

June '96

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Vol XVI no 8

The LINK



STANSTED CARNIVAL

22 June

TWO GREAT VILLAGE EVENTS

THIS MONTH

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS



23 JUNE STANSTED FUN RUN/WALK



The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

To order your copy of *The Link*,
please contact:
Mrs L Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture
Tel: 813428

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Sheila M Parry, 16 Bentfield Causeway
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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill
For July issue by 13 June 1996
For Aug/Sep issue by 11 July 1996

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

Services: Sunday Masses -
Saturdays
Stansted 6.00 pm
Sundays
Henham 9.00 am
Stansted 10.30 am

Holy Days
Henham 7.00 pm
Stansted 8.00 pm

Weekday Mass
Tuesdays-Saturdays inclusive
Stansted 9.30 am

Confessions:
Saturday after 9.30 am Mass

REGISTERS FOR APRIL

Baptism

14th Sally Clifford
Thomas Horton

We offer our congratulations, prayers and good wishes to all our young people who were confirmed by Bishop Thomas on Sunday 5th May.

Graham Bush, Bernadette Collins, Louise Collins, Sinead Collins, Susanna Foster, Emma Hedge, Catherine Hope, Francesca Kilbey, Liam Loughlin, Jonathan Mizzi, Hugh Naughton, Jason Naughton, Anna Rutterford, Suzanne Thorogood.

We thank them for their work in preparation for the Sacrament; and we thank their parents and helpers, and sponsors - all of whom have contributed greatly to this very special celebration. Well done to everyone!

Our young candidates at Confirmation could have no better words to guide them on their proclaimed path of the Christian life than those of Pope Paul VI:

"Above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by Witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an unaffected and simple way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst?

Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.

Let us therefore preserve our fervour of Spirit ... May it mean for us an interior enthusiasm that nobody and nothing can quench ..."

CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Reg Rapkin, husband of the Rev'd Lydia Rapkin of the United Reformed Church. Reg, who was 75, died on 26th April having suffered a severe stroke a few weeks before.

All the many friends of the Rapkins within the Churches Together in Stansted, and in the village, extend their deep sympathy to Lydia and the family in their great loss.

Katharine Hurford
(Chairman C.T.S.)

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 Andrew Spurr
43 Gilbey Crescent
Tel: 815025

Weekly Services:	Holy Communion	8.00 am
	Parish Communion	9.30 am
	(Creche, Children's Church and Lazer Group)	
	Evensong	6.30 pm

Holy Communion is also celebrated on:

Monday	7.30 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am
Friday	9.00 am

The following services are held monthly:

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

DIARY FOR JUNE

4	10.30 am	Service at Norman Court
	8.15 pm	Prayer Group at 1 Maitland Road
11	10.30 am	Service at Mead Court
	2.00 pm	Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close
	2.15 pm	Tiny Tots
17	8.00 pm	Standing Committee at the Vicarage
18	10.30 am	Service at Broome End
24	7.30 pm	Holy Communion in St John's followed by Joint P.C.C. meeting with Birchanger and Farnham in the Vicarage
25	10.30 am	Service at Hargrave House
	2.15 pm	Tiny Tots

REGISTERS FOR APRIL

Baptisms

14th Rebecca Louise Sculfor
Jonathan James Shipman

Funeral

25th Sydney Charles Felstead,
aged 92

Confirmation Register:

Saturday 6th April at St John's

Michelle Bacon, Steven Bland,
Louiseanne Francis, Vikky Hancock,
Alex Kaley, Kimberley Mace,
Thea Partridge, Katy Pinner,
Kim Reed, Juliet Richards,
Helen Trueman, Tanya Walker,
Gemma Wright.

Adults: Jayne Bacon, Judith Lloyd,
Alan Morgan, Joanna Thorpe.



St. Mary The Virgin
Stansted Mountfitchet

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN

Church Road
Stansted Mountfitchet

St. Mary's Church will be open to visitors on Sunday 2nd June and on Carnival Day, Saturday, 22nd June, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 13th July

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Open Day at Gorsefield, Grove Hill,
Stansted.

Further details in the July "Link".



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: The Rev'd Margaret McKay, MA BD
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Saffron Walden, Essex
Tel: 01799 528155

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

Group Secretary: Miss Muriel Dalley
145 Cherry Garden Lane
Newport, Essex
Tel: 01799 541210

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

Services: 11.00 am each Sunday

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

PREACHERS FOR JUNE

2	11 am	To be announced
9	11 am	Mrs C Rees
16	11 am	Rev M McKay Communion
23	11 am	Rev L Rapkin
30	11 am	Rev M McKay



The recent Coffee Morning for the Bible Society raised £130 for funds. During the morning Mr Bob Hiley of "Book Aid" told us how they packed and sent the Bibles we had collected to Africa. He said that this year's project was for Ladybird Books and that recently they had had a letter from a school in Africa who had received a box of books and among them was a book on Radio Receivers and that one class of children with the help of their teacher had been able to make one from the instructions and how pleased they were.

