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Volume X No. 45

The LINK

March 1990



LENT 1990

TURNING POINTS ON MAJOR ISSUES

LENT HOUSE-GROUP STUDIES START

MONDAY MARCH 5TH

and through the week
See overleaf

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

Cost is 20p a month; £2.20 for the year. To order your copy please contact:
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.

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
15th March for April issue
12th April for May issue

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

SACC

LENT 1990 STUDY GROUPS "TURNING POINTS"

FIVE WEEKLY SESSIONS - STARTING MONDAY 5 MARCH

If you cannot attend your regular session you are welcome to join any other one in the week. Sessions start 8 p.m.

Mondays - "Snuff Box" 22 Bentfield Road
Tuesdays - 13 St John's Road
Wednesdays - 3 White Bear
Fridays - 59 Blythwood Gardens

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK:-

The "Not Strangers but Pilgrims Inter Church Process" seeks to encourage more and more people to take part in the ecumenical pilgrimage through its sponsorship of Lent courses. Experience has shown that it is in small local groups that the links between Christians of different traditions are truly forged.

I commend this course which I believe will be of great help to all of us who are engaged in this pilgrimage. Its aim is to encourage us to share in Bible study, to reflect and to pray together, and to strengthen our resolve to continue to work together in the future.

My hope is that all taking part in "Turning Points" will discover afresh what it means to be "pilgrims not strangers". We look for a vision of what God wants from his people as we travel the path together in this last decade of the twentieth century.

John Habgood
Chairman - Inter Church Meeting

CHEVETOGNE 1990

The dates of the visit to Chevetogne are:- 25th-28th May 1990. We would be leaving early on Friday morning and returning to Stansted late evening on Monday. A provisional booking has been made with a coach company and there are a limited number of places available.

The cost totally inclusive will be approximately £68. You will need to have a valid passport or visitor's passport and it is advisable to have an E111.

As there are a limited number of places available it will be first come first served.

Please contact either Francis Mercer, 47 Bentfield Gardens (tel. 813945) or Eileen Quinn, 4 Greenfields (tel. 812109) if you wish to go.

SHALOM

Monday 5th March Shalom evening at Eileen's, 4 Greenfields. This will be the second session of "Under the Shadow".

Monday 19th March The third session of "Under the Shadow". It will be held at Mike's, 2 Blythwood House.

Monday 2nd April Father David Chapman is leading a Lenten/Easter meditation at Great Bardfield. For details of transport arrangements please contact Rita Morson (Tel: B.S. 658020).

"SHALOM" is holding a

ST. PATRICK'S EVENING

in aid of Corrymeela

in

St. John's Hall, Stansted

on

SATURDAY MARCH 17TH

8 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.

IRISH FOLK MUSIC : IRISH DANCERS

LIGHT REFRESHMENT : BAR : RAFFLE

Tickets: £2.50 Adult £1.50 Sen. Citizens
£1 Children

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

NO HEROES

Heroes, it seems, are no longer acceptable but we must all have our personal models whom we can follow, admire, love, yet still be aware of weaknesses and failings.

I remember now one of mine - Anne Wakefield Richardson. Member of a prosperous Quaker family in the north of Ireland, she was among the pioneers of University education for women.

It would be surprising if many now know Anne Richardson's name; equally, many have unknowingly benefitted by her life and her work. The "Women's Colleges", founded between 1870 and 1890, belong to a long passed stage in the position of women. Enclose, narrow, elitist, perhaps this is how we now think of them and this may especially seem the style of Westfield College in the University of London. It was founded expressly as a contrast to the agnostic Girton where Constance Maynard Westfield's first Mistress had been one of the original students.

It may surprise that it was Quaker Anne Richardson who 'opened up' the life of the college. Vivacious, fun loving, impulsive, she was a complete contrast to Constance Maynard. As student, member of staff and Vice Principal she was a strength to the Mistress who, for all her calm, hid many anxieties and self doubts. Anne Richardson's involvement with contemporary social and political issues added another dimension to college life. A Liberal Unionist, her debates with a nationalist colleague from Tipperary had to be banned from the dinner table. She was often away, speaking on politics and temperance. This was a feminist cause to her for she saw how women suffered in the families of drunkards. Again, she was interested in establishing training and standard rates of pay for domestic workers. In a college solid in its support for women's suffrage, Anne Richardson was among its staff and students in the suffragette procession of 1908, not like Girton carrying a college banner but not forbidden as were Holloway students.

