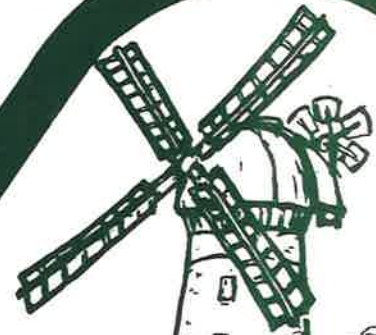


Jan '97

# The *LINK*



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Mountfitchet*

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## A.C.FYNAN

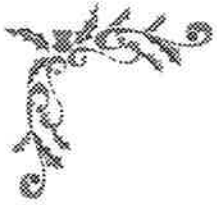
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That time of year thou  
    mayst in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none,  
    or few, do hang  
Upon these boughs which  
    shake against the cold.

'Sonnets'

William Shakespeare



A Happy New Year  
to all our readers



**The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted**

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

Advertising and other enquiries to  
Sheila Parry, 16 Bentfield Causeway  
Tel 814788

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by  
16th January for publication on 2nd February  
13th February for publication on 2nd March**



# United Reformed

## Chapel Hill

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

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

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
Tel 812593

### A PRAYER FOR GOD'S HELP IN THE NEW YEAR

by Christopher Idle

O God our Father, at the beginning of this new year, look upon our families. We come to you with our hopes and resolutions. And we come with our doubts and fears. Yet we pray that you will help us.

At the beginning of the new year, Lord, hear our prayer.

Look upon us as we do our work, face our exams, run our households, look for jobs, earn our wages, maintain our business, enjoy our leisure.

At the beginning of the new year, Lord, hear our prayer.

Look upon your church as it loves and cares and serves, as it learns and worships and witnesses.

At the beginning of the new year, Lord, hear our prayer.

Look upon your world, with all its waste and war and sorrow, yet all its joys as well.

At the beginning of the new year, Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, grant us your peace, now and for ever. Amen.

### URC PREACHERS FOR JANUARY

5th 11 am Mrs C Bonner  
12th 11 am Rev M McKay Communion  
19th 11 am Rev M McKay  
6.30 pm C.T.S. service for Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity  
26th 11 am Rev L Rapkin

**THERE IS NO CAKE STALL (URC) IN JANUARY.**

**The next one is on February 1st.**

# Church of England

## St John's Church, St John's Road

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

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

### Weekly Services:

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

### Monthly Services:

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

### DIARY FOR JANUARY

5 Sunday services for the Feast of Epiphany  
6 EPIPHANY 7.30pm Holy Communion  
7 10.30am Service at Norman Court  
8.15pm Prayer Group at 15 Wetherfield  
13 8 pm Group Committee at the Vicarage  
14 10.30am Service at Mead Court  
2 pm Tuesday Club at 10 Hargrave Close  
2.15pm Tiny Tots  
21 10.30 am Service at Broome End  
25 4.30 pm Bellringers service at St John's  
26 9.30 am Parish Communion for Education  
Sunday  
6.30 pm Christian Unity Service  
27 8 pm P.C.C. in the Upper Room  
28 10.30 am Service at Hargrave House  
2.15 pm Tiny Tots

### REGISTERS FOR NOVEMBER

#### Baptism

10th Cara Szyszkowski

#### Weddings

16th Terry Clive Waldock and  
Jannene Carla Salisbury

#### Funerals

1st Dorothy Mabel Guy, aged 96  
7th Arthur Edward Dennison "Ted" Camp, aged 88

## CONFIRMATION 1997

On Easter Eve, Saturday 29th March, at 8 pm, the Bishop of Colchester will preside at the Easter Ceremonies, Parish Communion and Confirmation at St. John's. There will be two preparation groups: Brenda will run a junior group (final year Primary School upwards) from the beginning of January and the Vicar will start an adult group in February at a time and date to suit participants. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in preparing for Confirmation.

## UNITED BENEFICE

As we "go to press", we understand that the Church Commissioners are submitting the proposals to create "The United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham" to the Queen in Privy Council in December. Subject to confirmation, these will take effect on 1st January 1997. This will not affect the independence of the three parishes and, apart from a quaint change of title with the Vicar becoming a Rector, will make no practical difference until there is a vacancy.

