

Nov 191

The LINK



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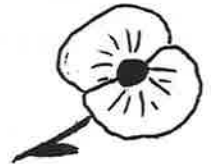
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**REMEMBRANCE
DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY 10th**

10.50 WAR MEMORIAL

followed by

UNITED SERVICE

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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.

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

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

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14th November for December issue
12th December for January issue

CHURCHES TOGETHER



The ecumenical Bible Study Group led by Rev. Lydia Rapkin meets again on THURSDAY OCTOBER 31ST at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall.

WITH THANKS TO ST. JOHN'S

To mediaeval Evensong we came last
harvest night
And before the Lord of plenty laid
our fare
The poor were not forgotten in their
plight
For soap, biscuits, bin-bags and much
more lay there.
Our thanks to tall who came, who
helped, who shared.
It is together that we feed the
world,
And by our solidarity show them we
care.

E. Quinn



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

"The glorious company of the apostles praise thee;
the goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee;
the noble army of martyrs praise thee;
the holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee."

The obsession with modernising and renovating everything in sight which was so prevalent in the sixties has given way in the nineties to a desire to value and cherish our past. Old buildings are lovingly restored to their former style, rather than being ruthlessly bulldozed and replaced with concrete and steel monstrosities.

We are learning to value our past and our heritage, not just in the grand monuments of our country - the cathedrals and stately homes - but also to value the history of the ordinary people of our country. So everyday buildings - churches, shops, factories and homes, are being preserved so that our children can see for themselves how past generations lived, worked and worshipped.

As Christians, we too have a concern with the past. Our faith has its roots deep in history, both in the events of the gospels and more deeply in the stories and events of the Old Testament. As our faith has grown and spread, Christians of all traditions have remembered and valued the life and contribution of the great figures of its history - the apostles who first proclaimed the good news of Jesus; the early missionaries who carried that good news far and wide; and the martyrs who were ready to die for their faith.

Equally important are those whose lives have inspired a few who were close to them, and those whose faith is known to God alone. We are fellow Christians with them; united in faith, united in hope, and united with them in praise of the God whom we worship.

In this month of November we focus on remembering those who have gone before us in faith - the apostles, saints and martyrs of past generations, those close to us who have died in recent years, and those who have died in the tragic circumstances of war. We thank God for their lives, for their faith, and for their example to us.

But Christianity isn't just concerned with the past. For our faith, although rooted in history, is a living faith. We are called to live as God's children, and our death is not the end, as we are called to share with those who have gone before us in the light and peace of his eternal kingdom.

"God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, keep and bless you, and all his saints, living and departed; and bring you all unto eternal life, in the glory of the resurrection."

Bob and Brenda Wallace

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day
8 pm Holy Communion (no 8 am)
- 3 6.30 pm Requiem Mass
- 5 8.15 pm Prayer Group at 15 Wetherfield
- 7 10.30 am Service at Norman Court
- 12 2 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 23 10 - 1 Christmas Market in St. John's Hall
Evening Concert including extracts from Handel's Messiah
- 24 9.30 am Preacher: Malcolm Treacher
- 26 2.15 pm Tiny Tots



REGISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Baptisms

- 1st Jemima Victoria Barker
- 7th Helen Frances Martin
- 8th Chloe Marie Kitson
- 29th Jemma Louise Boyton
Callum James Byers
Robert Henry Byres
Jodie Maureen Sheila Wood

Wedding

- 7th Peter Richard Yeo and Lynn Janet Adams

Funerals

- 2nd Arthur Frederick Trundle, 82
- 12th Marian Caroline Wagener, 82
- 27th Albert Dockerill, 77

The Charity Appeal for St. Lukes Tide 20th October - 24th November, is the West Essex Hospice Care Services, Administered by the St. Clare Trust.

The aims of the Trust are to set up a network of Day Care CENTres for the approx. 600 terminally ill patients throughout the care and to provide support for their caring families and friends. One of these centres opened at the Village Day Centre in June. Many more are needed along with plans to commission a small 8-10 bedded hospice as soon as possible. The Trust urgently needs funds to provide these services.

