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SALUTE TO REVD. MARGARET BOOKER!
(Appreciations overleaf)



ONCE A DEACONESS, STILL A DEACON, ALWAYS A FRIEND TO STANSTED
HAPPY RETIREMENT! HAPPY NEW VENTURES!

Stansted Association of Christian Churches

A Harvest Tea

Sunday October 7th at 4.30 p.m.

St. John's Hall

Musical Ensemble

Childrens Quiz

Adults fl

Children £0.50

Followed by Harvest Festival Service
in the Church

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.

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
11th October for November issue
15th November for December issue

SACC

Margaret's Retirement

On Friday 31st August a Birthday and Retirement party was held at St. John's Hall for the Revd. Margaret Booker. During the presentations, the Chairman of S.A.C.C. thanked Margaret for all the work she had done. Margaret has been associated with S.A.C.C. for the whole of her 17 years in Stansted, having been Secretary for 7 years and Chairperson for 3 years, 1984 to 1986. She also chaired the inaugural meeting for Helpline, and has been associated with the production of the Link Magazine since its inception in October 1980 and Chairman of the Link Committee for the last 4 years.

Margaret has answered many calls for help in connection with S.A.C.C. activities. The Lent slogan "Strangers no longer but pilgrims" applies very much to Margaret, and her association with other churches, not only here in Stansted but also with our Belgium Twinning at Chevetogne.

Thank you Margaret for all you have done! We wish you joy in your retirement.

Francis Mercer

There was celebration and sadness at a party held in St. John's Hall on 31st August, when we marked both Margaret Booker's 70th birthday and, with much regret, her retirement from official activity as one of our parish clergy. Her contribution to the work of the parish, to the deanery, and, especially, to the work of the Stansted Association of Christian Churches, was celebrated both by speakers Chris Bishop, Alan Corbishley and Francis Mercer and by the choir in a 'Stansted Psalm' (a high point of the evening) which reminded us of her progress (?) from physiotherapist to deacon: 'Happy Birthday' was sung by all, rather less well but with great enthusiasm. Presentations made on behalf of SACC and the parish offered the tempting prospect of seeing Margaret powering round the village on a new bicycle - with gears. This retirement was obviously not the prelude to a life of leisure.

Jane Freeman

A STANSTED PSALM - TO MARGARET BOOKER

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together in 'unity: to' mark an auspicious occasion.

After many years among us in the 'Christian. Com'munity: our Margaret, having reached the biblical three score years and ten, has decided to 'take a 'well earned. re'tirement.

They came to Stansted in nineteen seventy three from 'foreign 'parts; having had to cross over the 'border from 'Cambridgeshire.

Margaret and Geoff moved to the cottage at 'Burton'End; at that time a 'quiet little' hamlet.

Now with 'Airport.ex'pansion; the roar of jet engines 'often disturbs the' peacefulness.

Her list of 'service.is'endless: being wife, mother, grandmother, lay reader, reverend, a leader of the SACC, enrolling member of the mother's union, a very present help in trouble, and a 'train-ed' physio'therapist.

Vicars and curates have 'come and'gone; but Margaret has gone on, 'and on. and'on for 'ever.

And so 'now to.re'tirement: the list of possi'bilities.is'endless.

She might 'even.be'seen: flying down Church Road for lunch at the day centre, 'riding.on the 'back of.a'tandem.

By the waters of Turner's Spring might Geoff and Margaret 'take their'leisure: and take refreshment 'from the'fruit of.the'vine.

But a 'word of'caution; to drink in moderation, lest she be found drunk in 'charge.of an' A S'B.

As we come to the end of 'this ren'dition: may we make one 'humble.but'earnest. re'quest?

As cheese is 'very.ex'pensive; please find a new home, perhaps in The Cottage, for 'your friend, 'Moses.the'Mouse.

Glory 'be to 'Margaret: and 'to her 'husband' Geoff.

5

With long life may 'you be'satisfied: we wish you happiness and con'tentment.in'your re'tirement.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

Saturday 1st September 1990 was the day that the British Council of Churches ceased to exist, and the Churches Together in England came into being. An inaugural service was held at St. George's Catholic Cathedral, Southwark to mark the occasion. Representatives from 19 denominations signed the document of co-operation and commitment, each placing a candle on the Altar as a sign of commitment to this pilgrimage of Unity in faith and mission. The four presidents of the new organisation, The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd. Robert Runcie, Cardinal Basil Hume, The Revd. John Newton of the Free Church Federal Council and the Revd. Desmond Pemberton of the Wesleyan Holiness Church, commissioned the staff of Churches Together in England.

Some 2,000 representatives attended this inaugural service. Churches Together in England, unites in pilgrimage those churches which acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures and in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another, in the church which is his body and fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There are similar organisations in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The symbol of Churches Together in England is the scallop shell, which is an ancient symbol of pilgrimage. The Cross and Boat have become modern ecumenical symbols for all Christians gathered under the Cross in their voyage through life.

