

Jan 90

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS

JANUARY



Some eulogise the Spring,
The darling of the year,
When blackbirds start to sing,
And daffodils appear.

Some place the Summer first,
The season of the sun,
When hay is homeward hearsed
And harvesting begun.

A few award the prize
To Autumn's fiery fall,
When chimney smoke-wisps rise
And migrant fieldfares call.

Has ever any chosen
The Winter's sombre stay,
When furrowed fields are frozen
And night curtails the day?

J. H. B. Peel

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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
11th January for February issue
8th February for March issue



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.

It seems to be the fashion nowadays to make the beginning of a new decade, whether in one's personal life or in other aspects of society, with a special celebration. I'm sure you'll have noticed as I have, eye-catching banners outside houses or alongside the public highway announcing that Anne or Andrew nearby has reached the decade at which life is supposed to begin.

I remember at the beginning of the 80's reading a series of articles in our U.R.C. magazine 'Reform' by one of our most respected church leaders, Dr. Leslie Newbigin, entitled "Priorities for a new Decade". That decade is now past and gone, but it seems to me that the priorities expounded than are just as relevant today and for the coming decade of the 90's.

One of Dr. Newbigin's articles was entitled 'We don't support a good cause, we have a message'. That message is written plain and clear in the familiar words in John's Gospel, chapter three, verse sixteen, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life'.

This message, God's good news to man has remained constant throughout the centuries. The priority of the church in the 90's is to proclaim the message

and to put into practice ways in which our response to and acceptance of that good news can be reflected in our care and concern for those we meet along life's way.

You'll see elsewhere in 'Link' that our minister Rev. Eric McIlwain retire from the ministry in our group of churches last month. During the past three years it has been very rewarding to me to be introduced by Eric to so many aspects of the ecumenical life of the churches in Stansted, and I would like to join with his many friends in the village in wishing both him and Doris a very happy retirement. We shall miss them both, but feel sure we shall see them in Stansted from time to time.

We are sad to announce this month the death of Miss Kathleen Walker, daughter of a former minister of our church. Although living in Sawbridgeworth Kathleen retained her membership of our church, worshipping with us regularly until ill health prevented this. We thank God for her life of Christian service and rejoice that she is now at preace in the presence of God.

Lydia Rapkin



SHALOM IN JANUARY

Monday 8th Prayer and Praise at
Judy's, 23 Burnells Way
Monday 22nd A debate at Eileen's
4 Greenfields

February dates will be 5th and 19th.
See next month's Link for further details.

Starting on 8th January, each meeting will start promptly at 8 pm so please try to come a few minutes earlier than usual. Thank 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 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) (1st and 3rd Sundays)	-	11.30am
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.

Dear Friends,

This week a copy of John Taylor's new book arrived. I had ordered it after the very successful Caistor '89 conference for the clergy, because along with other material, the lectures that were given at the conference formed part of the book. His lectures were most inspiring and I wanted to reread them.

But its arrival reminded me that this year sees the beginning of the Decade of Evangelism called for by our Bishop John Waine and also by Archbishop Basil Hume in the Roman Catholic Church.

Christian mission and evangelism is the action of the whole body of Christ in the history of the world, a continuation of Pentecost, when God sent his Holy Spirit into the hearts of the apostles so that they could continue the work begun on earth by his Son Jesus Christ. They made a good job of it, now it's up to us to continue that work.

The challenge that the Church is faced with is, that in order to do the job we must ourselves be continually renewed through the Holy Spirit working in us, so that we become living witnesses to the Good News that Jesus brought his gospel of love.

The celebration of the Eucharist is the place for the renewal of the missionary and evangelistic work of the Church - there we are fed by the Body and Blood of Christ, so that we can go out and confess in our lives that He is Lord. But we have to acknowledge with deep sorrow that this is something that all Christians cannot do together. January is the month when we yearly pray for a week for that unity, so that we may not only pray and work together but also be fed together.