Your donation will help to this end.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

*West Essex
Hospice Care Trust*



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

23 November 1991

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. John's Hall

Tombolas - gifts - cakes - plants
produce

And many other stalls

Refreshments Father Christmas

ADVENT CONCERT



St John's Church



Saturday 23 November 1991

8pm

Messiah Part 1
Sleepers Wake

Handel
J S Bach

Tickets available from the clergy:

Adults	£5
Concessions	£2.50
Family Ticket	£10

* * * * *

Tenors and basses are especially welcome to join this performance. Rehearsals are on Friday evenings at 8pm in St John's Church.

* * * * *



St John's Choir are looking for two tenors to sing Evensong once a month on the first Sunday. Would anyone interested please contact Colin Hamling 813932.

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.

Traditionally November is the month that we remember especially our deceased family and friends.

That which we fear most of all in life is death. Whether our own or the death of others, it seems so final and so cruel yet Christ has opened up a pathway of hope by rising from the dead. The darkest thing which we have to face is permeated by the light of Christ.

Death hurts but we should not be fearful, there is hope in the midst of suffering and mourning.

'They are no further from us than God,
and God is very near.'

E. Quinn



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Margaret McKay MA BD
16 Gibson Gardens
Saffron Walden, Essex
Tel: (95) 28155

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden, Essex
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.

PREACHER FOR NOVEMBER

3 11 am Mr. McKenzie Family Service
10 10.45 Remembrance Service at
St. John's Church
17 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin Communion
24 11 am Rev. L. Rapkin

The 3rd Bible Study meeting is in the Lecture Hall on 31st October at 7.30 p.m. led by Rev. Lydia Rapkin. We are studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. These meetings are open to all and everyone very welcome.

A Reminder

Please come to our Autumn Fayre, November 2nd in the Lecture Hall at 10.30 a.m. All the usual stalls and the Vestery Cafe.



God's
Love is
Everlasting

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Michael Hayman
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.
Tel: 654475

Secretary: Mrs Marion Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens
Stansted, Essex CM24 8HG

Services: Morning Service - 9.30am.

The recent Local Preachers' Meeting of the Bishop's Stortford Circuit was held at Stansted at the Quaker Meeting House. All his friends here will be pleased to know that, on that occasion, Tim Richards passed his final, oral, examination and will shortly be recognised as a fully accredited Local Preacher. Our prayers and good wishes go with him and all his family as he undertakes this new challenge.



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for
worship: 11am

A STANSTED LINK WITH AN EARLY QUAKER SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA

Last summer, a note was left at my cottage by Clarence William Leeds Jnr (81), Clarence William Leeds III (56) and Gregory "Bud" Tayler Leeds (25) asking if I could find out anything about an ancestor they believed to have emigrated from Stansted. The following embodies some of the information that came to light.

In the parish registers of Stansted, the births of two brothers named Leeds are recorded under the dates 15 November 1651 and 3 March 1654.

Daniel and Thomas Leeds were born during the Commonwealth period, a time of turbulence and intense religious dispute when the Church of England was under siege; some even said it was extinct for, by then its liturgy was proscribed and there were no longer any recognised bishops. Any who proclaimed themselves its adherents suffered for their loyalty, as did many others who did not bow to the prevailing religious orthodoxy. Daniel and Thomas were still quite small boys when the monarchy was restored and, as they grew up, they may even have heard of Charles II's journeyings through Stansted on his way to the races at Newmarket.

With the restoration of the monarchy had come the restoration of the Anglican Church. Although the country was then held to be at peace it was, unfortunately, not peaceful for those who did not obey the 1662 Act of Uniformity and use the Prayer Book in their worship as specified in that Act. The Prayer Book which many people, outside the Anglican Church as well as in it, regard as one of the gems of our literary and religious heritage was the occasion of hundreds of clergy being driven out of their livings when they refused to accept it. Inevitably, Independents, Baptists, Quakers and Roman Catholics suffered for their loyalty to their particular interpretation of Christianity. Some of them decided to start a new life beyond these shores.

In the summer of 1677, Daniel and Thomas Leeds joined with two hundred and twenty-eight other adventurous souls, many of them Quakers like

themselves, and sailed from London in the ship "Kent". They were making for New Jersey, where land owned by William Penn and two other Quakers was being sold off in lots. As the Encyclopaedia of American Quaker Genealogy recounts: "They landed on what was then an island on the east bank of the Delaware River about fifty miles north of Salem. They called the landing place Burlington."