These symbols are combined as a sign of our continuing pilgrimage together. The pilgrim prayer which will be used is

Lord God we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your spirit guide and strengthen us
In mission and service to your World
for we are strangers no longer
But pilgrims together on the way
to your kingdom.

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 7pm
and at Henham - 7pm.

Recently I attended a family party to celebrate a 40th wedding anniversary. Not an unusual event, of course, but for our family it represented something of a landmark. A rift had occurred many years ago - caused by religion, or perhaps lack of religion. A schism over one point of belief occurred in the fundamentalist sect to which my family belonged - my parents went one way, my uncle and cousins the other. Unfortunately attitudes were so extreme that each side was anathema to the other. In the intervening years we children had gone our various ways: Catholic, Jewish and Anglican.

The passage of time, the desire to make contact with other members of a comparatively small family have contributed to the present rapprochement. I think we were all pleasantly surprised to find each other such nice people, but more importantly I hope our cousins and other members of the sect may begin to feel that different ways of expressing the beliefs we hold in common are not necessarily wrong but that their very diversity can lead to great enrichment.

However separation from other beliefs is such a basic tenet of fundamentalism that I am not at all sure we shall be able to bridge the divide, but perhaps the most important thing is that in our own small way, in our family, we have begun the journey.

Ruth Rawlinson

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

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

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

We have just celebrated the Harvest Thanksgiving and I want to share some thoughts on 'saying Thank you'. I found that a good number of the points I make came from a service I lead a little while ago at which a family wanted to give thanks for their mother on her eightieth birthday. As we remember what God has given us it is important that we spend some time just thinking about God's goodness.

1. A proper thank you is expressed in using the gift. I recall as a child going through my parents' dressing table drawers and finding some presents still in their packing. It's easy as a parent to enthuse about a present from your child, and then put it to one side. We all know the pleasure derived from seeing our gift used. We like to feel that our gift, and also we, are appreciated. As we think about the gifts we have from God we are challenged to ask ourselves "Am I using God's gift as He intended I should?" Often the answer will be "No!" Don't get despondant. God loves and forgives us. Confession must go together with Thanksgiving. Real thanksgiving means that we will live our lives to His Praise and Glory.

2. God gives us His gifts, but they are not ours - we are stewards. This is best illustrated with His most precious gift of 'Love'. That is his gift of relationships with Himself and others. Our pride would have us put ourselves at the centre of the universe and see everything and everybody to serve our own

His courage is further displayed when after the crucifixion of our Lord, together with Joseph of Arimathea, he requests the body of his dead master, thereby declaring publicly his allegiance to the Lord who would shortly rise in glory from the dead.

We thank God for those in our day who show the same courage as Nicodemus, in daring to stand firm for the faith they hold in face of persecution.

Lydia Rapkin

Preachers for October

7th 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin. Communion
 14th 11 am Mr. McKenzie. Family Service
 21st 11 am Mr. Doggett
 28th 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin

Advance Notice

Autumn Bazaar November 3rd, 10 am - 12.30.

STOP PRESS

The concert in the U.R. Church on Sept. 15th raised over £350 for the St. Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust. My thanks to the Bishop's Stortford Town Band and the Hallingbury Choir and also to the ladies in the kitchen for making this event such a success.

Janet Townsend

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

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.

FROM THE VICARAGE

When we went on holiday at the beginning of August we drove down through the main French grain-producing areas to the west and south of Paris. We passed mile after mile of fields of wheat, maize and sunflowers looking ripe and golden. However, we were amazed when we drove back along the same route a couple of weeks later to find that in that short time, almost all those fields had been harvested, the grain gathered, the straw baled and stacked. The hot summer had ripened the crops so early that we wondered whether we should have Harvest Festival in September rather than October!

But attractive though the sight of newly-harvested fields is, with crops gathered 'ere the winter storms begin', we learned that the situation is not as good as it seemed. The hot dry weather which had brought the early harvest, had also brought a poor harvest: the lack of water had left crops stunted and the yield poor.

This may not seem critical to us (unless of course we are farmers worried about our income) but the implications worldwide are serious. Shortages of grain mean higher prices, which means that those who are already short of food are likely to be even more short. Those already suffering from famine are likely to go even more hungry.

So as we celebrate our Harvest Festival on 7 October, as we thank God for his goodness to us, we must more than ever pray that the leaders of the nations will find the political will to ensure that the world's food is fairly and freely shared among all God's people.

Our Month's Good Cause collection for October will be for the refugees in Jordan, who are suffering lack of food and water not through poor harvests but through the threat of war. Please support this appeal generously.

Bob and Brenda Wallace



Book the date now!

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 17th November
 St. Mary's School
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Gifts - Produce - Cakes - Toys -
 Books - Toiletries - Crafts

Refreshments - Father Christmas -
 Grand Draw

purpose. We are also inclined to attempt to possess those we claim to love. To love is to share and to give. We face this in a practical way at Harvest Time. In our church's life we must always remind ourselves that 'the church exists for those who do not belong to it'. Thanksgiving will make us remember that we are stewards of what we have: the Christian recognises that all belongs to God.

