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Volume X No. 4

The LINK

February 1990



LENT 1990

TURNING POINTS ON MAJOR ISSUES

STANSTED ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 6.30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

To introduce the national study theme:

"TURNING POINT"

Rev. AUBREY CARROLL S.A.

will give the address

(HOUSE-GROUPS to follow the discussion theme - see overleaf)

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

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

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

All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs Phyllis Harrison. Tel: 813535.

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8th February for March issue
15th March for April issue

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SACC



LENT 1990

Were you a pilgrim in 1986?

Have you fallen into the slough of despond since then?

The 1986 Lent discussion groups in Stansted, part of the national inter-Church process "not strangers but pilgrims", explored the topic "What on earth is the Church for?" They were extremely well attended and the joint report of our discussions contributed to the considerations leading to the re-organisation of the British Council of Churches to be inaugurated this September.

"Turning Points", the material supplied for discussion in Lent 1990, is equally exciting and challenging. Hopefully we will meet all our old friends and possibly make some new ones. Details of times and places will appear in the Churches and in the March Link. Let your S.A.C.C. representatives know your preferred days.

If you happen to be reading this but are not a regular churchgoer, you might want to find out what has been going on. You will almost certainly be surprised. If not a revolution, a definite wind of change! You might prefer to meet on neutral ground rather than in a house group. If so, please ring me (evenings or weekends) or put a note through the door.

Angela Gough
SACC Secretary
13 St John's Road
Tel. 813728

VISIT TO CHEVETOGNE 1990

Arrangements are being made to visit Chevetogne during the weekend of May 25th to May 28th. It is hoped to arrange a coach, details in the March issue of "Link".

Francis Mercer

Mr. & Mrs. McIlwain wish to thank all their S.A.C.C. friends for their good wishes on retirement; for the generous gift presented on January 13th at the retirement party which so many of their friends attended.

SHALOM

Sunday 4th February

Visit of Church of Cherubim and Seraphim from Birmingham to Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church followed by supper in the Church Hall. Approximate times 1.30 to 6.30. All are welcome to come to this experience. It is a bring and share event - curry, chille, rice, salad, dessert.

Monday 5th February

Shalom evening at Michael Dyer's, 2 Blythwood House. Ken Cracknell will be speaking on a subject of his choice.

Monday 19th February

Shalom evening at Judy Goddard's, 23 Burnell's Way. This will be the first of video "Under the shadow" introduced by author Angela Reith.

Friday 23rd February

Shalom retreat starts at 7 p.m. at Hengrave Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk to 4 p.m. on Sunday 25th February. A few places are still available. Please contact Harry Goreing (B.S. 503674) if you would like to come. Harold Fisher is leading the retreat on the subject of the spirituality of 'Our Father'.

Monday 26th February

Last session of the retreat at 8 p.m. at 23 Burnells Way.

Monday 5th March

Shalom evening at Eileen's, 4 Greenfields. This will be the second session of "Under the Shadow".

Saturday 17th March

St. Patrick's night evening at St. John's Hall to raise money for Corrymeela. Further details in March Link.

Monday 19th March

Shalom evening at Mike's, 2 Blythwood House, for the third session of "Under the Shadow".

Church of England

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday	-	7.30pm
Wednesday	-	10am
Thursday	-	9.30am
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.



"Six hours in sleep, in law's grave study six;
Four spend in prayer, the rest on Nature fix"
(Sir Edward Coke, 1552-1634)

Prayer is a fundamental part of our Christian life. Life without prayer is like a family without love or a garden without water: it becomes starved and arid and fails to flourish. Through prayer our life is enriched and strengthened. In human relationships we become closer to people as we talk to them and come to know them better. So too we draw closer to God through prayer as we come to know more of him.

And yet most of us find prayer - talking and listening with God - as difficult (if not more) than we find communicating with each other. Few of us can find the four hours enjoined in us in the above quotation to spend in prayer: few of us, even if we find the time, know where to begin. Something that should be as simple as talking to God and listening to him can seem daunting.