We have decided that our Walking together with Christ project for the next few months will be to collect Ladybird books but we need your help. So if your children or grandchildren can spare just one book we will be grateful. The books can be left at 58 Chapel Hill or on the first Saturday each month at our Cake Stall on the Church steps where there will be a box to collect them in.

A very enjoyable Quiz Night was held on 11th May and raised £223 for our Repair and Redevelopment Fund. The next event for this fund is when the children from St. Mary's Primary School are very kindly coming to the Church. This is on Wednesday June 12th when they will give a performance of Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat at 7 p.m. Programmes, price £2 (or £1 concessions) are now available from Valerie Trundle or 58 Chapel Hill (812593).

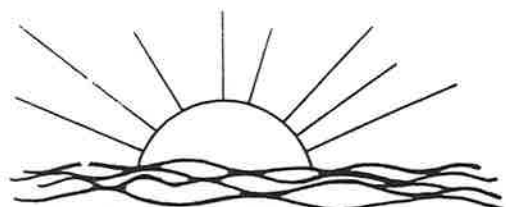
At the Carnival on June 22nd we are having a Bric a Brac and Souvenir Stall. Mugs, tea towels and this year's special, our Celebrity Cook Book, will be on sale. The cook book includes recipes from Kathy Staff, Delia Smith, Carol Vordaman Henry Sandon, Don Mclean as well as several village organisations and primary schools. Priced £3 this is not to be missed.

On July 3rd Bentfield Primary School children are giving a concert at 7 p.m.; more details next month.

TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE STANSTED CHURCHES

Thank you all for the messages of love and sympathy we received in memory of Reg. The many prayers which have surrounded us have been a source of great strength and comfort to us all.

Lydia Rapkin and family



Methodist

Meet in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary: Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted, CM24 8BD
Tel: 813579

Services: Morning Service 9.30 am

PREACHERS FOR JUNE

2 9.30 am Mr Bill Huband
9 9.30 am Revd Michael Hayman
Holy Communion
16 9.30 am Church Anniversary
Revd Michael Giles
23 No Morning Service because of
FUN RUN arrangements
6.30 pm Mr Jim Gill
30 9.30 am Mr Ken Mark

Church Fellowship on Friday, 14th June
at 8.00 pm. Venue to be arranged.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk: Mary Rice
15 Carrigans, Bishop's Stortford,
Herts. CM23 2SL
Tel: 651769

"Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of daily dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God."

Taken from Quaker 'Advices and Queries'.

SHALOM DATES FOR JUNE

June 2nd: Visit to Hindu Temple, Neasden. 'Swaminarayan Manoir' is the first traditional Hindu Temple in Europe, constructed according to the ancient shilpashastras. Meet at the Mission Car Park, Neasden, 3 p.m.

June 3rd: 8 p.m. Discussion Group - "Ageism" at Mike and Marian Dyer's, 7 Blythwood Gardens.

June 17th 8 p.m. Sister Margaret Shepherd of Council for Christians and Jews at Mike and Marian Dyer's 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Our Annual Retreat

Spring was in the air, lowering clouds, icy winds and falling snow, on the afternoon of Friday 12th April when the Shalom Group met at St. Mark's College, Audley End for their annual retreat. Led by the Rev. Jeremy Saville we were soon introduced to the theme of the weekend, 'Journeys (travelling) and Clouds'.

The first reading from Genesis told the story of Jacob and Esau and how Jacob fled into the wilderness to escape from his brother's anger. From there the group explored other wanderings in the wilderness, including our own periods of spiritual estrangement, and how God's protection and guidance was always there, often made manifest in the form of a cloud, sometimes a cloud no larger than a man's hand.

Finally, there is reconciliation between God, our guide, and man and with each other, as between Jacob and Esau.

The weekend was divided into five sessions with ample time for prayer and meditation and left the group with many ideas for private reflection on leaving St. Mark's.

Rev. Jeremy Saville was thanked for his stimulating leadership and we wished him well on his pilgrimage. He is now walking the old pilgrim way from Le Pay in France to the shrine of St. James of Compostella in Spain. He is being sponsored on his walk for a children's Hospice and for the repair of his parish church organ.

If you would like to contribute, any member of the Shalom Group would be pleased to hand on your donation.

Joan and Francis

A Flight with Wild Geese



A group from Churches Together in Stansted spent the day with the Iona Community to discover a world of worship. Andrew Spurr asked why, and where it leaves us?