3. Thanksgiving means looking back, but it must always affect the present and the future. When we say thank you to God we think of what He has done and what He has given us. 'Count your blessings, name them one by one'. It is acknowledging what has happened. But as we face what God has done we are helped to see what He is doing and expect to see future action. The act of thanksgiving will leave us looking forward. Even physical death is not the boundary of this vision for it is the Loving God whose power was revealed in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, whom we are thanking and from whom we are expecting more. The best gifts are yet to come.

Let me finish with a passage of scripture and a prayer. (In the Bible passage the parentheses are mine).

'Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because in his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. (Past) This fills us with a living hope (Present) and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for His people. (Future). 1 Peter 1:3-4. You might like to read the rest of the passage.

A prayer for Thanksgiving (After Leslie Weatherhead.)

Father, I give you thanks for all the happiness in the years that have gone; for every moment of Joy and Beauty; for every experience of Yourself when I have been sure of You, and know that only in Your will could I ever find rest. I thank You for tasks that I have been allowed to do, friendships that have made me glad, and service in which I have forgotten myself. Keep my memories bright with praise and love and send me forward in my life with a renewed desire to know and do your Will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Bless you.

Tom

Hello! I'm the answerphone for the Allen family ...! (B.S. 654475)

Sometime when you phone me this is the reply you will get. Maybe you don't like the thought and for that I'm sorry. I certainly don't want to upset anyone. But at least you can leave a message, and I will get it. I have found it most useful, 'to be in when I'm out!' Sometimes you may find it useful to leave some information and know that I have it. If necessary I will ring you back. Please let me know if you have any difficulties so we can have a chat about it. Thank you for your help.

Tom Allen



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 very greatly admire those who have the courage to stand up for what they believe often in the face of difficulty and even danger to themselves.

I was reminded of this characteristic in the person of Nicodemus who we read of in John's gospel, when, earlier this year I was fortunate enough to attend a performance of the Oberammergan Passion Play, a most wonderful and deeply moving experience.

As is generally known this play has been performed every ten years since 1663 in the German village of the same name, as an act of thanksgiving to God for his answer to prayer in protecting the villagers from the plague raging in Europe at the time.

Nicodemus appears in the play when, as a Pharisee and a member of the High Council he meets with his fellow priests and scribes to plan the death of Jesus.

Nicodemus has of course met Jesus earlier, as we read in John chapter three, when under cover of darkness he arranges a meeting between them to enquire of Jesus of his teaching. It was to Nicodemus that Jesus spoke words which have become some of the best known in the gospel story - 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.' John 3 verse 16.

Nicodemus opposes the action of his fellow council members as they decide upon the death of Jesus, a brave action indeed and an indication that his life had been changed by his earlier meeting with Jesus, as have the lives of multitudes since, after such momentous encounter.

All Sunday Services at St. John's from the beginning of October

Diary

- 2 10.00 Service at Mead Court
- 8.15 Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
- 4 10.30 Service at Norman Court
- 7 4.30 Harvest Festival
- SACC Harvest Tea St John's Hall
- 6.30 United Evening Service
- Preacher Revd Chris Bishop, Rural Dean
- 8 2.30 Over 60's Harvest Service
- 9 2.00 Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
- 2.15 Tiny Tots
- 8.15 Study Group on St John's Gospel
- 43 Gilby Crescent (Contact Fr John for details)
- 14 6.30 Youth Eucharist (No Evensong)
- 15 8.00 PCC (Vicarage)
- 16 8.15 Pastoral Care Group Meeting (Vicarage)
- 21 6.30 United Service for One World Week at Friends Meeting House (No Evensong)
- 29 8.00 Deanery Synod at Birchanger
- 30 2.15 Tiny Tots (NB date changed to avoid half term)
- 8.15 Stewardship Committee, 29 St John's Road

Registers for August

Baptisms

- August 26th Laura Jayne Siracusa
- Rebekah Jayne Taylor
- Benjamin Marley English
- Ryan Thomas English

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for worship: 11am

LISTENING

The pamphlet outlining the help needed by the Saint Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust includes the words: "A good neighbour provides support through practical help or just listening."

At a conference I recently attended, I learned that Quakers are credited with being better at listening than some other people - or so we were told by kind observers from other churches. Friends themselves are not nearly so sure it is one of their virtues. Reasonably well educated and therefore articulate, a statement has only

to be made for words to fly to our lips to substantiate or reject or question it. I daresay that, like many other people, when we politely ask "How are you?" some of us emulate Pontius Pilate and do not stay for an answer.

All the same, we are very conscious that if we do not bother to wait for an answer from human beings we are going to find it difficult indeed to wait for a response from God. It takes time and self-discipline to "centre down" and seek a gathered silence in Meeting for Worship or, in solitariness, to try to pierce that "cloud of unknowing" described so movingly by an early English mystic.

