

April 91

The LINK



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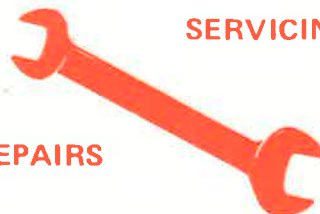
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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, MAY 13-18

As usual there will be a house-to-house collection during this week, and we are appealing for new volunteers to give up a few hours. You'll get to meet new faces, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are giving many people the chance to experience "LIFE BEFORE DEATH" - the theme of this year's campaign.

So if you can spare soem time please contact me, or sign up on one of the posters in the churches or at the library.

Catherine Dean
C.A. Organiser



SATURDAY 18 MAY

MORNING MARKET

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Tel. 813579
Catherine Dean
C.A. Organiser

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

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

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

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the SACC, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
Please Note 18th April for May issue
16th May for June issue

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Tom Allen
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 654475

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

The most significant event for our Church and Circuit is that Tom has relinquished the Superintendency of the Bishop's Stortford Circuit. He spoke with the Chairman, Rev. Brian Galliers, and said it is our wish that he actively seek a replacement for this appointment.

The morning we came to this decision the theme set for our prayer time was "Let go, let God". So we let go in obedience knowing this to be the right way for our Church and Circuit. However, Tom hasn't given up yet, not because he's a born fighter, but simply that he still has this belief within that God will heal him.

Tom and Kathleen

This recent news of Tom has been superseded by our hearing that he has now moved to the Hospice in Welwyn where we are sure he will receive the kindest and most excellent attention and love. Let us continue to pray earnestly for Tom and Kathleen and their family.

Six Sunday School teachers, joined by one from Stortford, are taking part in a training scheme, started last autumn and continuing until April. This is thanks to the enthusiasm of Michael Dyer and the tutor, Peter Hodges of Chrishall. I might say there is evidence of enthusiasm on the part of the "trainees" - turning up on six Saturday afternoons!

Phyllis Harrison



PLEASE DON'T FORGET

The Coffee Morning in aid of THE BIBLE SOCIETY to be held on 17th APRIL at 58 CHAPEL HILL from 10.30 a.m. Admission 50p to include Coffee & Scone. There will also be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Please come and support this yearly event.

Janet Townsend



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 and Newport please ring the Group Secretary.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Brown had lived opposite each other for years. Each day they met at their gates, walked to the station together and travelled to town on the same train. They discussed the state of the nation, the weather, their families and golf, the abiding passion of Mr. Brown.

Each day the same pattern was followed:

The weekend was different. Mr. Smith was a faithful attender at his local church, Mr. Brown played golf on Sunday.

One Sunday they met unexpectedly as they left their homes, Mr. Smith for the church, Mr. Brown for the golf course.

'Come for a round of golf, it's a lovely morning' Mr. Brown invited Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was horrified at the invitation. 'You know I go to church on Sunday morning' he said.

'So you do' replied Mr. Brown. 'I realise it can't mean much to you though, so come for a round of golf'.

'What do you mean it can't mean much to me?' said Mr. Smith outraged.

'Well' said Mr. Brown, 'We've travelled up to town together each day for years and you've hardly mentioned your church, and never invited me to go on Sunday with you, and so I assume it means so little to you that you don't think it worthwhile to recommend it to me'.

If you're like Mr. Brown do for give those of us who like Mr. Smith are regular churchgoers, but haven't invited you to join us on Sundays at church.

We deserve you to say to us what Mr. Brown did to his friend.

So please accept this invitation to meet us in any of our churches in the village next Sunday. We really would like you to share our friendship and the joy we have in our Christian faith.

With all good wishes to you all.