This year as we start our decade of Evangelism in the Roman Catholic and Anglican congregations, let us all make it our piece of work of unity to be present at the joint service on Sunday January 21st at the Quaker Meeting House and pray that in God's good time we may be able to celebrate together in the Eucharist.

In the words of John Taylor - "Jesus had little more than 30 months to proclaim something and did something and was something that immediately fired the imagination of the common people" - if only we could resuscitate the same enthusiasm - then the Church might have a clarity of purpose.

Let us pray that in 10 years the unity we desire may be brought about.

A happy and inspiring year.

Margaret



CONFIRMATION

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

Recent weeks at youth club have been rather hectic - what with organising our stalls for the Christmas Market and rehearsing for the talent evening.

The Christmas Market was a resounding success, with both the nail and toy stalls proving popular.

Rehearsals for the Talent Evening proved to be challenging but I think we eventually managed to channel the talent into a presentable show. More details to follow in the next issue.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7th Jan	Hall Group	6.30-8.00 8.00-9.30
Sunday 14th Jan	Surprise Evening	6.30-8.00 8.00-9.30
Sunday 21st Jan	Games Evening	6.30-8.00 8.00-9.30
Sunday 28th Jan	Structured Games	6.30-8.00 8.00-9.30

If you are interested in coming to youth club come along or contact

Brenda Towle 813712
Martin Corbishley 813040
Ian Lauder 813239



DIARY

JANUARY

- 1 Naming of Jesus
7.30 Holy Communion
- 2 10 am Service at Mead Court
- 4 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
- 6 The Epiphany of our Lord
9.30 am Holy Communion with hymns
- 9 2.15 Tiny Tots
- 15 8 pm PCC - Vicarage
- 17 8 pm Confirmation Enquiry evening
- Vicarage
- 23 2.15 Tiny Tots

REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 26 November Charlotte Emma Neal
Oliver William Neal

FUNERAL

- 23 November Gladys May Sapsford, 85

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am.

Do you, as members of a Society within the worldwide Christian church, try to share in the life and fellowship of the whole Christian community? Do you co-operate as fully as possible in its work, availing yourselves of local opportunities for worship and service with your fellow Christians? Is your distinctive Quaker witness characterised by humility and a willingness to learn from others, so that differences are transcended in a common loyalty to Jesus Christ?

While most Friends would agree that there are dangers of trying to express religious faith in a few words, there are times when it is helpful or needful to say something. The following extract from a talk given by a Friend to a wider audience may help those who find the task overwhelmingly difficult.

The core of our religious life is that our meetings for worship are held in silent waiting on God. Out of the silence someone may speak briefly, or pray, or read from the Bible or other religious work. This way of worship reflects our basic conviction that by looking into their innermost hearts people can have direct communication with their Creator. That conviction can't be spelt out in words, but we base our whole lives upon it.

This approach to religion expresses itself in a package of characteristics attitudes and practices. Here are some of the most relevant for our purpose today:

Although we follow the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and try to live in the spirit of forgiving love shown forth in his life and death, we do not rely for authority on a literal interpretation of the Bible, or on any dogmas or creeds. Many of us also acknowledge a debt to wise people of other religions and of no declared religion.

Men and women are equal in the Society and we have no ordained clergy.



We try to live in simplicity and moderation, but only some Quakers are teetotallers.

We avoid betting, gambling and speculation.

Above all, we distance ourselves from all violence in thought, word or deed.

We refuse to fight in wars, and we work for peace and reconciliation wherever we can.

We do not regard ourselves as having a monopoly of truth. Acceptance of other views is an essential part of the Quaker way. We therefore don't proselytise. If people decide to join us we are delighted, but you can't be converted to being a Quaker; you can only discover that you are one.

Preparative Meeting also thought it might be helpful if we repeated the Queries upon which our recent workshop on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation was based.

Are you concerned that man's increasing power over nature should not be used irresponsibly but with reverence for life and with a sense of the splendour of God's continuing creation?