It is recorded in the Book of Kings that Solomon prayed: "Give thy servant a heart with skill to listen." Three thousand years on, many of us feel the need to express that very same prayer.

Mair Muir



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

October

- 3 10.30 W.I. Coffee morning. Day Centre
- 4 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Soc. "Essex from the Air"
- 7 2.00-6.00 Last Open Day at the Windmill
- 7 4.30 St John's Hall. SACC Harvest Tea & Festival Service
- 8 7.30 Day Centre W.E.A. Course enrolment
- 12 8.00 Day Centre Poppy Day Collectors Awards
- 13 2.00 St John's Hall. S.L.D. Jumble Sale
- 18 7.45 Royal British Legion (Women) A.G.M. Day Centre
- 19 7.00 Mountfitchet School. Cricket Club Dinner Dance

November

- 1 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Soc. "Manuden Past & Present"
- 3 10.00 U.R.C. Autumn Bazaar
- 3 6.30 7 Blythwood Gardens. S.L.D. Bonfire & Fireworks
- 8 Cricket Pavilion. Royal British Legion A.G.M.
- 17 11.00 St Mary's School. Christmas Market (St John's)



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Dates for October Coffee Mornings

- 2 Tues Helen Donaldson, Church Green Cottage
Arkesden, 95 550411
- 5 Fri Ann Kitson, 24 Spencer Close, Stansted
813107
- 9 Tues Maxine Motts, Hill Croft, Stansted Rd
812516
- 9 Tues Talk. Pat Russell, Grafton Green
Centre. 8.15 p.m.
- 12 Fri Linda Bush, 2 Water Lane, Stansted
816166
- 12 Sat Bring & Share Evening 8.30
Ann Kitson's, 813107
- 16 Tues Chris Daley's, 13 Grove Hill, Stansted
813965
- 19 Fri Pauline Bupnard, 20 The Street,
Manuden, 814600
- 23 Tues Elaine Hancock, 11 St John's Road,
815114
- 26 Fri Jackie Feehan's, Cordwents, Stansted
Road, 813206
- 30 Tues Caroline Moffatt's, The Grange,
Bambers Green, Takeley, 870 864
- 31 Wed Halloween Party 2.30-4 p.m. Quaker Hall
Mask/Hat competition Stansted



The Garden Party on September 1st was a great success. The sun shone, the weather was warm and a large number of people came to 62 Chapel Hill to buy raffle tickets, try their luck on the tombola or buy things from the stalls. After this they were very happy to sit and drink coffee while chatting to friends. They were persuaded to guess the number of sweets in a bottle or find the treasure on the Treasure Island to help pass the time away until lunch was served. About 60 people had lunch and everyone said that it was an excellent meal especially as it was washed down with a glass of wine. Many thanks to everyone for once again supporting the club. We made £325 profit which will be used towards next year's summer holiday which we are planning for our members.

Club will once again be in full swing by the time you read this, so why not pop in one Thursday evening and join in the fun.

M. G. Johnson



**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Autumn Show. In spite of drought conditions the members had obviously worked hard to produce an abundance of flowers and floral art entries. Thanks must also go to Sainsburys and the Stansted Wine Bar for sponsoring particular classes.

Amongst the prizewinners I would like to congratulate Mr and Mrs Fuller for obtaining the most points in the show and Mrs Townsend for her exhibit in Floral Art for which she received the Hoffman Vase.

Everyone is invited to attend the October meeting on Wednesday October 3rd when the guest speaker will be Gay Nightingale who will be sharing with us her experiences on the Chelsea Flower Show.

The October competition will cover anything which might still be flowering in your garden "A Stem of a Flowering Plant".

For further details of the club please ring Sue on 813010.

Sue Wilkinson



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The new season made a good start with a well attended meeting in September to hear Walter Wright on the Bishop's Stortford Town Trail. Many changes to the town were evident from the slides he showed, taken only a few years ago.

Other changes will no doubt also show up in "Essex from the Air" - a return visit from John Boyes - at our meeting on Thursday 4th October. On Thursday 1st November, Fiona Bengsten will tell us about "Manuden Past and Present". Meetings are held in the Day Centre at 8 p.m.

All are welcome - visitors 75p. If you would like a programme card and more details please ring Peggy Honour on B/S 813160 or Tony Wellings on B/S 813614.



As is our usual practice we had no meeting during August so no branch news to report.

Our Group AGM was held at Birchanger on Wednesday, 12th September, when 48 members from 6 villages attended.

Officers appointed for 1990-1991 are:-

Group Chairman - Mrs. V. Levey (Stansted)
Group Vice Chairman - Mrs. P. Sandford (Birchanger)
Group Secretary - Mrs. D. Dyer (Holding Branch)
Group Treasurer - Mrs. B. Bailey (Birchanger)

Mrs. Waller, County President, then talked to us about various British Legion matters including the closing of Eastern Area and the newsletter being produced to try and keep counties together.