Getting settled took up the autumn and winter and their Meetings for Worship had to be held in a tent made from the sails of the "Kent". Later, they were held successively in the homes of two of the members until, in 1682, the building of the Burlington Meeting House was completed. Of hexagonal design, it was said to be unique among American Quaker Meeting Houses.

In a few months after they arrived, the Quaker immigrants found it necessary to set up a Monthly Meeting so that administrative matters could be dealt with and births, marriages and deaths recorded.

The first recorded marriage was that of Thomas Leeds to Margaret Collier on 11 August 1678. The certificate of this marriage was signed by three women and ten male Friends. Daniel married some two and a half years later but, alas, his wife Ann died on the birth of their first child. Daniel was, in due course, to bring some notoriety on himself by entering into an argument about the theological stance of William Penn.

The three men who visited Stansted in 1990 (purely by chance because they caught sight of the name on a signpost during a journey between St. Andrews and Ipswich) said they were the 13th, 14th and 15th generations descended from Thomas Leeds.

Mair Muir



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

October

- 31 7.30 URC Hall. Ecumenical Bible Study Group
28-31 Skip at Crafton Green

November

- 2 10.00-12.30 URC Hall. Winter Fayre
6.30 7 Blythwood Gardens. Liberal Democrats Bonfire-Fireworks
5 Mountfitchet School. Bonfire & Fireworks Party. See Parish Council Notice
7 8.00 Cricket Pavilion. Royal British Legion A.G.M.
8 Sideways Nursery School A.G.M.
9 7.30 St. John's Hall. Scout Group Quiz & Supper
16 8.00 Day Centre Conservatives Quiz & Ploughman's Supper
16-17 Skip at Crafton Green
21 7.45 Day Centre. Royal British Legion Women's Section Social
23 10.00-1.00 St. John's Hall Christmas Market Evening St. John's Church Concert - Part of Handel's "Messiah"

December

- 7 2.30 Broom End Nursing Home Bazaar
8 Parsonage Farm. Conservatives Pre-Christmas Party



STANSTED AFTERNOON

The meeting was held on October 9th and opened by our President Mrs. Cianciola. After the minutes were read and business dealt with, our speaker Mrs. Barrett, gave us a very interesting afternoon on craft, showing how to make Christmas cards, gifts, and decorations.

After tea a light-hearted quiz was held.

The competition, a homemade gift for the Christmas stall, was judged by Mrs. Barrett:- 1st Mrs. Rumney, 2nd Mrs. Calver.

The raffle was drawn and 1st prize Mrs. Hancock, 2nd Mrs. Fullerlove.

STANSTED EVENING

The October meeting of the Stansted Evening W.I. was held on the 10th. The President, Mrs. B. Ryan, welcomed the visitors and presented the birthday buttonholes. The members were reminded that it was nomination night. The minutes were read by the Secretary, Mrs. O. Barrett, also several letters.

The President suggested that the money from the raffle be donated to the Parish Council to buy bulbs to be planted in the village. Members also brought several Jhuggi jumpers knitted for children in India.

The President then introduced the speaker, Mrs. Liz Barrett, who spoke about and demonstrated how to make Christmas cards, small presents and tree decorations, which was very much appreciated by the members.

The competition was for the prettiest pin cushion, which was won by Mrs. Bunting.

We had an advertisement quiz for social time.

C. E. Brook

Good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

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Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

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9-00am-4-00pm. LINE 816008.

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LIBRARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AIDS

THE DAY CENTRE HAS AN

IBM Electric Golf-ball typewriter for disposal - requires a little servicing - free for collection
Ring B/S 815091



Stansted branch hosted a very successful Group Meeting on 11st September with 46 members from 6 villages.

Three County Members were present - Mrs. Muir, County Chairman, Mrs. Evans, County Secretary and Mrs. Phillips, County Treasurer. Mrs. Muir told us about the Purse Presentation to the Queen Mother and thanked Stansted for a lovely meeting with delicious refreshments. Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Phillips congratulated branches on the money they unceasingly raised for ex-servicemen and their families still in need.