## Methodist

### Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

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

### SERVICES FOR JANUARY

- |      |         |   |
|------|---------|---|
| 5th  | 9.30 am | The Revd Ronald Rawlings<br>Annual Covenant Service with<br>Holy Communion                |
| 12th | 9.30 am | The Revd Michael Hayman   |
| 19th | 9.30 am | Mr Jerry Heyhoe   |
|      | 6.30 pm | United Service for the Week of<br>Prayer for Christian Unity at<br>United Reformed Church |
| 26th | 9.30 am | Mr Doug Coulton   |

'Roughshod' - the younger section of RIDING LIGHTS - will be leading worship at our Bishop's Stortford Church on Sunday 12th January at 6.30 pm All welcome.

At our Stansted Fellowship on 21st January (venue to be announced) we will take a first (postponed) look at the Report on Anglican/Methodist unity plans.

Michael Hayman

## Society of Friends

### Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Clerk:** Mrs Anthea Lee  
24 Lea Close  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel 656707

**Meeting:** Sunday 11 am

### A VOYAGE WITH ECUMENICAL ENCOUNTERS

In travelling up the coast of Norway I had not expected ecumenism - but I was wrong. At our table there were two Norwegian Lutherans, A German Roman Catholic, an Anglican, a Quaker and a Japanese Buddhist!

We visited the modern Cathedral at Tromso - the most northerly Cathedral in Europe (everything in Norway is the most northerly something - town, village, church, etc.). It is a magnificent structure, built to resemble an iceberg and it has the largest stained glass window in the world. A young medical student explained to us most movingly the significance of the window's design - an enormous figure representing God, with two tiny figures, a man and a woman, reaching up for succour.

When we arrived at the little church at Trondenes (the most northerly medieval church in the world!) our local guide very firmly said "And now we will have a service". She was quite a formidable lady and it would have been a brave Muslim or Atheist who did not join in. We had a beautiful little service with hymn and prayer sheets printed in Norwegian, German and English.

All this, and the magnificent scenery and warm friendship. Certainly a voyage to remember. Katharine Hurford



### SHALOM DATES

#### January 1997

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 6th  | Prayer and Praise<br>at Mike and Marion's, 7 Blythwood Gardens             |
| 20th | Changes in South Africa - Pat Kern<br>at Eileen and Brian's, 4 Greenfields |

All welcome for ecumenical fellowship.

# Roman Catholic

## St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

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

### Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

As this is the season of resolutions and promises of change it is encouraging to remember that in and through our unpleasant faults, selfishness and other failings, God created us as we are. He wished us to have the character that we have and all that goes to make us the person we are. The basic Real Me is the talent I have rather than the intelligence, ability, looks, etc. that I so often concentrate on.

As one writer puts it, "The real tragedy of life is not in being limited to one talent but in the failure to see and use the one talent". This basic talent, this Real Me, has to be discovered, recognised and made my own. Then I proceed to develop and harmonise it and, where necessary, rehabilitate it, but not try to change it out of recognition. If that were done or possible, then the Real Me would be gone! Wouldn't it?



### A Letter from Rev Margaret Booker and Geoff Booker

It was a difficult decision to make, to leave after 23 years, but as one gets older, shopping, gardening and housework and transport become uppermost in one's life. We were a little too far from the village and the price of houses also entered the equation - being cheaper in this area, which we knew and liked. To be able to walk to the village is a joy and we do have excellent small shops and transport every hour to the nearest towns. To have no hedges to cut, which had become a task like the painting of the Forth Bridge, never ending, is a great relief and half the amount of grass to mow another bonus. I do miss though having no room to grow vegetables; and finally a slightly smaller house, larger rooms, but compact which helps the housework blues.

It is a slower way of life here, we are in most evenings! Being a small village there are fewer opportunities for social work, no Day Centre or Meals on Wheels or Helpline, but we do have a National Trust property, the oldest water mill in the county - first built in the 12th Century. We help by being wardens once a month, answering people's questions and showing off the property - they still mill on a Sunday: we are getting quite expert on milling matters!

We have taken up where we left off 24 years ago when we lived in this area, meeting up with ex-colleagues and friends. Geoff is singing with the same choir and small group, but alas not playing in the same orchestra as they have two bassoonists already, but he has teamed up with two other woodwind players as a trio and plays at one or two events.

