

Dec '96

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 Tel 813428
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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
5th December for publication on 29th December
16th January for publication on 2nd February**

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest: Rev'd Joe White
The Presbytery, 12 Millside, Stansted
Tel 814349

Masses:

Saturday	Stansted	6.00 pm
Sunday	Stansted	10.30 am
	Henham	9.00 am
Holy Days	Stansted	8.00 pm
	Henham	7.00 pm
Weekdays	Stansted	9.30 am
(Tues-Sat)		

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

THE TWO CITIES

In 1859 Charles Dickens (1812-1870) wrote his historical novel A Tale of Two Cities. The two cities were London and Paris, and the time was that of the French Revolution. Dickens begins with one of the best known passages in the language: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness....'

Some fourteen centuries earlier another great writer, Augustine of Hippo (354-430), also wrote about two cities. In his time the great Roman Empire was visibly collapsing and decadence was everywhere apparent. Indeed, it was in reply to the charge that Christians, with their other-worldliness, were causing the decline of the Empire that Augustine wrote his famous book The City of God. When news was brought to him in Carthage that Rome had been sacked by the barbarians he told his flock to turn away from cities like Rome which men build and men destroy. "Turn rather" he said "and concentrate your attention on the City of God, which men did not build and cannot destroy".

As I think regularly of the world I am strengthened by Augustine's words. In the weeks ahead we will be preparing for another Christmas. Again and again during the season we will be reminded of these two great cities, or kingdoms, the earthly one and the heavenly one. "That the earthly and the heavenly city exist simultaneously and intermingle is a fact recognisable only by Faith", is how the Second Vatican Council puts it, No. 40 G.S. Scripture will use different language to express this intermingling of these two cities at this time of the year when it simply says "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth ...", John 1:14.

May we have the necessary Faith and Insight to respond accordingly.

Fr. Joe White

Services for Christmas

24th December
3 pm Children's Service
9 pm Mass at Henham
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
26th December
9.30am Mass for St Stephen's Day
including enrolment of Altar Servers

Registers

Baptism

17th November Sarah Celia Rose Davy

Funeral

24th October Lesley Keeling, aged 71

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary: Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted
Tel 813579

Methodist

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

1st 9.30am The Revd Ronald Rawlings
8th 9.30am The Revd Michael Hayman
Holy Communion
15th 9.30am Mrs Daphne Cornell
22nd 9.30am United Christmas Service with
The Friends
29th 9.30am Michael Valentine

Our Annual Covenant Service will be on Sunday 5th January at 9.30 am.

Our next Fellowship meeting will be our Christmas Party on 14th December at 5.00 pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens.



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk: Mrs Mary Rice
15 Carrigans
Bishop's Stortford
Tel 651769

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

CHRISTMAS

"Quakers do not believe in Christmas do they?" I have heard that as a question and as a statement. As the festive season is rapidly approaching I have been thinking about how others see us and how we might actually be.

To quote part of Janet Scott's remarks published in 1994: "A Testimony held by early Friends was that against the keeping of 'Times and Seasons'." We might understand this as part of the conviction that all of life is sacramental and that all times are holy.

This is a testimony which seems to be dying of neglect. Many Friends, involved with family and the wider society, keep Christmas. We should perhaps try to neither let the testimony die out nor celebrate mechanically.

Within my own family we participate in the Christmas festivities. Moreover, the Quaker Boarding School I attended celebrated Christmas in the traditional way.

This year in Stansted we look forward to joining the Methodists in a Joint Service on the Sunday before Christmas Day, followed by mince pies.

However, in following tradition and testimony we do not have a special Meeting for Worship on Christmas Day unless it happens to fall on Sunday.

I hope you keep Christmas in your own way.

Peter Burgess

SHALOM DATES

2nd December: 4 Greenfields (Brian and Eileen Quinn's) Tape and discussion led by Rita Morson on Fr. Gerard Hughes - who will be leading our spiritual retreat in February '97.

16th December: Christmas Party at Ruth Rawlinson's, Mont House, High Lane, Stansted.