Officers elected for the coming year are:-

Group Chairman - Mrs. Levey (Stansted)
Group Treasurer - Mrs. Bailey (Birchanger)
Secretarial and Transport -
Mrs. Parkinson (Birchanger), Mrs. Banks (Birchanger), Miss Wiffen (Stansted)
County Representative - Miss Webster (Littlebury)

Our branch meeting was held the following week on 19th September, when nomination forms were given out ready for our A.G.M. in October. Mrs. Steele, who is not standing again for committee, was thanked for her services. We then prepared poppies for distribution and held our annual harvest sale raising £26.41 for our funds. This year we have given away £470 allocated as follows:-

HQ General Fund - £35
County - £35
Local Services - £50
Poppy Appeal - £60
Benevolent Fund - £290

At our social evening in the Day Centre at 7.45 p.m. on 21st November we shall hear Gordon Bridges and friend on the drums and accordion playing wartime songs.

Pat Clower
815220

BROOME END NURSING HOME

You are invited to a

MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at 2.30 p.m.

on December 7th

Raffle, Cakes and Gift Stall

Please come and support

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Office Hours
Monday to Friday
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex CM24 8AQ
Telephone: (0279) 813214

If this edition of the Link reaches you in time, we would like to remind you about Stansted's own bonfire and firework celebration at the Mountfitchet High School on the evening of November 5th.

Delicious food will be prepared and sold by the school's P.T.A. so a good evening is practically guaranteed. All we need is a fine evening and plenty of onlookers, so keep an eye on the noticeboards and press for starting times.

Profits will be given to Stansted Millers for the ongoing work at our Windmill - a very worthy cause.

Recycling continues to be a problem at Crafton Green; so a gentle, general reminder. The paper for the paperbank must be put into the holes at the side of the bank and not thrown on top. It is not open topped and with recent gusty weather some of Stansted has been in danger of disappearing under a layer of old newspapers!!

Herewith a diary note, that the "ordinary" rubbish skip will be at Crafton Green from October 28th to the 31st inclusive.

Pearl E. Wellings
Vice Chairman
Stansted Parish Council



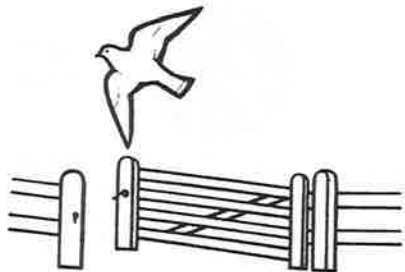
STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

On Saturday November 16th at 8.0 p.m. the Joint Branch are holding another Quiz Evening and Ploughmans Supper at the Day Centre with teams of six answering questions on a variety of subjects. There will be prizes galore for the winning teams and of course, a booby prize for the team that scores least well. These events are always immensely popular so start forming your teams as soon as possible!

Our Christmas Diary includes two annual events which always prove highly successful. The pre-Christmas Drinks Party will this year be held on Sunday December 8th at Parsonage Farm, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morton. The Annual Dinner Dance will be held as usual, at Stansted Hall on Saturday January 4th and further details will be announced next month.

Tickets for all these events can be obtained from either Joan Summers or Bridget Gott.

PETER KIRK SCHOOL



You will probably now be aware through articles in the local press that, although small, the school is definitely here to stay. At the present time there are sixteen pupils who now attend Peter Kirk School, all of whom have severe learning difficulties. This forms the nucleus from which we expect to grow and continue to serve the needs of children living in Uttlesford.

Local playgroups continue to use the soft play room in addition to primary schools and other institutions. The village summer playscheme was also based at the school. The Huw Johnson Club have used our minibus on their recent holiday and also on several trips.