Lydia Rapkin

Stansted Services for April

7th 11 am Rev. Eric McIlwain (Communion)
14th 11 am Rev. Lydia Rapkin
21st 11 am Dr. James Anderson
28th 11 am Rev. Lydia Rapkin (Family Service)

Church of England

St John's Church, St John's Road

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

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

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

Holy Communion is celebrated on:

Tuesday - 7.30pm
Wednesday - 10am
Thursday - 9.30am
Friday - 8am



Last autumn I spent a busy weekend in the garden planting some 500 daffodil and narcissus bulbs. I particularly like bulbs: partly because they come up each year without any effort from me, but more because they give such a lovely burst of colour so early in the year. This year (whenever the garden was free from snow) I spent a few minutes each day walking round the garden trying to remember where I had planted them, and looking to see if they were coming up.

I suppose we are lucky in our part of the world, where Easter coincides with spring, and we have such a strong visible reminder of the new life which the resurrection brings.

But lovely though spring flowers are, they are perhaps less important than the spring crops on which we depend for our food through the year. In a rural area like this we cannot fail to notice the fields turning green as cereal crops begin to sprout.

We are all familiar with the autumn harvest thanksgiving when we come to church year by year to thank God for his goodness to us. But it is unfortunate that the once familiar rogationtide ceremonies of spring have largely fallen into disuse. This is when weak God to bless the crops for the coming year, and remember that we depend not on our own strength alone, but on God's grace to us.

At Farnham, the rogationtide service on Sunday evening, 5 May at 6 p.m. is well established. We base the service round a different farm each year, starting in the barn, and moving together round the different crops, fields and farmyard for prayers, readings and hymns. This year we will be based at Hazel End, and we welcome the support of Stansted choir members and other members of the congregation to join us.

But we are also reviving Rogationtide at Stansted at the Family Communion in the morning and will focus our thoughts and hymns on that theme. We won't be going round a real farm, but the Children's Church are preparing pictures and collages for church to help focus our thoughts during the service.

Our Family Communion services on the first Sunday each month are becoming increasingly popular, and provide an ideal opportunity for people of all ages to worship together. If you haven't been for a while, come along and find out what is happening.

Brenda Wallace



Diary

2 8.15 pm Prayer Group at 22 Bentfield Causeway
4 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
9 2.00 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.15 pm Tiny Tots
11 10.30 am Service at Mead Court
13 10 am - 12 noon Coffee Morning at Vicarage
15 8.00 pm Election of churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church meeting in the Hall
23 2.15 pm Tiny Tots
28 3.00 pm Baptism rededication service
29 8.00 pm New PCC meets at the Vicarage

Coffee Morning



The Rev'd Brenda Wallace is holding a Coffee Morning at Stansted Vicarage on Saturday, 13th April from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Cake Stall - Bring and Buy in aid of
The Childrens' Society
All Welcome



The Bishop of Colchester is coming to Stansted for Confirmation at 10 a.m. on Sunday 14th July

If you wish to find out more about preparing for this please speak to Dn Brenda before the middle of April

REGISTERS

Baptisms

24 Feb Emily Kate Budgen
Charlotte Elizabeth Ann Holt

Funerals

6 Feb Florence May Wright, 77
25 Feb Pamela Frances Power, 62
Irene Violet Lawrence, 67
27 Feb Harry Brett, 89



From the Revd Tony and Mrs Helene King

A belated happy new year.

Christmas at Molepolole

We had a very happy Christmas in Molepolole. The highlight was the church nativity play. Having become accustomed in England to little boys and girls being dressed as angels and shepherds, watched by doting parents, I was amazed by our adult production. Being in the Christmas Nativity is so popular that people were booking parts for the next year immediately after the performance. The Virgin Mary, a

mum with six children, celebrated her tenth successive appearance. She marries Joseph (celebrating his seventh performance) later this year. Our favourite part of the nativity was the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to the shepherds: they had collapsed with fright and had to be kicked by Gabriel in order to bring them round! It was lovely to see the people laugh so much.

First six months

We have now completed six months in Molepolole. In many respects it has been a stressful and difficult time. Language is our basic problem. After a four week introductory course in Setswana it is not possible to speak properly with many members of our church family. We do try to learn as we go along, but organising seven parishes with a different culture to ones own and learning a language from scratch is no easy task. Thankfully I am blessed with some good interpreters who help me enormously. A little Setswana is not sufficient to understand the experiences and concerns particular to this culture.