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: Rev'd Margaret McKay
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Tel 01799 528155

Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 523296

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 812593

PREACHERS FOR DECEMBER

1st	11am	Mrs C Bonner
8th	11am	Mr Huband
15th	10.30am	Revs M McKay - L Rapkin Group Christmas Gift Service followed by Coffee and Mince Pies
22nd	11am	Mrs J Townsend Lessons and Carols
25th	10.30am	Rev L Rapkin Group Christmas Day
29th	11am	Rev M McKay

Our Autumn Fair on November 2nd was a great success when almost £800 was raised for Group Church Funds. The day was rounded off with a fish and chip lunch and get together.

The next Cake Stall will be on December 7th with extra special cakes for Christmas. There will not be a stall on January 5th but we look forward to seeing all our customers again on February 3rd and we would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy 1997.

For your last minute Christmas Presents don't forget the Stansted Souvenirs - tea towels, notelets, mugs and cookbooks, all light and easy to post and available from 58 Chapel Hill.

Pilots Youth Club

Are you aged between 11 and 14 years?
If so, why not come along to the Pilots Youth Club, in the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, between 7 and 9pm,
Wednesday evenings.

Table Tennis, Snooker, Games, Crafts,
Occasional outings, or just meet and chat
over a coffee or soft drink. Tuck Shop
available.

Church of England

St John's Church, St John's Road

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

Rev'd Andrew Spurr
43 Gilbey Crescent, Stansted
Tel 815025

Weekly Services:

Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00 am
	Parish Communion	9.30 am
	(Creche, Children's Church & Lazer Group)	
	Evensong	6.30 pm
Monday	Holy Communion	7.30 pm
Wednesday	Holy Communion	10.00 am
Friday	Holy Communion	9.00 am

Monthly Services:

1st Sunday	1662 Holy Communion	12.15 pm
2nd Sunday	Holy Baptism	4.00 pm
3rd Sunday	Family Service	11.00 am

DIARY FOR DECEMBER

3	10.30am	Service at Norman Court
	8.15pm	Prayer Group at 62 Chapel Hill
10	10.30am	Service at Mead Court
	2 pm	Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
	2.15pm	Tiny Tots
15	11am	Christingle Service
17	10.30am	Service at Broome End
19	9.15am	St Mary's School Carol Service
20	2.30pm	Peter Kirk School Carol Service
21	4pm	CAROL CONCERT AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
22	6pm	Carols and Christingles at Farnham (NO Evensong at St John's)
24		CHRISTMAS EVE
	10.30am	Service at Hargrave House
	3 pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25		CHRISTMAS DAY
	8am	Holy Communion at ST MARY'S CHURCH
	9.30am	Parish Communion ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
27	9am	Holy Communion



REGISTERS FOR OCTOBER

Baptisms

6th	Ryan John Carr Elspeth Helena Monro-Smith Electa Rosalind Perivolaris
20th	Louise Poulton Michaela Louise Poulton Hannah Louise Poulton

Wedding

19th	Stuart Andrew Horton and Rachel Claire Bargery
------	---

Funerals

8th	Jessica Evelyn 'Jane' Lawrence, aged 62
11th	Renee Celine Rasmussen, aged 96
24th	Bertha Nellie Dockerill, aged 82

CONFIRMATION 1997

The Bishop of Colchester will be with us on Easter Eve, Saturday 29th March, when he will preside at the Easter Ceremonies. Parish Communion and Confirmation at St. John's. Please contact the Vicar as soon as possible if you are interested in preparing for Confirmation.



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in
STANSTED**

Dear Friends,

By the time this letter appears in print the crisis in Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi may have been defused to a certain extent through the offices of the U.N. and member states armies, with aid beginning to reach the most desperate through the several established relief agencies.

I wonder now whether there are some in the village who have not heard of STANSTED R.A.P. (Regular Aid to the Poor) and its ongoing support for three of these agencies: The Red Cross, Save the Children and Oxfam - a scheme now established for three years. By joining R.A.P. and agreeing to take a set of 12 (unmarked) envelopes, you may contribute a monthly amount, known only to yourself, to be handed in to the R.A.P. box held in Stansted Post Office.

Your regular contribution, however small, will help ensure the long-term supply of aid to those who need it most by those best equipped and ready at all times to deal with crisis situations at home and abroad.

Enquiries re envelope scheme, or bankers order if preferred, to Stansted R.A.P Treasurer, Alan Wheeler, tel. 01279 813745.

Yours sincerely
Phyllis Harrison

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE AND SUPPER

Sunday 29th September 1996

This year our village Harvest Festival was held in the United Reformed Church and led by Rev. Margaret McKay. It was a most inspiring service. Margaret had carefully chosen readings and hymns which illustrated fully the creation of God's world.

