

April 93

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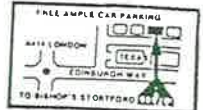
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Easter Greetings



A HAPPY EASTER!

The world itself keeps Easter Day,
And Easter larks are singing;
And Easter flowers are blooming gay,
And Easter buds are springing:
Alleluya, Alleluya:
The Lord of all things lives anew
And all his works are rising too:
Hosanna in excelsis!



J. M. Neale



Good Friday Project



Children! Don't forget to come along to
St. Mary's School on
GOOD FRIDAY, April 9th,
at 9.00 a.m. for a
GOOD DAY



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Mrs Lindsey Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture. Tel: 813428.
Advertising Manager: Mrs L Everitt, 12 Meadowcroft. Tel: 813504.
All other enquiries to the Editor, Mrs Phyllis Harrison. Tel: 813535.

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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
15th April for May issue
13th May for June issue

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.

We are living in turbulent times. Peoples starve because of greed and selfishness; we see the erosion of both family and community life, the homeless lie in doorways on our streets and young children murder even younger children and terrorise the old and weak. Through corrupted power and ambition we see that poverty and injustice are inflicted on the weakest in our society.

But at Easter with the re-telling of the Easter story, Christ's life and resurrection can be seen to transform lives, it can also transform the future for those who try to live by the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Despite all the bad things that are happening in the world, and in our own country, the message of Easter still is that good will conquer evil but first we must let His love penetrate into our lives and then the world around us.

As Christians we have a significant contribution to make to the order and direction of the world, to be a light, but it is a light which comes from Jesus himself, when he is within our heart and directing all our actions.

"In a depressed world the Christian should be the only man who remains full of the joy of life"

(William Barclay)

Eileen Quinn



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Minister: The Rev'd Margaret McKay MA BD
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Saffron Walden Essex
Tel: (95) 528155

The Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St. John's Close
Saffron Walden Essex
Tel: (95) 523296

Group Secretary:
Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport Essex
Tel: (95) 41210

Stansted Contact:
Mrs Janet Townsend
59 Chapel Hill
Tel: 812593

Services: 11 a.m. each Sunday

For details of services at Clavering and Newport please ring the Group Secretary.

PREACHERS FOR APRIL

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 4 | 11 am | Family Service |
| 11 | 10.30 am | Easter Day Group Communion
led by Rev. L. Rapkin
followed by coffee in the
Lecture Hall |
| 18 | 11 am | Rev. E. McIlwain Communion |
| 25 | 11 am | Rev. L. Rapkin |

The Guild meetings begin for the summer sessions on April 5th. Everyone is welcome to join the group which meets on Monday evenings at 8 p.m. This year's programme is very varied and begins with Mr. Foster on Holidays. April 19 Rev. E. McIlwain is the speaker.

DECKHANDS AND PILOTS

Our Deckhands group for young people up to 8 years old is thriving. We have one or two vacancies due to families moving away from Stansted and would welcome any new members. We meet on Wednesday evenings, 5.15 - 6.15, in the URC Lecture Hall and despite appearances we are not just a club for boys, we would love to have some young ladies! We follow a programme from Partners in Learning with games, craft work, drama and stories. The children together with the Pilots ran a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale which raised £50.00 to help combat River Blindness in Africa.

The Pilots group for our older children are currently working on their Learning Crest. Mrs. Gill from the Whitechapel Mission has been to talk to them about the street people. Craig Walker is bringing his guide dog one evening then later in the month they are finding out about the Tear Fund. It's not all serious work at Pilots. They have games evenings, share news about their favourite collections and hobbies, rumour has it they are trying out some cake decorating near to Mothering Sunday and they have a long-term project working on a needlework diary for eventual display in Church; wellies and waterproofs are in readiness for the April session IN Stansted Brook! PILOTS meet in the Lecture Hall on Wednesdays from 6.45 to 8.15 p.m.

BIBLE SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING
TUESDAY 20th April 1993
 with Bring and Buy Stall
 and a Raffle

The Rev'd Gordon Harman, a 78 year old former Vicar keeps fit, saves money and supports the Bible Society, all by chopping wood. He has permission from the "local squire" to collect dead wood from a nearby copse. After he gathers enough for his own needs, he sells the rest, with half the proceeds going to the Bible Society. In the fourteen years he has been doing this he has sold £1,264 worth of logs with £632 going to the Bible Society.