As for me, I seem to have become absorbed into the Deanery, active retired clergy are thin on the ground (though this one isn't so active, my 10 year old hip replacement has to be replaced). At our first meeting the Rural Dean and I discovered that we had both been trained by the same Vicar - I at Ramsey as a Reader and he at Wisbech as a Deacon! We have had three interregnums in the Deanery and I go to two parishes once a month regularly to take a service. The third interregnum has been filled, it was the chaplaincy at Hinchbrook Hospital in Huntingdon - I took my turn with the Deanery clergy in answering emergencies and taking services. It was good to be back in hospital life, as I had worked there as a Physio. Of course I help in the team here, three of us in a small village! A Rector (his only church), a Reader and myself. We both miss having a choir in church and there seem to be no young people so Geoff misses the Lazer Group and the band.

It has taken time to adjust and we miss all our friends in Stansted, but do enjoy returning occasionally to see you all. We hope you will feel free to ring up and come and see us and our mill. Houghton is a delightful village - lots of visitors who sit and eat their ice creams under the clock tower, fishermen who tell their tales! and the locals who gossip happily. Everyone is very friendly and we are very happy.

With love and prayers.

Geoff and Margaret



Uttlesford Carers &  
Alzheimer's Disease Society  
**CARERS SUPPORT GROUP**  
2pm to 4pm  
Monday 6 January  
Quaker Meeting House  
Everyone welcome  
Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

## Stansted Parish Council



## Skip Dates

**Mon - Thurs**  
27 - 30 January  
21 - 24 April  
12 - 15 May  
21 - 24 July  
6 - 9 October

**Weekends**  
22 Feb - 23 Feb  
-  
31 May - 1 June  
9 - 10 August  
8 - 9 November

**Mon - Thurs**  
17 - 20 March  
-  
23 - 26 June  
1 - 4 September  
8 - 11 December

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### January

6	Mon	Carers Support Group Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
7	Tue	'Public Safety in Stansted' (public meeting)	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
11	Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans Conservative Supper Dance	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm Plegdon Barn
13	Mon	WEA Enrolment	Day Centre 7.30 - 8 pm
20	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
26	Sun	Village Music Club Concert	St John's Church 3 pm
27	Mon		
	to		
30	Thu	Skip at Grafton Green	

### February

1	Sat	Stansted Carnival Quiz	Mountfitchet School 7.30 for 8 pm
5	Wed	Gardening Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thur	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Rainbow Pre-school Quiz Liberal Democrats Folk Evening	St John's Hall 7.30 pm Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm
15	Sat	Conservatives Jumble Sale	St John's Hall
20	Thu	Royal British Legion (Women's Section)	Day Centre 8 pm



Stansted Parish Council

## Public Meeting

8.00 pm

Tuesday 7 January

Quaker Meeting House

## 'Public Safety in Stansted'

led by

Inspector Reed, Sgt Welham & a  
British Transport Police Officer

Everyone Welcome



## Quiz Night

7.30 pm

Saturday 8th February

St John's Hall

Tickets £6 (incl supper)

Telephone Mandy on 816895



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

HOWARD DAVIS  
Violin

SONIA LEVY  
Piano

Works by Beethoven Dvorak  
Debussy & Kreisler

3.00 pm

Sunday 26th January

St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill  
and at the door

£6 adults £4 concessions £2 children



## STANSTED CARNIVAL



Saturday 1st February

7.30 for 8.00 start

Mountfitchet High School

Tickets £5 (incl ploughmans)

Licensed Bar

Tickets from Margaret on 812743

## STANSTED PERSPECTIVE

That oft-used saying 'plus ca change, plus la meme chose' (the more things change, the more they are the same) is a wise observation. Apparently a copy of the Essex County Chronicle dated November 1899 recently came to light during woodworm treatment in St. John's Church. It was salutary to read that at a foundation-stone ceremony in Chelmsford the worthy Methodist chairman lamented that "with the increased secular education of the present day there often came loss of parental control and moral restraint". In the same speech he commented on "the growth of (denominational) unity in recent times". It was uncomfortably familiar reading to see accounts of several violent deaths, thefts and a wife-beating. There was also an interesting report of Col. Baden Powell making a night attack on the Boer trenches at Mafeking, and by contrast an amusing advertisement for Page Woodcocks Wind Pills. However, what was noticeably different was the quality of the writing. The whole sheet had an easy and grammatical flowing style which made reading this archive a pleasure seldom experienced in today's press. The English language is too good to be subjected to electronic massacre or death by desertion. Can we not positively improve our speech and revive the art of good writing?

