

Mar '96

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Volume XVI No 5

The LINK

March 1996



PREPARED BY THE WOMEN OF HAITI

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (INTERDENOMINATIONAL)



1st MARCH 1996

Speaker: Rev'd Margaret McKay

to be held at 2.00pm
United Reformed Church Hall

All are welcome, men and ladies.

PALM SUNDAY
31 March 1996



The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

To order your copy of Link please contact:

Mrs L Collingwood, 15 Loates Pasture Tel: 813428

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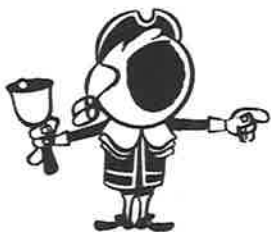
Mrs S Parry, 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel: 814788

All other enquiries to the Editor:

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill
For April issue by 7 March 1996
For May issue by 11 April 1996**



Village News

| MARCH 1996 | | |
|------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2.00pm | Women's World Day of Prayer |
| 2 | 7.30pm | "Swans" talk - Day Centre |
| 4 | 2.00pm | "Council Tax" talk in Quaker Meeting House |
| 6 | 8.00pm | Gardening Club |
| 7 | 8.00pm | Local History Society |
| 9 | 10.30am 7.30pm | Local Councillor Surgery St John's Quiz Evening |
| 11 | 8.00pm | Shalom |
| 14 | 7.45pm | Evening W.I. |
| 16 | 2.00pm 8.00pm | Scout Jumble Sale St Patrick's Night Dance |
| 17 | 9.00am | Mountfitchet School - Car Boot Sale |
| 18 - 21 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 19 | 8.00pm | Windmill AGM |
| 20 | 7.45pm 8.00pm | Evening W.I. - Lt.Hadham Annual Parish Meeting |
| 21 | 7.30pm | Royal British Legion - Women's Section |
| 22 | 8.00pm | Methodist's Fellowship Meeting |
| 23 | 2.00pm 7.30pm | NCT Nearly New Sale Stansted Carnival Barn Dance |
| 25 | 8.00pm | Shalom |
| 27 | 10.30am | Royal British Legion - Coffee Morning |
| 30 | 2.00pm | Gardening Club Spring Show Evening W.I. Trash and Treasure Sale |



| APRIL 1996 | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| 3 | | Gardening Club |
| 4 | 8.00pm | Local History Society |
| 7 | | Windmill Open |
| 8 | | Windmill Open |
| 11 | 7.45pm | Evening W.I. |
| 18 | 7.30pm | Royal British Legion - Women's Section |
| 21 | 9.00am | Mountfitchet - Car Boot Sale |
| 22 - 25 | | Skip at Crafton Green |
| 24 | 3.00pm | Afternoon Tea in aid of The Motor Neurone Disease |
| 27 | | Sideways Quiz Night |
| 30 | | Coffee Morning - Bible Society - U.R.C. Lecture Hall |

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR



Dear Readers,
 Due to the increasing workload associated with producing "The Link" and the timescale that has been imposed on that workload, I find that I am unable to continue as your Editor. (When I started it took me about 8 hours fairly evenly spread over 7 days, last month it took about 20 hours, mainly over 2 days.) I have enjoyed being associated with the magazine, especially in the early days, and have enjoyed meeting (or speaking to on the telephone) the representatives of the many clubs and associations who use the magazine to make their voices heard. Working with the typing, paste-up and collation teams has been great fun - I will miss them a lot. I wish your new Editor the best of luck for the future.

Gina Barber

P.S.

This month the proof readers have been slow returning their proofs and originals and now, 48 hours after "paste-up", they are still missing so I am unable to check names, dates, times, etc. I hope we got it right first time but will apologise in advance for any errors/omissions.

Thought for the Month.

How to keep fit in middle age - teach your kids to drive and you won't see the family car for years!

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
Presents a talk on
"SWANS"
 by **H KETCH**
Day Centre, Crafton Green
2 March 1996 at 7.30pm
Tickets £3.50
Fish and Chip Supper
Further details from:
T Laird (813458) or W Morris (816219)



Carers Support Group
Alzheimer's Disease Society
Talk by Adrienne Delow
 on
Council Tax
Monday 4 March 1996
2.00 - 4.00pm
Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill
Everyone Welcome

Homemade Cake Stall
10.00am
1st Saturday of each month
 outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
(in church porch if wet)

1ST STANSTED SCOUT GROUP
JUMBLE SALE
 at 2 pm on Saturday March 16th
 in the Scout Hut, Water Lane
Admission: 20p
 For further details please contact:
Anette Wright (Tel: 816409)

Mountfitchet High School
Car Boot Sale
Sunday 17th March
9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Tel (01279) 813384

ST PATRICK'S
NIGHT DANCE
Saturday 16 March 1996
Mountfitchet High School, Stansted
8.00pm to 11.30pm
Dancing to the
Cambridge Crofters
All proceeds to
Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre,
Northern Ireland
Admission by ticket £5.00 - Concessions
£3.50
Refreshments Raffle Bar
Ticket details from Helen Baker (814865),
Eileen Quinn (812109) or
David Morson (850209)



Stansted Carnival Barn Dance
Saturday 23rd March 1996 7.30 for 8pm start
Mountfitchet High School
£6 per person
Supper included. Licensed Bar.
Tickets available now
Please phone: 812660 or 812743

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
WOMENS SECTION
COFFEE MORNING
10.30am
27 March 1996
Day Centre, Stansted
CAKES - Tombola
White Elephant - Raffle

STANSTED W.I.
TRASH AND TREASURE
SALE.
St John's Hall
Saturday 30 March
2.00pm
Cakes and Refreshments

You are invited to
AFTERNOONTEA
 to be served at the
Day Centre, Stansted on
Wednesday 24 April
3.00pm - 5.00pm
A limited number of tickets will
be available from the Day
Centre,
price £2.50
All proceeds will go to
The Motor Neurone Disease
Association

OUR VILLAGE



What evidence is there as to where and when bricks were first made and used around our village? This two part question has a bearing on a recently undertaken local history project. I am hoping to be able to expand on this later and incorporate further information on local brickworks, bricks and bricklayers.