The religious life of the college felt her liberalising influence. Miss Maynard's earnest hope was that Westfield should be a Christian community but, though an evangelical, she was unhappy at growing fundamentalism and this her Quaker friend helped her resist.

Anne Wakefield Richardson's memorial is Westfield's Chapel, at her wish "small and simple" and a place "in which no Christian ministry shall be impossible". Dedicated in 1929, some years later it was the place in which I first experienced truly ecumenical worship.

Behind all this, she played a full part in making the College a worthy academic institution. Courses had to be recognised by the University; staff representation on the College Council secured; science teaching retained; a quite remarkable school set up in China by a Westfield graduate, Miss Tseng, supported.

Not perhaps the conventional picture of a late nineteenth century "Quaker Lady" but a life that must live on as what she gave lives in those who followed.

(Anne Wakefield Richardson 1859-1942).

D. A. Stansfield

We were saddened by the death of Leslie Rennie at the end of December. Leslie found Friends only a few years ago: a worker for the community all his life, as former Clerk and Registrar in Bishop's Stortford, and involved in projects like the Abbeyfield homes; we shall miss his quiet and gentle presence in our Meeting.

M.W.



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.

PEACE WITH GOD THE CREATOR
PEACE WITH ALL OF CREATION

'It is evident that development, the planning which governs it, and the way in which resources are used must include respect for moral demands. One of the latter undoubtedly imposes limits on the use of the natural world. The domination granted to man by the creator is not an absolute power, nor can one speak of a freedom to "use and misuse", or to dispose of things as one pleases when it comes to the natural world, we are subject not only to biological laws but also to moral ones, which cannot be violated with impunity.'

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis n.34

It has become a truism that peace is not simply the absence of armed conflict, of war. Today, peace with God the Creator can no longer be confined to living in harmony with the rest of humanity. Peace must now be seen embracing the entire creation 'charged' as it is 'with the grandeur of God'. It is this growing awareness which has found expression not only in recent Catholic social teaching such as Pope John Paul's encyclical on 'Social Concern' (entitled *Sollicitudo rei socialis*)

but also in an ongoing process centred on 'Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation'. This process is shared by all the main Christian churches and will take a decisive step forward in March 1990 when a World Convocation will meet in Seoul, Korea. The purpose of this global event will be essentially theological and spiritual; it will seek to name the major threats to life, to show how justice, peace and the wholeness of creation form an indivisible web calling for shared commitment in seeking genuine solutions to those urgent problems which threaten the survival of humankind.

However, every major event, every step forward can only be truly effective if it grows from within the minds and hearts, the daily searching and choosing by a multitude of individual children, young people, women and men, the sick and the elderly all of whom are part of that human race which God has made members of Christ Jesus. Never before has it been so true to say that 'the future is in our hands'. Those hands are human hands and none are excluded, no matter the colour, race, creed or situation from which they come.

WHY NOT:-

Devote a few minutes each day to praying for those who are denied access to sufficient natural resources to meet their daily needs. Pray that all the world's people may grow in understanding of each other's needs and learn to make the best use of natural resources and distribute them more equitably.

Extracted from the pamphlet produced by the Dept for International Affairs of Bishop's Conference of E+W



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.

RICE AND SPICE

We have recently returned from a four week peregrination in the Far East during which my senses have probably been stimulated more often and more profoundly than ever before. On our return some friends have asked "What are the most enduring impressions that you have brought back?" Others have asked "Did you have a good time?" Difficult to answer, but please read on!

Our first week (actually only four days) was spent in the New Territories district of Hong Kong where we enjoyed the hospitality of friends whilst recovering from jet lag (or was it lead?). This was the week before Christmas and it was doubly incongruous to see over-coated Father Christmases and snow-drifted shop windows in a territory where central heating engineers have a hard time and the principal religion is Buddhism! I was saddened by the way so much of Hong Kong is dominated by Western culture; the carol concert given by students at the Baptist College reminded me of "Carols from King's College Cambridge"! I waited in vain for an unfamiliar tune or tongue to be used, and as for the hand-bells; they were technically superb, but surely the Chinese have their own musical instruments. I never found out.

Only part of Hong Kong is leased from China, and the original island together with Kowloon on the mainland are theoretically British in perpetuity, albeit having been unceremoniously annexed by acquisitive seafarers in the mid 19th century. However, the expiry of the 99 year lease granted in 1898 for the New Territories and a couple of hundred islands is an appropriate time for Britain to 'render unto Caesar what is Caesar's'. Understandably, this is not a comfortable prospect for the inhabitants of Hong Kong, and we can but pray that the nobler attributes of this colony are preserved by the Chinese whilst the more seamy side is suppressed.