After an electrical storm, which frightened us, I discovered two elderly ladies standing shaking on our doorstep. I realised that they had been frightened by the thunder but it took an interpreter to explain that the ladies believed a witch had been paid by a relative to kill them, to bring lightning down upon their heads. Similarly only with the help of a local person could I understand a young man who experienced the shadow of his dead brother following him constantly. Such problems have to be understood from within the culture and cannot be judged from a Western perspective. There is rarely a dull moment.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am

TREE AND TRINITY

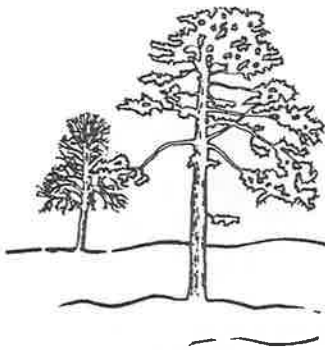
The grand old pine tree which stands in the Meeting House garden recently shed a branch as it succumbed to the weight of a heavy fall of snow. As Friends gathered to clear some of the debris before Meeting, one remarked how strong the tree must be to have borne the weight of that branch for so long. My thoughts returned to the pine tree during Meeting, and I pondered just how much symbolism is based upon the strength and form of trees. I

recalled the final panel of the Quaker Tapestry, which is entitled "The World Family of Friends". At it's centre is a rather splendid tree, each of its branches representing a different Quaker tradition: American, European, African. Though differing in many ways, each tradition is linked by a common heritage, depicted by the sturdy trunk.

In Stansted it seems so natural to extend this picture to represent the "Family of Christians". I like to think that we are all leaves on the same tree, with each branch representing a different Christian tradition. At the centre is Jesus Christ, the heartwood, giving the whole its strength and forming the core of even the smallest twig. As a Quaker I would emphasise the importance and immediacy of the Holy Spirit. To me the Holy Spirit is represented by the tree's outermost tissues which serve to transport the water and nutrients, ensuring that each and every leaf is constantly nurtured. And I include in my picture the roots, whose expanse and complexity I can only guess at, yet which are the ultimate source of anchorage and nurture.

Many Quakers, I suppose, would feel uncomfortable with the concept of the Holy Trinity, yet my picture incorporates just that. The heartwood, the sapwood and the roots - each distinct, yet manifestation of the same substance; each coming together to form the whole; each vital to the well being of the foliage during the all too short season of growth.

John Millington



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.

ARE YOU A COMFORTABLE PERSON TO BE WITH?

My young son aged 8 asked me the other morning as we were walking to the bus stop - "How do you know when you have a best friend?" I found it quite difficult to put into words as for me it is something inside that tells you this. At last I said - "It is when you both feel better just by being together even for a little while. Your friend will usually like the same things as you do and feel the same way about most things and even if he doesn't always, it won't matter because he is special. You will know it because he makes you feel comfortable".

Are you a comfortable person to be with? Do you make the person you are with feel safe. A long time ago when I was a teenager, I arranged to meet a girlfriend at a party to which we were both invited. I was rather late in arriving and she had been there some time before me. On my arrival she rushed up to me saying - "Oh good I'm glad you are here, now everything will be great". I did not take much notice of this remark at the time. I only remember thinking she was a bit wet. It was only years later when I experienced the same safe feeling with my own best friend that I fully understood what she really meant and I now feel profoundly flattered.

There are very few people who we can feel totally at ease with - it can be the person who listens without interrupting, the person who is always cheerful and positive, the one who makes us feel better just by being there. The friend who lights up the dark corner just by his or her presence. They are not usually family, although I feel it is an extra bonus if they are. They are people to whom God has given this charisma which is not apparent to all who meet them, only to those between whom the chemistry is right. It is foolish to bask in this pseudo glory and not to recognise the gift for what it is and use it accordingly to try and heal, and bring comfort to those who seek it.

Jesus had this charisma and magnetism. He knew this and used his talents wisely. It is up to us to do the same.