Archaeological excavations within our Parish have produced scattered finds of Roman bricks and tiles which suggest a substantial building, but so far this has not been fully located. Some Roman bricks and tiles have been found around St. Mary's Church.



It is of interest that many buildings from this period (Roman) were centrally heated by a hot air underfloor system (Hypocaust) so even the Romans were able to enjoy a degree of comfort during cold winters. Bricks and tiles would have been used for constructing these systems and would have been made locally, so we should be able to picture brickmaking and bricklaying as an extremely old and highly skilled profession.

We must now (for today) leap forward to the early 1800's, as by 1832, according to Parish records, John Snow and John Henry Snow are recorded as bricklayers, whilst John Tyler was a brickmaker. Names of fields like Brick Ground, Brick Pond, Brick Pasture can be found around the village and indicate their previous uses. Later we find Stansted Hall Estate and Daniel Robinson making "fine Red Bricks and other types" as many of our older houses today show witness.

Now I must please ask for your help. Does anyone have any information, knowledge, memories, maps, photographs, etc relating to the local brickworks, brickmakers or layers? No matter how small I would love to hear from you - there is mortar this story than at first meets the eye.

P J Brown

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill
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Telephone: (0279) 813214

Village Diary

The Village Diary, which for a long time was kept in the Library, is now located at the Parish Council Offices. It is hanging on the wall immediately outside the office and parishioners are welcome to use it as they wish.



SKIP DATES FOR 1996

| | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|------|--------|
| Mon | 18 Mar | - | Thur | 21 Mar |
| Mon | 22 Apr | - | Thur | 25 Apr |
| Mon | 13 May | - | Thur | 16 May |
| Sat | 1 Jun | - | Sun | 2 Jun |
| Mon | 24 Jun | - | Thur | 27 Jun |
| Mon | 22 Jul | - | Thur | 25 Jul |
| Sat | 10 Aug | - | Sun | 11 Aug |
| Mon | 2 Sept | - | Thur | 5 Sept |
| Mon | 7 Oct | - | Thur | 10 Oct |
| Sat | 9 Nov | - | Sun | 10 Nov |
| Mon | 9 Dec | - | Thur | 12 Dec |



Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00pm on **Wednesday 20 March 1996** in the Day Centre, Crafton Green. We are delighted to announce that the guest speaker will be **Chris Bush, Head of Planning at Stansted Airport**. Please put this date in your diary and make every effort to come along.

March is nearly here and Sideways is preparing for Easter, the children are busy making Easter bunnies and chicks and also preparing their special cards for Mother's Day. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of term.

Our theme for this term is Stansted Airport and the children are enjoying drawing and colouring scenes from the airport, some of which are displayed on the windows, so if you are passing please take a look. All the children who left at Christmas have settled in well to their new schools in and around Stansted, and the new little ones who started in January are already well established members of the group.



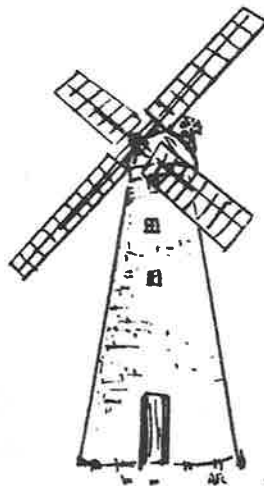
The children are helping with fundraising for new equipment by unselfishly eating Smarties, and then filling the empty tubes with coins. They can then swop them for a new tube. Lots of grandparents are contributing too, by filling the tubes without eating the Smarties!



Look out for details of our forthcoming Quiz Night on 27 April, more details will follow in the next issue. We hope to see you all there.

STANSTED WINDMILL

The Season of Open Days is not far away and we will have our AGM at the Day Centre, Crafton Green on Tuesday March 19 at 8.00pm. We have had one or two people stand down from the Committee in the last year so we are eager to hear from those who would like to help in looking after our mill.



After the business we will have a talk from Arthur Moore of Thaxted who will be telling us about the restoration and experiences with their mill. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

The Open Days for the Mill in 1996 are:

| | | |
|--------|-------------|--------------------|
| Sunday | April 7 | Easter Day |
| Monday | April 8 | Easter Monday |
| Sunday | May 5 | |
| Monday | May 6 | May Day |
| Sunday | May 12 | National Mills Day |
| Sunday | May 26 | |
| Monday | May 27 | Bank Holiday |
| Sunday | June 2 | |
| Sunday | July 7 | |
| Sunday | August 4 | |
| Sunday | August 11 | |
| Sunday | August 18 | |
| Sunday | August 25 | |
| Monday | August 26 | Bank Holiday |
| Sunday | September 1 | |
| Sunday | October 6 | |



If anyone is interested in helping on Open Days, being involved with work on the mill or wants further information they can contact Malcolm Binder, Tel: 814069.