It is now fashionable to take day trips into China, and who were we to be unfashionable? The whole of China seemed to be trying to enter the homeland when we went through the rather unpretentious customs post which separates the Hong Kong railway station of Lo Wu from its counterpart, Shenzhen over the border. In spite of the Communist system, the Chinese have latched on to the size of tourists' pockets, and are happy to help relieve the burden of foreign currency. However, we saw

little evidence that this was contributing to the living standards of the impoverished peasants, who are obliged to perform soul destroying tasks for days on end. In a typical instance we witnessed a gang of labourers transporting mud for a distance of about two hundred yards using yoked baskets over their shoulders. Between them they probably would have taken a day to move as much earth as a JCB could move in five minutes!



Indonesia was somehow different; yes, there are people everywhere, and yes, many of them live below the poverty line, but they seem to have a joie de vivre which makes it easy to forgive them for trying to rip you off for everything from car parking to riding in a becak! The area around Bandung in West Java, where we stayed with my brother and his family for nearly three weeks, is noted for its agreeable climate, and has hence attracted a number of educational establishments including missionary training colleges. It is also a convenient base for access to some of the remoter islands of Indonesia as it does have an airport, or least that's what they call it! We flew from Bandung for a weekend trip to Bali and suffered more discomfort in the three hour (including an hour's stop in Surabaya) flight than on the thirteen hour non-stop flight from Singapore to Heathrow on the way home!

Having spent time in a developing country such as Indonesia I am left with a number of imponderables. Such as, should I, as an affluent tourist (relatively speaking), be prepared to pay more for goods and services than the indigenous population do, when the price paid would still be lower than in the West? The traders certainly felt the answer should be 'yes'! Do I have a right to condemn members of the Indonesian police force, who are open to bribery as a matter of course, or doctors who prescribe superfluous drugs in order to boost the sales of the Apotik which they happen to own next door? Perhaps someone would like to air their views on these thoughts from abroad by means of a letter to the editor!

One thing I am sure of is that Marion, Alison and I will not be forgetting Christmas 1989 for a very long time!

Michael Dyer



OPEN MEETING

You are invited to
a meeting
to see and hear more about the charity
Tools For Self Reliance
on Monday 26th March at 8 pm
at 7 Blythwood Gardens

The speaker will be Kate Sebag who is the organiser for our area. She will tell us what TFSR does and the numerous ways in which we can help without spending any money! You may have some old hand tools that you no longer need, or you may know a man or woman who has. Perhaps you could offer occasional help with refurbishing of tools or transport treated tools to a depot prior to shipping to one of the six third world countries where TFSR has contacts. You may simply want to know more without any strings attached. You do not have to have any reason at all - just come along! Kate is bringing some slides to illustrate her talk. Please contact me on 814059 if you are interested, but cannot attend on this occasion.

Michael Dyer



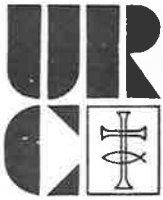
CAROL SINGING 1989

This was in aid of the Link and the Pegasus Bed for the District Nurses' use. The sum raised was £270 so each has received £135.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, all the singers, the flautist, the recorder players and the accordionist and also to the mild weather.

It was good to see so many people taking part. We look forward to seeing you all again in December 1990 for a charity yet to be decided.

Judy Goddard Derek Honour Peter Jones



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.



January 13th was both a sad and very enjoyable day for all the members of the United Reformed Church. Sad because on that day we said goodbye to our minister for the last eleven years and his wife, Eric and Doris McIlwain. Enjoyable because people from all the churches in the village were there with us making it a very ecumenical occasion, and rightly so for Rev. McIlwain has been a very strong supporter of the Stansted Association of Christian Churches all the time he has been here.

I can vividly remember being told back in August 1978 that a minister from the Church of Canada was coming to live in Cambridge and would like to come and conduct our Harvest Festival service for us with a view to becoming our minister and would I please meet him off the train from Cambridge as he had no transport. My first reaction was 1 - I won't be able to understand a word he said and 2 - how can he be our minister, living 25 miles away and without a car!! Those things both seem very immaterial now for as we all know he soon got a car and the distance did not make any difference to him at all. If he was needed in any of the villages for meetings or visiting, emergency or routine he was there. And as for understanding what he said, I find myself now using some of his Canadian expressions.

Eric or 'Mr. Mac' as he was often called, became a great friend to us all, sharing in our joys and sorrows as we shared in his. We will miss them both but hope to keep in touch as they will still be living in Cambridge.

