderson, who owns a craft shop in Saffron Walden spoke on "Gifts for Christmas". She showed members a number of ideas for homemade Christmas presents and decorations, also candles, beautiful easy to make cushions and a snowman for hiding presents in. During coffee break members were able to take a closer look at all the items.

The A.G.M. then followed. The Treasurer, Mrs. Susan Holland, gave her report on the W.I.'s finances which are in a healthy state. Prizes were presented to the members who had taken part in the competitions run during the year. Joint first were Mrs. Vera Ansell and Mrs. Olive Barrett, with Mrs. Ryan third.

The Secretary, Mrs. Barrett gave the committee's annual report showing all the events where members had taken part and the varied selection of speakers through the year. Mrs. Ryan then gave her President's address thanking her committee and the members for their help and support during the past year.

Ten members had agreed to stand for the new committee and from these ten Mrs. Ryan was re-elected as President.

The meeting closed with a cheque for £15 being presented to Mrs. Marion Pretty, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. This money is to buy bulbs to be planted in the village to celebrate the W.I.'s 30th birthday.

Brenda Ryan
812725



The National Childbirth Trust Education for Parenthood

December

- 4th Pauline Burnard, 20 The Street, Manuden 814600
- 7th Jenny Foster, 31 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted, 813591
- 11th Penny Brooks, 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted, 814763
- 14th Angela Mason, 6 Stansted Road, Elsenham 812545
- 18th Jackie Teehan, 'Cordwents', Stansted Road Elsenham, 813206

January

- 4th Jackie Weston, 6 High Street, Elsenham 816282



"OUR VILLAGE"

Last month we veered off from our look into the village garage and transport story, however, the points have now been reset so we may now continue.

By 1908 Relph E. Bowyer, a motor engineer, kept a motor garage along Cambridge Road, in all probability "under the Archway" next to Matthew's cycle stores where today's Co-op stands. Unfortunately I know little of this garage or gentleman other than that this may well have been the first village garage (unless you know otherwise). He certainly sold Pratts Motor Spirit for R.E. Bowyer in 1907 along with Messrs. Green & Co - Thomas O. Newman and Mr. W. Ramsay were granted Petroleum storage licences. By 1912 Messrs Matthew & Kirk were operating Stansted Motor Works. They were sole agents for noted cars the Panhard 15 horse power (h.p.) 4 cylinder, 4 seater, said to be fit for any journey, price £40. The 2 seater 10-12 h.p. also 4 cylinder was racey and good looking, a car with a hood, screen, etc. cost £40, whilst a 4½ h.p. Tricar with 3 speeds and free engine all in excellent condition was for sale at £15. They also stocked motor cycles, pedal cycles, Michelin tyres, all at bargain prices. By 1913 Matthews & Kirk had on offer a Siddley 12 Beeston Humber, which it was suggested would make a fine Char-a-Banc price £70. All these motors and many other models could be tried out on free of charge trials within a 20 mile radius of Stansted.

Although the motor car was not becoming well established, many travellers had yet to be converted to this dangerous monster and much preferred to journey at a slower pace but this was by no means without some set-backs as a Petty Sessions recorded during 1915. A certain fishmonger gentleman of Stansted pleaded guilty to driving a coster barrow without having a hanging lamp attached to his cart in Lower Street at 11 o'clock in the evening. P.C. Perry stated "When I called the defendant to stop he (fishmonger) drove on, his donkey going at a rate of 7 mph he (P.C.) followed him to his house in Woodfields. When asked why he had no light upon his cart he said "I saw a Zeppelin coming over and told my boy to blow out the light. It was like a big cigar (Zeppelin) and I thought I was doing the best thing ". Even a story of that good intention resulted in the guilty being fined 5/-. So light up your hanging light and have a Merry Christmas!

P. J. Brown



From Your Editor

The continuing saga of days gone by in "Our Village" is utterly fascinating to those of us who have only been around here some 20 years. What nostalgic memories your stories bring to the old inhabitants!

The LINK would like to thank you for your extraordinary feats of research and the most attractive presentation you make of the story of "Our Village". We eagerly await 1991 contributions!



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214

Mr. Owen Wilson, Clerk,
Council Offices,
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted, Essex, CM24 8AQ

BURTON END - SPEED RESTRICTION - The Council, following representations from local residents, have strongly requested the County Council to introduce a 40 mph speed restriction at Burton End. The Parish Council considered that the present 60 mph was quite inadequate to maintain safety - having regard to the nature of the road and number of young children in the area. At the same time, the Parish Council is also pressing for a 30 mph limit between Mountfitchet estate and Mountfitchet High School.