Our branch AGM will be on 18th October in the Day Centre at 7.45 p.m. with a "baby photograph" competition; County Conference is on 14th November and the Royal British Legion Carol Service will be held in St. John's Church, Stansted, on Sunday, 9th December.

Pat Clower
815220

W.E.A.

Stansted WEA's autumn course will be "The History of Gardens", tutor Mr. D.R. Hance, Dip TP. He writes in the syllabus "Of all the European arts, those of writing and garden making are those where England has led". He will trace the early influences - the Monasteries, the Italian and French grand schemes, the "natural" English parks of Capability Brown and Repton; then to the formal planting of Victorian times, Paxton and the greenhouse, the counter reaction in the softer styled planting of Gertrude Jekyll and into the 20th century where the pleasure of gardens and gardening continues to flourish. The last meeting will be set aside for Essex gardens.

Mr. Hance will be remembered for his most popular course with us on "English Country Houses" and at long last, after a wait of some years, due to his great popularity throughout the county, we are pleased to welcome him back to Stansted for his "History of Gardens" course, which will be illustrated by slides.

The ten week course will begin on 8th October at the Day Centre. First meeting enrolment 7.30 to 8 pm for lecture at 8 o'clock. We hope to welcome back many friends after the long summer break and new members are always most welcome. If you would like more details please ring B/S 812214.



The VJ cheese and Wine evening held in August was very enjoyable. There was an inevitable clash with holidays which curtailed attendance. The experiment of having entertainment - with audience participation in a sing-song of old favourites - was well received. Hopefully word will spread that our events are a good evening out, and more members and friends will be encouraged to attend future ones.

On 12th October another 'Poppy Collectors Awards' evening is being held at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The recipients will be local schools. Do come along to show appreciation for all the money raised by the schools over many years.

Our AGM is looming large - to be held on 8th November at the Cricket Club pavilion. Let's have an even better turn out this year. Notices of the AGM will be sent to members shortly.

Next month's news will mainly concentrate on remembrance - the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday. The 50th anniversary of the events of 1940 is so poignant - especially to those of us who lived through 'our finest hour'. Many will wish to commemorate it.



Stansted Cricket Club

DINNER DANCE

to be held at

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SCHOOL

on

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 1990

7.00 for 7.30 to 12.30

Music by MISTY plus a guest speaker

There will still be time for players, supporters and friends to buy tickets at £12 each. Please contact one of the Committee or myself on 813466 for tickets for an enjoyable way of concluding the season.

Brian Linford
Treasurer
8 Park Road



"OUR VILLAGE"

50.5p - 47.5p - 42.6p per litre was to be the displayed selling price of 4 Star Petrol, Unleaded Petrol and Diesel respectively, available to motorists from twelve self service outlets on opening day Thursday 13th September 1990 of a new Total Garage situated on the north western corner of the busy Chapel Hill/Cambridge Road/Bentfield End Road junction. This new garage will also be able to offer a leisure and confectionery goods shop and car wash facility. It was to replace Concord Motor Service Garage which was being demolished during late May and into June. The price board just prior to demolition showed 4 Star Petrol at 37.7p per litre or 166.9p per gallon.

For the origins of this old garage we must turn back fifty years of which Tony Little was able to enlighten me.

Building of the garage commenced around 1940 by Mr. Frank Bull who had moved into Stansted in the motor trade-sales and service. His first garage as such was a large green house (probably the one shown on late 1800's maps), situated on the edge of the recent Concord forecourt area. Petrol was then served to customers by hand operated pumps at a cost of 1/2d per gallon or 1/6d for a higher grade of petrol. The garage was erected within the grounds of Bentfield Hall on an area once used as kitchen gardens of the Hall. A small amount of vehicle repair work was carried out in the new building both car and commercial, but it was mainly used at this time as an Amunitions Factory being full of lathes - milling and many other types of machinery, all producing various contracts for the war effort.

The showroom area which faced the main road was used as an Army Instruction School for Soldier Driver/Mechanics each staying about six weeks. A flat roof over the showroom was all sand-bagged up and partially camouflaged and was much used by the Local Home Guard Unit for various training periods and as a look out post.

Following the war years the building reverted back to a full time garage known as F.B. Motors where although some alterations and modernisation had taken place under different proprietors the garage as we remember it provided motorists with good service until its closing day.

Any further memories or information (old bills, etc.) you may have of this or any of the other village garages old or new I would as usual be very pleased to hear or see as I will be telling more of "Garages" in other issues.

P. J. Brown



31 Blythwood Gardens
Stansted
813591

STANSTED LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Our first ever family barbecue in July proved a social and financial success. Our thanks to Michael and Marion Dyer for the use of their garden. Any offers of a different venue next year?

Our social and fund-raising programme started with a vengeance in September with our bi-monthly ploughmans lunch, continued with our first ever Quiz Evening in St. John's Hall and finished with a constituency Barn Dance at the Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow on 28th September.