The church looked wonderful with a vast array of 'real' harvest produce (no tins) topped off by a magnificent bread wheat sheaf, these donated by members of the U.R.C.

After the service the supper was held in the URC Hall behind the church and this was packed to capacity. The supper was excellent, described as a "posh ploughman's" with many different cheeses, ham and salads together with various puddings, all donated by the various churches.

After supper we were entertained by the very professional Rev. Chris Bishop from Manuden, who sang us old English Folk Songs and told us a variety of really good jokes. He really should be 'discovered'; although perhaps we wouldn't then have the benefit of his talent.

Chris then turned out to be a very efficient auctioneer and all the fruit and veg. etc. from the church was sold off at a very lively auction and raised the sum of £40.00, which together with the church collection, we agreed should go to the Whitechapel Mission in the East End of London. This is a refuge for those who have fallen on hard times. Regular trips are made to Whitechapel by volunteers from Stansted and Bishop's Stortford to help prepare and serve food, distribute clean clothes, give the occasional haircut and have a chat.

Later, at the recent CTS Executive Meeting, it was agreed that the amount raised through tickets for the supper, some £90, should also be donated to the Mission, which is celebrating its Centenary this year.

The evening was a success not only because the service and supper were excellent, but mainly because we were all together and it really doesn't matter at times like these, which are only too few and far between, where you worship on a normal Sunday morning. Mary Warnett



STANSTED

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have donated or promised to donate toner cartridges. Please keep them coming - even the little deskjet cartridges are worth £2.50!!

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 - collection can be arranged.

**PRINTER
CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING
PROJECT**



CAROL SINGING

We shall be meeting, as usual, to sing carols on the four evenings before Christmas. Everyone is welcome to come and sing to raise money for a local charity. We would also welcome recorder, flute and clarinet players (but please contact Marion Dyer on 814059 so that we can have the music available). This year we shall be supporting the Gorsefield Society (registered charity no. 1047329).

We will meet at 7.30 pm each evening and at the following places:

Saturday 21 December:

Meet at the corner of High Lane and Coltsfield, to sing in Coltsfield. The Campions. High Mead and Meadowcroft.

Sunday 22 December:

Meet at the corner of Church Road and Maitland Road, to sing in Maitland Road. St Mary's Drive, Stoneyfield Drive and Park Road.

Monday 23 December:

Meet outside St John's Church in St John's Road, to sing in St John's Road. St John's Crescent and Brewery Lane.

Tuesday 24 December

Meet outside the Windmill to sing in Woodfields. Spencer Close and Greenfields.

Helen Baker. Mike Dyer.
Jane Freeman. Peter Jones



THE GORSEFIELD SOCIETY

Gorsefield, the large country house on the outskirts of Stansted, is now part of the education service of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It offers residential courses for children from schools in this deprived inner-city area, designed both to provide a valuable social experience and to contribute to work within the National Curriculum. The work of the residential centre and the opportunities offered by a visit to Stansted are very much appreciated by schools, families and pupils within the borough, but it is increasingly difficult for them to meet the costs of a stay at Gorsefield. The principal purpose of the newly-established Gorsefield Society is to raise funds to help with these costs, ensuring that needy children can continue to benefit from all that the centre has to offer.

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society
CARERS SUPPORT GROUP
2pm to 4pm
Monday 2 December
Quaker Meeting House
Everyone welcome
Tel 01371 875810 / 872519



St Mary's School, Stansted
Christmas Fayre
6.30 pm to 8.30 pm
Friday 6 December
Adults 50 p (inc raffle ticket) children free

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
2 PM TO 5 PM
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER
Bentfield School
Lots of fun for the whole family
Games for the children
Many Christmas items for sale
Everyone welcome
Admission 25 pence