Mary Warnett

SHALOM - THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAM

Although the Gulf War is officially over, the peace has yet to be won. Most of the fundamentals of the conflict remain. Besides the continued unease between Israel and the majority of Arab States and the just desire to re-establish a homeland for the Palestinian people, one crucial underlying factor is the increasingly perceived ideological antagonism between much of the Islamic world and the West.

Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

April

- 4 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
- 6 2.30 URC Hall. Mountfitchet Garden Club Spring Show
- 9 8.15 St John's Hall. Keep fit term starts
- 17 10.30 58 Chapel Hill. Bible Society Coffee Morning
- 18 7.45 Day Centre British Legion Women's Section - Garden talk
- 20 2.00 Cricket Club Jumble Sale at the Pavilion
- 20 7.30 St John's Hall. Scout Group Quiz Evening
- 24 10.00 Day Centre. Coffee morning for Hospice
- 8 8.00 1 Blythwood House. Shalom Group

May

- 2 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Soc. AGM.

Whilst a number of Arab states fought alongside of the western powers in the war, there is still evidence of much populist hostility in the countries of the Middle East. This is something which is going to have to be healed if there is to be lasting peace in the region. If it is not, there is a danger that the "Cold War", so evident in Europe since 1945 and now thankfully in decline, may shift to this area.

At a recent gathering of Shalom we watched a BBC "Everyman" video which provided great insight into the cultural divide between many Islamic believers and the west. We must acknowledge and understand these differences if any form of reconciliation is to take place.

First, there is an ideological gap between western mentality rooted in Greek concepts of logic and rationality and Islamic belief based in a mystical submission to the will of God, whose vehemence can seem rather alarming on occasions. Secondly, the west has an imperial heritage in the area. Many leaders who are favourable to the west are viewed as bonded clients rather than as working for the best interests of their people.

The answers to these problems are complex, but we must build bridges reviving much historical co-operation as in Spain, where in the past Christians and Arabs lived together learning from each other in a framework of mutual trust and respect. We must recognise we accept a common "Fatherhood of God" and follow paths, albeit different, which lead to him. Essential to this task is to work towards economic and political assistance in the area without economic and political interference.

To help us in the formulation of positive attitudes, we are fortunate to welcome Dr. Posipamey Stortford on Monday 8th April 8 pm at the house of Michael and Marion Dyer, 1 Blythwood House, Blythwood Gardens, Tel. 814059.

Dr. Ahmed, besides being one of the Chief Speakers in the "Everyman" programme is the author of many books on Islam and is a senior lecturer at Cambridge University on the subject. Please feel welcome to attend this meeting as always.

On Monday 22nd April please come along to a Prayer and Praise at Monica Kapardia's house, 88 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, at 8 pm. Tel. 652664.



STANSTED CRICKET CLUB

JUMBLE SALE

at the Pavilion

at 2 p.m.

20th April 1991



Our A.G.M. was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the "Cheese and Wine" which preceded the meeting. Mr. Roy Atkins, leader of the Gateway Club in Bishop's Stortford, talked about the activities of their club. It was most interesting to hear how another club, similar to our own, organised their evenings.

So far this term we have made Welsh Rarebit for St. David's Day, coloured in stained glass windows for our mothers on Mothering Sunday and played "Strike it Lucky" just as they do on T.V. It was amazing how quickly the contestants learnt to bank their prizes before the deadly hot spot appeared.

Pancake Day was celebrated two days late. We made the pancakes at 62 Chapel Hill and Marion is still scraping them off the kitchen ceiling. It's amazing how good they taste if you make them yourself and everybody made short work of their efforts. Now a short Easter break before we begin planning our holiday in Kessingland.

M. G. Johnson



"OUR VILLAGE"

Our fire brigade story continues by recalling the 5 resolutions agreed to at a Vestry held on the 6th day of September 1822.