We are not asking you to chop wood but we do ask you to support our coffee morning on 20th April at 58 Chapel Hill. What can be an easier way to help supply the written word of God to people all over the world, than coming along for a cup of coffee and a chat with friends. Your coffee and scone will cost you 50p, the friendship comes free. We look forward to seeing you between 10.30 and 12 noon.

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.

SERVICES FOR APRIL

- 4 Palm Sunday - Rev. Ronald Rawlings
- 11 Easter Day - Mr. Tim Richards
- 18 Holy Communion - Rev. Michael Hayman
- 25 Mrs. Betty Kime

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk: Mary Rice
 92 Hadham Road
 Bishop's Stortford
 Herts CM23 2QP
 Tel: 651769

Meeting for worship: 11am

An appeal has just been launched to raise money to repair our Meeting House. What follows attempts to keep our friends in the village fully informed.

WHY?

It will become apparent that the repairs are extensive and correspondingly expensive (brick walls and a pitched roof). Stansted Friends do not own their building and the policy within the Society is not to relinquish Meeting Houses. During our consideration of whether we should move into a shared ecumenical building we examined the feasibility of letting the Stansted Meeting House. This was not possible because without immediate and substantial expenditure to repair the roof we cannot be sure it will not degenerate beyond repair in the foreseeable future. This work will cost more than our current savings.

Central funds are available to help with the cost of repairs to Meeting Houses but not for funding an ecumenical project. This is not because Quakers are against such projects just that legal procedures in the past did not envisage such a use of donated funds.

Those are the practical reasons why we are proceeding. However, it is equally important that the Meeting House in Stansted is the only one between Harlow and Saffron Walden. We feel that there is a need for a Meeting House here as a visible witness for Quakers.

WHEN?

We hope we will have sufficient funds and pledges to be able to do the work this summer while Chapel Hill Playgroup is on holiday.

HOW?

Help from central funds by means of a grant and an interest free loan, savings, from past and present members of the Meeting digging deep, those who use the building and want to help and last but not least from those who are going to be unable to resist the wide variety of events we will hold over the next two or three years. All tastes will be catered for so that everyone will be able to contribute without any pain and hopefully with much pleasure. Please support us.

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

Services: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
Parish Communion 9.30 a.m.
(Creche, Children's
Church and Lazer Group)
Holy Communion (1662) 12.15 p.m.
(1st Sun excl. August)
Evensong 6.30 p.m.

Holy Communion is also celebrated on:

Monday 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 10.00 a.m.
Friday 9.00 a.m.

DIARY FOR APRIL

2 9.15 a.m. St. Mary's School Holy
Communion: (NO 9 a.m. service
at St. John's)
4-11 See Services for Holy Week
below
5 8.00 p.m. Standing Committee
12 NO 7.30 p.m. Service
13 2.00 p.m. Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave
Close
20 10.30 a.m. Service at Mead Court
(N.B. 3rd Tuesday)
26 8.00 p.m. P.C.C. in the Upper Room
27 2.15 p.m. Tiny Tots

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

(ALL services at St. John's unless otherwise indicated)

Sun 4th PALM SUNDAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
9.30 a.m. Procession & Parish
Communion
12.15 p.m. Holy Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong
Mon 5th 7.30 p.m. Stations of the Cross &
Holy Communion
Tue 6th 10.30 a.m. Service at Norman Court
8.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross &
Holy Communion
Wed 7th 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
7.30 p.m. Prayers
8.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross &
Holy Communion
Thu 8th MAUNDY THURSDAY
8.00 p.m. Sung Eucharist & Vigil
Fri 9th GOOD FRIDAY
9.15 a.m. Good Friday Project in
to 3 p.m. St. Mary's School
11.00 a.m. Good Friday Liturgy AT
FARNHAM (for both parishes)
2.00 p.m. Good Friday Project Service
Sat 10th EASTER EVE
8.00 p.m. The Easter Liturgy

Easter Services

Sun 11th EASTER DAY
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at
ST. MARY'S
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion
6.30 p.m. Evensong