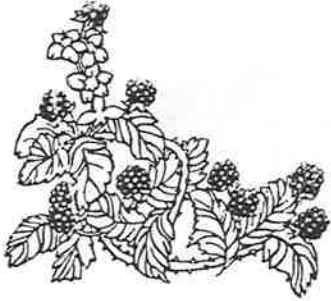
During the month two local members, Frances Spalding and Mary Asinya, attended the national conference in Blackpool as constituency elected representatives.

The rest of our programme threatens to be equally hectic. On October 13th we will be holding our usual autumn jumble sale in St. John's Hall at 2.00 p.m. For jumble collection or offers of help, and all information on autumn events, contact Maureen Caton (813914) or Catherine Dean (813579). On 27th October the branch will be manning stalls at the constituency Autumn Bazaar in Saffron Walden Town Hall. Our annual Bonfire party and Firework Display will take place on Saturday 3rd November starting at 6.30 p.m. at Michael and Marion Dyer's, 7 Blythwood Gardens. As usual there will be a best Guy competition for the children. The 10th November is the date of our next ploughman's lunch in the Day Centre. Hot soup will be provided.

Please make a note that our Annual Supper Dance will take place at Stansted Hall on 26th January 1991. An event not to be missed!! During the summer we were joined by a number of new members. we give them a warm welcome. If you wish to know more about membership please contact Frances Spalding (813432).

Melvin Caton
813914





OUT AND ABOUT IN STANSTED

The blackberries will be mostly over by the time you read this and, in any case, the devil spits on them at Michaelmas. It has been a good year for blackberries where the bushes have not been affected by the drought, but why do so few people pick them these days? Perhaps we are all too affluent to bother with harvesting this free fruit. Perhaps we are more squeamish about the little maggots, although if you shut your eyes you cannot taste them. It is not laziness because the pick-your-own fields are so busy. We can, of course, drive to the fruit farms and park with everyone else; maybe we have stopped walking to the extent that we now feel self-conscious setting out along the lanes carrying a basket.

We are all familiar with blackberries but they are by no means the only local fruit that used to be gathered from our lanes and hedges. Hazel nuts were traditionally a major source of protein, now mostly plundered by the squirrels. Beech nuts produced vegetable oil and acorns can be found to make a coffee substitute. Sweet chestnuts are still a winter favourite while horse chestnuts are only fit for playing conkers. Wild cherries ripened earlier in the year and have now finished, but there are prolific crops of sloes for sloe gin and crab apples for jelly. Damsons make jam and the bright red berries of the guelder rose, although poisonous when raw, can be utilised like cranberry sauce. Rose hip syrup is rich in vitamin C and of course, the over ripe hips contain that terrible itching powder. Haws are for the birds.

Elderberries have been decimated by the drought. They make an attractive coloured wine but the elder flower flavour is preferred by most winemakers. The rest of the elder bush can provide dyes, cough mixture and pea shooters. Also absent due to the drought are the berries of the purging buckthorn which need no further description, but also produce dyes. Another violent purgative comes from the spindle berries which are so colourful in the autumn. If you should happen to eat these there is normally relief close by in the form of the fruit of the wayfaring tree which will settle the stomach. The small back berries of the dogwood produce lamp oil and privet berries produce more dye.

Among the climbing plants the red berries of the white and black bryony and woody nightshade are all poisonous and old man's beard is purely decorative, but hops are, of course,

what puts the flavour in the beer. Ivy is still in flower but the berries which ripen during the winter provide a treatment for rheumatism.

Finally there are the dubious attributes of mistletoe whose berries are poisonous except to the mistle thrush, and the favoured holly berries which will ward off evil spirits.

Every tree and shrub mentioned above grow around Stansted, particularly along the old lanes which we are so fortunate to have encircling our village. You can find all these, except perhaps the sweet chestnut, in the course of a walk round Forest Hall Road, Lime Kiln Lane, Bentfield Green, Pennington Lane, Alsa Street and Gall End. Happy foraging!

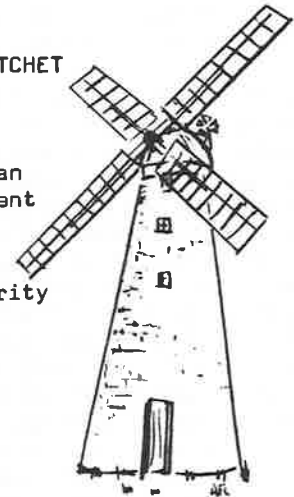
Felix



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STANSTED MILLERS

Many thanks to all who supported the Windmill Fete to help raise over £600 altogether that afternoon. It is surprising how much can be fitted into the small area around the Mill.

Also grateful thanks to Judy Goddard and her team for running a Barn Dance at Rickling for the Windmill Fund in an old barn which added much to the atmosphere. It was a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

The last general open day at the Mill for this year is on Sunday 7th October 2-6 p.m. so if you haven't been yet, or want to go again, make a note of the date.

Group bookings can be arranged at most reasonable times during the year for a flat rate of £20 for up to 34 people. For more information contact Peggy Honour B/S 813160.