Are you working towards the removal of social injustices? Have you attempted to examine their causes objectively, and are you ready to abandon old prejudices and think again? Do you, as disciples of Christ, take a living interest in the social conditions of the district in which you live? Do you seek to promote the welfare of those in any kind of need, and a just distribution of the resources of the world?

Do you faithfully maintain our witness against all war, and all preparation for it, as inconsistent with the spirit and teaching of Christ? Do you live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars? Are you always ready, with God's help, to work for reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

Do you behave with brotherly love to all men whatever their race, background or opinion? Do you try to make the stranger feel at home among you?

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.

Most of us will have enjoyed a Christmas full of peace, love and warmth, surrounded by friends and family in a community in which we were able to partake of all the good things that the Christmas season had to offer.

Perhaps as we drop the mantle of the old year and gird ourselves afresh for the New Year we should spare a thought for those who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Today there are more people homeless and starving than ever before. Even in the most prosperous areas of the world places of refuge have to be set up for homeless children and adults. Even in our own country the large towns and cities cannot cope with the demand for hostels and shelters.

We cannot prepare for the New Year and be prepared to leave the world as it is. The poor are God's way of reminding us that affluence is only a mirage. Jesus came to change things. He does not want a few of us to enjoy a good life, but a Just and Peaceful life for all.

Here is a statistic from CAFOD which I am sure will shock you; though Christians constitute only 32% of the world's population, we receive 62% of its total annual income - of which we spend 92% on ourselves. Food for thought as we make our New Year's Resolutions, surrounded by shops full of January Sales, and with news coming through of a fresh famine in Ethiopia.

E. QUINN



Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill,

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

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

"I am the Light of the World", asserted our Lord. Light does not draw attention to itself except where it is piercing the darkness, or in process of dispersing it. Otherwise we do not look directly at light; rather we see by means of light, by its revealing what is there to be seen when illumination falls upon it.

Jesus is the light of the world in both these senses. When we look at Him against a background of gross ignorance, error and evil He shines like a light-house on a pitch-black night. Consider Him alongside the evils of concentration camps, of drug trafficking, of tyrannous regimes, of gang warfare, of naked greed, cruelty and falsehood and many other evils and He shines like an incandescent beacon, with self-evident and self-authenticating truth, goodness and love. In such comparisons there can be no doubt about the pre-eminence of His light.

The pre-eminence of His light may not be so starkly obvious when His light is dispersing darkness, when things are partially light and partially dark. The contrast is not so sharp. But if we look at Him long and hard enough He will shine in our twilight zones. He reveals the half-lights by which we are all too easily deceived and with which we are all too easily contented. For instance, our mixed motives, our half-heartedness, our double standards, our dubious piety, our wilful ignorance, our pretence and posturing, etc.

But light also enables us to see what else we could not see. When we look at creation, at life in general, at other people and at ourselves in the light which Jesus sheds, how very differently we see, how much more we see. So much in nature speaks to us of a God of Love or points to such a God as the only ultimate answer to life's intractable pains. Life in general becomes a God-given delight, to be enjoyed and shared. Other people are our brothers and sisters who, with Christ's mind, are of infinite worth. We ourselves take on new value and significance as children infinitely loved by God our Father.

In Rembrandt painting "The Adoration of the Shepherds", Mary, Joseph and

the shepherds all have their faces brightly illuminated by the light that emanates from the Baby Jesus. It is a device which he (and others) make use of when depicting scenes from our Lord's life. But it is more than a device; it is a profound theological truth and richly true to Christian experience. When we see people in His light how differently they appear. We see their pains, struggles, hurts, needs, possibilities, nobilities, etc. He is the Light which shows up both gross darkness and the half-lights of life. He is the light which brings into sharper focus what we otherwise could not see, but which we must see if we are to live the life of the Kingdom of God.

Happy New Year to you all.