"It's sin that keeps us in business", says an earnest Vicar in an old sixties sitcom re-run. From where we now stand we can see that it's truth has been borne out. The decline in church attendance, in the intervening years, has accompanied the re-drafting of the map which defined the territory of sin. These days most middle-class people, in public at least, locate ourselves outside its boundaries even if, in private unguarded moments, we find we have trespassed on the wrong side of the fence. The concept, and the word, are definitely out of style.

Whether we remember the sixties or not, few serious Christians would want to return to the trivialisation of salvation which simply required a personal tempering of passions. Since the time of the American Civil Rights Movement our world has become smaller by the day, and with this, our sense of sin has been informed by the knowledge of how powerful groups oppress others in other countries, even if we can't see it here at home.

The churches of Archbishop Desmond Tutu under apartheid, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla under Communism and Dom Helder Camara under Western market forces, have thrived. For them, sin has not been a matter of debate, because it has been in their face and on their backs. They have not pondered whether prayer works, they have cried to God to be saved, they have not asked whether the Bible is relevant, because its stories are full of people like them, where God has been, and therefore is, one of the characters. And when salvation has come, they have sung, loudly, deeply and together. In the churches of the West, our quest for relevance has eluded us as our modern music has become heartier and jollier to the point of near hysteria. What can we celebrate if we don't know what we need to be saved from?

It was this sense of unease which led a group of us to the Wild Goose Workshop in Bromley last month, drawn from all the Stansted churches, united in our curiosity and need to understand. The Wild Goose, a Celtic symbol for the Spirit of God, has been adopted by the Iona Community from Glasgow. Their work and worship is rooted in the spiritual history of Celtic peoples in these islands, which was inspired by the involvement of the Community's founder, George MacLeod, among the families of the Govan shipyards in the thirties.

A smile had cracked across his ebony face; "In my country's struggles, we can live with one more little clash!"



The Community has discovered that you can only find yourself in God's story, if you begin by telling your own. In the seventies and eighties this led to styles of worship which drew from Celtic history and modern stories of life in Glasgow and other urban centres where members of the community live. It didn't take long for them to draw from overseas communities, whose worship grew out of the day-to-day, to build a musical repertoire which spans the globe.

Now the Wild Goose Worship Group, led by the Revd. John Bell, travel the country sharing what can happen when people come together to tell their story with the expectation of finding God there.

It's only against such a background that one can understand what's happening in a room where rows of

white people are being taught to sing the Zimbabwe song: 'Jesu Tawa Pano' by a Scottish minister.

Alan Wheeler, from the United Reformed Church, brought back stories with the music he learned, '...we sang songs born out of the struggle of the township and amid the tears of the mothers of the *disparecidos*. Upon originally

learning one new hymn, and memorising the harmonies, John Bell had noted a harmonic clash between the alto and tenor parts. He had pointed this out to the writer, Patrick Matsikenyiri. A smile had cracked across the ebony face of this tall Zimbabwean; "In my country's struggles, John, we can live with one more little clash!"' Rita Morson, from St. Teresa's, and Joan Mercer, St. John's, were curious about a workshop on the 'difficult Psalms' whose violent sentiments are often censored from our worship editions. Rita observed that the vindictive language was the price of being honest before God, 'asking God to bring disasters on others just relieved their emotions and did not indicate that they, themselves, would resort to these methods.' Others spent a morning looking for biblical characters among collections of art postcards, and discovering anew how much they had in common with characters whose stories are locked up in sacred texts.

While it is commonplace for our churches to think of post-colonial

Christians as needing our charity, it may be that, in the long term, the greater gift will be their ability to show us the way back to our own story, and our own pilgrimage, our walk with God. ●



JUNE

- 1-2 Skip at Crafton Green
- 2 Shalom Group visit to Hindu Temple
St Mary's Church open 2-5 pm
Windmill open 2-6 pm
- 3 Shalom Group, 7 Blythwood Gardens
- 5 Gardening Club, Day Centre
- 9 Conservative Barbecue, Hole Farm
- 12 Joseph & Technicolour Dreamcoat
URC Church, 7 pm
RBL Womens Section Group Meeting
- 13 Evening W.I.
- 15 NCT Bingo Night
- 17 Shalom Group, 7 Blythwood Gardens
- 18 NCT Hypnotherapy
- 20 RBL Womens Section Day Centre 7.30
- 22 Carnival
- 23 Fun Run
- 24-27 Skip at Crafton Green



TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Our sewing machine day back in April seems a long time ago now, but my garage is certainly a lot more accessible than it was! Thankyou to those of you who helped us to beat our target and re-vitalise in excess of 17 Singer machines including four treadles. It is now TFSR policy to concentrate on Singers because it is difficult to obtain spares for other makes. However, the surplus ones, especially older models, have a value as collectors' items either here or in the USA, so none are scrapped. If anyone would like to join our workshop team that meets for a couple of hours on Wednesday mornings, then please call me for further information.