Now to the future. We are very happy that Rev. Lydia Rapkin will still be with us as our Auxiliary Minister but it is proposed that the Stansted Group link with the U.R.C. in Saffron Walden and shares a full time minister with them. As Saffron Walden have a manse it is likely that the minister would live there but serve the Stansted Group on a $\frac{1}{2}$ time basis.

As with all denominations, there is a shortage of ministers so we do not know how long we will have to wait for a prospective candidate. Saffron Walden have already been waiting 18 months so for their sakes we hope it is not too long. In the meantime we are very grateful to the lay preachers from our own and other denominations who conduct our services for us each week.

PREACHERS FOR MARCH

March 4 Rev. L. Rapkin
March 11 Mrs. M. Irish of Sawston
March 18 Mr. B. Harrison of Ugley Green
March 25 Rev. L. Rapkin

ADVANCE NOTICE
BIBLE SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING
May 2nd 10.30 a.m. at 58 Chapel Hill

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.

LENT 1990

By the beginning of February most of us had quite enough of the winter season. The short days, the long long dark evenings and the cold unpleasant weather cause us to look forward to the coming of spring, with expectation of brighter and warmer days. In the second half of the winter, therefore, the lights of Christmas taken down, we tend to think of Lent as the gloomy season, the tone set by being invariably introduced with that rather flat, slow and wearisome hymn 'Forty days and forty nights'.

Perhaps we have been accustomed to feeling that Lent is a rather dull season to be endured as best we are able; or perhaps we have customarily held Lent as a time when we make small sacrifices and give up this or that - "for Lent". Self-discipline can be constructive, but is not an end in itself. We are not asked to impose an artificial regime of gloom, and make resolutions and sacrifices as though these, in themselves, were the point of the season. Our Lord told us not to look "dismal, like the hypocrites" [Mtt 6:16] The point that Jesus made was that we needed to have times for self-reflection; to consider what we do, who we are; what we value. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." [Mtt 19-21].

This implies a need for grace to be open to God. Not a determination to make sacrifices of our choosing; "I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all I possess" [Lk 18:12]. This is to go in the direction we decide, perhaps away from the Lord. We could begin by reflecting upon our obvious inability to give ourselves wholly to God. Some hard things of life we can perhaps accept, some sacrifices perhaps we are able to make, but few of us are able to make a complete and entire commitment and put our lives in his hands as did St. Francis and the Saints. For most of us there on the one hand is too much to give up, and on the other a considerable difficulty in understanding what it might mean to do what St. Francis did. But then there is the lesson that in the end we are not in a position to give of ourselves as such, because there is nothing we have that we have not received.

Maybe we might be able to make better sense of Lent if we could see Humility and joy as the central and positive hallmarks of the season. In this regard some words of Julian of Norwich may assist us on our way:

"The blessed woman saw God in many ways, but she saw him take his rest nowhere but in man's soul; his will is that we rejoice more in his love than we sorrow over our frequent falls ... another way was his showing himself as it were on a pilgrimage; in other words, he is here with us, leading us on, and staying by us until he has brought us all to his blessedness in heaven." [Revelations of Divine Love. Penguin 1966. P206]

REGISTERS

Deaths

12.1.90 Violet May Law Aged 89
29.1.90 Florence Richardson Aged 81
29.1.90 Sheila Childs Aged 53
7.2.90 Violet Emily Aris Aged 75

Diary for March

1	10.30	Service at Norman Court
2	2.00	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at Quaker Meeting House
3		Outing to Chelmsford for Confirmation Groups
4	6.30	Ecumenical Service St John's
5	8.00	Deanery Synod at Quendon
6	10.00	Service at Mead Court
12	8.00	P.C.C. Vicarage
13	2.15	Tiny Tots Service
22	2.30	M.U. Deanery Service, Henham
24	10.00	"Worship" Day for Confirmation Groups
25	9.30	Mothering Sunday Service
27	2.15	Tiny Tots
30	8.00	Fashion Show St John's Hall in aid of Church Urban Fund
30-1st		Caistor '90

April

2 8.00 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

MOTHERING SUNDAY

SUNDAY MARCH 25TH

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion

(Distribution of
flowers and cards)



GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

CHILDREN You are invited once again to the Good Friday Project at St. Mary's School, St. John's Road, Stansted, on April 13th. Our play this year is "The Journey" and involves shipwrecks, monsters and exotic islands. We ask you to wear brightly coloured clothes. The cost will be 50p per child and you are asked to be at the school by 9 a.m.