VILLAGE EVENTS

December			
2	Mon	Carers Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 pm
		Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
4	Wed	Gardening Club	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thur	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Fri	Christmas Fayre	St Mary's School 6.30 pm
		Conservatives Christmas Party	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Cake Stall	United Reformed Church 10 am
		Christmas Fayre	Bentfield School 2 pm
		Village Music Club	St John's Church 8 pm
9 - 12		Skip at Crafton Green	
11	Wed	Sideways Nativity Play	United Reformed Church 8 pm
13	Fri	W I Carol Concert	Lower Street 9.30 am
14	Sat	Stansted Millers Sale	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm
		Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	7 Blythwood Gardens 5 pm
		Methodist Church Party	Mont House High Lane 8 pm
16	Mon	Shalom Christmas Party	St Mary's Church 4 pm
21	Sat	CTS Village Carol Concert	meet at High Lane 7.30 pm
		Village Carol Singing	meet at Church Road 7.30 pm
22	Sun	Village Carol Singing	meet at St John's Church 7.30 pm
23	Mon	Village Carol Singing	meet at Windmill 7.30 pm
24	Tue	Village Carol Singing	
January			
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
11	Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm
		Conservatives Supper	Plegdon Barn

HOMEMADE CAKES
10.00 am
Saturday 7 December
outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
(in church if wet)

STANSTED MILLERS
Sale of Goods
outside 'Savages'
Lower Street
9.30am to 12 noon
Saturday 14 December



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED
Carol Singing

You are warmly invited to join
in singing round the village
Meet at 7.30 pm

Sat 21 corner High Lane/Coltsfield
Sun 22 corner Church Rd/Maitland
Mon 23 St John's Church
Tue 24 Windmill

Followed by refreshments
All are welcome
Hope to see you there!

Recorder, flute & clarinet players also welcome

Please tel 814059 to arrange music



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB
An evening of light vocal entertainment
"NOT PAVAROTTI"
8.00 pm
Saturday 7th December
St John's Church
Tickets from Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill
and at the door
£7 adults £5 concessions £2 children



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED
Carol Concert
St Mary's Church
4.00 pm
Saturday 21 December
Everyone Welcome

Stansted Mountfitchet Evening WI
warmly invite you to their
Carol Concert
8 pm
Friday 13th December
at the
United Reformed Church
followed by refreshments in
the Lecture Hall
All are welcome
Hope to see you there!

"OUR VILLAGE"

"Magic of the Musicals" was the title given to an evening entertainment held within the United Reformed Church, performed by local youngsters on Wednesday 16th October. Caroline Talamas (Producer) gave introduction to the evening, where we would be journeying throughout a "Whole New World", stopping off to enjoy songs from *The Sound of Music*, *Les Miserables*, *Annie*, *Oliver* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. The evening was concluded with an impressive candle light procession through the Church to accompany the final number "Sun rise, sun set".

Although billed as an amateur production, the given performance was presented throughout to an extremely high standard, which was highlighted by the sheer volume and duration of applause given by the audience, who could not find praise enough for the following cast (who if they choose to promote their obvious talent will surely find their names in lights within the future world of entertainment):

Amanda Brookfield, Anna Boatman, Amy Dean, Carley Dixon, Claire Doone, Hayley Pinner, Helen Gould, Henrietta Patrick, Jack and Sophie Comyn-Noyes, Juliette Sherwood, Kate Hephherd, Kayleigh Mackness, Lloyd Dixon, Luke Berry, Melody Ferguson, Neeray and Ravi Morzaria, Robert Hopkins, Victoria Coke.

The production team from producer Caroline Talamas and Assistant Ann Leberman, Pianist Martin Leberman and Assistant Martin Scott, Musical arranger and Director Valerie Trundle, must also be applauded for their professional leadership and dedication (not forgetting those in the wings and back stage) whose combined efforts made this a magical musical evening to remember. but if you would like a lasting memory then a limited number of videos have been produced. For further information please contact Valerie Trundle.

P J Brown



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

Beams of glorious autumn sunshine provided the backdrop for the season's first concert in St John's Church, Stansted, on Sunday 13th October when an appreciative audience enjoyed an afternoon of music from **The Killian Quartet and Chi-Yu Mo (clarinet)**. Their programme included music by Brahms, Haydn and Mozart.

Sonia Levy
815282





THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Remembrance Parade and Service at Stansted was exceptionally well attended in spite of the inclement weather. The Rev. Bob Wallace officiated at the Memorial and in the Church.

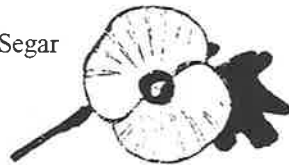
Many younger members of the village paraded and laid wreaths. The address given by the Vicar was ideal for us all but was well received by the younger end of the congregation. Thank you.