Harold Fisher



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

January

- | | | |
|------|------|---|
| 4 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Local History Soc. C19 Clavering |
| 6 | 8.00 | Stansted Hall. Conservatives Supper Dance |
| 8-11 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 19 | 8.00 | Helpline "Get Together" |
| 22 | 7.30 | for 8.00 W.E.A. Day Centre "Discover the World" |

February

- | | | |
|-----|------|---|
| 5-8 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 10 | 2.15 | St John's Hall. Conservatives Jumble Sale |



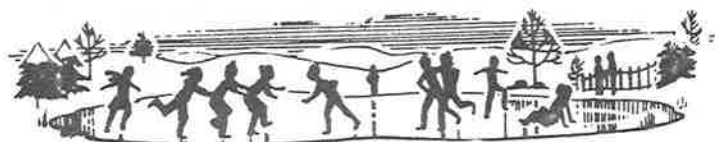


Local Organisers:
 Stephanie McDowall 812137
 Eileen Quinn 812109
 Treasurer: Katy Dockerill 812997

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

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

Important date in your new year diary, January 10th, Programme Planning Meeting plus bring and share supper. Gwen's, 813714.



STANSTED EVENING

A new year and a new committee, so we are looking forward to a programme of meetings with lots of new ideas and hopefully new members to share them with us.

If you would like to "look us over" with a view to joining, just come along to St. John's Church Hall on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 7.45 pm or telephone me to arrange a lift or companion if you are a bit nervous.

Our new committee, headed by our President Brenda Ryan, is Audrey Fry and Jean Fuller - Vice Presidents; Sue Holland Treasurer; Olive Barrett Secretary, with Greta Woor, Vera Ansell and Marilyn Chambers as committee members.

At the time of going to press we have not held a December meeting but this should prove to be just as enjoyable as all our Christmas parties. We shall be entertained by St. Mary's School Choir who will sing carols followed by seasonal food and then a quiz and social time. More about this next month.

In the meantime we wish you a very Happy New Year.

Pearl Wellings
 813614

W.E.A.

The spring course will be "Discover the World", ten meetings tutored by Mrs J.M. Toffel, B.A. The course will concentrate on one area of the world each week and will reflect the tutor's experience of travel in that country. Some countries to be examined are Thailand, India, Peru, Mexico, Greece and Turkey. The overall aim is to give an impression of culture through film, literature and music.

The meetings are held on Monday evenings at the Day Centre, Stansted. First evening 22nd January 1990, 7.30 pm for enrolment before lecture at 8 pm.

If you would like further details please ring B/S 812214. New members are always welcome.



DAY CENTRE

Tue Jan 2nd	Bingo	2.00 pm
Thu Jan 4th	Scrabble	2.00 pm
Fri Jan 5th	Whist Drive 40p	2.00 pm
Tue Jan 9th	Beetle 30p	2.00 pm
Thu Jan 11th	Bingo	2.00 pm
Fri Jan 12th	Whist Drive 40p	2.00 pm
Tue Jan 16th	Bingo	2.00 pm
Thu Jan 18th	Scrabble	2.00 pm
Fri Jan 19th	Whist Drive 40p	2.00 pm
Tue Jan 23rd	Beetle 30p	2.00 pm
Thu Jan 25th	Bingo	2.00 pm
Fri Jan 26th	Whist Drive	2.00 pm
Tue Jan 30th	Bingo	2.00 pm

Don't forget that New Year's Resolution to visit the Day Centre at least once a week.



STANSTED LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Once again the weather was favourable for our bonfire and firework display in Mario and Michael Dyer's garden. There were 6 entries for this year's "best guy" competition and the winner was Joseph Warnett.

Jane Freeman, Michael Dyer and Alan Dean are settling in to their duties as parish councillors following November's by election. Their first meeting included editing the council's newsletter and then discovering that one of their chores is to deliver it through letter boxes.

The last event of 1989 was a constituency supperclub held in Stansted at the DAY Centre on 16 December. The guest speaker was Dr David Reynolds from Cambridge, who spoke on international relations.

The social and fundraising programme for 1990 has now been planned and starts off with the first bi-monthly Saturday ploughman's lunch at the day centre on 13 January. Just drop in for 20 minutes before or after shopping.