REGISTERS FOR FEBRUARY

Baptism

28th February Jenny Louise Capp
Alicia Charlotte Jones
Ellen-Rose South

Funerals

12th February Alan David Parrish, aged 39
22nd February William James Kidger, aged 68
24th February Margaret Smith, aged 67
26th February Ernest Percy Prior, aged 90

Village News



Future Events

April

1 7.00 & 8.00 Stansted Walk (Crafton
Green) & Talk, Day Centre
3 2.30 URC Hall Mountfitchet Garden Club
Spring Show
4 2.30 Footpath Walk from Bentfield Pond
9 9.15 Good Friday Children's Project
St. Mary's School
2.00 Good Friday Project Service.
St. John's
17 10.00-12.00 Guides & Brownies Coffee
Morning. Youth Centre, Lower St.
23 7.30 Clavering Village Hall.
Mountfitchet Spring Group Meeting
of W.I.s
24 a.m. Village Spring Clean Watch Parish
Noticeboards!
24 8.00 Stansted Football Club. Neighbour-
hood Watch Quiz Night (see notice)
26-29 Civic Amenity Skip at Crafton
Green

May

6 8.00 Day Centre. Local History Society
A.G.M.
17-20 Skip at Crafton Green

June

5&6 St. Mary's Church, Farnham -
Festival
26 Stansted Carnival



THE PARISH COUNCIL OF

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

Clerk: Mrs. Ruth Clifford
Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Tel: 0279 813214

BLOOMING STANSTED

Anglia in Bloom will be judged in July and, as Stansted is chancing its arm in this competition again, we are looking for support from as many residents and businesses as possible.

It's up to all of us to make Stansted bloom this year as never before, and we have started with the spring flowers.

We expect to go on with various competitions for schools, residents and businesses alike, good press coverage, the Village Spring Clean on 24th April, general litter clearance and painting of street furniture.

The official judging will take place in July, but the Parish Council will arrange judging of its own local competitions followed by the presentation of certificates.

An exciting summer in prospect, with lots to do so that Stansted finishes up looking really beautiful.



VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

This will take place on the morning of Saturday 24th April. Please watch noticeboards or ring the Clerk for further details.

SKIP DATES

The Civic Amenity Skip will be at Crafton Green on the following dates:

Monday 17th - Thursday 20th May.



Stansted Art & Craft Market

Last October the Art and Craft Market attracted 1500 people to its 14th Market and they saw 20 varied craft stalls, 690 framed and unframed paintings. The depression meant that proceeds were down slightly, nevertheless a sum of £1,250 became available for distribution to local good causes and charities and the Committee met recently to consider distribution of these funds.

£275 to both the Stansted Trust and Stansted Trust for Needy Children will, we know, be well used and further donations of £100 each were sent to Mountfitchet School for Library Books and St. John's Church for the new room they have built.

It will not take a mathematician to work out that this leaves £500 and this will be held over to help towards the provision of various essentials following the refurbishment works to the Youth and Adult Centre due this summer. We use these premises for the event and are glad to be able to help improve the facilities.

The function for 1993 will be held on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th October. Helpers and organisers are always needed and if you would like to get involved please telephone me on 813051.

Greg Snow
Chairman



Coffee Morning

Please Support

Guides/Brownies

**SATURDAY
17 APRIL 1993**

10.00pm-12.00pm
Youth centre, Lower Street

**Usborne
Books**

**TOMBOLA
RAFFLE**

**50/50
Teenage
Gear**

Cakes

Entrance: 20p



MANUDEN PRE-SCHOOL PLAY GROUP

Manuden pre-school playgroup have had a very active start to 1993; a coffee morning at the home of Nicki Tipp in Ubley raised £42 and a recent Nearly New Sale of adult and children's clothes and equipment at Manuden Village Hall provided bargains for all those attending and raised £48. Then, on a snowy, cold day in February, mums, dads, playgroup leaders and children all helped in an "environmental clean up" of a stretch of river flowing through the village. 8 black sacks full of rubbish were collected and we made the front page of the Herts and Essex Observer!

Action Rhyme Time is an hour of piano and guitar accompanied action songs, nursery rhymes and musical games for mums and pre-school children. In the first of these Friday afternoon sessions at Manuden school more than 25 mums and 35 children gathered and could be heard beating instruments in time to "Land of Hope and Glory". The use of the hall and instruments are provided free by the kind permission of John Clements, the Headmaster of Manuden School, and with one session remaining on Friday 2nd April from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m. further sessions will be arranged after Easter if the demand is still high. For further information contact Pauline Burnard, 814600.