The Poppy Appeal

May I thank all the collectors who undertook the House to House Collection and those who did the street collections. I will report further in the next Link.

Many thanks must also be expressed to all who generously gave to the Appeal.

John L Segar



The Rededication Service of the Stansted and District Branch of The Royal British Legion after 70 years of service was an inspiring occasion for the large number of people who attended the Service at St. John's Church on Sunday 27th October. The Stansted Branch has been run for the last few years by a small but dedicated group of three or four members who have worked extremely hard. This little group is not getting any younger and they could do with some help. We are now looking towards younger National Service men to join the Branch to assist our very worthy work.

Anyone can become an Associate member - a service background is not necessary. With new members the Branch can extend its work and social activities and face the future with confidence.

I hope that people will want to join us. Information is readily available from any member or a phone call to Bob Stoddart (Hon. Secretary) on 814015 or John Segar (Hon. Treasurer) on 813289, will tell you all about it.

R A Finn



At our AGM Mr Segar, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, presented a beautiful chrysanthemum plant to Mrs Levey and thanked her for her dedication and hard work over many years in allocating and delivering poppies, etc. to collectors.

Our President, Mrs Gabb, referred to the very successful luncheon held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Stansted Branch. She said "goodbye" to Mrs Parry, who was stepping down, and warmly welcomed Mrs Hollis, who was taking over as Chairman.

Mrs Parry thanked all members for their hard work and particularly Mrs Hollis for taking the chair at branch meetings and committee meetings.

The Treasurer reported a most successful year for fund raising; and the Secretary referred to the many branch activities.

The following officers were elected:

President - Mrs Gabb
Chairman - Mrs Hollis
Treasurer - Mrs Levey
Secretary - Mrs Whall
Committee - Mesdames Measures, Patmore, Snow, Wiffen

Our speaker was Rev'd Andrew Spurr.

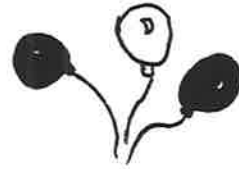
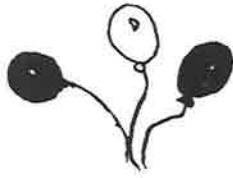
An attractive basket of plants was presented to Mrs Parry and our President also thanked her for her work.

Several of our members travelled to London on 1st October to attend the 75th Anniversary Year Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication. It was a most moving service in a packed St. Paul's.

No meeting for December or January, but we meet again in February. We do wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy 1997.

Pat Clower





THE DECEMBER MOUSE

Christmas time was always exciting - full of games and fun and jollity. Danny the December mouse was born on Christmas Day and he knew it was a rather special day. He had heard stories about the very first Christmas and he thought it was great to have a birthday on such a day.

Danny often wished that he could have taken a present to the baby who had been born on the same day as he was. He knew exactly what he would have taken; he would have taken some thistledown to make a pillow. Danny knew just where a great big patch of thistles grew. The bluetits and goldfinches knew about that patch too.

On Christmas Eve Danny and his friends were playing hide and seek in the churchyard when they heard singing coming from the church. They decided to creep inside to listen.

To Danny's surprise he saw a tiny baby lying in a bed of straw. He knew at once what he would do. He scampered away to the thistle patch and collected as much down as he could.

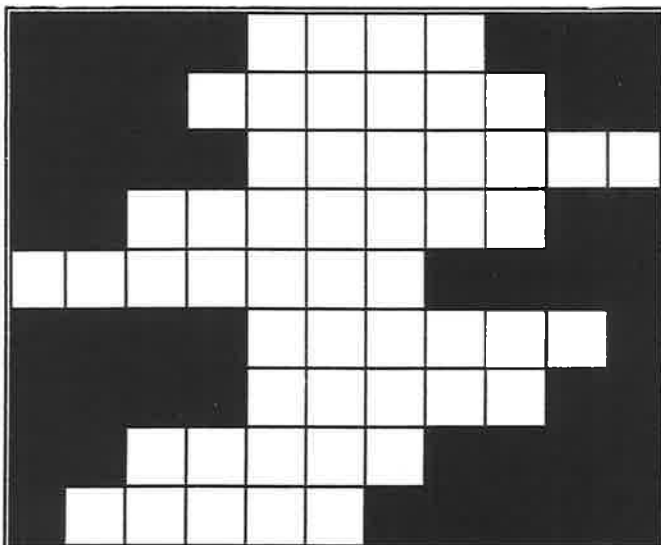
When he got back, the church was in darkness. He crept inside and put the thistledown under the baby's head. Danny went back again and again until he had made a lovely soft pillow.

