

Jan 92

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out false pride in place and blood
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Tennyson

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Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.

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

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16th January for February issue
13th February for March issue

CHURCHES TOGETHER



Epiphany

A strange word - Epiphany - and hardly one that we use in our everyday conversation. It does not fit in with family talk around the breakfast or tea table or with a supper with your plate on your knee while watching television and it does not often occur in the office, the shop or the school playground. But somehow or other we have got to get the meaning of this very 'churchy' word in to those places.

In church we associate Epiphany with the coming of the wise men at the birth of Christ from countries far distant from Palestine and then returning home taking with them the message of Christmas, that God is in the world in Jesus Christ and that mankind can know him through Jesus Christ: the epiphany or manifestation of God. Today, we celebrate Epiphany with this meaning on January 6th. Originally that date was the one when the church celebrated the birth of Christ as well: celebrations on Epiphany long preceded having Christmas Day on December 25th, a festival of which there are no traces until the fourth century; it was only later that the church divided its festival, keeping December 25th to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus and the coming of the shepherds and January 6th for Epiphany and the visit of the Wise Men. It is interesting that we seem to feel they should belong together more closely than this and so most carol services before Christmas include the story of the wise men.



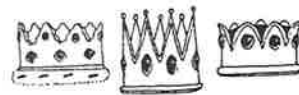
January 6th is also an older date for the winter solstice than December 25th and so like Christmas, Epiphany has become a Christian festival "inextricably intertwined" like the honeysuckle and the bindweed with beliefs and traditions that are far from Christian. It has overtones of paganism and folk religion. Some of our deepest fears of the darker things of life find expression at this time of long winter nights and cold, sunless days. So we talk of the light of the star guiding the magi as a St. Matthew's story and of the light of Jesus Christ being taken out into the darkness of the world. But, at the same time, we think of new beginnings at the solstice and of the promise and apprehension of what the New Year

holds for us. Will the world be covered in darkness? Will there be yet more war, starvation and tyranny? Will my family be safe? Will we prosper? Is my job safe? Are we sure of a roof over our heads?

All these are natural human concerns and worries and there is no harm in this other side to our religious celebrations even though our stricter Protestant forebears reacted so strongly against it that they went overboard and refused to celebrate Christmas even, let alone Epiphany. But nevertheless we must not lose sight of Epiphany.

So, what is the relevance of Epiphany as the revelation of God to the world in Jesus Christ this January 1992? What is the relevance of this Christian festival to our families, to those with whom we work, to those whom we meet in the street or the shop? The answer must lie in how our faith in Jesus Christ leads us to deal with the unknown of 1992, its humdrum daily events as well as its catastrophes and celebrations. We have said "goodbye" to Christmas 1991. The decorations are put away to be dusted off next year and the tree is either back in its box, replanted in the garden or discarded but the coming of Jesus Christ cannot be treated like that. Epiphany means that His coming must be with us all the year sustained by our faith and that our lives must in some way take that faith out into contact with other people. That is the meaning of Epiphany. This so "churchy" word is in fact very practical and must be seen to be in practice. Jesus Christ is our light in the darkness and in whatever darkness lies ahead, its shining in us brings Christ to all whom we meet and into every situation we face.

Revd. M. M. McKay
United Reformed Church

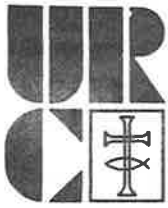


Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18th - 25th

The ecumenical Service for Christian Unity will be held at St. Theresa's on Sunday 19th January at 6.30 p.m.

This year's theme and material have been prepared by a Belgian ecumenical group and is based on Matthew 28 verses 16-20



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.