STANSTED PERSPECTIVE

On a cold and windy morning last month as I scraped the ice and snow off the car I finally realised that I really must stop procrastinating and get down to disposing of all the accumulated junk and bric-a-brac I've been hoarding; the garage is full to bursting. Logically the family car would be safer and more accessible if garaged overnight. What perversity keeps the garage cluttered and leaves the car outdoors overnight exposed to the elements?

The loft too is full; naturally a few pieces have sentimental value, perhaps some now could be classed as antique (that's wishful thinking), some of it though could be usefully recycled even though the majority can be classed as junk.



My hoarding instincts are further diminished when "the better half indoors" also decides that the cold spell will be more tolerable with a spate of energetic spring-cleaning and cupboard purging. Spring is in the air - even if this unexpectedly cold spell holds us in an icy grip and our shivers still the birdsong of the earlier dawns and later dusks.

Warming myself some time later and catching up with the local newspapers, an item in The Reporter caught my eye - Uttlesford Council currently recycles 12% of all household waste. The National target is 25% - I have my target! - With high hopes and aspirations I shall be the environmentally friendly resident and "Recycling King of my Castle"!

Sallying forth to Boots later on, I am persuaded to dispense old Christmas cards in their collecting box. I never will get around to making new cards out of them for next year anyway! I passed the bottle and can bank on my way and so my first venture out was beneficial.

On my way home I noticed that someone had again left their paper on top of the skip at Crafton Green to be blown around creating a terrible eyesore for nearby residents and visitors. My paper is now conveniently collected from the front gate, if only I remember to put it out on the right day!

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Now I am really into the swing I am sorting out those clothes I was sure I would get into again one day! - Good clean clothing is always welcome at the London Whitechapel Mission and my wardrobe can no longer hold all my old favourites and the January Sales bargains and Christmas presents. My bag is packed ready for collection by one of the weekend helpers who make up a team to distribute monthly.



Seeking further insights I peruse the Link - Who locally could benefit from my recycling endeavours? - The Scouts jumble sale and Salvation Army' clothes bank at Crafton Green will benefit from my wife's purge through a wardrobe which is full of clothes under the well known designer label "Nothing to Wear"! The Rainbow Playgroup toy stall and book sale will welcome books whilst others more suited to the mature reader can be de-shelved via the Book Bank at Crafton Green! I wonder who has time to read my eight year collection of Readers Digest and three years of National Geographic!

The unwanted Christmas gifts and the attic clearance generally can be magnanimously donated to the Liberal Democrats' February Auction! Rejoicing at this unexpected outlet the mound had considerably diminished - I am now contemplating the "odd" items - 3 garden forks, an old sewing machine and other assorted tools. Great, these can be refurbished locally via "Tools for Self Reliance", whilst walking sticks, crutches



and a wheelchair are useful via the Cheshire Foundation which seeks such equipment for the disabled, both at home and especially for their developing world projects - (Pity I do not have any of these). Perhaps I should start collecting them!

Rejoicing that the garage and loft are almost in pristine state, I load the car for a final trip to the skip at Crafton Green. Arriving there an unsightly chaotic mess denotes an overfilled skip. The assorted, liberally strewn rubbish oddly reminds me of a sow with suckling piglets!

I must empty the car somehow. Disgruntled and downcast I set off the for authority skips in Stortford. They have metal steps with safety rails strategically placed to ensure access even for the small and frail to dispose safely of their rubbish with dignity and aplomb! There is some really good, useful stuff here, but I resist my instincts and return home with an empty car!

Back home I smugly look at the success of my efforts, I gaze at that old picture Aunt Vera gave us many years ago. - Pity the canvass is so cracked and faded, but a nice ornate frame all the same, could be worth something - I wonder, does the Antique Road Show ever come this way?

Magpie



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Our New Year programme began on January 18 with a disco and a late visit from Santa Claus. Everyone had a great time dancing the night away. As this was our first get-together since our pantomime visit everyone had a lot of gossip to catch up on. This year Santa brought us all our special 21st Birthday T-shirts. I was worried that everyone would mix up their T-shirts once the wrappers were off. My fears were unfounded as everyone put their T-shirts on and then carried on dancing. As you can see from the photograph, John was very proud to be our model, showing off our Club Logo. We all say "Thank you" to Mr and Mrs Cordell of Harlow for coming along on the 18th with their disco equipment and entertaining our members. We already have plans for a repeat performance.



We must also thank Mrs Wagener and the members of the Anglia Parents Fund for the donation of £250 which will be used to help cover the cost of our holiday. This year we are off to Camber Sands, and plans are already well in hand.

So far, no one has accepted our invitation to visit us on Thursday evenings in St. John's Hall. Do come along. You'll have a great welcome over a cup of coffee.

Marion Johnson



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

February Meeting

A cold winter's night at the Day Centre, Stansted was the scene of our first meeting for 1996. On Wednesday 7 February we welcomed Jo Shrimpton from Gardening Which? to tell us about the trials she conducts for the magazine at the gardens at Capel Manor near Enfield. Supported by slides, she was able to explain the various activities that go into producing the conclusions that appear in "Which?". Capel Manor is well worth a visit at most times of the year.

The Member's competition (a pot plant) was won by Margaret Loynds - well done.

March Meeting

Mr James Buttress will present a talk on London's Central Parks. May I suggest he is a speaker not to be missed. The Member's competition is - A Bowl of Bulbs, max 6".



EARLY WARNING

Our **SPRING SHOW** looms near, start preparing now.

The Date: Saturday March 30, The Venue: The United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted.