FIRST. That a committee of six respectable inhabitants be appointed to superintend when a fire happens, to give such general directions as they shall think proper; and who shall, at all times, be competent to give such instructions to the engineers, in any matters relating to the management and care of the engine as they shall see needful. And that the Committee, at present do consist of the following persons:- William Parris, Matthew Woodley, Jun., Samuel T. Day, Charles Hicks, Sen., Charles Hicks Jun., William Watson.

SECOND. That two men be appointed as engineers who are to be rewarded for their services from time to time, as in the judgment of the committee, shall appear suitable. And it is resolved that all due encouragement be given to the engineers to prompt them to a full and faithful discharge of their duty. The engineers now appointed are William Brett and James Levy.

THIRD. That the engine be carefully examined and played once in three months; viz. on the first Monday in January, April, July and October; and that seven shillings and sixpence be paid to the engineers for their attendance and trouble each time by the Overseer of the Poor of the Parish.

FOURTH. That after every fire the engine is to be well washed and cleaned by the engineers who are to make a reasonable charge for their attention and to be paid by the Overseer.

FIFTH. It is agreed that the engine be allowed to go to any adjacent Parish, if horses be sent for it - but on these conditions only: namely, that such Parish is to pay for any injury which the engine, the pipes or the buckets may sustain. The engineers of Stansted are expected to attend with the engine, who are to be remunerated by the committee of Stansted Mountfitchet as if the fire had happened in that Parish; such remuneration to be refunded by the Parish in which the fire occurs.

These engine resolutions were to stand for many years but finding attendances and achievements during the next 40 odd years is a little tender so we will look another time from the late 1860's onwards.

P. J. Brown



GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION IN STANSTED

"THINKING DAY CELEBRATIONS - 22ND FEBRUARY

"Thinking Day" is so called as it is on this day that all members of the worldwide Girl Guide Movement think and pray for those in other countries. Many also contribute to the Thinking Day Fund, which is used to relieve hardship caused by natural disasters or to assist in the spreading of Guiding throughout the world by providing help and training.

It was amazing that both our Founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell and our World Chief Guide, Lady Olave Baden-Powell both shared the same birthday - 22nd February - the date on which we have celebrated Thinking Day for over 50 years. Although there were many years difference between them, 32 in fact, they were very happy together. Olave was deeply devoted to her husband Robert and between them they nurtured one of the most successful and enduring Youth Movements ever formed - Guides and Scouts are still going from strength to strength.

Guides have stepped into the 90's with our new attractive uniform, which is so suitable for today's active youngsters and so comfortable for the Adult Leaders. All this designed for us by Jeff Banks of BBC's Clothes Show. I am sure it would have won Olave's approval, as she was very energetic and forward thinking right up to the end of her life.

We in Stansted enjoyed our Thinking Day Party this year in St. John's Hall and jettied our way round the world visiting each country hosted by the various Brownie and Guide Units, sampling their foods, customs, dances, etc. having our 'Passports' stamped and moving on - great fun.

The next day Jan King (our new County Commissioner) and I were honoured in being asked to join the folk group to play in Westminster Abbey's annual Thinking Day Service. There were Guides from every nation together with our Chief Guide, Jane Garside and the Chief Scout, Garth Morrison (he looked lovely in his kilt!). We were reminded of our duty as part of the sisterhood of Guiding to love and care for each other and to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. It was a wonderful service and Jan and I were proud to be a part of it, and proud to be a part of this unique Movement founded by a man who must have had the most marvellous insight, as it fulfilled a need in those early days and still does so 81 years later!

Mary Warnett
District Commissioner
Stansted



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Violet Szyskowska would probably neither have expected nor wanted an eulogy after her death because she was essentially an unassuming modest person.

For us members of the RBL she was something of an inspiration - although she never knew it. She had been a member of the Committee for many years - always suffering from ill health, those same qualities remained constant. If she could get to a meeting she would. If there was a social function she would do her best to help and be there.

What an example. Her death in March will leave a gap in our ranks which it will be difficult to fill. 'We will remember her'.

The Gulf War, thank God, is over - and casualties were light. But war and conflict bring tragedies, and families need support. The work of the Legion must go on; and, for that, people in branches are needed. People to carry on the work of Violet, with the same dedication and purpose.