PREACHERS FOR JANUARY

- 5th Mrs. Cornell of Saffron Walden
- 12th Rev. M. McKay Family Service
- 19th Rev. L. Rapkin Communion
- 26th Mr. M. Dyer of Stansted

WILLIAM BUNTING

On December 10th everyone was saddened by the news of the death of William Bunting, our oldest Church member. He was born in Saffron Walden in January 1897 and came with his mother and father to Stansted in December 1912 when they took over the greengrocers shop in Lower Street. He served in the 1st World War until March 1919 and then he met May Harrett whom he married on 2nd July 1921. He worked with his mother and father in the shop until they retired in 1933 when he took over the running of the business.

Both he and his wife became members of the then Congregational Church in 1922. He went on to become a deacon and then a Life elder in the U.R.C. He was Church Secretary for many years and when he retired from this post in the early sixties he was appointed Ministers Warden and would always have a warm smile and welcome to any visiting preacher. He continued to be a regular worshipper until his health prevented this but he never lost interest in the church and its members.

May Bunting died suddenly in November 1967 but William continued to live over the shop by now run by his two sons Bob and Doug. His 3rd son Brian is an organ builder. He still liked to help in the shop from time to time and when friends came in he would try and persuade them to have a cup of tea and a chat in his sitting room and look at the latest photos of his great grandchildren (he had 10) of which he was so proud.

In January 1989 he moved into Mead Court and he loved to sit by the window and watch the people and traffic on Cambridge Road. He always had an interesting story to tell when you visited him and he will be greatly missed by a lot of people. This was clearly shown by the number that attended the thanksgiving service for his life on December 17th conducted by Rev. Lydia Rapkin.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Bob, Doug and Brian and their families.

" Janet Townsend



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.

It has been an enormous help to those working regularly at the Whitechapel Mission to have the support of other Stansted Christians for the on-going task of caring for some of East London's street people. The U.R.C. in Stansted have sent clothing and the SHALOM Group have enlisted their personal service on Sundays. This demonstration of solidarity with the poor is worth its weight in gold!

Christmas activities, so recently passed, included a supper party at the Dyers and a united Sunday celebration with the Quakers including a little (in time and size) children's play.

A Happy New Year to all readers!

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting for
worship:** 11am

ELIZABETH HOWARD. 1873-1957

Most people, whether they are members of the Society of Friends or not, know something about Elizabeth Fry and her work for women prisoners, not only in Newgate, but also on the continent. Much less is known about later day Quakers, but they too have been brave and enterprising. One of them, Elizabeth Howard, lived in Epping. Her family belonged to the Anglican church and she did not join Friends until 1903, when she was thirty. From then on, she was actively involved in Quaker work at home and overseas, and during the 1914-18 war acted as Quaker chaplain to conscientious objectors held in prison. It was however with the rise of Hitler that her most difficult work began.

Fluent in German, she was sent to Berlin to help victims of Nazi persecution; she also became a house mother at a rest home set up by Friends in the Taunus Mountains, where, to use her own words, "sufferers who had not been able to escape could come for a couple of weeks to rest, and to be built up mentally and spiritually".

In 1933 she was given an even more hazardous mission which was to try and rescue one Ernst Reuter, who as a Jew had been sent to a prison camp. She writes "I went to Berlin and tramped up and down the Wilhelmstrasse visiting one Ministry after another and even penetrating the Headquarters of the Gestapo where I was myself destined to pass, a year later, hours in detention. It was intensely hot and exhausting and I felt helpless in the toils of a ruthless machine. Patience and persistence were however rewarded".

A year later, by which time she was over seventy, she was sent on what proved to be an abortive attempt to effect another rescue. With the outbreak of war, no more efforts could be made, but she was twice asked by the B.B.C. to broadcast as a Quaker a message of hope to her German friends. She learned afterwards that these had been heard (at their peril) and deeply appreciated.

Her last broadcast, from which I quote, went out after the war, in 1948. "Start this year and every New Year with new courage, new faith in yourselves and your fellow men. Hold to the quiet, unseen forces for good, and to the certainty of God". A timely New Year message for all of us today?