Stansted

Football Club

So far this season the team has had its ups and downs. At present the team stands sixth from bottom in The Essex Senior League having been as high as second at one time. However such is the closeness of this year's competition that five more points would see the team elevated to fourth place so there is still all to play for as the season reaches the closing stages. The team has now progressed to the semi-final of The Harry Fisher Memorial Trophy and the quarter finals of The Eastern Floodlight Competition so there is still hope of silverware finding its way to Hargrave Park. At the time of writing the fixtures for March are not yet known so please watch the local press for details in due course. The Club is in need of volunteers to help on match days and anyone interested is asked to telephone Denise Murnane on 815404.



WOMEN'S SECTION



Our monthly meetings for 1996 started on 15 February. We meet at the Day Centre on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of every month except August, December and January. To join our branch the annual subscriptions are £3.00 and to come as a visitor, just 50p. We have two coffee mornings booked for 1996. The first is 27 March. Please come along to support us, have a coffee and chat and see what offers we have on our stalls.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Being a land-locked community we do not always think of Stansted being home to retired sailors, but we have an active branch of The Royal Naval Association. They run social events and get-togethers for the old sailors of our community and are pleased to welcome others to their meetings. The talk on "Swans" is a case in point, where the speaker has had a lifelong interest in swans and is sure to pass on his enthusiasm and love of these beautiful birds to his audience. Anyone interested in either meeting other retired sailors or hearing about the swans is very welcome to the meeting on 2 March at 7.30pm, there is even a fish and chip supper to whet your appetites.



Stansted

Liberal Democrats

The annual auction held on 17 February was, as usual, a great success. Thanks to all who attended and to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable event.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 9 March -

Ploughman's Lunch

12 - 2pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green.

Friday 22 March -

Annual General Meeting

(Stansted and District Branch)

8.00pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green



LIBERAL DEMOCRAT SURGERY

Parish, District and County Councillors

will be available to answer queries, give advice or listen to any ideas you may have for improving our village. The surgery is held on 2nd Saturday of each month at the Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green, 10.30am - 12 noon.

Next Surgery: Saturday 9 March

For further information contact:

Jane Freeman, 814084; Steve Riley, 815455; Frances Spalding, 813432.

HELPLINE



For the benefit of any relative newcomers to the village, we should like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

HELPLINE is a community care scheme run entirely by local volunteers for the benefit of Stansted residents. We started up on 1 November 1984 under the auspices of the, then, Stansted Association of Christian Churches (now Churches Together in Stansted) and our aim was, and still is, to provide practical assistance where no other help is available.

The following is a list of the type of help offered:

1. Cook a meal and deliver to an elderly person.
2. Collecting prescriptions and shopping for the housebound.
3. Sit with children or the elderly.
4. Sit with mentally handicapped children or adults.
5. Sit with physically handicapped children or adults.
6. Push a wheelchair.
7. Provide transport.
8. Light handyman jobs.
9. Visit and befriend the sick, lonely or aged.
10. Sit with the sick / elderly overnight.
11. Offer professional skills.




In many ways, since Helpline began operating, the categories of help required have changed as a direct result of the many specialised care groups which have since been formed, e.g. Crossroads (providing relief cover for carers), Cruse (counselling for the bereaved), Homestart (assisting and supporting families with young children), Mind, etc., etc. As a result of this (and with the benefit of eleven years experience during which there have been many requests which would be very difficult to categorise!), I think it is now true to say that Helpline will consider any genuine call for help of any nature where there is no other help available, i.e. where there are no relatives, friends or neighbours on hand to assist.

Our policy has always been that we will make every endeavour to fulfill the request ourselves and, if that is not possible, we will do our best to put the caller in touch with someone else who may be able to help. Over the years, we have amassed an extensive list of "useful contact numbers" for such contingencies. It is, I believe, an indication of the success of this policy that, over eleven years, the number of genuine requests for help in which we have not been able to assist in any way, is almost negligible.




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For further information please call Matron on 01279 817272 or write to Hargrave House, Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex CM24 8BY.

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It must, of course, be emphasised that, since Helpline is run entirely by local volunteers and financed by local voluntary donations, we feel it necessary to apply three basic rules in order to avoid our valuable volunteers from being overstretched or their good offices abused:-

1. Our service is available only to residents living within the parish of Stansted (the only exception being residents of Birchanger as we have a number of contacts who live in that village and can arrange volunteers locally).
2. When a request for help is received, we endeavour to ensure that the need is genuine and that there is no one else available to assist (i.e. we would not expect our volunteers to be called upon when relatives or friends are close at hand).
3. When providing transport, we request that, since the driver's time and car are being donated, he / she be reimbursed for petrol. There are set (very



reasonable) rates for the general routes (e.g. Bishop's Stortford, Harlow Hospital, etc.) and these are advised to the caller when transport is arranged.

You should, by now, have received through your door, a card bearing the new telephone number to ring in the event of you requiring our services - 0941 104093. Please keep this in a safe place in case of need. There are also free supplies of Able-labels which can be attached to e.g. your telephone, in strategic venues around the village, such as the Day Centre, Library, surgery, etc.

If anyone has any questions which this article has not answered or if anyone wishes to join our trusty band of volunteers either as a "helper" or a committee member, please contact Francine Cope (Chairman) on 814562 or Yvonne Ayres (Organiser) on 814760.