Application forms for the Project will be circulated to the schools shortly or may be obtained from Marion Johnson at 62 Chapel Hill.

We would welcome any adult who would like to be involved with the Project. Please contact Marion Johnson. You will, I can assure you, have a very happy and rewarding day.



In aid of the Urban Church Fund

FASHION & FLOWERS

by

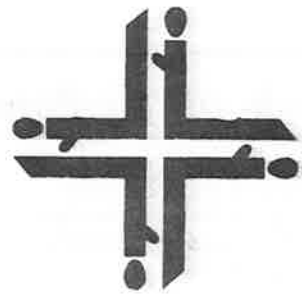
PASSERELLE (Bishop's Stortford) &
JUDITH AT BUNTINGS

In St. John's Church Hall
on March 30th at 8 p.m.

Wine with light supper

£3.50

Tickets Jackie Corbishley 813040



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A BETTER TOMORROW, JUSTICE FOR ALL

Friday March 2nd

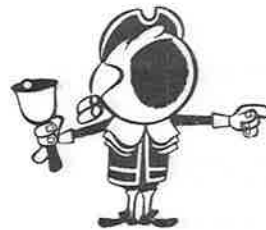
2.00 p.m.

Quaker Meeting House
Chapel Hill

Speaker: Mrs Nancy Rawlings

Creche Available

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--|
| 1 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Local History Society |
| 2 | 2.00 | Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Women's World Day of Prayer |
| 2 | 8.00 | Pavilion Hargrave Park. Cricket Club AGM |
| 2 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Liberal Democrats AGM |
| 3-4 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 5 | 8.00 | Lent Study Groups begin. See SACC Notice |
| 7 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Garden Club |
| 10 | 12.00 | Day Centre. Liberal Democrats lunch |
| 14 | 10.30 | Day Centre. Conservatives Women's Section AGM |
| 20 | 8.00 | Day Centre. Stansted Millers AGM |
| 21 | 10.30 | British Legion Women's Section Coffee Morning, 55 Chapel Hill |
| 24 | 2.00 | Peter Kirk School Jumble Sale |
| 26 | 8.00 | 7 Blythwood Gardens "Tools for Self Reliance" |
| 26-29 | | Skip at Crafton Green |

April

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 13 | 9.00 | St. Mary's School. Children's Good Friday Project |
|----|------|---|



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

Hello to everyone from Rainbow playgroup. The doorstep course which covered subjects relating to the under 5's has been well attended and of great interest to all involved. The subjects covered were First Aid, Discipline, Music, coping with the rising 5's and creative and messy play.

We all had fun on pancake day when the children together with mums took part in pancake races!

For anyone who is interested, Rainbow playgroup takes place every morning between 9.15 am - 12 noon. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 4 yrs - 5 yrs. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2½ yrs - 3yrs. All held at the Youth and Adult Centre. On Fridays we have a movement to music period run by 'Rae Thomas' who is very well qualified in this field, and as well as the music session it is very good for preparing the children with regard to undressing and changing their clothes so that when they start school it is one less worry for them.

We are very fortunate in having been able to purchase quite a lot of new equipment for the playgroup recently. Anyone interested in joining us at Rainbow is welcome to visit us at the above anytime. Bye for now from Rainbow Playgroup.



What a disappointment, our Disco had to be cancelled when the storm blacked out Stansted. We will, however, make up for it on February 15th with a Disco to celebrate Sophie's 18th birthday. Congratulations Sophie.

We all had a very enjoyable evening at June and Harold's. We watched the video of Denise and Stephen's holiday in Holland last year. The holiday took place on a boat specially designed for the handicapped. Owned by the International Red Cross it was a great honour that two of our members were able to take part in this holiday. Judging by the video they had a great time. Thankyou Denise, June and Harold for a lovely evening.

Once again we invite anyone who is interested in the club to come along to St. John's Hall on Thursday evening between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. You will receive a very warm welcome.

PETER KIRK SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY MARCH 24th

at 2 p.m.

THE BIG JUMBLE SALE

At the Peter Kirk School
Chapel Hill, Stansted

For collection of large items
please contact Sandra 812627
or Kim 813466



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

If you're a new mum or new to the area do come to one of our coffee mornings 10-11.30. More information from Maggie Garnett 813541.