Thanks Vi, for all you did, and for the example you set. Your watchword indeed was 'service'.

A fascinating account by Sheila Parry of a year spent in Nairobi and other cities made a memorable evening on 21st February. Among many aspects of life there she spoke of the magnificent scenery, the beauty of the animals and plants, the noises of Africa at night and the heat. We saw some lovely slides and handled general examples of jewellery, etc.

Edna Winckworth has worked a "kneeler" donated by the Women's Section of the British Legion, which will shortly be added to those already in St. John's Church.

Forty eight members from seven villages met at Berden on 13th March for our quarterly Group Meeting. After normal business there was community singing of old songs, led by an excellent Berden choir.

Our speaker at our branch meeting on Thursday 18th April at 7.45 p.m. in the Day Centre will be Mr. Clarke from Hope Nurseries. He will bring along some plants and the evening promises to be very interesting.

Pat Clower
815220



ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL
from 10-12 noon

at the Day Centre

in aid of the
Saint Clare West Essex Hospice

The Hospice will be using the Day Centre
for day care

PLEASE COME and enable us to give the
Hospice a substantial sum

Raffle Bring and Buy Stalls

Admission 50p

If you are unable to come and would care to give
a donation, this would be very much appreciated



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

All are welcome to our meetings (visitors 75p)

Thurs. 4th April - "Essex Pride" speaker
Bob Chisholm 1 p.m. in the
Day Centre, Chapel Hill

Thurs. 2nd May - A.G.M. and "Green's Stores"
8 p.m. in the Friends Meeting
House, Chapel Hill



STANSTED TENNIS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Tennis Club
will be held at "Little Fosters", 105
Cambridge Road, Stansted, at 8 p.m. on
Friday 5th April.

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

Stansted Art & Craft Market

The change of date of the Annual Market held on 27/28 October last year resulted in a clash with other similar functions in the area but although attendances were down a little, approaching 2,000 people visited the function, the 12th of its history.

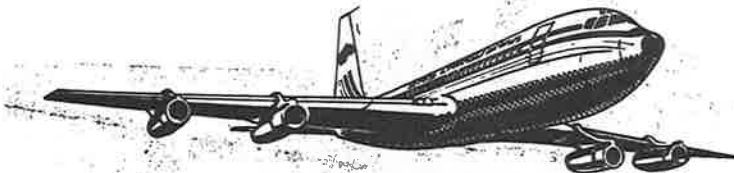
As always careful consideration has been given to the recipients of the available money and whilst rather less than the previous year, was nevertheless, I believe, appreciated by the recipients. This year donations were made to:

Stansted Trust £300
Stansted Trust for Needy Children £300
Medics £100
Mountfitchet High School £100
Stansted Adult & Youth Centre £100
St Clare WE Hospice Care Trust £100
Stansted Neighbourhood Watch £50
Scouts Group £50

In addition we have pledged £50 towards the Parish Council's appeal for refurbishment of the Saxon signs at the entrances to the village.

This year's Market will be held at the Adult & Youth Centre over the weekend of 12/13 October - we look forward to seeing you there.

G. Snow
Chairman, Stansted Art & Craft Market



STANSTED AIRPORT TERMINAL OPENING

Stansted Airport was described as "integrating as far as possible with the local environment" by Sir Norman Payne of BAA when the Queen opened the new terminal last month to the strains of the Wren Orchestra and King's College Choir.

The day was about travel. The Queen's train was miraculously on time from Liverpool Street. She described Stansted as a stepping stone into and out of this country though there was a sparkle of humour in Her Majesty's voice when she said: "I travel a great deal by air; other people find travelling a lot tougher".

My day off from commuting to London to represent the parish at the Royal Opening was both an honour and a pleasure. Security was in top gear which even prevented the reception party from rehearsing their bows and curtsies on the railway station platform. The organisation was immaculate (despite inevitable behind the scenes fluster). We were given numbered programmes which told us our table for lunch and seat row for the opening ceremony.