We are at the present time seeking to adapt or replace our minibus to enable us to accommodate pupils in wheelchairs. This is a priority for this year and we should welcome any help in this direction. Once again we shall be holding "Stansted's Biggest" Jumble Sale on Saturday 28th March - yes we are collecting already. Another exciting Summer Fete is planned for Saturday 11th July. We look forward to seeing you at these events and thank you for all of your support.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At 8 p.m. in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill,
Stansted:-

Thursday 7th November
Arkesden - Kate Barwood

Thursday 5th December
Do Paintings Communicate? - Simon Townsend



The A.G.M. was well attended this year, and donations of £600 were made to each of the beneficiaries of this year's Carnival. The Cubs and Scouts will be putting theirs towards new tents. The Brownies and Guides are hoping to buy new tables for their hut. The Sports Association want to replace fencing on Hargrave Park and the Millers have ongoing repairs to the Windmill. A sum of £50 was also presented to the Parish Council towards refurbishing the knights signs in the village. £100 was reimbursed to the Mountfitchet P.T.A. for the cost of the Marquee on Carnival Day.

Finally a report was read from Mrs. Johnson on behalf of the Carnival Trust Fund which every year receives the amount actually collected on the Carnival route, which explained that last year's money went towards buying a bed for a terminally ill child, enabling them to enjoy their last days at home rather than in hospital, and as usual towards clothes and things for the needy of the village.

Finally a desperate plea; several of last year's committee have been forced to resign due to work commitments, three are moving from the area. Could you replenish this rather depleted committee. Perhaps you are new to the area? What better way to get to know people. Are you retired? Just finished school? We need you! If you are none of the above we still need you! It just involves meeting once a month and, of course, Carnival Day. The present members are both young and old, insane and sane. If you think you can help please telephone me.

Theresa Stockwell
813446

If you have a
PROBLEM
or need
ASSISTANCE

Telephone
HELPLINE
816008

Monday - Friday
9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Stansted's voluntary
community care service



Hello Again.

We are now well into the first half of the autumn term. This is a wonderful time of year, and the children are busy collecting items for their sponsored Nature Boards, which we hope will raise funds for the Christmas parties.

Elaine Lockerby the photographer has been in to see us, so there will be lots of lovely photos for grandparents and families at Christmas time. Usborne Books are visiting at the moment and mums have been selecting books for additional presents I'm sure.

The second half of term is the truly exciting time. After Bonfire Night the days whizz past until we reach the climax of the year THE NATIVITY PLAY. Then a visit from Father Christmas at the Christmas parties. Never a dull moment, but truly worth it.

Auntie Helen

P.S. The A.G.M. is FRIDAY 8TH NOVEMBER. Please try to come to find out how Nursery School works and to speak to teachers from both Primary Schools.



What a lot we learnt about each other on our holiday! Living together for a week proved a very interesting experience. One member turned out to be a paragon of tidiness with clothes for the next day neatly placed in the drawer ready for wearing. His room mate was not so neat but by the end of the week he too was putting things into the drawer instead of on the floor.

We soon discovered who was likely to disappear when it was time to wash up, who was willing to help a friend to make their bed and who always had room for second helpings at meal times.

Now we are making plans for next year's holiday. This time we'll remember to pack extra sheets. We will tell members to bring their sunhats and make sure there are enough tea-cloths for all our eager helpers.

For the time being we look forward to our firework party, Christmas party, Carol Service and Pantomime trip. We have a busy time ahead but we know it will all be great fun.

M. G. Johnson



FIRE SERVICE JUMBLE SALE

May we send our grateful thanks to all who were able to support the Fire Service Jumble Sale. Those who gave jumble, raffle prizes and donations, together with all our wonderful helpers and of course all who arrived to purchase. We sincerely trust you all managed to find good bargains along with an enjoyable afternoon. So on behalf of the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund please accept our sincere thanks.

P. J. Brown



STANSTED SCOUT GROUP

QUIZ EVENING

SAT. 9TH NOVEMBER

ST. JOHN'S HALL

7.30 P.M. FOR 8 P.M.

Tickets £4 each incl. supper.
Licenced Bar Available
Our Grand Draw will take place during evening

Tickets from Brenda Ryan
B/S 812725

A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY 1991

Thirty children from N.E. London and Essex, with difficulties at home, have been given a 'holiday of a life-time' in Kent.

For a week, the National Children's Home of Bourne Place, near Tonbridge, was taken over and 25 volunteers experienced in youth work, with ages 18 to 66, arranged an action-packed programme for them.