The next fund raising event is the "Easter holiday fiesta". Manuden Pre-School Playgroup invites all you children under the age of ten to an exciting afternoon at the village school in Manuden. The afternoon kicks off at 12 noon on Monday 5th April with a tasty barbecue and continues with a number of exciting competitions for you to join in, including:-
*Easter Bonnet Competition - make one at home and bring it with you, or make one there.
*Decorated (Boiled) Egg Competition - facilities at the school for creating and entering.
*Egg and Spoon Races - mums included!
*Grande Finale: An Easter Egg Hunt for all ages.

Prizes to be won, and refreshments available.

For more information and tickets please contact Jane 813802 or Nicki 9588 202.

Future events will include a family treasure hunt (by car) through surrounding villages, and a sponsored children's bike ride at Manuden School.

Manuden Pre-School Playgroup is a small, traditional village playgroup catering for 16 2½-5 year olds, four days a week. As well as offering the usual pre-school activities, we are in a position to utilise the local school facilities which include all the musical instruments, use of the playground and field, which enables safe outdoor play.

Even if your child is currently attending another playgroup for 2-3 sessions per week, why not consider Manuden playgroup for the remaining days?

We have limited spaces available for 2½-5 year olds, offering a wide range of activities in a structured but flexible format. Why not call for more information and a prospectus.

Mrs. Ann Brown
0279 813153

Stansted Tennis Club

The new season of the club starts on 1st April 1993. Membership forms may be obtained from Janet Hollis, Little Fosters, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted, B/S 812073.

TENNIS COACHING AT THE CLUB

Coach: Andrew Aitkenhead (Tel: 0799 88542)

Adults: Tuesday 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. £3 per hour
Thursday 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. £3 per hour
Friday 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. £3 per hour

Juniors: Thursday 4.15 - 5 p.m. £1.50 per lesson
Thursday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. £2 per hour

4-Day Easter Courses

(Tuesday 13th April - Friday 16th April)

Older Juniors 9.00-10.30 a.m. £11 for 4 days
Younger Juniors 11.00-12.30 p.m. £11 for 4 days

Saturday Coaching

Coach: Chris Hollis (Tel. 081 519 6950/or B/S 812073)

If adults or juniors are interested in Saturday coaching please telephone to arrange times.

NEW and USED TENNIS BALLS are always available at very reasonable prices.



June 26th 1993

Since the Carnival was first begun in the early 60's it was hoped we may enter a car of that era in the procession on June 26th. If anyone has a 1960's car and is willing to drive it in the procession please let the Secretary know.

We look forward to preparing for the Carnival over the next few months and if anyone has any suggestions to help make this a successful and happy day for everyone in the village please let us know.

Secretary telephone no. 814654.



First of all let me apologise to those of you who were expecting a newsletter in February. This has not materialised as expected due unfortunately not to a lapse on my part, but to a financial hiccup which just means the money is not available until the end of the month. I will, however, produce one for April all being well this time.

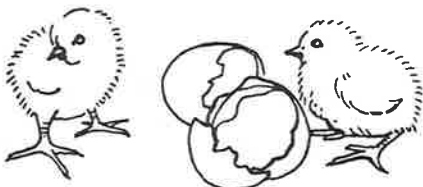
Anyway, crime for February in Stansted: the evening of the 23rd saw a number of burglaries in Chapel Hill. Steve Golding the greengrocer was entered by forcing the rear door, the opticians next door was also broken into, again by forcing a rear entry. The premises of ARMS now at 2A Chapel Hill was entered, and also the flat above the greengrocers was broken into. The main item stolen was cash from all four locations although a tape recorder was also taken from ARMS. From information already received we believe the burglaries all took place about 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. that morning so if you were out late or early that night and saw anyone around that vicinity please give me a ring no matter how insignificant it may seem.

Some time during the evening on 11th February up until 9 p.m. two houses in the village were broken into, one at 110 Cambridge Road, the other at 7 Coltsfield. In both cases jewellery was taken. Because of the time of these burglaries I'm sure someone must have seen something or someone in the vicinity of these burglaries. Again, if you did, contact me in confidence at the Police Station.