LISTEN TO CARERS

ARE YOU LOOKING AFTER

- a Child who is sick?
 - an Adolescent who has learning difficulties?
 - a Relative who is unwell?
 - or Elderly friend or partner?
 - or Responsible for Someone?
- If you would like to talk with other Carers who may also feel Frustrated, Isolated and Exhausted -

Uttlesford Carers

1st Monday of the Month
Quaker Meeting House
2.00pm - 4.00pm

also at

12 Stortford Road, Gt Dunmow
Open Mondays to Thursdays
10.00am to 12.00noon

For further information contact:
Di Boutwood 01371 875810

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Shamrock 80 litre Multi Compost
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*Bulbs, Shrubs, Perennials
Annuals in Season
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*Open Every Sat/Sunday & Bank Holidays
10 o'clock - Till Late*

Motts Hall, Gaunts End, Elsenham,
(Behind Elsenham Foods)
Tel: 01279 813437
Mobile 0850 580186

The Village Music Club



Some 200 people attended our very successful inaugural concert on Sunday 28 January and following that concert we already have over 80 members of this new club.

Our aim is to present a season of concerts given by established musicians and rising stars, to bring music of broad appeal to audiences of all ages from Stansted and surrounding villages in the friendly atmosphere of St John's Church.

To be assured of ongoing success we do need to have a solid base of members and while we are extremely encouraged by the initial response, we really need a further 50 members to make the club viable, as we need to book and commit ourselves to musicians well in advance.



The programme we have planned for next season is:

Sunday 13 October 1996 at 3.00pm

"The Killian String Quartet"

with **Chu-Yu Mo**, Clarinet.

Clarinet quintets by Mozart and Brahms, Dvorak "American" String Quartet.

Saturday 7 December 1996 at 8.00pm

"Not Pavarotti"

Why book La Scala or Broadway? when Stansted offers such a sparkling evening of light opera and songs from the shows.

Sunday 26 January 1997 at 3.00pm

Howard Davis, violin, **Sonia Levy**, piano.

Beethoven, Dvorak, Debussy and Kreisler.

Saturday 8 March 1997 at 8.00pm

Florian Uhlig, piano.

A programme of popular piano classics by Liszt, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Chopin.

Subscription rates are:

Individuals £20.00

Couples £35.00

Concessions* £12.50

*Concessions comprise Pensioners and University / College students.

Subscriber's children still at school may come to individual concerts for £1.00.

You may join at Stansted Carpets, 42 Chapel Hill, or by post to "The Village Music Club", c/o Fairfield's, Silver Street, Stansted CM24 8HE.

Good news for all deaf and
hard of hearing people

UTTLESFORD CAMTAD

Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

If you have a hearing problem

RING - HELPLINE

0941 104093

9.00AM - 4.00PM

FREE AFTER CARE (NHS Appliances)
FREE LIP READING CLASSES
LIBRARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AIDS



If you have a
PROBLEM

or need
ASSISTANCE

Telephone
HELPLINE

0941 104093

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

Stansted's voluntary
community care service



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



Quiz Night

This year's quiz was as popular as we predicted it would be. We had a great evening, the raffle was very good and the ploughman's supper excellent.



Toy and Book Sale

We had a fun afternoon at our toy and book sale. Holding this event alongside Rainbow Tots was very successful.



We would like to thank everyone involved in helping to organise and run both events and those who donated unwanted toys and books. With both events combined we made a profit in excess of £250 which will be going towards new tables.

At Rainbow we have a different topic each week. The things we have learnt about since Christmas are: weather, birds, electricity, time, Chinese and red.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, the children have had so much fun learning about the Chinese culture. All the children have made "coolie" hats and those in the older group have made a dragon. A photographer from the "Observer" took photos of the children eating noodles with sweet and sour sauce using chopsticks, followed by prawn crackers. Afterwards he took more photographs of them playing with the dragon.

We have many more exciting events planned for the future - look out for posters around the village.

FEATURED IN 1993 'GOOD NURSERY GUIDE'

Montessori Day Nursery and
Pre-Preparatory School
(Opp. Airport Terminal) tel 01279 870898
Accepts children up to 7 years.



Meadow Montessori Day Nursery
Saffron Walden, tel 01799 513858
Accepts children from 2 - 5 years

*Traditional values of Montessori teaching with
structured reading, language and number.
Children accepted full or part-time. Flexible hours.*



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References available



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The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

At the end of January we held our Annual General Meeting. Retiring members of the committee were thanked for their hard work and contributions to the running of the branch. A new committee was duly elected. Jenny Adamson, our antenatal teacher, became our new honorary president. Following the business part of the meeting we heard a very interesting talk from Jenny Jordan of the NSPCC. She explained how the organisation had originally started and the nature of its work in the 1990's. I was amazed to learn how little of their funding comes from central sources and realised just how important fund-raising is. With this in mind we were told of a circular sponsored cycle ride starting at Stansted airport being organised this summer. Watch out for details in the press.



A recent event enjoyed by all the children who attended was Action Rhyme Time. We sang a variety of songs, some new, some old favourites, with several accompanied on the piano. The children particularly enjoyed the songs and rhymes with actions.