On Christmas morning when all the people came to church they were so surprised to see a thistledown pillow in the crib. Nobody knew where it came from, but they all said "What a splendid idea".

There are 13 words about Christmas in this word search. Go forwards, backwards or diagonally to find these 10: crib, candles, crackers, holly, mincepies, midnight mass, presents, turkey, tree, shepherds. What are the other 3?

M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	M	A	S	S
I	L	H	F	S	L	O	R	A	C	A	R
N	O	S	E	Y	A	L	O	N	N	T	E
C	B	Y	D	B	P	L	U	G	G	P	K
E	E	R	T	R	S	Y	P	E	W	R	C
P	H	V	E	O	E	T	E	R	B	E	A
I	G	U	N	T	B	H	R	O	F	S	R
E	L	V	F	U	Y	P	P	N	T	E	C
S	T	B	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	N	O
U	T	O	F	R	W	H	N	I	H	T	L
J	M	A	K	E	I	L	P	Q	T	S	S
C	H	N	R	V	E	B	O	A	V	L	T

Answer the clues, then find a 9 letter word running from top to bottom



Put this on the fire

A place for prayer

Sunshine + rain = this

They hang about on freezing days

If you are this, try a drink

Three times

A pale purple colour

The opposite of blunt

To hold



Answers on page 12



STANSTED EVENING

Members will look at the houses at the end of Bentfield Causeway, Bentfield Green, Hole Farm and Bentfield Bury with different eyes after listening to Toby Lyons talk and slides of the Manor of Bentfield Bury which dates back to around 1066.

He showed us aerial photos of the houses and the surrounding area, old maps, pictures of farm hands of the 19th century, and photos of the Gosling family who owned Hassobury House. Many houses in this area date back to the 1500s and the Wealden House on Bentfield Lower Green is possibly the oldest of them all.

Mr Lyons who was assisted in his talk by his wife Frances (a member of the Gosling family) was thanked for an extremely interesting and informative talk.

During the business members were thanked for all their hard work when they arranged the tea for the Royal British Legion after their dedication service at St John's Church, and the help they had given Mrs Ryan who organised the refreshments at the Art and Craft Market.

The meeting continued with the group's AGM. Mrs Holland, the Treasurer, went through the finances and said though we have a healthy balance, we would still have to fund raise during the coming year.

Mrs Colliver, our secretary, then gave the committee report on the past year. On listening to this it is surprising how much we have packed in with twelve meetings. Lunches and teas for various organisations, outings, a stall at the carnival, an entry in our WI county show and our forthcoming Carol Concert in December. Our membership hovers around the 40 mark and new members are always welcome.

The President, Mrs Ryan, then thanked her committee for their backing over the past year; she also thanked the members for their co-operation in the events the committee had arranged. Mrs Joyce, for the members, thanked the committee for all their hard work. Mrs Ryan was returned as President and the existing committee were re-elected for another year.

The meeting closed with the results of the competition to name a new pub. Mrs Colliver's suggestion of "The Computer and Mouse" won this!



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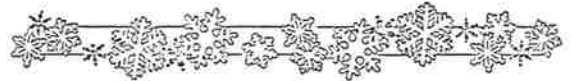
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Forthcoming Events

At 8.00 pm on Friday 6th December 1996 the Branch Christmas Party will be held in the Day Centre, Stansted.

The 1997 Branch Annual Supper Dance will be held on Saturday 11th January 1997 in the impressive surroundings and atmosphere of Pledgdon Barn, Henham. Tickets will be on sale shortly. This is a very popular fixture and early application to me for tickets is strongly advised.

Alastair Richardson



Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

Having our own Windmill in Stansted created particular interest in our meeting in November when the speaker was Michael Joyle on Essex Mills, especially those owned and being restored by Essex County Council.

The December meeting should be equally enjoyable as we will start the Christmas Meeting with a glass of wine and later in the evening have mince pie and coffee. We will be hearing from Georgina Green on Dick Turpin - Fact and Fiction.

Stansted's own Peter Brown will be on parade in January to talk on the local Fire Brigade. February will be Members Evening when several people will cover a variety of subjects.