The children, aged 10-13, had been recommended for a holiday by Social Services, Head-teachers, Church Ministers, and of the 30 there were 24 from one-parent families. In most cases this was to be their only holiday of the year.

Five 'families' of six children and five helpers, were formed and stayed together during the week. Meals, cooked by two helpers, were taken together with each family occupying one table. Often for the first time children were faced with a choice of food - three main dishes and four puddings being on offer with seconds and even thirds. By the middle of the week all children were happily sharing their table's chores and saying the light-hearted graces.

After breakfast everyone made up their own packed lunch, choosing bread, fillings, fruit, drinks, crisps, etc. as wanted.

The day Chessington was a favourite, spent in families. At the picnic table, surrounded by thousands of people, an unusual group could be seen, of 1 coloured adult of 20, 1 girl of 19, a woman of 35 and men of 45 and 66 with a strange mixture of 6 multi-race children opening their lunch bags and all naturally waiting for grace to be said.

Another favourite was the two water cities visited, with wave machines, slides and indoor games. An afternoon pond-dipping and investigating a Nature Trail guided by a Nature Reserve Warden met with whole-hearted enthusiasm. Forty minutes on the Hythe/Dymchurch Railway, followed by fish and chips and an afternoon on Camber Sands beach was highly rated.

At Bourne Place there were swings, sports facilities and an afternoon for Olympics. Arts were taken up by all children, who presented 'David and Goliath' with groups divided into (a) scenery and costumes (b) music and sound effects and (c) actors. The presentation, Saturday evening, was followed by a party of magic, ghost stories, hats, balloons, whistles, poppers and blow-outs.

Some came in only the clothes they stood in. New and nearly new clothes had been collected and filled the wardrobe room to which the majority of children were taken, to their delight.

Another room was the shop for which over 400 new gifts had been accumulated - necklaces, toiletries, purses, many costing over £10. The children came in, in families, to buy four presents, on their first visit, at 10p, 20p or 30p, and the next day up to another six. Wrapping paper, sellotape and gift cards were provided.

It was known beforehand that at least one child had been abused. During the week another, in the security of the week, revealed such a problem and this was referred to the helper who was a Social Services worker. Another helper was a trained nurse.

With mixed backgrounds some problems would be expected but none arose. Not a fight or a quarrel all the week. With every morning, afternoon and evening action packed there was no time. Bedtime was 9.30 with maximum of four to a room - including an adult.

In a review at the end of the week the children were asked for their dislikes and long pauses only produced one - having to go to bed.

Take-home presents for each child were 'freebie' bags - biros from large firms, wallets and 50p from banks, T-shirts from Fods, etc. During the week photos were taken and printed so each took home about 7 or 8 in which they were pictured.

Sadly the writer experienced taking home three children on Sunday morning at a time notified to all parents. Here were children with a week's excitement to talk about, presents to take home, presents for themselves, photos and often three bags of new clothes.

Child A - a lively boy all week - was not to be taken to his parents nearby (reason not given). After a minute of banging a man appeared and not a word was exchanged between man and boy whose head had now slumped as he walked into the house.

Child B - a friendly little girl who had had the time of her life. The front door of the upstairs flat was open but mum never bothered to come down to speak to the child or helpers. Eventually the child got mum to the top of the stairs, but still not a word and already the girl's new straw hat was on another's head.

Child C - a single parent family with not much money to spare. Mum was watching out of the window, the child got to the gate and already mum was halfway down the path. Lots of hugs and the excitement of the week was quickly being recounted.

One of the three was lucky.

Whatever they now face, hopefully some will treasure for a long time the joy of friendship, co-operation and trust which they experienced in a family for a week. Past experience shows that children four year's later have talked glowingly of their week.

The holiday costs around £4,500 and this comes from appeals to local Lions clubs, Rotary, Round Table and church organisations. The clothes and gifts, often unwanted Christmas presents, are similarly donated and all contributions are welcome and necessary. Every penny donated is spent on the children as all helpers are volunteers.



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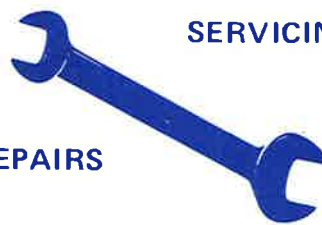
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