Now to more pleasant news: Stansted Neighbourhood Watch are again holding a Quiz Night at Stansted Football Club. This starts at 8 p.m. on 24th April. Entry and light refreshments is again only £1.00 per person. As this is probably the best value quiz night you will ever go to it is very popular and spaces are limited, so please contact your local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and reserve your team's place. If you don't know who this is phone Louise Woods on 814375. Your local Police Station will once again be entering a team so come and beat them.

Once more that's it for this month. See you all soon.

Steve Pike
Neighbourhood Beat Officer
for Stansted



"OUR VILLAGE"

Another village landmark that will probably be best remembered for its sound rather than sight of was de-commissioned for retirement on Friday 19th February. On this day the siren was detached and removed from atop of its lofty perch on the Fire Station Drill Tower.

Although this position was to be its last resting place it certainly was not the first.

To understand today it often helps to know a little of yesterday, so perhaps we should divert back to a time long ago (even further than usual) when we begin to talk of the siren.

Today we only have space and time to make a brief reference, where according to Greek Mythology, "Siren" (sometimes Sirens, two sisters) are told of as "one of certain sea nymphs who sat on the shores of an island between Circes Isle and Seylla near the South Western coast of Italy, and sang with bewitching sweetness songs that allured the passing sailors to draw near only to meet with their fate upon the rocks.

A siren is much later described as an instrument which produced musical sounds by introducing a regular recurring discontinuity into an other wise steady blast of air. Of these two descriptions you may like to select your choice perhaps bearing in mind another work used at the beginning of our story, this being "Landmark", one meaning of this refers to any object on land that serves as a guide to seamen.

Hopefully we may continue our village connection next month but in the meantime can you puzzle this one out. "What was the connection with the Siren, the Police Station and The Chestnuts?"

I would of course be pleased to hear from anyone who may have any odd memories or operation of the siren.

P. J. Brown
812816

Delighted to see "Our Village" back in print again. Editor.



St. Mary's C of E Primary School



ST. MARY'S PROJECT ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

This is taking place next term culminating in School Community Week 4-9th July and we should like some ideas and help. Firstly we are looking for ideas for ways in which we can help in the community of Stansted. We have some ideas of our own such as inviting the play-groups to join us for a Gigantic Teddy Bears' Picnic on our school field; organising a litter collection and performing a play which we shall invite senior citizens to attend.

Please let us know what you would like to see us involved in.

Secondly we'd like help from you. Have you any special skills or talents that you could share with groups of children during the week? So if you can ice cakes, do crochet, make lace, do woodwork, lettering, etc., etc., please get in touch with us. You could be in for a novel and rewarding experience!

Please contact Jean Cashman at St. Mary's School on 812212.

THE COMMUNITY

The community are groups of people that work together and come up with new ideas and things. If they are a group like Brownies and Guides they look after people and provide entertainment. Without our community our village would be a mess, there would be nobody to stop crime or attend to accidents and fires. Nobody would have a proper education because there wouldn't be any teachers. We have the church as part of our community, they all work together and teach people about God. There are lots of things that are connected with the church like Sunday School and Confirmation Classes. There are lots of church services throughout the week and the weekend and the church is always open to go and say your prayers. One of our main parts of the community are shops. They provide lots of tools and goods and things. The chemist and the doctors are very important as well, they keep our health standards up high and if we get ill they will soon put a stop to it. The doctors give us a prescription to take to the chemist and collect some medicine. There is a day centre in the village and old peoples homes that care for the old people that are not able to care for themselves. Sometimes the Guides and Brownies go and sing for the old people and they are always ready if we are collecting. There are two primary schools and one secondary school in Stansted and a number of playgroups. The schools teach the same sort of thing like maths and English and things, but St. Mary's is a Church of England school so we are taught about God as well. I think we couldn't make the community better.