So on Sunday mornings during Lent this year we are going "back to basics", to explore together ways in which we can pray. And instead of bringing in specialist preachers, the talks will be given by the clergy with the simple heading "How I pray" - each giving our own personal view of what we find difficult and what we find helpful in our prayers.

To start off our thinking - and, we hope, our praying - we have invited Canon John Tyers, warden of Pleshey Retreat House, to give our opening talk. This will be at St. John's on Sunday evening, 25th February at 7.30 p.m. (following Evensong without sermon at 6.30 p.m.) His talk will be on "Listening to God".

We hope you will join us this Lent in exploring prayer, that through it we may draw closer to God as we look towards Holy Week and Easter.

DIARY

February

1	10.30	Service at Norman Court
6	10.00	Service at Mead Court
	8.15	Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
13	2.15	Tiny Tots
25	7.30	Lecture by Canon John Tyers "Listening to God" (following 6.30 pm Evensong without sermon)
27	2.15	Tiny Tots
28		ASH WEDNESDAY
	10.00	Holy Communion
	8.00	Parish Communion

REGISTERS

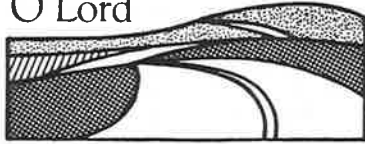
FUNERALS

Dec 27	Percy Edward Haggerwood, 83
Dec 29	Alice Johnson, 104
Jan 2	Arthur Mason Barnes, 71
Jan 10	George Forrest, 59

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

Once again the "Good Friday Project" invites children to come along to St. Mary's School and take part in the Project. This is becoming quite an Ecumenical exercise with helpers coming from all the churches in Stansted. Each year over two hundred children take part so we need many adult helpers. Many of our helpers come along year after year, but we are always anxious to introduce new blood and new ideas. So if you would like to help - no experience or expertise is required although we will use any talents you have - contact Marion Johnson at 62 Chapel Hill, tel. no. 812284. You will I can assure you have a very happy and rewarding day.

Teach me Your Paths,
O Lord



'LISTENING TO GOD'

A talk by

CANON JOHN TYERS

Warden of Pleshey Retreat House

at 7 30pm

on Sunday 25 February

To introduce our Sunday morning
talks on 'Spirituality'.



ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLRINGERS

When it became known that the first peal on the bells of St Mary's took place on 23rd November 1889 our present team of ringers made plans to mark its centenary. To the uninitiated a peal must comprise at least 5000 changes and normally takes approximately three hours to ring. The ringers on that occasion were: 1 John Cavill, 2 Isaac Hammond, 3 William Watts, 4 George Gray, 5 John Luckey, 6 Isaac Cavill (Conductor).

Although it had been hoped to ring the centenary peal on the actual date, this was not possible and so five present members of the band together with Alan Dixon, the former tower captain, who travelled from Lawford in North Essex, met and rang a peal on Saturday 30th December. The actual time for both peals was coincidentally the same, namely 2 hours 50 minutes. The ringers were: 1 Anne Wilkinson, 2 Edmund Wilkinson, 3 Colin Holman, 4 Guy Wilkinson, 5 Alan Dixon, 6 Alan Barber (Conductor). This was the first full peal for both Edmund and Colin.

Alan Barber
Tel: 812105

Tony & Helene King

As many will know, Tony and Helene King, who left St. John's at the end of last summer, are presently studying at the College of the Ascension, Selly Oak, in preparation for a posting abroad with the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. They are each going in their own right and expect to take up postings on Botswana after Easter this year. The Overseas Group hopes to be able to forge a link with, and support whatever projects they each undertake.

They will be returning to Stansted for Tony to preach at the 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion at St. John's on Sunday 18th February 1990 when Tony can be expected to elaborate on their postings, their briefs and their aspirations. Both Tony and Helene will be available during coffee after the service and will be able to expand further on their future.