For further information on the NCT please contact our membership secretary on 815953.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

NEARLY NEW SALE

2.00pm
23 March 1996
St. John's Hall



Stansted and District NCT COFFEE MORNINGS

ALL COFFEE MORNINGS ARE 10.00 - 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)

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MARCH 1996

| | | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| 1 | Pre-school | Pauline | Manuden | 814600 |
| 5 | Under 1's | Christine | Birchanger | 812544 |
| 6 | Toddlers | Danuta | Stansted | 816263 |
| 8 | Pre-school | Julie | Elsenham | 814047 |
| 12 | Under 1's | Jane | Stansted | 813010 |
| 13 | Toddlers | Isobel | Henham | 850354 |
| 15 | Pre-school | Michaela | Stansted | 815796 |
| 19 | Under 1's | Petrina | Elsenham | 816675 |
| 20 | Toddlers | Helen | Elsenham | 816088 |
| 22 | N.B. 1.45 | | | |
| | Pre-school | Isobel | Henham | 850354 |
| 26 | Under 1's | Brigitte | Stansted | 813680 |
| 27 | Toddlers | Hayley | Henham | 850287 |
| 29 | Pre-school | Sue | Elsenham | 647343 |

APRIL 1996

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----|----------|--------|
| 2 | Under 1's | Kim | Elsenham | 812854 |
|---|-----------|-----|----------|--------|



Mountfitchet High School Car Boot Sales

Sunday 17th March

Sunday 21st April

Sunday 19th May

Sunday 16th June

Sunday 14th July

Sunday 15th September

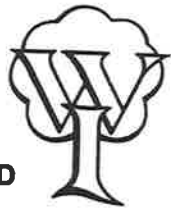
Sunday 13th October

Sunday 24th November

9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Tel (01279) 813384





It was agreed to donate a future Raffle proceeds to a young lady in the village who is involved in raising funds for the charity Raleigh International. She will be travelling to Zimbabwe in October to help with their work for Save the Children Fund and has to raise £3,000 as her challenge.

A former BBC Cameraman, Tony Jacobs, kept members entertained with his many exploits during his forty years as a cameraman for the BBC. His talk covered all the many places in the world he had visited and the people he had met while filming them; of the "Royals" the Queen and Princess Diana are his favourites.



Members were also reminded of the "Spring Group Meeting" when six W. I.'s will get together for their annual meeting and be entertained with a Fashion Show by Valerie of Sawbridgeworth. This is at Little Hadham Village Hall on Wednesday 20 March.

Brenda Ryan 812725

He had unfortunately been in jail four times during his job in different countries. He said he had always refused to carry sidearms as some foreign newsmen do, as you can then be accused of being a spy.



Back in this country he had filmed many surgical operations, the worst he felt was on eyes. Asked about "Scoops", he said one of his biggest had been the Zeebrugge disaster when only the BBC team were on the wreck.

Now retired, he is often asked if he will write a book on his exploits, his answer is "Yes, probably", but in the meantime he talks to various organisations like ours. This started because the speaker at his wife's W.I. failed to arrive and he was asked to step in and save the day.

Future events for members to get involved in will be the Carnival, when it is hoped to have our popular cake stall. We will be visiting the London Docklands in May when family and friends will be invited along.

A "fancy knitted square" is June's competition, and members were asked to start knitting for this, these squares can then be made into blankets and donated to a worthy cause.





Calling all local businesses.

The 'Link' specialises in promoting local advertising to local people.

If you wish to place an advertisement in this publication please contact:
Mrs S Parry
16 Bentfield Causeway
Telephone 814788



Don't forget to alter your clocks on 31 March





Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

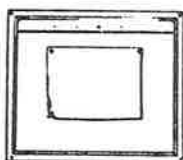
"The Victorian Way of Death", Tom Doig's talk at our February meeting, produced many interesting facts on the openness with which the subject was discussed at the time, the customs and superstitions. Perhaps not generally known is that until a baby was baptised it would not be called by its own name in case the Devil or Old Nick took the child away - hence "Nickname".



Continuing the theme - our next meeting is on "Monumental Inscriptions - Messages from the Grave" by Peter Sanders and Ken McDonald, on Thursday 7 March at 8.00pm in the Day Centre.

On 4 April we will have Jean Page talking about Much Hadham and hope to have our summer outing to that village on 30 June.

It has been agreed with the Library Authorities that there can be a wall display case in the foyer of Stansted Library for exhibition purposes. The History Society is to share the space on a 50/50 time basis with other local organisations and it is envisaged that the displays would be changed quarterly. If any organisation is interested in taking part please contact Christine at the Library who will co-ordinate.



Peggy Honour 813160



STANSTED DAY CENTRE

We are fortunate to have within reasonably easy reach, our friendly, comfortable meeting and eating place at Crafton Green on Chapel Hill. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10.00am and 4.00pm all Senior Citizens - 60 plus - will find a warm welcome and the opportunity for a chat, tea, coffee, snack or a cooked lunch, all at very reasonable prices.

Visiting the Centre offers the opportunity to meet old friends and acquaintances and to make new ones. If you are not already using the Day Centre, why not call in, you will be very welcome, you will not regret it.

Should you have any difficulty and need transport please ring 815091, it may be possible to arrange a lift.

SHALOM DATES



Monday 11 March

Lenten Meditation at the home of David and Rita Morson, Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham at 8.00pm.

Monday 25 March

Agape at the home of Marion and Michael Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted at 8.00pm.

STANSTED R.A.P.

Leaflets about Stansted R.A.P. (Regular Aid for the Poor) are available. Please consider joining this scheme, now in its third year. Monthly donations, however small, go to Oxfam, Save the Children and the Red Cross.

Giving is by Direct Debit or by envelope via Stansted Post Office.

Telephone Francis Mercer for envelopes, 813945.



Dear Friends,

As you read this letter I will have just returned from a trip around the world. It is the adventure and new experience part of a two months Sabbatical (or Study Leave). I will probably bore you all with our adventures, but in this letter I want to write to you about my study time - and how you can help!

I am going to read about and ask questions about "The Meaning and Purpose of Old Age". Or, if you have a religious bent, "What was in God's mind when he gave us a period of life we call old age?"