Kathryn Peel (10)

MEDIC'S APPEAL

On the 24th February P.C. Pike and P.C. Croxford came to talk to us about how they are raising money for Medics. Medics is a group of nine doctors who go out on the road to accidents. Being doctors they can give more immediate treatment than ambulance staff, sometimes they even amputate on the road. They can also get to the casualty quicker than an ambulance which can sometimes save lives. But to get a doctor started in Medics costs £15,000 and an annual cost of £4,000. P.C. Pike said he, P.C. Croxford and P.C. Knight from Saffron Walden would be visiting all the regional ambulance headquarters in England, Scotland and Wales. Another van would be following with their food which was to be real army rations. P.C. Croxford said they would be going to the headquarters in this order: Start at Continental Cars at eight o'clock, from there they go to Chelmsford then on the Maidstone in Kent. Next to London, followed by Banstead in Surrey. Then they will go on to Ringwood in Dorset, followed by Oxford and Cardiff. Next they will go to Chippenham, then Rhyll in North Wales then on to Liverpool which they hope to reach by lunch time Friday. They will go to the rest of the stops in this order: Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford in York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Nottingham, East Anglia, Norwich, Bedford, then back to Stansted. They hope to do this in two days. Today St. Mary's school, Stansted, raised money by bringing in 20p each so they could wear their own clothes and they also had a cake stall, a books, toys and comics stall, a trail of coins and a raffle. Altogether they raised £140 for MEDICS.

Katie Reeve-Arnold (11)



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, FARNHAM

FETE, FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CONCERT

Saturday 5th &
Sunday 6th June 1993

Church open both days
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

More details next month

For information please telephone
Ann Moore 95-41247
or Gill Preston 771654



STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting and the Ladies Branch held a highly successful Ladies Luncheon at the Day Centre.

We are currently arranging some events for the summer months to include a family barbecue event in June or July. More details will be forthcoming in due course.

Philip Duly
816053



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thurs. 1st April 7 p.m.
Stansted walk led by Tony Wellings. Meet Crafton Green, returning by 8 p.m. for a talk by Jane Freeman on St. Mary's and St. John's Churches in the Day Centre.

Thurs. 6th May 8 p.m.
Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation on Poor Relief.

Peggy Honour
B/S 813160



Your letters, cards, gifts and kind words have been so welcome. Above all, your prayers for John and his family have been a great comfort to us all.

John can now write again and is driving short distances. He hopes to be back to work in two or three months.

Thankyou.

Judy Goddard

Recipe of the Month



AUNTIE ANN'S EASTER BISCUITS

Readers whose children have attended Rainbow Playgroup will have already sampled these biscuits, probably not only at Easter time. Ann Conroy has kindly given her recipe for Link readers to enjoy.

Ingredients

3 oz margarine
3 oz sugar
1 egg
6 oz flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mixed spice
pinch salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz chopped peel
1 oz currants

Method

Cream together margarine and sugar. Add beaten egg. Sieve flour, spice and salt together and fold into creamed mixture. Mix in fruit.

Roll out on a floured surface and cut into shapes. Bake at 400°F, 200°C, Gas 6, for 15 to 20 minutes until biscuits are lightly browned. Cool on a wire tray. Have a Happy Easter!

Since writing about Simnel cakes last month I have come across another theory about how they got their name. The story is that a married couple called Simon and Nellie could not agree on the ingredients of their Easter cake. So each put in their choice and the resulting cake was called a Simnel cake. Well, it's as good a theory as any I suppose!



P.S. To set the record straight, Lambert Simnel, who did not give his name to the cake, claimed the throne from Henry VII not VIII. I wonder how many of you spotted the mistake!

Catherine Dean

Stansted Afternoon



MOUNTFITCHET SPRING GROUP MEETING OF W.I.'S

Friday April 23rd 1993

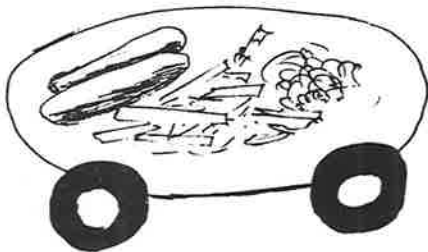
Clavering Village Hall

7.30 p.m. for 7.45 p.m.

Flower Demonstration
by Mr. Alan Smith

Visitors £2.50p including
refreshments

For tickets phone
Mrs. Ryan 812725



MEALS ON WHEELS

I am short of ONE DRIVER for the delivery of Meals on Wheels on a Tuesday and Thursday just once every 5 weeks.

The delivery would take barely one hour on each occasion, i.e. 2 hours commitment in 5 weeks. There is a petrol allowance and drivers are automatically covered against Personal Accident by Uttlesford District Council.

I should be extremely grateful to hear from anybody who could help.