Alastair Richardson
(815518)

MONTHS 'GOOD CAUSE' GIVING 1989

January	Muscular Dystrophy	£62-98
February	Chelmsford Hospice	£69-65
March	Chest Heart & Stroke Association	£85-00
April	Abbeyfield Society	£89-92
May	Home Farm Trust	£74-25
June	Marie Curie Memorial Foundation	£79-12
July	CAMTAD	£82-43
August	Hearing Dogs for the Deaf	£55-25
September	Shaftesbury Society	£52-80
October	Local Nurses Equipment Fund	£75-37
November	St Lukes Malawi Children's Church Project	£37-84 £50-00
December	Children's Society	£70-78

It was decided by the P.C.C. that half the Christmas Collections should be given to a children's charity. It was decided that this should be St. Elizabeth's School at Much Hadham. A cheque for £246-72 has been sent.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Clerk: Katharine Hurford
2 Matching Lane
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654945

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

'It is a responsibility of a Christian community to enable its members to discover what their gifts are and to exercise them to the glory of God'. So states our book of 'Church Government' on the subject of appointments to jobs within the local Quaker Meeting. The section is prefaced by the statement 'Since there is complete equality between men and women in the Society, all service and appointments are open to both'.

Without a paid minister or priest, all members of the Meeting must play a part in carrying out the tasks involved in

the running of Church affairs: this can be quite a burden when numbers are small and many are busily involved in other work and activities. It helps to rotate some of the jobs, and we do this when we review the appointments within the local Meeting at the end of each year. This year I shall no longer be Clerk, but my tasks will include the collecting of articles for 'The Link', so, if there is a gap under our heading I am responsible for it!

In appointing new people to carry out the work of the Meeting, we remember that 'There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord ... In each of us the Spirit is manifest in one particular way for some useful purpose'.

Margaret Whitelaw

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.

BISHOP'S VISITATION AND CONFIRMATION:

A reminder to all candidates. Please register your names with Father Meehan. The programme starts early in the New Year.

CONFIRMATION? Essentially it is a call to the person to mission (evangelisation), using the gifts of the Holy Spirit received in the Sacrament. It is not self-dedication to God in the sense of someone bringing their own gifts and offering them to God. Progress from Sacrament to Sacrament in a person's life is a progression resulting in new status with new obligations and Confirmation is an outward looking Sacrament (evangelical). Psychologically people need to have owned themselves before they can enter into a meaningful dialogue, and because of the young age of 14 this owning of self is difficult to achieve, and hence very necessary that all candidates receive help to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is the Sacrament of continued initiation and must not be allowed to become through abuse the Sacrament of farewell and lapsation.

As a parish family our task is to pray for candidates and help them in their Christian formation and general attitude to life as they prepare to receive the wonderful Sacrament of the outpouring of God's Spirit.

J. Meehan



Shalom - A Personal View

There is no one on this earth to whom we can fully surrender ourselves, as people have human failings and do exploit our seeming weakness. God is the only one to whom we can be fully ourselves warts and all - thank goodness he knows the real us inside the exterior mess and loves us in spite of it or because of it, devotedly and faithfully.

All our energies must be channelled in the right direction so that we do not become self-centred and inward, but become God centred and are able to live in harmony with him and so with each other. We do suffer but we should not make too big a drama of it.

With surrender to God in our lives - he cannot work without us or we without him - we then allow ourselves to be free from human bondage and so experience a tiny piece of the kingdom of Shalom. Shalom is the Hebrew word for 'Peace' but it means more than 'Peace', it means a wholeness, completeness, unbrokenness, full spiritual and mental health, in fact a comprehensive well being, such as one has never experienced before.

Between people it means relationships of trust, openness and caring, of living interdependently without destroying. This is no human achievement but a gift from God - Shalom really is the kingdom of God and each day we can add just a little more completeness to the puzzle of life - take out the pieces that do not fit and discard them - perhaps they will fit when we have completed a little more of the puzzle.

Mary Warnett



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 the night before he was crucified our Lord told his disciples "I am the real (true) vine and my Father is the gardener ---- you are the branches. Anyone who dwells in me, as I dwell in him, bears much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Of all the "I am" sayings of Jesus this one most powerfully states how utterly crucial is the Christian's relationship with Christ.