Michael Dyer
814059

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

SAFFRON WALDEN CONSTITUENCY
CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Stansted Joint Branch



Forthcoming Events

Stansted Conservatives will be holding their annual Family Summer Barbecue in the lovely surroundings of Hole Farm, Stansted on Sunday 9th June at noon.

On Monday 15th July Sir Alan Haselhurst will be taking a small party round the House of Commons. Those interested in joining the party should contact Alastair Richardson for further details. Telephone 815959.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



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



Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on 8th May and the Chairman elected was Ray Clifford. The Vice-Chairman elected was John Salmon. Peter Jones was elected as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and David Parry as Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

Skip Dates

Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th July
Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August.

Playscheme

The summer playscheme will run for four weeks again this year at the Community Education Centre in Lower Street. The fun starts on Monday 29th July through to Friday 23rd August - watch noticeboards for details of times, cost and activities.

The History Society has now "broken up" for the summer, apart from our outing to Much Hadham at the end of June. Regular meetings commence again in September at 8 p.m. in the Day Centre on the first Thursday in every month until May. Individual members will be carrying on with their own projects and we will hear about some of them in due course, as we did in May when Paul Embleton gave the results of his and his helpers findings on the names on the War Memorial. If anyone not yet contacted has any information Paul would be pleased to hear from you (812627).

At our A.G.M. Jane Freeman was re-elected as Chairman, Peter Sanders as Vice-Chairman and Jean McBride as Treasurer. Marion Pretty is the new Secretary and the Committee consists of Tony Wellings, Paul Embleton, Frances Spalding, Janice McDonald, Toby Lyons and Peggy Honour, any of whom would be pleased to give you further information on the Society.

Peggy Honour
813160



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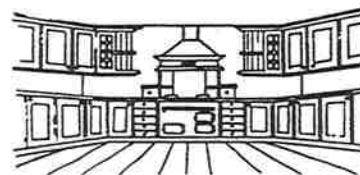
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STANSTED CARNIVAL - 22 JUNE



THE MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

This year's theme is 'CARNIVAL', so dress up everyone!

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NEEDY CHILDREN

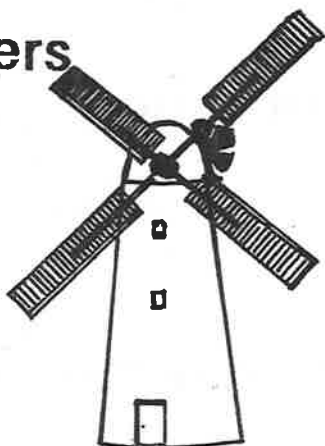


Please come and support us

Stansted Millers

Open Days, 2-6 p.m.

Sunday June 2nd
Sunday July 7th
Sunday August 4th
Sunday August 11th
Sunday August 18th
Sunday August 25th
Monday August 26th



If you want to know more about the windmill and would like to receive our regular newsletter than please contact Steve Clements on 816514. Over Easter something changed at the mill - but did you notice what it was? On Good Friday the sails were turned from their usual 'x' cross to a '+' cross. This is a traditional position for the sails to be placed in over Easter and is a symbolic reminder of the crucifix. The actual turning of the sails has become much easier following the work carried out on the mill. In previous years we have had to throw a ball attached to a line through the sails and then haul the sails round manually. A great spectator sport but less fun for those involved in the heaving! However, these days the sails can be turned from the inside with a lot less muscle power. Watch out for the next time the sails are turned, which has to be done periodically to prevent water settling in any one place for too long.

It has been very gratifying recently to see that the number of people visiting the mill has grown over previous years. We look forward to an equally busy summer.

Homemade Cake Stall

10.00am

1st Saturday of each month
outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
(in church porch if wet)

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

The Day Centre at Craften Green on Chapel Hill is open to all senior citizens - sixty plus - on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tea, coffee, snacks or a cooked lunch are available at very reasonable prices.

If you are not already a regular visitor or you don't feel like cooking, do call in for refreshment or a chat, a warm welcome awaits you.

Our splendid Day Centre is staffed entirely by volunteers. New helpers are always welcome. The commitment is not onerous. Helpers do two hour shifts 10 a.m. to 12 noon, 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Just one shift a fortnight would be greatly appreciated but if you could give more that would be splendid. If you can offer help please ring or write to Mrs Brenda Scarr at the Day Centre, B/S 815091 or B/S 813080.

Volunteer drivers are also needed. Drivers can claim mileage allowance and insurance is covered. If you are able and willing to help - however little - please ring or write to Mr W Wood at the Day Centre, B/S 815091 or B/S 814477.