After taking our seats we were entertained to the music of Neilson, Haydn, Elgar and Mr. Handel whilst watching on TV monitors the Queen progress from the station to meet local dignitaries (parish council chairmen don't come under that description!), airport employees and contractors. The Queen spent a lot of time with the children who had entered the school painting competition. So that we knew who was who on this Royal Progress towards those of us waiting in the departure hall, Mr. Richard Baker was at the microphone throughout to provide commentary.

When the orchestra struck up the National Anthem you knew who had arrived and I was just tall enough to see the top of a red hat 44 rows in front. The ceremonial illumination of a steel archway, whose symbolism escaped me, marked the opening and we all departed for a Royal Luncheon.

Table 45, just two away from the Royal Placemat, contained a Conservative MP from Hertfordshire, two parish councillors, one Independent, one Liberal Democrat, the Operations Director from Heathrow, an official from the Department of Transport and the contractor responsible for the terminal's electrics. Freddie Laker, on the next table, must have been reminiscing over Sky-trains from Stansted which never quite took off.

There is no doubt that our local aerodrome is a magnificent monument of glass and steel and should be a pleasure to travel through. BAA are now waiting for the travel market to pick up and for the tourists to come flooding in. I wonder if the Norman founders of ancient Mountfitchet foresaw a Sir Norman invasion in the 20th century?

Alan Dean



STANSTED SCOUT GROUP

QUIZ EVENING

April 20th
Saturday

ST. JOHN'S HALL

7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. start

Tickets £4 includes
light supper & glass of wine

Tickets available from
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STANSTED AFTERNOON



STANSTED EVENING

Our February meeting was cancelled owing to the snow, but it was a beautiful afternoon for our March meeting, which was opened by our President Mrs. Pauline Cianciola. After business was dealt with eight birthday posies were handed out.

Our speaker, Mrs. Packer, was introduced and spoke to us of the work for the R.N.I. Blind and made us all realise the amount of work that goes into the talking book tapes, with at least six tracks of twelve listening hours and always recorded with professional readers; also talking newspapers and the high class standard of education in the Sunshine House Schools. These problems should make us value our sight.

The Raffle was one, 1st Mrs. Cianciola, 2nd Mrs. Gibbs. The competition, a decorated egg, 1st Mrs. Calver, 2nd Mrs. Little.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Mountfitchet Garden Club meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month at 8.00 p.m. at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Everyone is welcome to come along and see what happens at our meetings. It will cost just 75p for an enjoyable evening out. The meetings begin with a talk given by a specialist on a particular aspect of gardening. Past subjects have included pest control, tips on growing soft fruit, and Alpines. Should you then wish to join us as a member considerable discounts can be obtained on high quality well known seed and bulb orders purchased through the Club. So it's all down to YOU now!

Please come along and share in our Ninth Spring Show:-

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY 6 APRIL 1991

at

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
(Chapel Hill)

REFRESHMENTS GRAND RAFFLE

SALE OF PRODUCE AT END OF SHOW

ADMISSION FREE COMMENCES AT 2.30 P.M.

The Stansted Evening W.I. held its March meeting on the 14th of the month. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Brenda Ryan, President. Jerusalem was sung, then the secretary, Mrs. Olive Barrett, read the minutes. The results of the Jumble Sale were very good. The proceeds of the raffle from the February meeting, plus the donation from Options of Elsenham, were given to the St. Clare Hospice to help their work.

After the business was concluded we had a most interesting and informative talk on "fostering" given by Mrs. Shelagh Fish from Saffron Walden. She talked about the differences between fostering and adoption, also she spoke about the need for more fostering families due to the different needs and ages of the children.

Mrs. Julie Barnard also came with Mrs. Fish and talked about the pleasures and problems and satisfaction of fostering. Mrs. Barnard also recounted many amusing, sad, happy and rewarding events in connection with fostering.

After their talk both ladies chatted to the members and answered many questions in connection with their work.

We are very grateful that we could get such an insight into this very rewarding and demanding work.