Please contact:- Janet Hollis, B/S 812073.

CHEVETOGNE VISIT 1993

Our friends from Belgium will be visiting us from 20th May to 23rd May. We are making arrangements for them and welcome any offers of accommodation. (Phone 812109).

Stansted Evening

At the March meeting of the Stansted Mountfitchet Evening W.I., President, Mrs. Ann Johnson, welcomed members and guests.

The clothes show by "Feathers" will be held on 21st May at 8 p.m. Entrance will be £1.50. Also the Institute will have a marquee at the Stansted Carnival.

Mrs. Heather Taylor then spoke on "Simple Jewellery Making" and showed how to make it; she also had a selection of earrings and necklaces on display. After the talk several members made their own earrings.

The competition "A knee blanket" was won by Mrs. Sheila Rolfe, this ending a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

Mrs. C. E. Brook
812155



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At the March meeting of the club a large audience of members enjoyed a very informative presentation on "Butterflies in your Garden" by Iris Newbery. In addition to being an expert on her subject, Mrs. Newbery is also an accomplished photographer, using her own slides to support her talk.

For the first time in the monthly members competition - Forced Rhubarb - not one member was able to produce an entry. Stansted rhubarb is not to be forced!

Our next meeting on April 7th at the Day Centre at 8 p.m. will be the Annual General Meeting plus slides.



SPRING SHOW

This popular event is on Saturday April 3rd at 2.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Members, friends and the general public are welcome to this event - admission free - raffle, refreshments and sale of produce.

STANSTED FOOTPATHS

A Footpaths Working Party has been formed by the Open Spaces Committee of the Stansted Parish Council. The broad objectives of the Working Party are to resolve any problems with footpaths in Stansted Parish, to ensure that the paths are readily visible and accessible, and liaise when necessary with the footpath representatives from neighbouring parishes.

A copy of the definitive map showing all footpaths and bridlepaths defined as rights of way in Stansted is on display in the Council Office at Crafton Green. All paths bear a parish identification number on this map and these numbers will be used when referring to paths. The numbers will also be painted on all finger posts which the county council erect where a path leaves the highway.

The working party will walk a section of the parish paths each month and record any problems. A report of each month's walk will appear in the Link; the first one follows this article. Anyone who would like to join in these walks of two to three miles will be most welcome. The next walk will start from Bentfield Pond at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 4th April.

If you have any queries or complaints about footpaths please contact the Parish Council Footpath Representatives, Jenny and Bob Adamson, tel: 813958, or the Parish Clerk, tel: 813214.

Footpaths Walk No. 1 (Footpaths 17 & 19)

Last month we covered a circular walk of about 2½ miles from Gall End at the north end of Gall End Lane which is a continuation of Lower Street. Five footpaths radiate from here. From the stream bridge one path leads west to High Lane and another northwards to Alsa Street. A few yards up the slope from the bridge and just past the old half-buried pump, two paths start northwards to Alsa Wood and to Elsenham Road, and another starts southwards to the top of Grove Hill.

The route we chose was along footpath 19 to Alsa Wood. This starts opposite the pump and for the first few yards follows a narrow alleyway between a hedge by Yet Tree Cottage and a tall fence bounding North End House, which used to be the old Work House. At the top of the paddock behind North End House footpath 41 follows the hedge up to the Elsenham Road, and our footpath 19 cuts diagonally across the field. There is a waymark at this point with a yellow arrow denoting a footpath. For several years this path has been ploughed and cropped over and has not been used. This year a number of people have been walking the path and its route is discernible across the field. We passthrough Brickyard Plantation which owes its name to one of the several 19th century brickyards that surrounded Stansted, and emerge at the corner of another field just like the last. The line of the path is visible heading for the corner of the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve on the skyline. There are good views over Stansted from up here.