AFTERNOON TEA IN AID OF MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Calorie-controlled diets were temporarily forgotten at the Day Centre on the afternoon of 24th April. Long unused embroidered tablecloths and charming flower arrangements helped to revive memories of what used to be the most pleasant of social occasions.

The organisers are very grateful to all those who cooked and who helped with preparations on the day. Many people gave raffle prizes or donations. To them and to our patrons on the afternoon we are very pleased to say that £233 has been sent to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Please could contributors sign their names when writing articles for The Link instead of using signatures such as Spinning Jenny, Magpie, Cogitatus, etc.

Jane Sell

From the Acting Editor

When the idea of a monthly village commentary was first broached it was felt that pen name(s) may encourage a broader spectrum of writers to contribute. Other village magazines and local newspapers have effectively developed this presentation with either one or a small panel of writers. All aspects of Link are kept under constant review, so if the balance of opinion goes in favour of author's names being published we would be happy to change. The important thing is that observant commentators are encouraged to contribute.

"Village Perceptions" in this issue is an example of different viewpoints.

Derek Honour



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
WOMEN'S SECTION

After normal business at our branch meeting Frances Spalding took us on a fantastic tour of Mexico illustrating her talk with some beautiful slides. Mexico was occupied for a number of years by various Indian tribes until the Spaniards arrived in the 16th century. We saw shots of Mexico city with the new Cathedral on the spot where an Indian saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. We saw other cities and villages; many temples; an African tulip tree; a banana tree; a Mexican bean tree; the Rain Forests and a tablecloth made from shredded cactus. Altogether a most interesting evening.

Stansted will be hosting the quarterly Group Meeting on Wednesday, 12th June, in the Day Centre at 7.30 p.m. and members have volunteered offers of sandwiches, cakes, raffle prizes, etc.

Our next branch meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday, 20th June at 7.30 p.m. Visitors welcome.

Pat Clower



Rainbow Playgroup, Youth and Adult Centre,
Lower Street, Stansted, Essex CM24 8LR

Our second-hand toy, book and clothing sale which took place at the end of April went extremely well. We made a profit of over £60. Many thanks to all who made donations.

Everyone who attended our open day really enjoyed themselves.

At the beginning of term we had the hospital box for two weeks. This is a fun way for little ones to learn all about hospitals by dressing up as doctors and nurses and playing with stethoscopes, etc. and toys such as little people with miniature equipment for an imaginary game of hospitals. During this time we had a visit from an ambulance. All the children were allowed to get on and explore which was great fun.

For St. George's Day the children all learnt about St. George and the Dragon and for May day they all tried very hard not to get tangled up whilst dancing around the Maypole.

We are at the moment very busy preparing our Carnival float and stand.

Lastly, somebody seems to be removing our posters from the noticeboard outside the fire station immediately when they are put up. Any information as to how this is happening should be communicated to us at Lower Street.

M. COLLINS
Family News

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VILLAGE PERCEPTIONS

As we have lingered for too long within the Castle and Toy Museum Mrs S... said there was only 1 hour left to explore the village before the coach departed.

Obviously lots of information would be needed to complete our projects focussed on our Class Visit to Stansted. The project must convey something of the feel of the place and what makes it "BUZZ".

Equipped with clipboard and pen I set off keen to find out as much as I can looking at the buildings, scanning the noticeboards and signposts and asking some of the residents for local information and directions, to build up my patchwork picture of village life.

Realising that it would not be possible to list and use everything that I see and hear I am using the letters within its name as a guide for my tour!

.....

S Stansted was a site for settlement since earliest times. The village was listed in the Domesday Book.

T Two great attractions and a magnet for many visitors. The National Award Winning Mountfitchet Castle and Norman Village - 1066 - The House on the Hill Toy Museum, nominated tourist attraction 1992 is one of the largest toy museums in the world.

A The airport being rapidly developed as London's 3rd International Airport. Britain's fastest growing airport designed to cater eventually for 15 million passengers a year. Why did the nice silver-haired man and his wife suddenly start muttering angrily and waving their arms about when I asked would that be with one runway or two?

N Norman stronghold, a unique motte and bailey castle reconstructed on its original site. I got lots of leaflets there for my project. One of them is in 5 languages (English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese). The village with an international airport on its doorstep is welcoming the world to its drawbridge!

S Signposts strategically placed on the main road reflect the famous knight historically linked with the village.

T Tourist information board at Crafton Green with Library nearby for further information and research.

E Elephants? But I didn't see any, though one man insisted there was a white one on the Cambridge Road!

D Do the Morris dancers still perform outside the Dog and Duck or has this once sparkling facet of village life faded away?

M Mountfitchet historically records Richard de Mountfitchet II as one of the Barons who made King John seal the Magna Carta.