For me, it begins when our "working life" is over. Of course that is artificial, and I mean on the one hand when we retire, or are made redundant from employment, and on the other when our family has grown up and we are free of those responsibilities. Of course, not everyone reaches those stages, but for this moment let us think about those who do.

Then there is a period when we feel our age and begin to realise we are not as capable as we once were (someone said to me, "Old age is when you cannot do what you want to do").

Then there is that increasingly frail period where we become dependant on family and friends and community services, and for some, there is that frail period where we are not just physically frail but mentally too, when helplessness and frustration only makes us more of a responsibility for those who love us.

I am wanting to look at all four stages. I have been interested ever since the care of two elderly people in a geriatric ward in 1965 left much to be desired and me very angry.

You can help me by writing and letting me know what you think that time of our life means - if anything - and if you can quote a poem, story or song, so much the better. Bible stories and texts may be helpful too. My address is under the Methodist Church article.

As the number of elderly increases, so our responsibility grows. What did God have in mind? We are supposed to **think** in Lent!

All good wishes,
Yours sincerely

Michael Hayman, Methodist Minister.



Churches Together in Stansted

CHEVETOGNE 1996

This year it is the turn of Churches Together in Stansted to pay a visit to the village of Chevetogne in Belgium. This will take place over the Bank Holiday week-end at the end of May. The coach will leave Stansted early on Saturday 25 May and return late on Tuesday 28 May. The approximate cost of the trip will be £80.

The maximum number of people that our hosts can accommodate is 25 and therefore if you would like to come please give your name to either Eileen Quinn, (812109) or Frances Mercer (813945) as soon as possible please.

The exchange is now in its tenth year and if you have not taken part in the exchange before and would like to know more about it please contact Eileen or Francis who will be happy to answer your questions.



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

| | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 3 | 9.30am | Mr Bernard Engel (In the Community Centre) |
| 10 | 9.30am | Rev. Michael Giles Holy Communion |
| 17 | 9.30am | Mrs Betty Kime |
| 24 | 9.30am 6.30pm | Mr Michael Render United Agape at U.R.C. |
| 31 | 9.30am | Palm Sunday Mr Roy Hilder |

Our Fellowship Meeting, to be led by Rev'd Ronald Rawlings, will be held on 22 March at 8.00pm. The venue will be announced.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting for Worship: 11.00 am

PEACE-MAKING

In the preface to "Building Bridges" - the booklet on which the Lent Discussion Groups are based - it says "At the heart of our common Christian calling is the invitation to share together in Christ's costly ministry of reconciliation". The word "costly" reminded me of a television programme I watched a few months ago about an Albanian Professor.

Albania, a country with most of the problems you can imagine, is particularly riven with family vendettas and feuds. Every wrong done has to be avenged in blood; many hundreds of young men fear to go out because they risk being killed or maimed. This Professor is spending his life travelling the country, trying to mediate

between families and make peace. It can take as much as a year to achieve any results, and some of his efforts end in failure. This story seems to me to describe peace-making, or reconciliation, perfectly: it's difficult, strenuous, time-consuming, and filled with the love of humanity.

Sidney Bailey, who died recently, was a Quaker who had spent his life as a full-time professional peace-maker. A lot of his work was with Arab countries, and between Israel and her Arab neighbours. In one of his writings he said, "Peace begins with ourselves. It is to be implemented within the family, in our meetings, in our work and leisure, in our own localities, and internationally. The task will never be done. Peace is a process to engage in, not a goal to be reached."

I hope our Lent Groups will help us to explore all aspects of conflict and reconciliation, and in attempting to see the way to achieve inner serenity a light will be shed on looking outward to peace-making within our community and further afield. As William Penn said, "True Godliness don't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it." Quite a challenge!

Katherine Hurford

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

Services: Sunday Masses -
Henham 9.00 am
Stansted 10.30 am

Holy Days -
Henham 7.00 pm
Stansted 8.00 pm

Saturdays
Stansted 6.00 pm

Weekday Mass
Tuesdays-Saturdays inclusive
Stansted 9.30 am

Confessions: Saturday after 9.30 am Mass

Astonishing as it may seem as you convey God and Christ to others you yourself are able to understand Him better. Share with others even the very little that you understand about God, about Christ, and about the Holy Spirit. You convey a reflection of God not only through what you say, but simply by your confidence in Him.

Brother Roger of Taize

So why not come to one of the Lent Groups and share your experience with others.



REGISTERS FOR FEBRUARY

Funeral

24 January Ellaline (Jo) Curtis Aged 86



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.

Although we are raising money for the Repair and Redevelopment Fund the work and mission of the Church in the world still has to go on. And for this work there will be a Coffee Morning on April 30th in the Lecture Hall for the Bible Society. At this event we want to collect Bibles that are no longer used and are just gathering dust on the bookshelves. It does not matter what edition, as long as they are in good condition, they can be sent to the English speaking parts of Africa where there is a famine of God's word. Book Aid is a ministry associated with the Evangelical Missionary Alliance specialising in moving Bibles from where they are not needed to where they are.



Bob Hiley of Book Aid is coming to the Coffee Morning so, as you do your Spring Cleaning, please have a look and see if you can find at least one Bible you can spare and bring it to the Lecture Hall on 30 April or let Janet Townsend have it beforehand.