Nancy Tennant

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



DIARY FOR JANUARY

- 2 10.30 Service at Norman Court
- 6 Epiphany of our Lord
7.30 Holy Communion
8.00 Standing Committee
- 7 8.15 Prayer Group at 31 Park Road
- 9 10.30 Service at Mead Court
- 14 2.00 Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
2.15 Tiny Tots
- 19 6.30 United Service at Theresa's:
NO Evensong
- 23 7.30 United Service at Saffron Walden
Baptist Church
- 27 8.00 P.C.C. at the Vicarage
- 28 2.15 Tiny Tots

The Christingle Service will be held at 4 p.m. on Candlemas Day (Sunday 2nd February)

REGISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

Baptisms

- 24 Christina Louise Reed
Kirsty Mary Smith

Funerals

- 20 Henry Thomas Harvey, 88
- 21 Lillian Grace Patmore, 75
- 27 Dorothy Edith Hyde, 77
- 29 Gray Gervase Allard, 65

Congratulations

John Cardell-Oliver has been appointed to the Rectory of St Mary the Virgin, Langham with St Peter, Bosted (north of Colchester). He will be instituted and inducted to the Benefice by the Bishop and the Archdeacon on Tuesday evening, 24 March 1992. His last Sundays in these parishes will be 8 March at Farnham and 15 March at Stansted.

There will be opportunities to thank John and Rachel for all that they have done since coming here in October 1989. Meanwhile please pray for them as they prepare for their move.



CONFIRMATION - The Confirmation service this year is on Sunday 10 May, and preparation will begin in February. There will be a preliminary meeting for anyone who would like to consider confirmation on Monday 13 January at 7.30 p.m. in the Vicarage. Confirmation is open to all adults and young people in their final year at primary school or older. If you would like more details, but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Dn. Brenda at the Vicarage as soon as possible.



CHRISTINGLE -

Our Christingle Service to celebrate the theme of Jesus, the Light of the World, will be on Sunday afternoon, 2 February at 4 p.m. in St. John's Church. All are most welcome, and there will be a retiring collection for the Children's Society.



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.

As we start the New Year, it is a time to reflect on those who are not so well provided for as ourselves, and the poem by Monica Jarlong sums up the need to help others.

A slum is where somebody else lives
Help is what others need.
We all want to be the priest, social worker,
nurse
The Nun in the white habit giving out the
soup -
To work from a position of power
The power being
That we are not the shuffler in the queue
Holding out his bowl.

But there is only one way into the Kingdom
- To be found in our poverty
That is why the citizens are a job lot -
Unhappily married, the feckless mother of
eight,
The harlot no longer young,
The lover of little girls, the sexually
untameable
The alcoholic, the violent, and those whose
drink is despair.

Show me not, Lord, your rich man
With their proud boasts of poverty and
celibacy
They are too much for me
Hide me in those who want to help
and still have strength to do so.
Only those who get on with their lives
And think they have nothing to give
Are any use to me
Let your bankrupts feed me.

CHRIST
has no hands but
our hands,
To do His work today.
He has no feet but
our feet
To lead men in His way
He has no tongue but
our tongue,
To tell men how He died
He has no help but
our help,
To bring men to
His side.

SHALOM

The hallmark of Shalom has been its openness to the ideas of others and respect for the views and beliefs of others. In this context, we were pleased to have representatives of Islam and Judaism speaking to the group in October and November respectively. We were fortunate in both instances to have excellent speakers whose love of their faith engendered deep respect, and whose clarity of presentation and honesty of deliberation enabled us to gain valuable insights and appreciation of their respective religions.

Speaking to us on Islam was one of the most respected scholars in Britain, Dr. Akbar Ahmed, whose book "Discovering Islam" is widely recognised as a seminal work on the subject. It was fortuitous that Dr. Ahmed was able to visit the group as he will be out of the country for some time making a BBC television series of his book in the most important locations that are mentioned in it.