The path arrives at Keeper's Cottage on the corner of Alsa Wood where we turn left for a few yards and then turn right to follow the path all round the garden. The two rottweiler dogs are intimidating if they are in the garden but they do not penetrate the hedge. Beyond Keeper's Cottage the path follows the edge of ancient Alsa Wood which is mostly a hornbeam coppice, although this section has not been coppiced for many years. Make a point of walking here when the bluebells are out. At the next corner of the wood there is

a choice of paths; left to Snakes Lane, right to Ugley Green or all round the wood, or straight on. We go straight on, leaving Stansted at this point, and pass along the edge of a paddock where the fence has recently been replaced, narrowing the path by about a foot in the process. The old posts and wire were still lying about and a bit further on next to a new field gate an old hurdle fixed with twine makes do as a footpath gate. All these things are typical of this "Horsiculture" which has become prevalent in the area. We cross a delightful old paddock and in the corner climb a stile to come on to the Ugley Green Road. We turn left on this road and then immediately turn right at the junction with Snakes Lane. We keep to the road for about 200 yards, past the Hermitage, and follow the next footpath sign to the left, over or through the gate and across a meadow to another gate. From here the path crosses a field which is cropped, but as it is a small field and the owner has created a wide grass ride round the edge, it is easier to follow this round to the right until reaching a gap in the opposite hedge. This gap is on an old bridge across the ditch and the field owner has planted an evergreen right in the middle of the way. Through the hedge we encounter another path across a ploughed field. Hopefully by the time you come to this it will have been harrowed and the path marked out. Meanwhile, facing the field, turn half left and head for the oak tree just over halfway down the far side. At the oak tree we come back into Stansted, crossing the bridlepath running from Snakes Lane to Stansted Flats at Pennington Lane, and continue ahead on footpath 17 to Alsa Street, following the path through the scrub round the field edge behind Alsa Lodge. We turn right at the road and after fifty yards turn left, still on footpath 17, and enjoy fine views across the valley. This path leads straight back to Gall End.



Letters TO THE EDITOR



FEATHERED NEWS

Our household decided to participate in the Essex Wildlife Trust bird census, partly because it provides a good excuse for gazing out of the window when less attractive chores clamour for attention. Each week we record those birds on a printed list which are seen in the garden, plus a separate note of any seen but not on the list. Some interesting statistics have emerged during the first ten weeks. Most notably, no house sparrows were seen during the whole of February. We know that they were present nearby, but they resolutely refused to appear during normal viewing hours. What did we do to upset them? Perhaps someone was giving them cake while we dispensed only breadcrumbs. The year so far

has seen a sustained blackbird invasion, scoring even higher than the ubiquitous wood pidgeon and collared dove. There have been good attendances by greenfinches, coal tits, dunnocks, goldcrests, long-tailed tits and, less happily, bullfinches seeking flower and fruit buds. The rarest visitor has been a hen blackcap. There have been sounds, but so far no sightings, of tawny owl and woodpecker. Doubtless other gardens can produce a more exciting selection, but we find it encouraging that there is a pleasing variety within 300 yards of the Fountain. Perhaps you have something interesting to report; if so, please let the Editor know. The Link can offer no prizes for rarities or one-upmanship!

Algernon




EASTER JOY

Did you give up something special, something you like, for Lent? Did you do it to help you remember what Jesus did for YOU? Lent seems to go on for a very long time if you gave up sweets, but towards the end of this month Easter will be here and you can attack the hot cross buns and Easter eggs.

When you wake up on Easter Day it is such a special day - really full of joy because we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

But on that first Easter morning the friends of Jesus were very sad when they woke up, because they didn't know Jesus had risen. They hadn't understood when Jesus had told them that he would rise again after three days. They were confused and afraid, and wouldn't believe Mary when she told them that she had seen the Risen Jesus in the garden by the tomb.

Thomas refused to believe unless he saw Jesus and could feel his wounds - that is why we still call




someone a 'doubting thomas' - but Jesus wasn't angry with Thomas. He invited Thomas to see for himself the marks that the nails had made. Then Thomas knew that Jesus had really risen from the dead. Why don't you read about the first Easter Day in each of the four Gospels - the accounts are easy to find as they come at the end of each Gospel.

We can't see the actual marks like Thomas, but we can know the real truth - that Jesus is risen. Jesus told Thomas, and all of us, 'Because you have seen me you have found faith. Happy are they who never saw me and yet have found faith.' So Easter Day must be the happiest day of the year!

What did the mother egg say to her baby on its first Easter?
Don't get over-eggcited.

EASTER EGGS

Melt 6oz plain chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Add 2 egg yolks, 1oz of butter and 2 teaspoons single cream. Beat till thick and then chill till firm enough to handle. Shape into 12 eggs and roll them in chocolate strands.

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