The vine was one of the great images or symbols of Israel as the People of God whose divine purpose stretched back through prophets, priests, Kings and judges to the founding patriarchs themselves, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the days of our Lord the spiritual leadership of Israel had gone very badly astray, as so often before. Jesus spent most of his last week of earthly life in Jerusalem. Probably he saw the great vine carved over the main Temple doors beautifully carved and covered with gold leaf. Maybe this sparked him off to say "I am the REAL vine". Real as opposed to synthetic, or false or inadequate.

He is saying that the divine purposes which God had called Israel to serve and fulfil would now be served by him and those committed to him in love and trust. The real divine community is made up of those who draw their life from him; those who are alive with his spirit, truth, love and wholeness. Not only the trunk, but also all the branches in whom he lives and loves, make up the complete Vine of Christ, the New Israel of God. All such have their life in Christ, are incorporate in him and can say with St. Paul "I live, yet no longer I; Christ lives in me".

Truly belonging to the Vine, the People of God, is not determined by ethnic origin or historical prestige, not by theological orthodoxy or ecclesiastical involvement, not by traditions or ceaseless activity, but by having his life, love and spirit in us. This is the cruciality of Christ. A love-relationship with him is indispensable. Apart from him we can do nothing. His life in us produces the Father's fruit.

All this is really the Father's work, for, says Jesus, He is the gardener. It is the Father who makes it possible for the Christ Vine to flourish and grow and bear fruit. Wherever the Christ life is found, there the Father is at work, and such are found in many places, not infrequently where we do not expect them. But then, as St. Augustine said, "God has many the Church does not have and the Church has some God does not have." A challenging word! How much are we in the Vine because God is creating the Christ life in us?

My love to you all.

Harold Fisher

METHODIST NOTES

Our united service with the Quakers on Christmas Eve was again a very happy occasion. Carols, Advent Candle-lighting, childrens' participation with violin, singing and poetry, and the period of silent worship filled an hour of good fellowship.

We have missed Marion and Michael Dyer (now safely home!) as, with Alison, they passed the Twenty-six Days of Christmas in Hong Kong and Indonesia, visiting family and friends. So good to have them back - now for some "Tales from the East".

Postscript Very warm thanks to the U.R.C. for their most enjoyable farewell party to Eric and Doris McIlwain, to which we were all invited.





United Reformed

Chapel Hill

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 came across some words recently written by Charles Dickens to his son who was about to set out on a new life in Australia.

Parting from ones children to a far distant land must be painful at any time, but for a parents in the last century, before the days of planes, telephones and other modern means of communication, the parting must for many parents have seemed a final one, the possibility of meeting again remote indeed.

This is what Dickens wrote. "I need not tell you that I love you dearly, and am very, very sorry in my heart to part with you. I have put a New Testament among your books, because it is the best book that ever was, or ever will be, known to the world. As your brothers have gone away one by one, I have written to each such words as I am writing to you, entreating them all to guide themselves by this book. Only one thing more. Never abandon the practice of private prayer. I know the comfort of it."

We should do well to heed such wise advice today.

Church Calendar - Sunday Services

Feb. 4th Rev. L. Rapkin, Communion
11th Mrs. Deveraux
18th Mr. North
25th Rev. L. Rapkin

Annual General Meeting of Church and Congregation

February 13th 7.30 p.m.

Lydia Rapkin

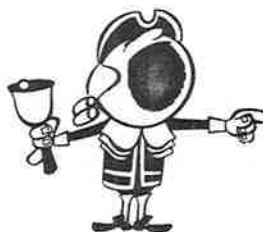
Deaths

Kathleen Walkee 28 November 1989

Kathleen whose father Rev. E. F. Walker was minister of Stansted Congregational Church (now United Reformed Church) during the post war years, lived at Sawbridgeworth but was a member and attended regularly until illness prevented this.