HOSPICE CARE COMES TO WEST ESSEX

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The newly formed St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust aims to provide care locally for our 250,000 residents.

The ultimate goal of the Trust is to provide a fully equipped and staffed ten bed in-patient hospice for our local community but like all good things it takes a lot of time and a lot of money to achieve.

In the meanwhile, the Trust is supporting the work of the specially trained Macmillan nurses by providing them with vital pain-relieving equipment to treat patients in their own homes and also by establishing day care centres which offer patients a day away from home in a fully staffed, comfortable, caring atmosphere, thus providing much needed social contact and affording relief to the carers for a few hours.

With the kind co-operation of Harlow Council, who have offered suitable premises at Summers Farm, the first of these day care centres will shortly be opening. In Uttlesford we are negotiating for premises in Stansted and Thaxted and hope to have centres opened there by the end of the year.

As hospice providers are charitable organisations who give their services completely free to patients, much will depend on voluntary donations and public fundraising. Our initial target in the first year of operation is £200,000 - but that is only the beginning.

CAN YOU HELP THE TRUST

- As A good neighbour
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- With A deed or covenant
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- Apply: St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust
 Summers Farm House
 Phelips Road, Harlow CM19 5SL
 0279 413590
- or Brenda Scarr 813080



The RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY meets in the DAY CENTRE at 8 pm the second and the fourth THURSDAY in each month



"QUIZ NIGHT"

A "Quiz Night" is to be held on Saturday 27th October 1990 in the Football Club starting at 7.30 p.m. Teams of four. £1 per head (including light refreshments). Emphasis on enjoyment rather than intellectual prowess. Proceeds to Neighbourhood Watch. Further information from P.C. Pike at Stansted Police Station - Bishop's Stortford 812211.

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Enjoy a healthy diet by growing your own fruit and vegetables.

A few plots available off Pennington Lane at only £4 per annum.

Further details please telephone Les on 813563 or Colin on 814364.



SHALOM GROUP

- October 6 (Saturday) 8.0-12.0. An evening with the Holy Road Show. St. Mark's School, Tripton Road, Harlow. Super Licenced Bar. Raffle. In aid of Corrymeela Peace & Reconciliation Centre in N. Ireland. Tickets £3.00, £1.00 O.A.P.'s & Children from Judy Goddard, 812498
- October 8 8.0 23 Burnells Way. Rev. John Cardell-Oliver. Bible Study
- October 22 8.0 23 Burnells Way. Speaker to be confirmed.

STANSTED AFTERNOON

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of the Saffron Walden
M.E.D.I.C.S.

On Wednesday 3rd October in
the Day Centre
10.30 - 12.30

Wool Sale, Raffle, Cake Stall
and Bring & Buy

Entrance 50 pence



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

On 16th and 17th August Chris Hollis ran two one day tournaments and coaching for juniors. The 8-12 year tournament was won by David Parrish and Simon Collingwood won the 13-16 year group. The girls' cup was won by Alice Beckley.

The Club Finals were held on Sunday 9th September and we were blessed with superb weather.

Chris Hollis won the mens singles title for the third year running. In a close fought final he beat Martin Sebley 6-7, 6-1, 9-7.

Hazel Smith and Gill Robinson continued their domination of the Ladies Singles event when they met in the final again this year. Hazel beat Gill 6-1, 6-1 and the duo have now won the title six times each!

The two girls joined forces in the doubles event and clinched the title for the 4th successive year with a 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 win over Janet Hollis and Wendy Kemp.

The mens doubles saw father and son on opposite sides of the net. John Crosby (16) and Nick

Jacob (17) beat Richard Crosby and Richard Mott 6-1, 7-6.

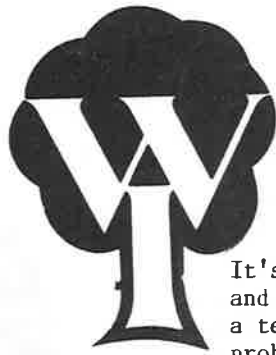
The mixed doubles cup was won by Chris and Sarah Hollis who beat John Eyre and Janet Hollis 6-3, 6-2.

The cups were presented to the winners by Club President Richard Shervington.

Please would adults and juniors who are interested in coaching let Janet Hollis know at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. Please include name, address, telephone number, age of juniors and any preference of day and time.

Winter membership - 1st October to 31st March is half price.

All enquiries to Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.



STANSTED EVENING

TEA TIME!

It's the W.I.'s 75th anniversary this year and all W.I.'s were asked to celebrate with a tea party. However an evening W.I. has a problem in that many of our members work outside the home and daytime celebrations are out of the question. Anyway with true W.I. ingenuity this was overcome at our September meeting when our speaker, Mrs. Sylvia Keith - an excellent photographer who develops her own prints - showed us some of her pictures from the tea growing countries of the world - Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. She was a most entertaining and amusing speaker with many anecdotes from her travels.