Make a note in your diary and come and join a lively Society on the first Thursday in each month at the Day Centre, 8 pm.

Peggy Honour



Stansted Liberal Democrats

The October Supper Club proved to be a great success. Danny Alexander of the European Movement was guest speaker and gave an enlightening and interesting talk on European issues.

Forthcoming Events

14th December Ploughman's lunch at the Day Centre,
12-2 pm
11th January Ploughman's lunch at the Day Centre,
12-2 pm



A CASH NON-DISPENSER OR A READER'S EXPERIENCE

Wanting cash I fed my bank payment card into a cash dispenser outside a store and carefully followed the instructions. Nothing happened as the dispenser had eaten my card. Below the dispenser it said, in effect, in case of difficulty ask our staff for assistance.

The Store Staff Answer: 'Sorry, the dispenser is nothing to do with us. You could ask the nearest branch of the bank whose dispenser it is.'

Two miles later and getting more annoyed all the time I asked the bank branch for help.

Bank Branch Answer: 'The dispenser is nothing to do with us. It may be dealt with by our Business Centre and you may get your card back in a few weeks.'

Question by me: 'Can you tell me the phone number of your Business Centre?'

Answer by Bank Staff: 'Sorry, we don't have the phone number here.'

All very difficult to understand in this day and age.
MORAL - Be warned and keep your cash under the mattress!

Disgusted
Stansted



Editor's Note

A bank spokesperson may wish to reply. In this case the Link would waive its charges.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Our usual monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 6th November at the Day Centre when Dr. Alan Thompson presented an interesting talk on new Potato Varieties. Dr. Thompson from PBI International, a private company, part of the multinational group Unilever, explained how new varieties of potato were developed at the PBI site near Cambridge. This, he showed, was a long, slow process taking up to 15 years before a new variety could be marketed. With the large companies requiring suitable potatoes for chip making and the supermarket chains demanding customer friendly potatoes, research needs to be continuous so that growers in this country and abroad can meet the demand.

Members Competition

This months competition "3 potatoes" was won by Monica Dedman. Congratulations.

Seed Order

Our annual seed order will be submitted to the suppliers in December, so members are reminded that completed order forms must be with Derek Francis by December 4th.

December Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4th December at 8 pm at the Crafton Green Day Centre. This will take the form of our Christmas get-together with a quiz specially prepared by Ros Fuller.

Monthly Competition

For December this is "Flowering Pot Plant" max. 5" pot.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY

The Mountfitchet Garden Club wishes all its members and friends a **HAPPY CHRISTMAS** and a successful gardening year in 1997.





The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

COFFEE MORNINGS

All Coffee Mornings are 10.00am - 11.30am
Tea/Coffee: 30p (members) 40p (non-members)
Children's Drinks: 10p (members) 15p (non members)

Everyone is welcome
(please call the host for more information)

December

Mon 2nd	Under 1s	Clare	815225
Wed 4th	Toddlers	Kim	812854
Fri 6th	Pre-school	Isobel	850354
Mon 9th	Under 1s	Cathy	651457
Wed 11th	Messy Play	Isobel	850354
Fri 13th	Pre-school	Julie	814047
Mon 16th	Under 1s	Sue	647343
Wed 18th	Toddlers	Vanessa	812515
Fri 20th	Mince Pies and Music		
		Sharon	850316
Mon 23rd	Under 1s)	
Wed 25th	Toddlers)	No meetings
Fri 27th	Pre-school)	
Mon 30th	Under 1s	Jane	813010

January

Wed 1st	Toddlers	No meeting	
Fri 3rd	Pre-school	Hayley	850287
Mon 6th	Under 1s	Sue	812777
Wed 8th	Toddlers	Margaret	816053
Fri 10th	Pre-school	Jane	813010

If you are interested in the NCT and would like any further information, please contact our Membership Secretary on 815953.

THE NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST
Stansted and District

Our AGM was held in November at The Three Colts. There were several changes to the committee and our chairman thanked all those resigning for their hard work in the past and presented them with a small gift as a token of our appreciation. The new committee members were welcomed and we look forward to an equally productive team in the coming year. In a departure from previous years we combined our AGM with a social evening which was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Preparations for a wide range of Christmas activities are well under way. As in previous years December will start with a Christmas Party. For many children this signals that Christmas has finally started and the highlight is undoubtedly an appearance by Father Christmas. My son has already expressed his intention to give Father Christmas his letter at the party so he can be sure he's got it!