Tuesdays;- Under 1's and expectant mums group
Fridays;- Toddlers group

March

- 2nd Anne Edwards. 'Lindens' Starr Green, Henham
- 6th Caroline Moffatt. The Grange, Bambers Green, Takeley
- 9th Elaine Byrne. 47 Chapel Hill, Stansted
- 13th Jane Edwards. Police House 2, Station Rd Elsenham
- 16th Liz Pope. Home Farm House, Hall Rd, Elsenham
- 20th Margaret Davies. Ivy Cottage, Ugley
- 23rd OPEN HOUSE (Both groups) Cordwents, Station Rd, Elsenham
- 27th Helen Gibson. 22 Alderbury Rd, Stansted
- 30th Angela Mason. 6 Stansted Rd, Elsenham

April

- 3rd Margaret Gilbert. 10 Longcroft, Stansted
- 6th Ann Kitson. 24 Spencer Close, Stansted
- 10th Carol Hearn. 'Hermit's' Mill House Lane, Robin Hood Rd, Elsenham

Happy Easter Week

- 20th Louise Storey. 'The Laurel' Haileswood Close, Elsenham
- 24th Penny Brooks. 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted
- 27th Pam Moore, 14 Meadowcroft, Stansted

May

- 1st Chris Daley. 13 Grove Hill, Stansted



Local Organiser: Katy Dockerill, 812997

NWR aims to provide lively and stimulating meetings for women on a variety of subjects.

Our new programme kicks off with our annual dinner at The Crown at Elsenham on March 2nd. This will be followed on April 3rd by a 'Whodunnit' Evening to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Dame Agatha Christie.

Our Book Group meets every three months to review three books we have chosen at the previous meeting.

Books chosen for the next meeting on 30th April are:
Eva Luna - Isabel Allende
The Highly Flavoured Ladies - Patricia Angadi
Magnus Powermouse - Dick KingSmith

Ring me for further details.

Katy, 812997



STANSTED EVENING

Not all Jam and Jerusalem

This article is being written in advance of our meeting in February as I shall be away at the W.I. College for 4 days of that week.

It might not be out of place to expand a little on what Denman College, near Oxford, is all about so here goes. The main building is an 18th century mansion set in several acres of gardens with other modern buildings housing studios for practical art and craft work, from well equipped kitchens for Home Economics and a lecture room with up to date teaching aids.

Several courses are run at the same time with a maximum of 72 students in college. Denman is closed only for a few days at Christmas and is fully operational for the rest of the year. Members are able to learn to play bridge, speak in public, trace their family tree, understand astronomy, Irish writers, Mozart, antiques, gardening and how their cars work among other things.

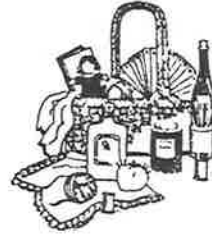
From this you will see that it's not just Jam and Jerusalem in the W.I., although we are justly proud of our "jam" history and glad to sing 'Jerusalem'.

Our own members have been busy making blankets for the elderly at the Herts & Essex Hospital where they are much appreciated, not just for their warmth but their bright jolly colours too.

We are running a market stall in Bishop's Stortford on March 22nd so if you have any white elephants or bric-a-brac too good for a jumble, or cakes and would like to help us raise funds please ring me or the President, Brenda Ryan, on 812725.

A tour of Cambridge, an outing to a pottery and a Beauty evening at the Day Centre are planned. Dates yet to be finalised so watch this space.

Pearl Wellings
813614



Forty of us turned up at our January meeting to hear a most interesting talk by Sgt Bainbridge on "Women in the Police Force". She told us that of the 2,800 police officers in the Essex Police only 8.9% are women officers. There were no women in the Force until after World War I, and even then the public were hostile to women until 1930 when women were recruited to deal specifically with the welfare of women and children. After World War II the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps was set up and, following the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act, women were fully integrated into the Force where they now perform full duties, on an equal basis with men, and receive equal pay.

On 7th February fourteen members went to the Eastern Area Conference at Cambridge and enjoyed a most interesting day in the company of members from nine counties.

Our next Group Meeting will be at Felsted on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30 p.m.

The speaker at our branch meeting on Thursday 15th March at 7.45 p.m. at the Day Centre will be Mr. Melson who delves into ancient newspapers.

On 21st March there will be a Coffee Morning at the home of our President, Mrs. Gabb, from 10.30 a.m. - Bring and Buy Stall and Raffle. Please come along and support us.

Pat Clower
815220



STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Sports Association has been invited to put on Fun Sports again at the Carnival on June 23rd. We hope to expand this a bit and look forward to seeing the fit and not so fit on Carnival Day.

We have formed a fund-raising committee which will be making itself heard during the next few months. It is hoped to run a series of Boot Sales at Hargrave Park during the summer so watch this space for details.