Dr. Ahmed portrayed Islam as a religion of peace and brotherhood in which equality before God is a major tenet. He took great pains to deal with some of the misconceptions that the West has towards Islam. He focussed on the undue attention which is often accorded to the more fanatical devotees of Islam resulting from unrepresentative leadership in such figures as Saddam Hussain, the Ayatollah Khomeini and General Zia al Haq. He stated that these were no more representative of true Islam than the so-called Christians who commit acts of violence and terrorism in Northern Ireland. He outlined how the past and, in particular, imperial domination by the West by popularist leaders who invoke Islam as a cultural identity to focus support for their cause rather than for its true essence.

Dr. Ahmed explained that there are reasons to fear the excessive liberalism of the West especially in relation to family and social morality. The family unit is fundamental to Islamic society and therefore what may seem as an over-conservative response to Western values must be interpreted as a means of protecting what is valuable and priceless to the Islamic community.

In November, Rabbi Miri Lawrence addressed a joint community of Christians from Stansted and Bishop's Stortford and members of the Jewish Synagogue at Harlow in the Quaker Meeting Hall, Chapel Hill. A few of us had heard Rabbi Lawrence before speaking on the Prophet Isaiah and were enthralled by her scholarship and lucidity of presentation. We therefore invited her to speak to Shalom and also wanted to reciprocate the generous hospitality that we had received on previous visits to the Harlow synagogue by inviting the Jewish community there to share with us in a small celebration after the talk by Rabbi Lawrence. Some 40 people came on the evening, 25 Christians and 15 Jews. Rabbi Lawrence's talk lived up to expectations. She explained the distinction between Orthodox, Liberal and Progressive Jews, acknowledged that not all Jews practised Judaism and explained about her own training in the Progressive movement which allows a woman to become a Rabbi.

She dealt specifically with the concept of the Jews as the 'chosen people' which is often misunderstood by non-Jews. It is not meant to be seen as a form of elitism or exclusivity but rather as a special form of responsibility, to undertake to be a witness to the law of God and to practise its morality. This, she explained, has been a burden to the Jews throughout their history as well as a great privilege.

She frankly answered questions on all topics and especially focussed on what may be regarded as the excesses which are occurring in Israel at the present time. She acknowledged that many Jews did not agree with what is happening but because of the persecutions of the past, there is great solidarity and an unwillingness to publicly criticise fellow Jews outside the community.

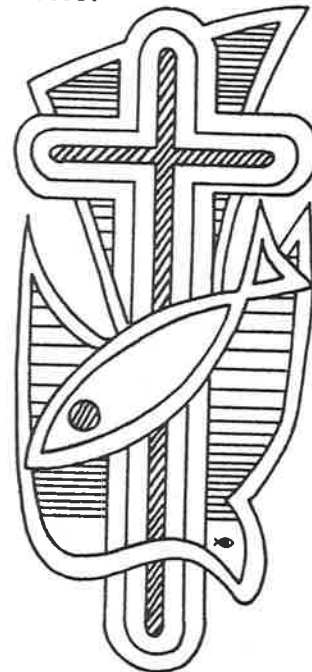
The evening was a great success and we were cordially invited to visit the synagogue whenever we pleased. Especially pleasing were the two letters we subsequently received from Jewish ladies expressing their delight at the evening and their hope for continued fellowship.

Both talks reaffirmed our conviction that openness to people of other faiths can be nothing but beneficial. It leads to greater understanding and dispels misconceptions, it leads to greater tolerance and appreciation and does not threaten or dilute one's own personal faith but rather enhances it. What is certain is that the experiences enabled all present to see God a little clearly and so to enter more fully into the wholeness of his essence.

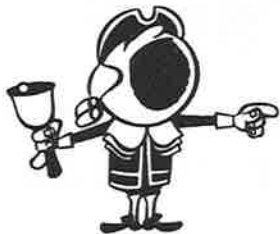
Shalom Dates for January

Mon. 6 Jan. Prayer & Praise led by Kathleen Allen at 88 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford.