Tickets are now on sale for the annual supper dance at Stansted Hall and can be obtained at £7.50 from Maureen Caton, 813914, Catherine Dean, 813579, Jane Sell, 812408 or Marion Pretty, 814433. There will be more dancing this year. See below for details.

Future Events:

13th January, 12-2 pm Bi-monthly Ploughman's Lunch in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

27th January, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Annual Supper dance at Stansted Hall. Dancing to Misty. See above for ticket details.

24th February. Jumble Sale in Elsenham Village Hall.

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

Alan Dean, 813579



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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

New Councillors

Following the by-election in November we welcome the following new members to the Parish Council:

Dr Jane Freeman, 5 Spencer Close
Alan Dean, 49 Recreation Ground
Michael Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens

Skip Dates

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

Monday 8th - Thursday 11th January
Monday 5th - Thursday 8th February
Saturday and Sunday 3/4th March

Village Calendar 1990

This is to be found on the wall in the library foyer. Anyone is free to add details of village events and remember to check the calendar before organising your own function in order to avoid clashes.

Parish Newsletter

The winter issue has been published. If you have not had a copy you might find one in the library or you can ask the Clerk.

STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

We continue to play on Sunday mornings from 10.30 a.m. onwards. We are also playing matches against local clubs and the mens and ladies doubles matches in the floodlit league at Bishop's Stortford. The mixed league will start after Christmas.

Membership fees for the club are now half-price until 1st April.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis,
B/S 812073.



OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED

This is the first of a series of articles which will cover briefly a variety of subjects which may be encountered while walking out and about in Stansted. Many Link readers will be well acquainted with what is written, but even so, it is hoped that each month there will be something of interest to some of you.

As most observations will be made while walking about the parish it is appropriate to comment first on our footpaths.

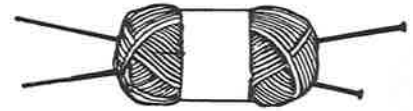
The ancient countryside around Stansted originally contained a large number of small settlements, hamlets and villages connected by a network of paths and tracks. Some of these tracks developed into present day roads, while others survived merely as paths. A common feature of old paths is that they lead directly from one place to another in a straight line, whereas roads carrying traffic are more influenced by terrain and boundaries and are rarely straight. During the last two hundred years various developments have contrived to force paths to deviate from their original courses: the enclosure of fields, the building of large houses with parks, railways, modern housing estates, motorways and airports, to mention a few.

In the Stansted area it is still possible to trace some paths on the Ordnance Survey map running more or less on their original courses. For example, Stansted to Birchanger via Water Lane, West Road, Rochfords and Forest Hall; Stansted to Ugley Green via Gall End, cutting straight across fields and a plantation to Alsa Wood; Manuden to Alsa Wood via the north end of Pennington Lane; Stansted Windmill to Hazel End via Bentfield Water Mill.

Within Stansted village itself paths and alleyways abound, and no matter how well you know them, why not spend the odd hour in the winter sunshine walking these paths again and working out why they are there and whither they originally led.

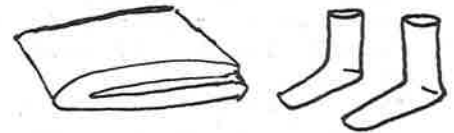
Records and maps detailing rights of way in Stansted can be studied in the Parish Council Office where one can also obtain copies of the Village Trail and Saunters Round Stansted.

Felix



Regarding my appeal in October's Link for wook, bedsocks, shoulder capes or knee rugs for the patients at the Herts & Essex Hospital, I sincerely thank everyone who kindly contributed here and in neighbouring villages. The combined effort resulted in 57 woolen comforts (including 31 pairs of bedsocks) being received on Wednesday December 6th by Mrs Frances Maddox of the "League of Friends". Everything was greatly appreciated and will benefit those who have to be in the hospital. My thanks again to all the knitters and special wishes for Good Health in 1990.

Evelyn Tame - Cambridge Road



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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Mountfitchet Garden Club to wish all our members and friends a peaceful and productive New Year.