George Snow Sunnyside 17 December

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

February

1	8.00	Day Centre. Local History Society. Mr P Sanders
7	8.00	Day Centre. Gardening Club Quiz & Slides
10	2.15	St John's Hall. Conservatives Jumble Sale
16	8.00	Conservatives Branch AGM. Day Centre
23	8.00	Day Centre S.L.D. AGM
24	2.30	St John's Hall Evening WI Sale
24	2.00	Elsenham Village Hall S.L.D. Jumble Sale

March

1	8.00	Day Centre. Local History Society
3-4		Skip at Crafton Green
4	6.30	St John's Ecumenical Service
14	10.30	Day Centre Conservative Women's Section AGM
26-29		Skip at Crafton Green

April

6		Day Centre. British Legion Easter Supper
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STANSTED AFTERNOON



STANSTED EVENING

The December meeting was our Christmas Party. Vice-President Mrs. B. Scarr welcomed the members. Three birthday posies made by Mrs. Palmer were presented.

Mr. White entertained the party to a selection of popular tunes and Christmas carols played on the electric keyboard. Games were also played before and after the special Christmas tea. The prize was won by Mrs. S. Cooper. There were eight winners of our larger than usual raffle. The meeting closed at 4.30 pm with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Liliane Bowman
Tel. 8124325

Mrs. Ann Calver, our President, chaired our January meeting and welcomed one new and one rejoined member. Six members received birthday posies of daffodils, a pleasant touch of spring on a dull day.

We have several events lined up for April. A coffee morning at the Day Centre on 7th April, for W.I. funds, and this year Stansted Afternoon will convene the Floral Competition for W.I.'s. The Streeter Floral Cup Competition, also in April on the 24th at the United Reformed Church Hall. The speaker for this month was Mr. John Ansell, who gave a very interesting talk on Holland with accompanying slides. Mr. Ansell judged the competition for a floral photograph. Mrs. Fuller was the winner and Mrs. Joan Grose second. There were twelve entries, all of a high standard.

The members agreed that we should celebrate our 70th birthday this year with a lunch at the Day Centre in June. Next month our speaker is the Rev. Chris Bishop, who will talk about the work of an airport Chaplain.

Pauline Cianciola
814487



Our first meeting of the year was exceptionally well attended in spite of subscriptions being due! Several prospective new members were in the audience. Our speaker was unfortunately unable to be with us, but the 'stand in' proved to be a great success.

Guy Hiscock, who is a Shiatsu therapist, explained the philosophy of this school which is of oriental origin. The therapy is called acupressure, when hand pressure is used on specific points and meridians in the body. The person is treated as an individual and the body's health is governed by the spirit, thoughts and what is eaten.

Audrey Fry and Judy Colliver volunteered to help in a demonstration, after which both reported improvements - Audrey finished up with even length arms and Judy's persistent neck and shoulder pain was reduced. Members then asked questions and expressed their appreciation of Guy's fascinating talk and demonstration.

During the meeting, members were reminded that it is the 30th Anniversary of our W.I. in October when a special meeting will be held.

Future fund raising events will include a grand Jumble Sale on February 24th at St. John's Hall and a Thursday Market Stall in Bishop's Stortford. The Treasurer, Sue Holland, announced that we need to raise £300 this year, so no doubt there will be other money making ventures as well.

The programme for 1991 will be planned shortly and if this year goes on as well as it began in January we shall be having some splendid meetings.

Come and join us - 2nd Thursday every month, St. John's Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Pearl Wellings
813614

STANSTED EVENING W.I.

Grand Jumble Sale

February 24th

St. John's Hall

2.30 p.m.

Not just a jumble!

Cake Stall, Good as New,
Refreshments, Raffle



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

140 people attended the New Year Supper Dance at Stansted Hall on Saturday 6th January. It was a very successful and enjoyable evening with an excellent 4 course dinner served by the committee. Dirk Vettewind, the Saffron Walden Constituency Agent and his wife attended the evening. Richard Shervington, the Stansted Conservative President, made a short speech and Sarah Ludlow-Elston, wife of the Chairman, Anthony Ludlow-Elston, drew the raffle tickets.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

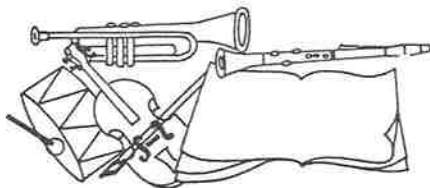
On Sunday 10th December a very pleasant Christmas Drinks Party was held at 'The Brambles', St. John's Road, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Shervington.