Cogitatus

### Stansted on Television

Between 5 and 6 pm on Sunday 9th February Anglia Television will be showing a programme on Stansted. Put it in your diary now.



### MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club kicks off its New Year programme on Wednesday 5th February with our monthly meeting at the Crafton Green Centre at 8 pm. We go all exotic when we welcome Martin Finney of Ayletts Nursery to tell us all about Orchids: this promises to be a good start to our exciting programme of speakers planned for 1997. Usual raffle and refreshments.

The members' competition for February is "A Flowering Bulb". Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome to our meetings. Why not give us a try?

**Advance Notice: March Meeting A Presentation on SAFETY IN THE GARDEN, 5th March, 8 pm, Day Centre.**

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk: 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  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
Essex CM24 8AQ  
Telephone: (0279) 813214

Following recent correspondence and articles in the local press, the Parish Council has convened a meeting with the local police to discuss matters of concern within the village.

A public meeting will therefore be held at 8.00 pm on **Tuesday 7th January** in the Friends Meeting House at the top of Chapel Hill. The meeting will be attended by Insp. Martin Reed and Sgt. Alan Welham, together, hopefully, with a representative of the British Transport Police.

Please feel free to come along and raise any concerns you may have with the police. (As major resurfacing works are due to start on Chapel Hill on 6th January, you may need to allow yourself a little extra time to get to the meeting).



Branch Chairman: Steve Riley, 815455.  
Membership Secretary: Frances Spalding, 813432.

1996 was a particularly successful year ending with a very enjoyable 'Scottish Theme' party hosted by David and Rita Morson at Henham.

### Forthcoming Events

11th January	Ploughman's Lunch at the Day Centre 12 - 2 pm.
8th February	European Folk Evening - Ugley Village Hall with Mike Gutteridge. 7.30 pm (Supper and Bar).

### Your Parish Councillors are:

Ray Clifford (Chairman), 812239  
Catherine Dean, 813579  
John Hudson, 814489  
Janice Loughlin, 812346  
Geoffrey Sell, 815925  
Melanie Watson, 814231

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped and supported us last year and wish you all a happy and prosperous 1997.



# WEA WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

A very happy New Year to our members.

Our spring course will be "Local History 1000-1800", the lecturer Ms Beverley Peters, M.A. This will be almost a continuation of our popular autumn course, just finished "Settlement Patterns" with Mr Ken Newman. Whereas Mr Newman's course was on development from a geographical viewpoint, Ms Peter's study will be with the historical and social emphasis. She aims to discuss certain houses and estates, their building and development and the history of the families who occupied these houses in Essex and East Anglia. She will examine the influence of the great religious establishments in the area until their dissolution by Henry VIII. The sources, methods and techniques used by local historians will be examined. There will be an outing to places of interest discussed in the lectures which will be illustrated by slides.

The ten week course will be held on Monday evenings, starting on January 13th, as usual in the Day Centre. The first meeting 7.30 - 8 pm for enrolment; lectures start at 8 pm. There is a reduced rate for pensioners. If you have a query please ring Jean McBride, 812214.



## Huw Johnson Club

On 10th December we took part in the Salvation Army "Carol Festival" at the Rhodes Centre, Bishop's Stortford and we say a big thankyou for the donation made to our funds as a result of the "Festival". We also sang carols on 12th December at Broome End Nursing Home. This is an annual event and our members get as much fun out of it as the elderly residents as it is such a happy occasion. None of these events would be possible without Ragni and we all say thankyou to her. All our members enjoy her musical evenings and join in everything with great gusto.

Thankyou to all those who came to our Coffee Morning on 4th December. We raised £85 which will help to augment our "Coach Fund". Our ambition this year is to hire a coach when we go on our annual week's holiday in August. This will free all our helpers from the strain of driving and we will all be able to travel together. There will also be plenty of luggage space so that we can do away with the trailer.

A happy New Year to everyone.