After refreshments our social time was taken up with a tea tasting with supplies of interesting brews from 'Lays' of Saffron Walden. The teas ranged from the delicate 'Jasmine' through 'Assam' 'Darjeeling' to 'Gunpowder' which speaks for itself!

The business point of the meeting dealt with arrangements for our second organised tour of Cambridge, the Spring Group Meeting for April next year and our next meeting on October 11th when we shall celebrate our own 30th birthday. Members were asked to bring a friend to that meeting and of course visitors are very welcome also.

Our raffle prizes were all tea related - Tetleys donated a "tea pack" to every W.I. in the country and the sum of £19 was raised to be sent to childrens charities selected by our National Executive.

Pearl Wellings
813614

STANSTED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Sports Association has organised various fund raising events over the last few months which have been enjoyable as well as successful. We would like to thank everyone who took part in or supported the Grand Draw, the Quiz, the Carnival Sports and last but not least our Boot Sale.

Plans are already being made for a dance with live band at Hargrave Park after the Carnival in 1991 but before that we shall be holding a Grand New Year Ball at Stansted Hall on Friday 18th January when "black tie and posh frocks" will be the order of the day. Tickets price £10 each will be on sale shortly, so why not make up a party for a really good night out with fun, fine food and some fancy footwork thrown in?

Pearl Wellings
813614



A SENIOR CITIZEN

A Senior Citizen is a person who was here before the pill and the population explosion; before T.V. shots; antibiotics and frisbees. Before frozen food, nylon, Xerox, radar, credit cards and ball point pens. For us a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

We were here before pantyhose and drip-dry clothes; before dishwashers, freezers, and electric blankets. Before men wore long hair and earrings and before women wore tuxedos.

We were here before 40 hour week and the minimum wage.

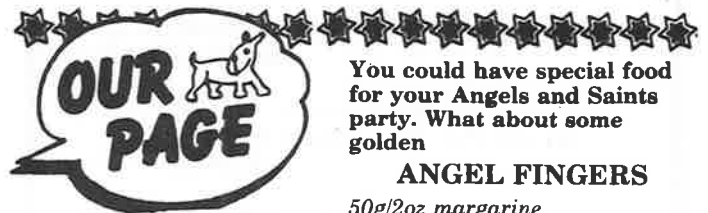
We got married first and then lived together. How quaint!

Closets were for clothes, not for coming out of. Bunnies were rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens.

We were before Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra and cup-sizing for bras. Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought cleavage was something butchers did. We were before Batman, Rudolph the red nosed Reindeer and Snoopy. Before vitamin pills, disposable nappies and jeeps. Before pizza and instant coffee. Even before Macdonalds! We thought fast foods was something you ate during Lent. We were before Boy George and Madonna. Before Fm radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors and disco-dancing. And that's not all bad.

In our day grass was for mowing, coke was a refreshing drink and pot was something in which you cooked.

We are senior citizens. A hardy bunch when you think of what we have been through and the changes we have had to cope with. Don't tell us we are set in our ways. We have had to change more than any generation in history.



ALL HALLOWS EVE

31st October

MANY customs are associated with this day - most of them because this was the 'day before'. To the Celts it was the day before winter and the New Year officially began. In later years it became the day before the Christian festival of All Hallows, or All Saints' Day.

The Eve of All Hallows (Hallows' Even gradually became the word Halloween) was the day for driving out evil - which makes it seem very strange now that some people 'celebrate' Halloween by dressing up as witches and having special parties! Wouldn't it be better to celebrate the next day and be angels and saints rather than witches and devils?



You could have special food for your Angels and Saints party. What about some golden

ANGEL FINGERS

50g/2oz margarine
2 tablespoons golden syrup
25g/1oz caster sugar
4 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter
175g/6oz crushed digestive biscuits
50g/2oz plain chocolate.

Melt together the butter, syrup, sugar and peanut butter. Take the pan off the heat and stir in the crushed biscuits. If the mixture looks wet, add more crushed biscuits. Spread the mixture in a greased and lined 7" square tin. Level the top of the mixture. Melt the chocolate in a small bowl over a pan of hot water. Spread over the biscuit mixture and leave to set. Cut into 12 bars.

SAINT'S QUIZ

1. Which saint's day did Good King Wenceslas set out on?
2. Which saint was a Queen of Scotland?
3. Which saint wrote songs about Brother Sun and Sister Moon?
4. This saint was the first English martyr and has a city named after him in Hertfordshire.
5. The cathedral designed by Christopher Wren was dedicated to this saint.

1. Stephen 2. Margaret 3. Francis 4. Alban 5. Paul



CLOCKS BACK

28th OCTOBER

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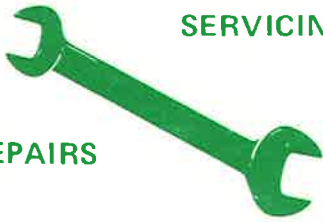
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feed the cat, budgie or fish - forward the mail
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