Conservative Parish Councillors Surgery will take place at the Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, Stansted between 10 and 11 a.m. on:- Saturday, 24th February 1990.

The Annual General Meeting of the Joint Branch will be held at the Day Centre on Friday 16th February at 8 p.m. The speaker will be our Member of Parliament, Alan Haselhurst.

The Annual General Meeting of the Women's Section will be held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 14th March at 10.30 a.m. The speaker will be Steve Norris - Member of Parliament for Epping Forest.

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



WOODWIND OF WALDEN

A group of wind instrumentalists will be happy to play to groups in any part of Uttlesford. Members of the group are available on Thursday evenings or at weekends. This service is offered free of charge and the group claims no expenses. If you would like to book them contact Fred Payne at Saffron Walden Hospital, Tel. S. Walden 22464.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 813214 Mrs Janet Buttery, Clerk
Council Offices
Crafton Gren House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted, Essex

A special Thank you to: Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sid Stringer for brightening up Christmas and New Year in the Parish - Mr. Johnson organises the floodlighting of the War Memorial and Mr. Stringer arranges the Christmas lights. Both give their time voluntarily to the Parish and I am sure all parishioners join the Parish Council in saying "Thank you".

Following on from the above, we are sad to report that an additional new set of lights that we purchased to pretty-up the village even more were stolen 2 days before Christmas! This was not just an act of vandalism since the cable was cut and the whole set disappeared!

BOTTLE BANK, Crafton Green

This is obviously a well-used amenity but it would be appreciated if people would deposit their bottles in the container and not leave them in boxes beside it.

Please also do not leave any other rubbish next to the bottle bank.

SKIP DATES

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

Saturday & Sunday 3/4 March
Monday 26th - Thursday 29th March



STANSTED LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

The constituency supper club at Stansted Day Centre in December was a sell-out. Typically English fare of soup, fish pie followed by seasonal mince pies was served, which contrasted with the transatlantic flavour of the after-supper speech. This was given by Dr. David Reynolds from Cambridge on his involvement in making the BBC TV series "Oceans Apart", about the historical relationship between Great Britain and the USA. A profit of about £300 was made for constituency funds.

The first bi-monthly Saturday Ploughman's lunch of the year on January 13th was well attended. Extra cheese had to be sent for! £30 was made for branch funds. They will be held on the second Saturday of alternate months with the next in March.

As we go to press, preparations were in hand for the annual supper dance at Stansted Hall on 27 January. Report next month.

Our next event is our spring Jumble Sale which this year is being held in Elsenham. We look forward to receiving jumble from our usual suppliers and anyone else who wants a post Christmas clear out. Please ring 813579 or 813914.

Future events:

23rd February at 8 p.m. Stansted Branch Annual General Meeting in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Guest speaker.

24th February at 2 p.m. Jumble Sale in Elsenham Village Hall.

10th March, 12-2 p.m. Bi-monthly Ploughman's Lunch in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

For details of these events or membership contact Frances Spalding, 813432 or Melvin Caton 813914.

Alan Dean, 813579



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

I am sure most of us heave a sigh of relief when February comes, now we can see our way clear and look forward to spring coming. Perhaps now is the time to spend a convivial evening with some new faces and possibly some old friends aswell.

How about an evening spent at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. I can guarantee a warm welcome if you come along to Mountfitchet Garden Club.

On Wednesday February 7th an informal Quiz in the form of a slide show will while the evening away and hopefully you'll learn something aswell. The evening begins at 8 p.m.

Sue Wilkinson



Uttlesford Council

COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

At last there is more community psychiatric help for North Uttlesford. Two community Psychiatric Nurses began work recently in the North of the District. They are Katherine Foreman and Peter Yoxen and they will be operating from Haymeads Day Hospital, Bishop's Stortford. They have agreed to give us a progress report in June but in the meantime we wish them every success.