The New Year commences with a talk by Mrs Lynch on 'Conservation and the Gardener' at our January meeting which will be held on January 3rd at 8 pm. Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Feel free to join us.

Sue Wilkinson



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Happy New Year everyone. If you're a new mum or mum to be, or newly arrived in Stansted and district you will be very welcome at an NCT coffee morning.

Coffee mornings are from 10-11.30. Under ones and expectant mums meet on Tuesday and toddlers meet on Fridays. You will find diary sheets of venues at the clinic.

COFFEE MORNINGS: JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- Jan 5 Jackie Feehan 'Cordwents'
Stansted Rd Elsenham 813206
- Jan 9 Pascale Fowell 57 Woodfields
Stansted 812500
- Jan 12 Annette Wright 2 Washington
Meads, Maitland Rd Stansted
816409
- Jan 16 Penny Brooks 42 Bentfield
Gardens, Stansted 814763
- Jan 19 Claire Hay 47 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted 816772
- Jan 23 Elaine Byrne 47 Chapel Hill
Stansted 812780
- Jan 26 Maggie Garrett 42 Bentfield
Causeway, Stansted 813541
- Jan 30 Jenny Foster 31 Blythwood
Gardens, Stansted 813591
N.B. OPEN HOUSE 1.30-3.30
- Feb 2 Pauline Burnard 20 The Street
Manuden 814600
- Feb 6 Chris Whitmarsh 45 Bentfield
Causeway, Stansted 815239
- Feb 9 Isobel Atkinson, 12 Coltsfield
Stansted 814176
- Feb 13 Maddy Carroll 21 Rochford
Cottages, Stoney Common,
Stansted 816108
- Feb 16 Pam Moore 14 Meadowcroft
Stansted 814301
- Feb 20 Jackie Weston 6 High Street
Elsenham 816282
- Feb 23 Katy Grant 19 Alsa Leys
Stansted 816185
- Feb 27 Angela Mason 6 Stansted Road
Elsenham 812545



We held a very successful Coffee Morning at 62 Chapel Hill which was very well attended, when £141.80 was raised towards the cost of the Pantomime. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. We would also like to express our thanks for a further £75 which was kindly donated to the fund. Thankyou. Without this local generosity we would find it difficult to continue.

Today as we go to press we will hold our Christmas Party - more about that in the next issue but we are sure of one thing - Father Christmas will be there.

We hope to hold our A.G.M. on either February 7th or 14th at the Day Centre. Watch the village noticeboards for further details of time, date and speaker. Everyone is very welcome to attend this meeting and learn more about the Huv Johnson Club.

A big thankyou too, to all our helpers who turn up week after week. Our members really appreciate the time that they spend at club and the friendships formed make for very happy evenings. A Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

M.G.J.



Rainbow Playgroup, Youth and Adult Centre,
Lower Street, Stansted, Essex CM24 8LR

Hello from Rainbow Playgroup. The Christmas Nativity and Concert were as usual very entertaining and brought tears to many eyes! I am sure that all the parents would join me in thanking Auntie Anne, Corrinne, Jenni, Joan and all the mum helps for their hard work in producing this fine production, no easy feat with the under 5's. The children from both groups thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas parties and visits from Father Christmas.

We now look forward to the new year and welcome our new additions to the lower group and hope that they will enjoy their two years with Rainbow.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year from the committee.

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After normal business on 16th November Mr Geoff Booker entertained us on the piano with many nostalgic songs in which we all joined and very much enjoyed.

At the Christmas Group Meeting on 22nd November, hosted by Stansted, 58 members from 6 villages met to discuss business and were pleased to learn that Miss Valerie Webster from Littlebury had agreed to replace Mrs Betty Little as our County Representative. We were then entertained by Steve and Dave on electric guitars. Many compliments were received for the entertainment and refreshments and all branches agreed that they had spent a most enjoyable evening.

On 18th January, at 7.45 pm at the Day Centre we shall have police sergeant Bainbridge to talk to us; and Mrs. C Francis will be with us for our February meeting.