O Observe the speed limits - why can't the signs be painted on the roadways - nobody speeds through Newport!

U Uttlesford District Council - what and where is an Uttle?

N No fouling notices prominently displayed throughout the village. Evidently still many of the dogs can't read!

T Teacher - she's impossible - apparently she has seen some ancient restored windmill, timber framed buildings and thatched cottages and has suggested even more projects for our next visit - I've got writer's cramp now.

F Fountain with willow tree and seats - I was glad of the rest - it would be so much nicer to hear and see water gurgling in the fountain again though - rather than the constant rumble of traffic.

I Information for tourists - enlarged street maps and village layout prominently displayed outside the Council Offices, Lower Street and the Windmill, would be very useful for visitors.

T Toilets - they must be somewhere for all the visitors but I couldn't find a public one.

C Church - will St Mary's remain redundant if the Rochford site is fully utilised in the future for houseing - beautiful building - 12th Century I believe.

H Houses - timberframed, thatched, flint, brick, old, new, large and small - Stansted appears to have them all.

E Exhibition - the best of the projects will be on display in the Library foyer - I'll probably get the wooden spoon.

T Time has flown, must dash to catch the coach. Perhaps I'll be back to find out more about the Windmill, "Spooks Hall" and "twitchets" - if I haven't been expelled beforehand.

"Rambling Ronnie"



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

All Coffee Mornings are 10.00 am -
11.30 am 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)

JUNE

- 4th Expectant Mums & Under 1's
Sally, Stansted 814208
- 5th Toddlers Caroline, Elsenham
647157
- 7th Pre-school Petrina, Elsenham
816675
- 11th Expectant Mums .. Jane,
Stansted, 813010
- 12th Toddlers Danuta, Stansted 816263
- 14th Action Rhyme Time, Manuden Village
Hall 10.30 - 11.30
- 18th Expectant Mums ... Margaret,
Stansted 816053
- 19th Toddlers Isobel, Henham 850354
- 21st Pre-school Mandy, Stansted 816895
- 25th Expectant Mums .. Debbie,
Widdington 01799 541457
- 26th Toddlers Mandy, Stansted 816895
- 28th Pre-school 1.30-3.00 pm
Suzanne, Henham 850497

JULY

- 2nd Expectant Mums .. Brigid
Stansted 816514
- 3rd Toddlers Jane, Stansted 813010
- 5th Pre-school 1.30-3.00 pm
Clare, Stansted 815225

A very entertaining and informative evening was spent at the end of April when a group of about twenty attended a cookery demonstration. The emphasis of the evening was on recipes which could be prepared well in advance or which could be frozen - important considerations when you have young children to look after! We were shown how to prepare about half a dozen dishes including two delicious puddings. At the end of the demonstration we were able to sample all the dishes and the unanimous verdict was that they were all delicious.

The children enjoyed an Easter Party with Mr. Rainbow entertaining them before a special Easter tea and egg hunt. We are all now looking forward to a busy summer with lots of pub lunches and picnics organised as well as a variety of outings. If you have young children and would like to find out more about what we do why not come along to a coffee morning or one of the regular Open House mornings at the Crafton Green Centre in Stansted.

Forthcoming Events:

- Saturday 15th June
Bingo Night, phone 816895
- Tuesday 18th June
Talk on Hypnotherapy, phone 815225
- Sunday 7th July
NCT 40th Birthday Celebrations

If you are interested in the NCT and would like any further information please contact our membership secretary on 815953.

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Essex County Council
Community
Education

☺ SIDWAYS ☺

As promised in the May issue, we can now report on the success of the Sidways Quiz Night. Over eighty people attended and had a wonderful evening and supper. Congratulations to the winners and to the losers who went on to win most of the raffle prizes. These included Tesco and Waitrose vouchers, bottles of Champagne, a lovely choc and carrot cake and a month's entry to Grange Paddocks Gym. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the raffle and to those who helped make the evening the success it was. The money raised will go towards new toys and art material and also provide events for the children.

The children put on a concert at the end of May to all the parents and grandparents, giving the older children a chance to shine before moving up to primary school.

Our summer term theme will involve learning about hospitals and ambulances, so we will be having a visit from an Essex ambulance and its crew, who will show the children what is carried and give an insight into their work.

Unfortunately Auntie Joyce is leaving after quite a few years, so we are looking for a replacement to start in September 96! Could you fill her shoes? Are you fit, do you have a sense of humour, enjoy working with young children, have a few hours a week for a registered charity, and do you have either NNEB, Pre-School Learning Alliance Diploma or Teacher Training Certificate? We are not asking much, are we! If so, drop Sally a line at

Mrs S Brown
Tumblers, Wood End, Widdington
Nr Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3SN.