"NO CYCLING" ORDERS - The Council have reviewed the "No cycling" orders in the Parish. It was decided to request the County Council to introduce Orders for the following locations:-

- 1) The footpath between Millside and the Recreation Ground.
- 2) The footpath to Spencer Close from the Recreation Ground, and
- 3) The footpath to Blythwood Gardens and Silver Street from Bentfield Road.

NEW LIBRARY - The Council are investigating the financial, legal and planning aspects of a suggestion that a new library be provided at Crafton Green.

PLAYSCHEME AND SUMMER COACHING - The Council have decided to repeat the highly successful Summer Playscheme next year; the period would be 3xtended to four weeks. The cricket and tennis coaching will also be repeated; the possibility of rounders coaching is to be investigated.

MARKET - The Markets Working Party has met the local Environmental Health Officer; from discussions it appears there are no insurmountable environmental health problems regarding the three sites being considered - Lower Street, Cambridge Road (west side) and the British Rail Car Park; the reaction of the Highways Authority has, however, been unfavourable to the first two sites. Investigations continue.

BULB PLANTING SCHEME - Some £215 in donations, and bulbs, have been received. The sites chosen for planting include the verge opposite Cambridge Road, around the trees at Five Acres, Church Road (verges near Mountfitchet High School and the Mountfitchet estate), Bentfield Lower Green (under the trees) and Burnells Way.

APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES - The Council have been informed by the Lord Chancellor's office that there is a shortage of Magistrates - there are, for example, apparently none resident in the Parish. Any person interested can obtain full details from the Parish Clerk.

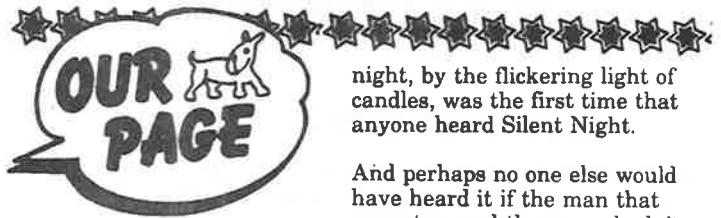
TRAIN SERVICES - The Council invited representatives of British Rail and S.E.N.T.A. to their Highways, Airport and Transport Committee meeting on 7th November 1990 to discuss the problems experienced with the timetable. British Rail were informed of concern that the services were deteriorating particularly as a result of priority being given to next year's Airport train service. The British Rail representatives explained the difficulties they had meeting conflicting demands and delayed provision of appropriate rolling stock. Further adjustments to the timetable had led to improvements in timekeeping.



Many thanks to all you kind souls, from far and wide, who have searched in the far recesses of your sheds and attics and found surplus tools of all descriptions for donation to this worthwhile charity. We have around 2 cwt of tools in my garage ready for refurbishing before they are shipped off to distant lands to be used in small co-operatives and training schools by people who could never afford to buy new equipment. We are awaiting a visit from a TFSR expert to give guidance on which tools are in most demand and on how to sharpen/repair them. We will then be having some refurbishing parties in order to work off some of the Christmas excesses!

Finally, more tools are still needed, so if you are given new ones for Christmas (hint, hint) you know where to send the old ones. Note, it's the simple items such as saws, hammers, and screwdrivers that are in greatest demand, but do not feel inhibited by that!

Michael Dyer
814059



'SILENT NIGHT'

NEARLY every shop we go into at this time of year is playing tapes of Christmas carols - and the favourite one seems to be Silent Night.

There is a lovely story about how it was written...on a Christmas Eve in the year 1818, in the snowbound village of Oberndorf, in Austria, the church organist discovered that the organ wouldn't play a note! There would be no music for the midnight service. He hurried to find the priest and between them they wrote a very simple lullaby, one that the children could learn easily and the organist could play on his guitar.

In the short time before the service they taught it to the children in the choir and that



night, by the flickering light of candles, was the first time that anyone heard Silent Night.

And perhaps no one else would have heard it if the man that came to mend the organ hadn't picked up the sheet of music, played it and liked it. It stuck in his mind and wherever he went he played it. Gradually more and more people grew to love the simple words and tune and it was called 'The Song of Heaven'.

So when you hear it, in shops or at school, remember the young organist and priest who wrote it in such a rush one snowy Christmas Eve.

FESTIVE CHEER

Where do snowmen go to dance?

A snowball.

What's furry and minty?

A Polo bear.

What do gorillas sing at Christmas?

'Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells'.

One American that most of you have heard of is Colonel Saunders who opened his first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in 1929 and died on 16th December 1980...all of which leads me to ask Which bird is the most intelligent - a chicken or a parrot?

A parrot, because you never hear of Kentucky Fried Parrot!



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