There are several social events for the parents planned as we will naturally need some relief from the frenzy of December with toddlers.

Just before Christmas we will once again be visiting Audley End Miniature Railway and enjoying a ride to Santa's Grotto. This is always a lovely experience for the children, most of whom seem totally oblivious to the less than favourable weather conditions that always seem to accompany us!



We are now into December and this term is always one of the busiest for Sideways with all the excitement of Christmas and with the build up to the Nativity Play on 11th December which all the children love. We hold a raffle on the morning of the play and also have a well visited cake stall with cakes being provided by parents. In the last week of term the children are visited by an entertainer. this year being Steve Sausage, then each child is given a specially chosen present by Father Christmas himself.

Once again if you are passing the Church Hall why not have a look at the windows the children have decorated with the help of the teachers.

Sadly we are to say goodbye at the end of the Christmas term to Caroline who recently joined us as she wishes to devote more time to her current studies. We wish her well and look forward to her popping in now and again. We are now looking for a new teacher so if you have 2/3 mornings a week free and are NNEB, Pre-School Learning Alliance Dip. or have a Teacher Training Certificate why not get in touch with us (in writing only) to Mrs S Brown, Tumblers, Wood End, Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3SN.



CHILDREN'S PAGE	coal	C
	church	H
Answers	rainbow	R
	icicles	I
star	thirsty	S
manger	thrice	T
carols	mauve	M
	sharp	A
	grasp	S



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL



The bonfire and fireworks was acknowledged as being an excellent event this year. The unseasonably mild weather helped and the fireworks were better than ever. The event involved a few different village organisations this year and in addition to the millers' experienced hands in letting off the fireworks, the scouts organised the bonfire, with a Guy from Rainbow Playgroup. St. Mary's PTA ran the hot dog stall and the ATC group helped with the car parking. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Shortly before Christmas, on Saturday December 14th, from 9.30-12.00, we will be having a sale of mill goods outside Savages in Lower Street. This will be a good opportunity to buy local gifts and stocking fillers. There are several new additions to the range and many unique items featuring the windmill for young and not so young.

Over the winter we hope to improve the area for sales of goods within the mill. If anyone would like to help in the preparation or would like to give a hand in the work they would be most welcome.

If anyone is interested in helping on open days, being involved with work on the mill or wants further information they can contact Steve Clements, tel: 816514.

With lots of "oohs" and "ahs" we once again celebrated a belated fireworks party. Helped along by hot dogs, delicious cakes and sparklers, everyone agreed that the evening went with a bang. A big thankyou to the Wallace family who opened up their garden for us and to Brenda especially for cooking the hot dogs and onions.

The reason why we delay our firework display is because on the second Thursday of each month we cannot use St John's Hall. We cover most of these Thursdays by holding our Christmas Party on Friday, a B.B.Q. in June, Sports Day at Broome End in July and a Carol Service also at Broome End in December. We sometimes use the U.R.C. Hall, but if anyone can come up with an idea of a visit or venue for the second Thursday in the month Marion would be pleased to hear about it.

Everybody at the Huw Johnson Club would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, especially all our benefactors, drivers and helpers without whom the club could not exist.

"A Happy Christmas Everyone".

Marion

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AGE CONCERN NEW HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A major scheme to help older people is in the process of
being launched within the District of Uttlesford.

The Home Support Scheme, set up by Age Concern
Essex, with a grant from Joint Finance (Health and Social
Services) has been hailed as an important move in
improving services for older people within the District of
Uttlesford and has been welcomed by all the local
statutory and voluntary organisations.

The scheme is being run by co-ordinator, Julia Rodd, who
is working from 12b Stortford Road, Gt. Dunmow.

Age Concern Chief Officer, Terry Cassels said "We will
supply help with basic housework, shopping, very
practical work for older people who cannot do it for
themselves.

A lot of older people who used to have housework from
Social Services no longer receive this service and it has
meant some people are really struggling to maintain their
homes and could go for a whole week without seeing
anybody at all.

This is a way of monitoring older people to make sure
they are not deteriorating physically or mentally."

There is a charge for the service of £4.75 per hour as
funding is limited.

Anyone wishing to have further information about
receiving the service or anyone who is interested in
working for this worthwhile cause can contact Julia Rodd
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