Pat Clower
815220



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Sixty people attended the Ladies Christmas Luncheon which was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 29th November. A delicious turkey lunch was served by the committee and this was followed by a Christmas Floral Demonstration given by Mrs. Jean Crane. Five of her beautiful arrangements were included in the raffle. A profit of £160 was made.

FUTURE EVENTS

NEW YEAR SUPPER DANCE At Stansted Hall at 8 pm on Saturday 6th January. Tickets and enquiries to David Butterfield, B/S 812770.

JUMBLE SALE at St. John's Church Hall Saturday 10th February at 2.15 pm.

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

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



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Well done Stansted & District! The Poppy Appeal collection (1989) raised over £3,300 - a 14% increase on 1988 which itself was a bumper year.

Our AGM in November was well attended - for an AGM; moreover it was lively. Thanks are due to all those who attended - and to the Cricket Club who provided a 'home' for the evening.

We elected a new President - Major Wallace, who recently moved to the village from Clavering - in succession to Major Power. Alec had served the Branch for many years with great energy, but, since moving to Arkesden, felt remote from Stansted and that consequently it was time to stand down. Welcome, Major Wallace - may you enjoy the presidency.

Mrs Kath Stevens was re-elected Chairman for a second term (this time round). Unfortunately the position of Branch Secretary had to be left vacant for the time being, there was no volunteer to fill it. Isn't there anyone who reads this 'Link' (not necessarily a RBL member) able to offer their services? Please ring Mrs Stevens on 813562 if interested.

Incidentally, a member is proposing to visit the Normandy beaches on 4-7th June 1990 and would like to have a local companion - ex-serviceman. Again, anyone interested please contact Mrs Stevens.

Finally, the London Marathon. We hope to be able to announce next month that a member will be running in the 1990 marathon - on behalf of the Poppy Appeal. It depends upon his application being accepted. It would be splendid if we could field two runners in 1991. More information next month - but what about starting training as a New Year's resolution?

Judy Jay

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ST PAUL'S DAY 25th JANUARY

St Paul was one of the Church's greatest teachers. Brought up as a Jewish Pharisee, Saul (as he was first called), was a Roman citizen who earned his living as a tent-maker. He was completely against the early Christians. He was there when the first Christian martyr, Stephen, was stoned to death and afterwards he searched out many Christians and handed them over to prison and death.

But he changed dramatically because Jesus came into his life. One day he was travelling on the road to Damascus, on the way to arrest some more Christians, when a bright light surrounded him. He fell to the ground and heard Jesus speak. You can read all about it in Acts, chapter 9.

Everything changed for Saul then, even if he had a hard time persuading people that it wasn't a trick. Even his name changed, and as 'Paul' he travelled to many different countries to teach people about Jesus. He founded churches and to encourage them while he was away he wrote the 13 letters that we can still read today (they come in the Bible after the book of the Acts of the Apostles).

His travels weren't easy, he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta and he ended his life in Rome where he was beheaded (it was one of the privileges of being a Roman citizen to be beheaded rather than crucified).

BANK HOLIDAYS

We started this month with a Bank Holiday and will have to wait until the middle of April for the next one - but did you know that until 1834 banks observed nearly every Saint's day and festival as a Bank Holiday? There used to be 34 of them in a year, including St Paul's Day.

THINK FRUIT

Look at this line of letters - can you cross out six letters so that the remaining letters, without changing their order, spell out a well known fruit?

L S E I X M L O E T T E N R S

Duck in a chemist's shop: Have you got anything for chapped beaks?

Assistant: Certainly, what about this lip cream?

Duck: I'll take it: will you put it on my bill please?



Answer to puzzle: Cross out SIX LETTERS and you are left with LEMON



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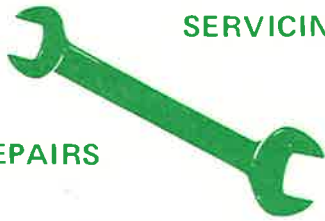
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