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 | Holy Communion | 8.00 am |
| Services: | 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 |

Registers for January

Funerals in January

- 8 Maurice Ernest Claxton, O.B.E., 85
- 10 Ruth Marion Maud Wickens, 62
Michael James "Snowy" Halsey, 67
- 13 Lord Harold Collison, 86
Lady Ivy Kate Collison, 75

We welcome Fr. Andrew and look forward to his ministry amongst us. Please note that his day-off will be Friday and that his address and telephone number are at the top of this entry.

St John's Choir will perform
FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

on
Palm Sunday 31 March 1996
at
6.30pm in St John's Church

"... the most intimate and consoling of all Requiems ..."

DIARY FOR MARCH

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 5 | 10.30am 8.15pm | Service at Norman Court Prayer Group |
| 9 | evening | Quiz Night |
| 12 | 10.30am 2.00pm 2.15pm | Service at Mead Court Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close Tiny tots |
| 17 | MOTHERING SUNDAY usual services, including 11.00am Family Service | |
| 19 | 10.30am | Service at Broome End |
| 22 | 8.00pm | Election of Church Wardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (in the Hall) |
| 26 | 10.30am 2.15pm | Service at Hargrave House Tiny Tots |
| 31 | PALM SUNDAY 9.30am Procession and Parish Communion 6.30pm Faure's Requiem in St John's Church | |

Iona Workshop

Saturday 20th April 1996

A day with the
Wild Goose Worship Group
from the Iona Community hosted by Bromley
United Reformed Church. Emphasis will be on
exploring ways of worship around seasons and life
stages which go beyond the hymn sandwich.
Costs: £5.00 (£3.00 concessions) for the day.
Bring your own lunch, coffee etc. provided.
Numbers limited so book early. Details from
Rev'd. Andrew Spurr -
Curate: St. John's, Stansted ☎815025.



St John's Church **QUIZ EVENING**

Saturday 9 March
in St John's Hall

7.30pm for 8.00pm prompt start
Tables of up to 8 people
(max 14 tables)

Ploughman's Supper

Reserve your table now
Tickets £4.00 (concessions £2.50)
from the Vicarage

| Preachers for MARCH | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 3 | 11.00am | Mrs C Bonner |
| 10 | 11.00am | Rev. M McKay |
| 17 | 11.00am | Rev. L Rapkin Communion |
| 24 | 11.00am 6.30pm | Mrs C Bonner C.T.S. Agape Speaker: Rev. A Knight of Bishop's Stortford (in the Lecture Hall) |
| 31 | 11.00am | Palm Sunday Rev. L Rapkin, |

Thank you to all our customers who supported the cake stall in February. Since



we began our monthly cake stalls in August 1994 we have raised the grand sum of £1,350 for

the Repair Fund. This fund is creeping up slowly and we have several things planned already for this year. So far in the calendar is a Quiz Night on May 11th, Strawberry Tea on July 6th and concerts by St Mary's and Bentfield Primary Schools. We also hope to launch a Cook Book at our Carnival Stall on June 24th. We still have Stansted Tea Towels for sale (contact Janet Townsend). These make ideal gifts for children to take with them for their hosts on school trips abroad.

Last year the Link ran a Short Story competition - mainly addressed to our younger readers. The winning entry appears below, and for many it will evoke memories of a big day in the annals of both Stansted and the Airport.

The art of story writing should not be allowed to wither away, so we hope that you will feel encouraged to "have a go" when we run the next contest.

"THE STANSTED CONNECTION"

By Evie Campbell

My sunhat formed a tight hot band around my head. We had been walking for hours. Lunch was a distant memory, as the hollow rumblings of my stomach could testify.

The familiar house and streets of the village were gone and we were walking through territory unknown to me. I longed for home, as I blindly followed the person in front. I squeezed my friend's hot sticky hand. "How much further?" I whispered. Before she could reply I felt a nudge in my back. "No more talking. Quickly, you're lagging behind" admonished a deep voice. We hurried our aching legs on. Our every step being watched, there was no escape.

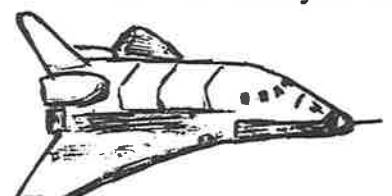
Suddenly we stopped. Thankfully I slid to the hard pavement for a rest. My friend stood by shuffling her feet restlessly. Nobody spoke as we waited. We were on a bridge, and a hot acrid smell of oil and petrol drifted up from the motorway below. Peering between the railings I could see cars and lorries packed close together like mechanical sardines, but eerily silent. Nothing was moving.

Then, I heard faint distant rumblings. Someone giggled nervously. The rumblings became a rushing roar. Ear splitting vibrations filled the air making me cover my ears in fright. Car doors slammed, people leapt to their feet excitedly pointing skywards. As the noise subdued, I looked up, squinting against the sun, just as the huge aircraft completed its ungainly take-off.

Clinging to its back, like a baby hanging onto it's mother, was the U.S.A. Space Rocket that everyone had flocked to see, bringing the whole of Stansted to a standstill. Effortlessly, it soared high into the sky before turning away, heading off to it's next appointment.

Like a startled rabbit mesmerized by a car's headlights, I stood watching the Shuttle until only the vapour trail remained. The spell was finally broken by teacher ordering us all back into line for the walk back to school.

"Only one small step for a teacher's legs, but a giant "long-haul" for a six-year-old's legs!"



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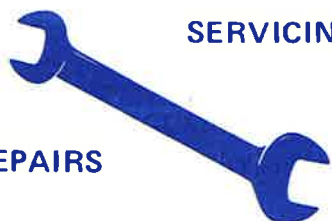
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