NAWCH - Ladies who like children are urgently needed by the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital so that children can be looked after while mothers attend outpatient clinics. Those interested in helping are asked to get in touch with Joan Hill, Saffron Walden 22464 Ext 2168.

S.W.R.O.S.A. - (SAFFRON WALDEN RURAL OVER SIXTIES ASSOCIATION) is looking for a new Secretary to start in May 1990. If you know anyone who would be prepared to do this would you please contact Mrs. J. Gardner, 'The Mount', Birchanger, nr Bishop's Stortford. Tel. Bishop's Stortford 812669.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thurs 1st February - Peter Sanders on "A Victorian Schooling in Stansted".

Thurs 1st March - "The History of Brick, Tile and Pottery Making" by Adrian Corder-Birch.

We are collecting together people's memories of the "Central Hall". Please let us know anything you feel would be of interest and have you any photographs or papers about it that we could borrow for display at our A.G.M. in May?

Meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre. All welcome.

Peggy Honour
B/S 813160
59 Blythwood Gardens



OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED II

Let's look at bricks.

It can now be revealed ---- our candidate for the London Marathon (22nd April 1990) has been accepted. His identity is our Treasurer, Mr. Neil Kemsley, and of course he will be running to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. We hope the village will respond through generous sponsorship. Perhaps Neil's example will encourage others to get into training for the 1991 Marathon!'

Speaking of the Poppy Appeal, the amount raised by Stansted & District last November was over £3,300 - about 50p per head of population. A fine achievement. Well done everyone - givers and collectors.

Now a note for diaries. An 'Easter Supper' will be held at the Day Centre on 6th April. Tickets on sale soon at £5 each. Our autumn supper was very enjoyable and encouraged the committee to organise more. These events would be even more successful if more members and friends attended. Apart from benefitting branch funds, the object of such functions is to provide a forum for a social get-together - so easy for branches with club premises.

Bricks have been used locally ever since the Romans started building their villas and recycled Roman bricks can still be seen utilised in St Mary's Church and possibly elsewhere in Stansted to this day.

Our local clay makes good bricks and maps show that brickyards existed near the new Bentfield Sports Field, in Brickyard Plantation off the Elsenham Road and at Brick Kiln Spring in Stansted Park. These have disappeared except for a few holes and bumps but models of the Stansted Hall kiln and brickyard equipment can be seen in the local history section of the Saffron Walden Museum.

Quite a number of houses were built in Stansted during thenineteenth century using the local red bricks and the skills of the brickmaker and the brick-layer combined to please the eye of the stroller. Bricks over doorways and windows were specially moulded by the brickmaker and hand rubbed and shaped by the bricklayer for a perfect fit, an arduous and skilled job.

You will soon notice examples of high quality brickwork as you look around Cambridge Road, Silver Street, Chapel Hill, Lower Street, Recreation Ground and Bentfield End. Notice especially the Post Office, the Social Club, the carriage entrance at Linden House, the Limes Stables and the front of the old chapel in Silver Street. The pattern of bricks round the doors and windows of the buildings on the corner of Chapel Hill and Sunnyside is repeated on Church Cottage and also in Burton End. Consider the doctor's surgery in St. John's Road with the original house and gable in the middle, an extension on the right and a commendable and more recent extension on the left.

It is apparent from the dates on the buildings that bricks were not commonly used before the nineteenth century. St. Mary's tower was rebuilt with bricks in 1692 and you will notice that the bricks are longer and shallower than modern ones. Whilst walking round looking at brickwork try to decide which could be the oldest brick building in Stansted, and at the same time cast your eyes over other buildings and enjoy some of the remarkable features that adorn our village.



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Tennis Club Christmas Dinner was held at The Prince of Wales pub in Broxton on Friday 15th December. It was a very successful and pleasant evening with delicious food.