M G Johnson

## STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



The 1997 Branch Annual Supper Dance will be held on Saturday 11th January 1997 in the impressive surroundings and atmosphere of Pledgdon Barn, Henham. Tickets are still available.

On Saturday 15th February the Branch will be holding its Winter Jumble Sale in St John's Church Hall.

It is hoped to arrange another guided tour of The Palace of Westminster with Sir Alan Haselhurst and this is likely to take place in March 1997.

### Members of Parliament's Interviews

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP will be available for interviews as follows:

#### Friday 3rd January

Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green, Stansted  
5.45 - 6.30 pm.

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden  
7.00 - 7.45 pm.

An appointment is not necessary.

Alastair Richardson

### Conservative Contacts

County Council Matters:

Richard Wallace (01279) 872477

District Council Matters:

Jackie Cheetham (01279) 870706

Parish Council Matters:

Bridget Gott - Bentfield Ward - 814440

Peter Jones - Castle Ward - 813252

Steve Morrison - Castle Ward - 814152

Alastair Richardson - Castle Ward - 815959

John Salmon - Bentfield Ward - 814187.



STANSTED

**PRINTER  
CARTRIDGE  
RECYCLING  
PROJECT**

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

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

# Stansted Tennis Club



Winter subscriptions are half price from October to March (inclusive).

All enquiries to: Janet Hollis (Chairman), B/S 812073.  
Richard Mott (Secretary), B/S 466348 or Gill Robinson (Treasurer), B/S 815486.



**The National Childbirth Trust**  
Education for Parenthood

## COFFEE MORNINGS

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

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

### January

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

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



What a delightful social evening we spent together on 21st November. About 30 of us tucked into fish and chips or ploughman's and washed it down with lashings of white wine accompanied by sweet music.

We meet next on Thursday 20th February at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. Visitors are very welcome.

Pat Clower

## STANSTED HALL CRICKET CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This is the main event in the Club's calendar this year and we shall be celebrating together with The Home Farm Trust at Orford House and the Alzheimer Research Trust.

We are holding a number of special events as detailed below.

Wednesday 16th July,  
2.00 Match vs Invitation XI

Thursday 17th July,  
2.00 Match vs Old Bishop's Stortford XI  
8.00 Opera Evening with Sounds Operatic

Friday 18th July.  
1.00 Sponsors lunch in Marquee  
2.00 Match vs Old England XI  
8.00 Dinner/Dance with Chris Cowdrey as guest speaker

Saturday 19th July,  
2.00 League Match  
8.00 Theatrical evening with The Stortford Players

Sunday 20th July,  
2.00 Match vs President's XI

The Old England XI will be captained by Chris Cowdrey and will include John Lever, Roger Knight and David Graveney amongst others. We are also hoping that Sir Colin Cowdrey will be there on 18th July.

We always welcome new players to the Club - anyone interested in joining should telephone Patrick Hearne on 812097.

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

9am to 4pm

Free after care (NHS Appliances)

Free lip reading classes

Library of environmental aids

## CHILDREN'S PAGE



### THE JANUARY MOUSE

Jon the January mouse was happy. He usually was happy and so his friends called him The Happy Chappie. Jon was especially happy because it was snowing and he just loved the snow.

It had been snowing all night and was still snowing after breakfast. The snow was very deep, so Jon and his friends planned to play outside all the morning.

Jon particularly wanted to wear his new bobble hat, scarf and mittens. His grandma had made the hat which was green with white stripes. His aunty had made the yellow scarf and his sisters had made the mittens. One was red with a blue thumb and the other was blue with a red thumb, because his sisters had an argument about the colours. Jon had laughed when he saw them.

"You look like a rainbow" said his mother. Jon didn't mind; he just laughed as he went out to meet his friends.

Sam, Nancy and Danny were already outside making snowballs and they pelted Jon as soon as he appeared. They carried on making snowballs until they had a long line of them, starting with small ones which gradually got bigger until the last one was ENORMOUS. Then they made a splendid snowman.

Danny and Nancy had brought toboggans with them so they had a wonderful time racing and bumping each other, as well as throwing even more snowballs.

Thoroughly wet and exhausted, they went back to Sam's house where his mother gave them all a hot bath and some dry clothes.

Then she made big mugs of steaming hot chocolate and a mound of walnut biscuits. Warm and happy, they planned to meet again the following day with all their toboggans for more fun in the snow.