Mon. 20 Jan John Powell Tape led by R & D Morson at 20 Bentfield Green, Stansted.



Village News



FUTURE EVENTS

1992

January

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 7 | 8.15 | St. John's Hall. Ladies Keep Fit |
| 16 | 7.30 | Day Centre. British Legion Women's Section |
| 25 | 7.30 | Stansted Hall. Liberal Democrats Supper Dance |
| 27 | 7.30 | Day Centre. WEA enrolment for "Astronomy" course |

February

- | | | |
|-------|------|---|
| 1 | 8.00 | St. Mary's school PTFA Disco & Supper |
| 20 | 7.30 | Day Centre. British Legion (Women) Talk on "Cecil Rhodes" |
| 28/29 | | Skip at Crafton Green |

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. CM14 8AQ
Telephone (0275) 813214

The Parish Council will have a new Clerk from 2nd January 1992. Her name is Mrs. Ruth Clifford. She is a resident of Stansted and you may have seen her around the village. We wish her well in her new position.

Locations for Neighbourhood Watch signs have now been agreed with District Council and will be put in place soon.

The bulb planting has taken place and the areas which will be in bloom next year are the corner of Blythwood Gardens; verges along Elsenham Road; High Lane; opposite Five Acres and hopefully the corner of Longcroft.

A reminder that the Parish Council has the green refuse sacks for sale - they are 50p each and if left with your dustbins will be collected.

The refuse skip will be in Crafton Green Car Park the weekend of 28th/29th February 1992. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH IN THE SKIP CORNER IF THE SKIP IS NOT THERE!! The monthly dates will be published in the next copy of the Link and in the Council's Newsletter due out shortly.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN

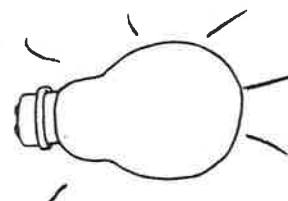
DOING ALL THIS TIME?



An idle thought came to me as I came away from a talk in Ugley Village Hall on "Sailing". Here, in a small village, are: one who has sailed the Atlantic, one who does free-fall parachute displays world-wide and four of us who have tackled the Himalayas - air, sea and land adventures.

There must be a hundred exciting tales of STANSTED ADVENTURES. They may be no further than my memorable winter rail trip to the Lincolnshire Fens; they may be near home, in Stansted - we would love to hear about them! 300 words approx. limit.

The Editor



IDEAS WANTED

Cover design for small leaflet to launch appeal for aid to poor (Third World). Also ideas for a title to appeal, "Regular Aid for the Poor" ("RAPOOR") having been turned down!



A very successful sponsored 'Scavenger Hunt' was held in October with the children collecting autumnal items. This raised a staggering £220 for playgroup funds.

In December our usual nativity play was performed by the older children and was extremely well attended by parents, grandparents and children from the two local schools. The performers brought enthusiasm, innocence and not a little fun to a traditional theme - wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all.

A new Mum and Toddler group for the under 2's has started on Tuesday afternoons. The Wednesday sessions continue. 90p entrance fee includes drinks and biscuits.

Jenny Lauder
813239

LADIES

HAVE FUN WHILST KEEPING FIT
EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME
AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL
8.15 - 9.15 P.M.

SPRING TERM COMMENCES
7TH JANUARY 1992

ENQUIRIES TEL. 723266 or 812816



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club was formed in 1980 "to stimulate interest and afford guidance in all aspects of gardening". The Club is open to all those living in Stansted and the surrounding area who enjoy gardens and gardening.

Meetings usually take place on the first Wednesday of each month at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill, Stansted. A visiting speaker will start the meeting with a talk (illustrated by slides) on a particular popular garden topic. This is followed by a raffle, plant stall, coffee and biscuits and time for a chat. Membership of the club opens the door to many extras - discount on a leading brand of seeds, coach outings - these have included Bressingham Gardens in Norfolk and Kew Gardens.