At the moment we are able to offer up to 10 parking spaces in our car park for daytime, weekday use at a very reasonable rate. Application for details of permits to be made to Secretary in the first instance.

Membership of the Sports Association will cost you £1 per head and is used to help keep and maintain this facility in the heart of Stansted. Why not join now? It's a bargain!

All enquiries to Chairman John Christophers 813406 or Secretary Pearl Wellings 813614.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

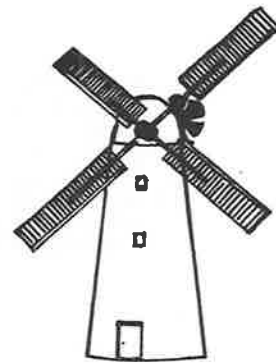
The Parish Council is again setting up a working party to pool ideas on ways to improve the appearance of Stansted. If you are interested in joining or have any ideas please contact the Clerk.

Please note that the Parish Council offices are closed to the public after 1.00 p.m. each day.

SKIP DATES

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

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



STANSTED MILLERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -
TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 1990 AT 8 P.M.
IN THE DAY CENTRE, CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED

Speaker - Helen Paterson, English Heritage Tree Warden, on Ancient Monuments (with slides)

Stansted Windmill belongs to Stansted, given in 1935 by Lord Blyth. The Stansted Millers is a voluntary group consisting of those who act as stewards on open days, fund-raisers, "odd-job men", etc. The Mill is a splendid sight, especially when floodlit, and a village landmark.

As with any 200 year old building, there is always work to be done, and at present a restoration programme in progress is proving more expensive than originally hoped. English Heritage are giving a 40% grant and there are some other small grants from the District and County Councils. Apart from that it is up to us to preserve the mill. Could you give 2 hours on a Sunday or Bank Holiday in the summer to be on duty in the mill either to keep an eye on an upper floor or take the entrance money and sell goods? Or could you help in any other way? If so, please contact me. All are welcome at the A.G.M.

Peggy Honour, 813160



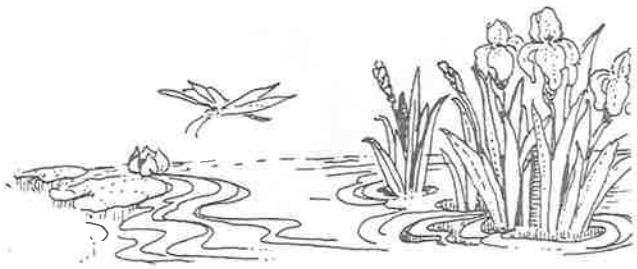
MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting of Mountfitchet Garden Club will be at 8 p.m. on Wednesday 7th March at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

The Guest Speakers will be Alex Scott, on the unusual yet interesting topic of 'Plants in the Dry Shade'.

With another hot summer predicted I am sure this could prove to be a beneficial evening for us all.

Sue Wilkinson



OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED III

Ponds are fascinating places and tempt one to linger when out walking, but in spite of there being scores of ponds within our parish, only about twenty are encountered on roads and paths.

Every farm, hamlet, green and old field system in the area has one or more ponds. Some may be natural, such as those in the old pastures near the Church, but most have been created by excavating springs or damming streams or just by digging a hole in the clay. These provided water for livestock and often fish for the pot. A few were extended into moats, vestiges of which can be seen at Thremhall Priory, Parsonage Farm and Warman's Farm at Burton End.

Within Stansted village itself virtually all ponds have disappeared except for a few on the periphery. We all know the pond on Bentfield Upper Green which nearly dried up during the recent drought and was twice topped up by our Fire Brigade to save the fish. It was noticeable that this pond has a gravel bottom at the shallow end, maybe to facilitate the watering of horses. Certainly riders used to walk their horses through the pond to wash off the mud after a ride.

There a half a dozen ponds within a hundred yards or so of Bentfield Green. The pond to the left of the entrance to Bentfield Sports Field which is favoured by the newts is fairly new, being the remains of a claypit serving the brickworks mentioned last month. The large pond at Stansted Hall has similar origins.

Our most recent pond, and also our largest, has been formed within the triangle of the junction of the new rail link to the airport. This has been landscaped and planted with grass and trees and could become a haven for wildlife, and if hard winters return its shallowness will make it ideal for skating.