C. E. Brook
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LADIES

Have fun whilst keeping fit every Tuesday during term time at St. John's Church Hall 8.15 - 9.30 p.m. Summer Term commences 9th April 1991.

Enquiries telephone 723266 or 812816.





25th April – St Mark's Day

St Mark wrote the shortest and earliest of the four Gospels. It is said that he wrote it in Rome, around AD 65 or even earlier, telling about the life of Jesus as it was told to him by the apostle Peter.

We know quite a lot about St Mark, or John Mark as he is called in the Bible. We know that his mother had a house in Jerusalem where the earlier followers of Christ met, and that his cousin was Barnabas who travelled with St Paul.

Mark had known Jesus, he was one of those who followed Jesus to the garden at Gethsemane. Mark is supposed to be the young man who was wrapped only in a sheet, because he had just got out of bed and hadn't had time to dress, who escaped from the temple guards by leaving the sheet and running away naked.

It is because Mark knew Jesus, and so many of Jesus' friends, that he was able to write so dramatically about the events in Jesus' life.



WALKING INTO STANSTED IN SPRING

Fair daffodils! I'm glad to see
 You've come again in bloom;
 Not all the snows of yester-month
 Could bring about your doom:
 Stay, stay,
 Until I come this way
 Bade for my food supply;
 And, having done my shopping chores,
 I'll wave you all goodbye.

I have short time to stay, as you:
 We both enjoy the spring.
 I love to see you on my way
 Yes, more than anything;
 I try
 To find a reason why
 Some scatter litter on the wayside banks;
 But, to all those who planted you
 I've only: "Thanks!"

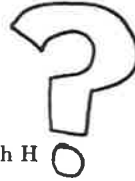
Phyllis Harrison

*If your nose runs and your feet
 smell, what's wrong with you?
 You're built upside down.*

PUZZLING

If 16 0 in the P = 16 Ounces in the Pound, what are the following?

26 L in the A
 7 W of the W
 12 M of the Y
 24 H in a D
 52 W in a Y
 100 P in the P
 4 F and 1 T on each H



answers at the bottom of the page

TALKING THROUGH YOUR HAT

You must have heard someone say this, but did you know that in the 17th century men actually talked through their hats in church?

Men wore hats or hoods in church and, on entering at the door they would remove their hat and, holding it before their mouth, breathe a short prayer before replacing their hat and sitting down.

26 letters in the alphabet, 7 pounds, four fingers and 1 thumb weeks in a year, 100 pence in the of the year, 24 hours in a day, 52 wonders of the world, 12 months



OUTCAST

(A further contribution from the Mountfitchet School's successful entries published by Essex C.C. Education Dept. in the volume "Do Pigs Dream?")

I was at school, which was supposed to be a happy, friendly place. Mine wasn't. I was in class; the room felt cold, I was shaking, upset. They were laughing at me. I had done nothing except be myself.

They hated me. I wanted to go home but I was stuck i this room with all these people who stared and laughed at me. I was like a mouse surrounded by cats who were waiting to pounce, to eat me. I wished they would. I hated this place; nobody liked me. I wanted to cry, but I could not because they would call me a baby, a wimp. What could I do? I was helpless and lonely. I wanted someone to talk to, but nobody would listen. I tried to shut them out, pretend they were not there. It did not work. Their menacing laughs pierced through my wall. I was hopeless. I wanted to go home, to go away from here. It is all because I am black. IT'S NOT MY FAULT, IS IT?

Emma Raven



The Wood Louse

Scurrying across the decaying log
 Came a sable wood louse,
 Filament legs wisping,
 Convex shell rocking.

A small boy,
 Amused,
 Flicked it into the grass.
 Unruffled
 It calmly righted itself
 And continued on its way.

Grant me, Lord, the resilience of a wood louse,
 So that when I'm
 Knocked aside by a bus catcher,
 Stung by a sarcastic remark,
 Interrupted mid-sentence,
 Delayed when in a hurry,
 I won't sulk or complain
 But simply carry on.

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