As the Club is affiliated as a Society to the Royal Horticultural Society this enables members to enjoy all the benefits the R.H.S. offer such as tickets to visit the Society Shows in London, including Chelsea show. Whilst talking about shows I must just mention that we hold our own Spring and Autumn shows - these include a novice class in the flower arranging so why not be bold and have a go.

Our next meeting will be held on January 8th at 8.00 p.m. when a video will be shown.

S. WILKINSON



Thirty six members enjoyed music by Gordon and Join at our social evening and some were energetic enough to get up and dance! We all joined in to sing songs from the shows and melodies popular during the Second World War; then tucked into baked potatoes, butter, cheese, pickles and gateaux.

On 5th December fifty-two members from seven villages met at Clavering for our Christmas Group Meeting. After the conclusion of business we all enjoyed delicious refreshments, sang carols with Mrs. Weatherup at the piano and joined in an excellent raffle.

Our next branch meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday 16th January at its new time of 7.30 p.m. We hope to have a talk on "Sewing Machines" but, at the time of going to press, this is not absolutely certain.

Our speaker at our meeting on 20th February is certain, however, and it will be Mr. David Parry talking about "Cecil Rhodes".

Pat Clower
815220



STANSTED AFTERNOON

At the recent A.G.M. the following officers were elected:-

President Mrs J Rumney
Secretary Mrs J Grose
Treasurer Miss D Oswald
and 8 Committee Members

Our December meeting took the form of a very enjoyable Christmas Party, and after the minutes of the previous meeting were read and business dealt with we all settled down to try our hand at various lively quiz games and to partake of the delightful refreshments.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January 1992 when the speaker will be Mr. Horner, an expert on roses.

ST. MARY'S C of E PRIMARY



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PTFA

On behalf of the committee and teachers, I would like to thank all the local traders who donated raffle prizes for our Christmas Fair, for their support, and to thank everyone who attended the Fair and made it a success. Your support is very much appreciated.

I would like to give notice of our forthcoming event. On Saturday 1st February 1992 we have a 60s/70s Disco, 8 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. Tickets will be £5 each and include a "fish and chip supper". For details phone Mrs. Wood on B/S 813743.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

W.E.A.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY 1992

Tuesdays - Under 1s and expectant mums
Wednesdays - Toddlers (1-2½)
Fridays - Pre-school group

7th Marcia Tailby's, 5 Millside, Stansted.
Tel 813295. Marcia is the group's Breast-feeding Counsellor and will be happy to discuss any breastfeeding issues during the coffee morning.

8th Jackie Weston's, 6 High Street, Elsenham.
Tel 816282

10th Maxine Mott's, 'Hillcroft', Stansted Road, Elsenham. Tel 812516

14th Anne Edwards, 'Lindens', Starr Green, Henham. Tel 850065

15th Penny Brooks', 42 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted. Tel 814763

17th Fiona Langridge's, 19 Loates Pasture, Stansted. Tel 816829

21st Isobel Atkinson's, 12 Coltsfield, Stansted. Tel 814176

22nd Pauline Burnard's, 20 The Street, Manuden. Tel 814600

23rd Rachel Smith's, 25 Bedwell Road, Ugley Green. Tel 815745

28th Elaine Blinko's, 18 Hailes Wood, Elsenham. Tel 813706

29th Stories and Songs Morning at Jackie Feehan's, 'Cordwents', Stansted Road, Elsenham. Tel 813206. 50p. Children of all ages welcome.

31st Pauline Burnard's, 20 The Street, Manuden
Tel 814600

Our spring course will be "Astronomy", the lecturer Dr. J. Lees, M.A. F.Inst.P. The course is widely based and aimed at both beginners and those who already have some knowledge of the subject. Practical observation will be a feature (weather permitting!). The history of astronomy will be covered leading to the development of today's scientific methods. Dr. Lees writes in his syllabus "The current Voyager space mission has enormously increased our understanding of the planets, most recently the Neptune flyby: there have been some great surprises It is a wonderful but puzzling Universe".