Or Helen Pawsey, 8.30 - 12.00,
tel. 816600.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Instead of our usual indoor meeting, the club were invited on 1st May to visit Scotsdale Garden Centre near Cambridge. We learnt about the history of the company and the development of the site.

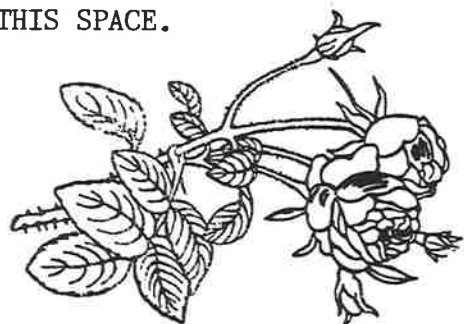
Some thirty members made up the party from Stansted and because it was specially opened for us we were the only visitors and customers (the temptation to buy was not resisted by many).

This garden centre is well worth a visit but try to avoid weekends and holidays.

June Meeting

Our normal monthly meeting is on Wednesday 5th June at our usual venue, the Day Centre, Crafton Green, at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Andrew Peters on Patio Gardening. The members' competition will be "Begonia growing in a pot max. size 5".

WATCH THIS SPACE.

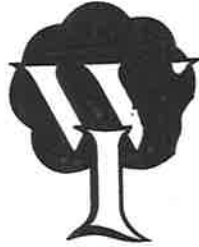


The club has an exciting programme of speakers arranged for the coming months. Topics include:

London Parks, Myths and Legends, Orchids, Safety in the Garden.

If you are only remotely interested in gardening why not come to one of our meetings as a visitor, it's only 75p ...
YOU MIGHT SURPRISE YOURSELF.

STANSTED EVENING

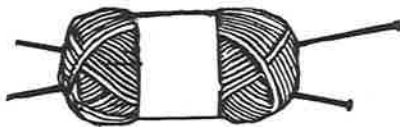


The May meeting is time for members to vote on the resolutions that will be discussed at the movement's Intermediate Annual Meeting to be held this year at Cardiff in June. Our delegate, Mrs Carol Wylde, of Farnham W.I. listened to how members voted on three subjects - Students living grants, Dentistry and the National Health Service and the "Skills for Living" that some W.I. members feel should be taught as a compulsory subject to children at Secondary School. Members were ably taken through these resolutions by Barbara Ball, a voluntary county organiser, who explained all the "fors and againsts" of these resolutions, which brought forth many questions.

Members will be attending various events organised by their "County", these being the County Festival Show at Cressing Temple barns in June, a garden party at Little Easton Manor in July and a visit later this year to Burleigh House.

The evening continued with a presentation by Pat Penfold of Week-enders clothes, four members acting as models showed the versatile way they can be worn. Members were able to purchase items at the close of the meeting.

At our June meeting we will see a collection of old patchwork quilts collected over years by Mrs Mary Bartlam, and members will hopefully produce a fancy knitted square for our competition. These will be made into a blanket and donated to a charity.



Visitors are always welcome to attend any of our meetings held in St John's Hall on the second Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m.



Our Teenagers' Evening was a great success. Kathryn, Gina, Nina and Laura aided by Richard and Lisa kept our members entertained throughout the evening. First of all they all managed to tie themselves into knots with a game called "Twister". This looked quite painful as arms and legs were twisted in an effort to reach the right colour spot on the "Twister" mat, although the spectators found it highly amusing. This was followed by a game called "Shoot for Goal". I'm sure many of our members should be studied by the selectors of the England football team judging by the way "Goal" was shouted every few seconds. While all this was going on there was also activity in the kitchen. Peppermint creams were being made and cut into the most wonderful shapes. Stars, moons, animals, most of which disappeared quickly. There were even enough for all the helpers to sample and I was presented with a green peppermint mouse. Delicious! I'm hoping that our teenagers will now make their evening a regular feature on our programme. No response as yet for two drivers to join our rota - no doubt you had to think about it first - so please do come forward so that our members do not have to miss an evening of fun.

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Our Village

How many of the three "locations" in last months issue did you manage to recognise? I understand that it caused some discussion: some found they knew all three, some knew "they had seen them" but could not remember "just where", while some had them slightly misplaced, and some admitted they could not place them at all. Overall it seems to have caused some enjoyment so we will try to find a few more for future issues. The first picture was of a house known as "Hedingham" and stood on the junction of Cambridge Road and Bentfield Road. This property was demolished to make way for the new extremely large development (see photograph taken from approximately the same position). Secondly the old timber framed building stands on the left hand side immediately over Church Road Railway Bridge and next to the footpath steps (now closed for repair). The third building being the Mission Hall down at Stoney Common. I am sure many people have many fond memories of times spent in this building.