This last pond shows how imagination and concern for our environment can soften the impact of progress. Let's use our imagination to visualise what may have been the most impressive of Stansted's vanished ponds, i.e. that which possibly existed at the bottom of Chapel Hill, stretching roughly from Doe's yard to what is now Station Road. This was probably formed by the mill race from the mill which may have stood behind the Social Club. Before the railway came the Lower Street area would have been a wide open space dissected by the stream running

from Gall End, bounded by the old houses on the west side of Lower Street and Station Road and by a row of barns and mill buildings following the line of the surviving Mill House on the east, all dominated by Burnells Manor beyond the pond to the south, standing on the knoll which was cut away to make room for the railway.

To exercise our imagination further, visualise how the Lower Street area may have developed if the proposed canal to link the Stort with the Cam had been built through here before they thought of the railway. We may be straying from the subject but we are, of course, just pondering.

Felix



STANSTED LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Please note that the date of the Annual General Meeting has been changed. See below.

Record attendance and profits marked this year's supper dance at Stansted Hall on 27 January. As always, we are grateful to the owners of the Hall for the excellent venue for this event. Last minute worries that there would be no electricity following the previous Thursday's great storm were dispelled on the morning of the dance. 120 people came this year for a four course meal and dancing to local trio Misty. The only complaint was that some people spent far too long in the kitchen, so we're looking for paid washers-up next year! £700 was made for branch funds.

Future events:

2nd March at 8 p.m. Stansted Branch Annual General Meeting in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Guest speaker, Mr. Ron Davies, Headteacher from Mountfitchet High. Please note change of date from 23rd February, with apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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

10/11 March. Members attend spring conference in Cardiff.

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

Alan Dean, 813579



"OUR VILLAGE"

It is with high hope that the asking (last month) for new members by Stansted Cricket Club will bear fruit, for our village has been putting "bat to ball" for well over 120 years. Cricket matches were certainly played on Hargrave Park in 1870 and probably well before this date, although the following contest was not played upon the Park, it did much to change some people's opinion of the contestants.

On a fine August day in 1866 "The Village Tradesmen" were to play a cricket match against "Village Working Men". After second thoughts the original venue was changed at short notice to a field belonging to Mr. G. Welch near to the Castle Hills. The entrance to this field was bedecked with flags, and a brass band was on hand which, no doubt, made up for the playing surface which was said to be "very uneven" thus preventing any long scores. Nevertheless, after the stumps lent by Mr. S. Welch were set up the game commenced.

Names for the two competing teams had been chosen "Little Ragamuffins" who's players were Messrs. C. Hutley, J. Brett, B. Sanders, N Godfrey, W. Brett, W. Livings, T. Sanders, A. Snow, T. Robinson, H. Sanders, T. Gray and they scored 28 and 21 (2 Innings match). While the opposition chose to be called "Tag-Rag & Bobtail" whose XI were Messrs. W. Potts, F. Bright, G. Prior, H. Joyce, A. Griggs, N. Smith, J. Snow, J. Saville, W. Jordan, J. Thompson, G. Little, they scored 15 and 43. The match turned out to be a great success, and not a drunken spree as some had predicted. Showing that the working class of Stansted were not the ignorant, illiterate race of mortals which some people supposed them to be, in fact the match was to become a regular feature for years to come.

Many other attractions were also held making this an August day to remember, for as the sun dipped and the good light faded cricketers and friends wended their way to the King's Arms where Mrs. Russell was to provide a hot supper and no doubt the day's events and decisions were relived. Who knows, perhaps someone will recall an August 1990 cricket match in the year 2114, may their name be on the team sheet.

P. J. Brown

"PERSONAL THANKS"

I would like to thank all the people who were kind enough to send a donation to the "Imperial Cancer Research Fund" in memory of my dear husband George who passed away December 22nd 1989, aged 59 years.

Yours sincerely
Joan Forrest (Mrs)



STANSTED CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

FUTURE EVENTS

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. when coffee will be served, followed by a light lunch. The speaker will be Steve Norris, Member of Parliament for Epping Forest. The cost of lunch will be £1 and the meeting is expected to end by 1.30 p.m.

Conservative Parish Councillors Surgeries

will take place at the Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, Stansted, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on the following dates:-

Saturday 24th March and
Saturday 28th April.

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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The log books of St. Mary's School from 1863 to 1901 provided the basis for a talk by Peter Sanders on "A Victorian Schooling in Stansted" at our February meeting. This was particularly interesting being so close-to-home but we do have a variety of fascinating subjects and good speakers at our meetings which take place on the first Thursday in the month from September to May, at the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

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

5th April - The Royal Mail in Essex up to 1840
by Paul Green

3rd May - A.G.M. The Old Court House,
Chapel Hill

If you would like more information on the Society please contact the Secretary, Peggy Honour, 813160.

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