The course, of ten weeks, will be held, as usual, at the Day Centre on Monday evenings, starting 27th January. The first evening enrolment 7.30 to 8 p.m. followed by lecture at 8 p.m. There is a reduced rate for pensioners, those unemployed free of charge. If you would like further details please ring 0279 812214. New members are always welcome.



On Thursday December 12th our Club Members joined with the residents at Broome End for a Carol Service. Judging by the enthusiastic singing and the vigorous shaking of percussion instruments, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening together. We would like to thank all the staff at Broome End for helping us to make this a memorable occasion. Our club members tucked in happily to the sandwiches, cakes and mince pies and they all say thankyou for laying on such a feast which I'm sure accounted partly for the good singing.

We have changed the date for our Christmas party as our members have so much on before Christmas - Carol services, plays and parties, so we now look forward to January 17th. Before that we are all off to the Pantomime at Cambridge on January 10th.

We wish all of you a Happy New Year and do come and visit us one Thursday evening.

M. G. Johnson



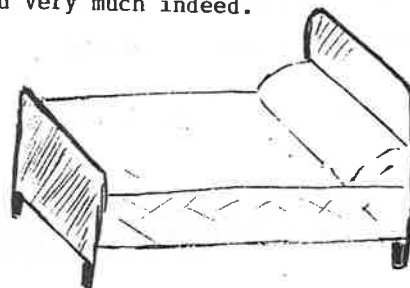
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CARE NETWORK

Some local families are desperately in need of blankets and any other bedding, particularly in this very cold weather.

If you can help please contact Carol Smith of Care Network on Saffron Walden 0799 522000 (and answerphone).

Thank you very much indeed.





Take your partners for our annual winter supper dance at Stansted Hall on Saturday 25th January if you want a value for money evening out set in Edwardian elegance. Full details are contained in the panel below.

There will be a bimonthly ploughman's lunch at the Day Centre, 12-2 p.m. on Saturday 11th January. Lunches thankfully include hot soup at this time of the year. Guaranteed no turkey so just drop in.

The autumn was busy with several events in close succession. Our second quiz evening was a great success and profitable. Jane Freeman set the questions and managed to tax a few brains and create one or two disputes about the answers, but all is forgiven.

Bonfire night in Marion and Michael Dyer's grounds went off with the usual bang. Attendance was a bit down but a small surplus was made to pay for "Focus" publication.

The committee and councillors held their annual Christmas dinner this year in the Day Centre. Unfortunately a few people, including prospective parliamentary candidate Mark Hayes, were marooned in remote places like Saffron Walden and Berden by a thick blanket of fog. I'll permit one end of year joke about politicians not being able to see where they are going!

At the turn of the year we would like to thank everyone who has supported Stansted Liberal Democrats so well and in so many different ways during 1991. That support will be needed most keenly in 1992, the Year of the Big Vote.

Alan Dean
813579

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

The branch held its annual Christmas Drinks Party at Parsonage Farm last month by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morton which proved a resounding success. Our sincere thanks to our generous hosts and to all those who attended.

On Saturday January 4th, the Branch is holding the ninth New Year Dinner Dance at Stansted Hall at 7.30 p.m. Black Tie is optional. Tickets are held at £12.50 and £7.50 for under 25s. This event always proves the most popular in our Social Calendar and all are welcome. Our Member of Parliament, Alan Haselhurst, will attend.

On behalf of the Branch, I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Philip J. Duly



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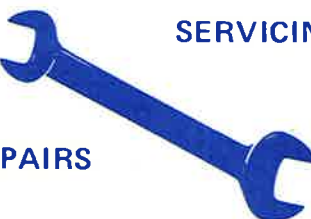
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