To close can I please ask does anyone have any old photographs or information of or on the Stansted Fire Brigade. If so and you would permit me to have sight of them I would be very pleased to hear from you as we are trying to put together a story of the Brigade.

P. Brown
812816



Now can you spot what is "new" in the picture below? The Hill seemed to get steeper and steeper, or so I have been told.



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**ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE SOCIETY**

Realisation



The heralds of dementia are often unnoticed for a long time, sometimes years. My wife and I were in our late forties and beginning to enjoy the freedom that can come once the offspring have left home. We were thinking how we would like to spend our retirement and beginning to make plans.

However, I became concerned about my wife when it was evident that she was becoming ever more absentminded. Forgetting where things were kept in the house. Constantly asking me if I wanted tea or coffee, and getting neither! One day she told me she had difficulty in finding the car in town as someone must have moved it in the car park. One Christmas our friends and relations had received three sets of cards. These and many other things, though perhaps insignificant in isolation, seemed to form a worrying pattern.

We went through the traumas of consulting with doctors and specialists, many tests both physical and mental, over a period of some two years. The diagnosis by then was self evident to me but it was nevertheless a shock to have ones fears confirmed.

In 1989 I had to give up work to become a full time carer to my wife. In retrospect I regret not getting in touch with the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society sooner. Over the last couple of years they have been very supportive in helping us both to cope with this awful disease.

Ima Carer

P.S. If anyone would like to know more about the work of the Society in the area do please get in touch with Valerie on 01371 872519.

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QUIZ NIGHT

St. Mary's Primary
School Hall

Saturday 15th June

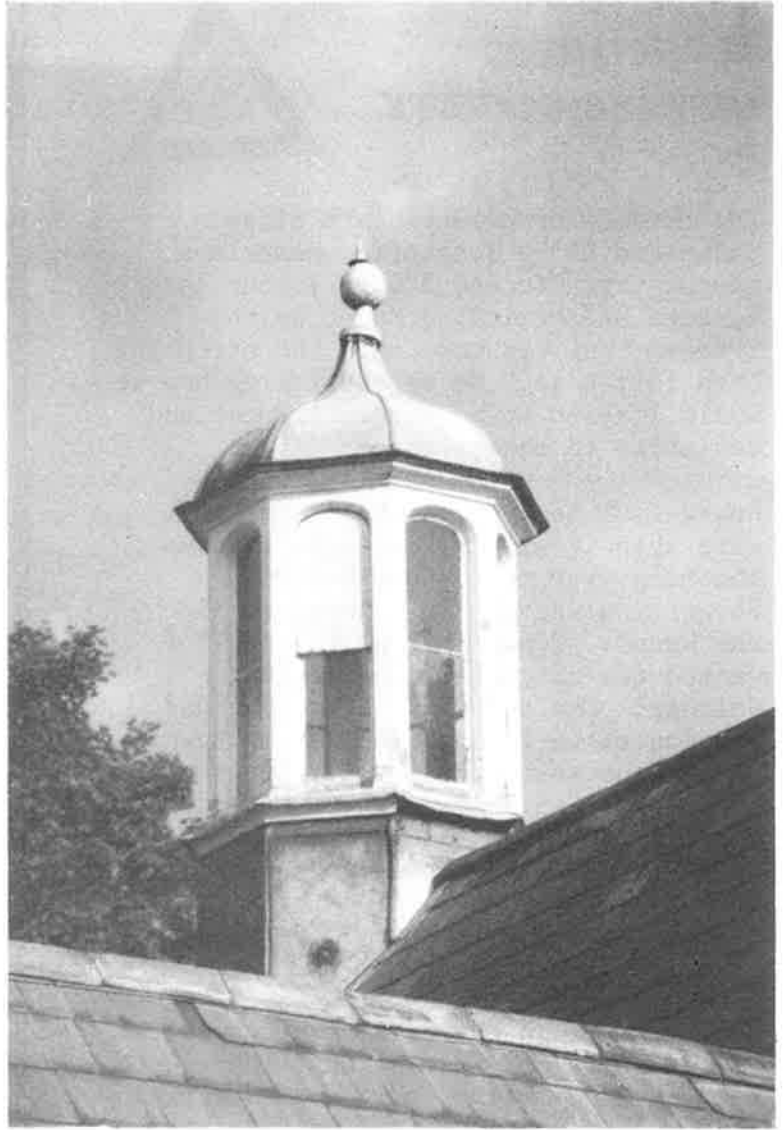
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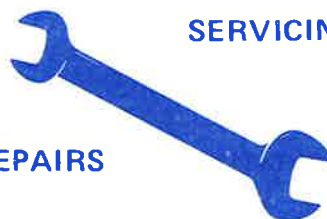
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