We continue to play in the Bishop's Stortford Floodlit League and also in a Small Club's League (i.e. clubs with only two courts). Nine matches have been arranged and will be played in January, February and March.

We also play on Sunday mornings from 10.30 a.m. until lunch-time. (Winter subscriptions are half-price until 1st April).

All enquiries to:- Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

Felix

LETTER TO ALL READERS

Dear Editor,

The Rotary Club of Stansted Stort Valley is delighted to tell you that they, together with other local organisations, have planted spring flower bulbs in a number of areas around Stansted; the bulbs were supplied by the Stansted Parish Council. We look forward to seeing some nice splashes of colour which we hope will give pleasure to the good people of Stansted, as well as to visitors.

May we ask one small thing of your readers -

When exercising family pets on grass verges, would owners please take care to avoid damage by trampling on the growing flowers.

We wish you a happy and colourful springtime.

Eric Broe
President

Rotary Club of Stansted Stort Valley
654909



Thanks to our many benefactors we all had a wonderful time at the Pantomime. This year we ventured to pastures new and enjoyed Dick Whittington at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge. I think that the Huw Johnson Club were the most vocal part of the audience. Stephen certainly shouted "Oh yes you did" louder than anyone else. I know because I sat next to him and my ear drums are still vibrating. One other member was in tears when Dick was accused of stealing the diamonds and Denise diverted everyone's eyes away from the stage with a very emphatic "No". As we left the theatre everyone agreed that it was the best pantomime they'd ever seen.

Our enjoyment was made possible by our friends at the Cock Public House, an anonymous donation of £50 from another friend and a very generous donation from the Birchanger Trust Fund.

The interval was spent tucking into the sweets and chocolates given to us by the congregation of the United Reformed Church.

Thank you very much indeed to all these generous people who made this evening possible.
M. G. J.



STANSTED CRICKET CLUB

While last summer is fast becoming a distant memory, it is not too soon to prepare for the coming season with our first games set for the end of April.

Shortage of players was a difficulty last season causing the cancellation of some matches at a time when the weather was ideal for the pleasures of traditional village cricket. Most weekends we run two teams on both Saturdays and Sundays from our base at Hargrave Park, Cambridge Road, next to the Football Club. We also have occasional colts matches and coaching for boys of 11 years upwards.

Anyone interested in playing (including occasional players at the Club in the past who may wish to resume playing on a more regular basis) is invited to contact me or one of our Committee Members, or come along to our Annual General Meeting set for Friday 2nd March at 8 p.m. at the Pavilion.

Brian Linford
8 Park Road, Stansted
Tel: 813466

DAY CENTRE

Around 80 members of the Day Centre sat down to enjoy Centre's Christmas Lunch in December: turkey with all the usual trimmings, followed by gateau and mince pie, all washed down with white wine. This was followed by a musical entertainment provided by Mr. Booker, Mrs. Marian Dyer and the Rev. John Cardell-Oliver. After a refreshing cup of tea with a slice of Christmas Cake made by Mrs. Betty Little all departed home with many Christmas wishes ringing in our ears.

Diary for February

Thur 1st	Scrabble		2.00 pm
Fri 2nd	Whist Drive	40p	2.00 pm
Tue 6th	Beetle	30p	2.00 pm
Thur 8th	Bingo		2.00 pm
Fri 9th	Whist Drive	40p	2.00 pm
Tue 13th	Bingo		2.00 pm
Thur 15th	Scrabble		2.00 pm
Fri 16th	Whist Drive	40p	2.00 pm
Tue 20th	Beetle	30p	2.00 pm
Thur 22nd	Bingo		2.00 pm
Fri 23rd	Whist Drive	40p	2.00 pm
Tue 27th	Bingo		2.00 pm

March

Thur 1st	Scrabble		2.00 pm
Fri 2nd	Whist Drive	40p	2.00 pm

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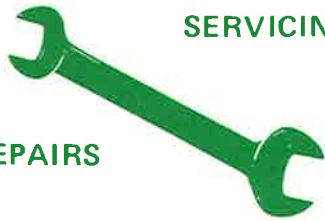
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