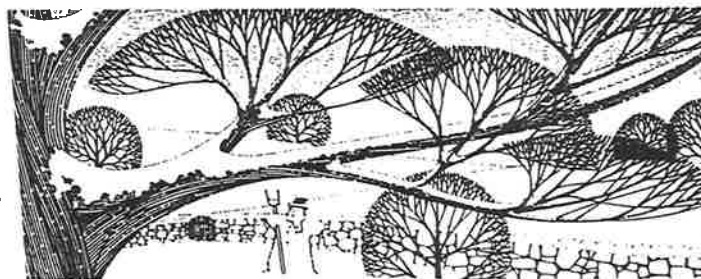
Do you know this poem by F. Ann Elliott?

### THE SNOW

The snow, in bitter cold  
Fell all the night;  
And we awoke to see  
The garden white.

And still the silvery flakes  
Go whirling by,  
White feathers fluttering  
From a grey sky.

Beyond the gate, soft feet  
In silence go,  
Beyond the frosted pane  
White shines the snow.



Can you unmuddle these letters to find some flowers which might be blooming in your garden now? Answers on page 12.

1. PROD SNOW
2. CANOE IT
3. SNAPY
4. IM CARTS HORSES
5. MANY LECC
6. BURN I VUM
7. RUE PHOBIA
8. BEEH
9. AND PHE
10. GOLD AMIR
11. VYI
12. ORSE
13. LEAN ON IDD
14. THE MUMS CAN HRY



## THE MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

The sixty-odd members of the Mountfitchet Seniors' do enjoy their twice-monthly meetings, either for games (nothing more strenuous than dominoes - although some of the card playing gets a bit heated!) or just for a good gossip, or for what I suppose you could call an 'educational' talk. Certainly this year we have all learned from our visiting speakers, and been very well entertained by them, from Essex Natural History, memories of Stansted in old photographs and Marion Johnson's tales of her wartime childhood in Cardiff. Even our General Knowledge Quiz helps to stimulate those 'little grey cells' and seems to have become an annual event. I think it's time we had an 'Inter-Village' quiz when we could invite some of our neighbouring Over 60's Clubs to join us.

Our half-day outing July was equally educational, entertaining and sustaining - what a homemade tea they provided! Even if the weather was, for the most part, atrocious, we are now all much more knowledgeable about the cultivation of vines and wine making in England than we were before we visited Giffords Hall near Bury St Edmunds. We all enjoyed the generous wine tastings but we were sorry that we could not really appreciate the lovely rose growing fields and the rest of the gardens because of the weather. I'll always remember the greenhouse full of the biggest sprays of sweet peas I've ever seen!

Our entertainers this year were our own - 'our very own' Dennis Miller and his pianist, Jose. We are lucky that this very talented duo can fit us in to their full schedule - it was an afternoon of great pleasure for us all as always.

Our October sale raised £320, thanks to so many people's hard work.

Outings this year were out of step with the weather, but being truly British we faced a very bright and breezy Clacton and a grey Felixstowe - fortunately the weather has no effect on the fish and chips!

We have been saddened by the death of two members this year. Barbara Tyson lost her long fight against cancer. The support of so many of you at the Coffee Morning for HEAL Cancer Charity - a fund-raising which Barbara had arranged before her death - was very much appreciated and in her memory nearly £1,500 was sent to the North Middlesex Hospital. Mrs Nellie Dockerill was a friend to all of us and a long-serving member of the Club and Committee. We remember them both with gratitude and affection.

We have missed the company of several members who are not able to meet with us through poor health - to all of them we send our loving thoughts and best wishes in the hope that they have kind and caring friends and family to help them along.

Our last meeting this year was Christmas lunch at The Three Colts, where Nicky, Phil and their staff entertained so well - it was a very pleasant occasion and it is good to have the opportunity to entertain our guests, that happy band of volunteer drivers. We are pleased to be able to thank them in some small way for giving up their time to help those members who would otherwise be unable to join us on our 'first and third Wednesdays'. We're truly grateful for their kindness and reliability throughout the year.

Next year's programme has been arranged and we will be very pleased to welcome visitors at any of our meetings, whether for a special talk or entertainment or just to join us for a cup of tea and a chat. If you would like to join us as a full member, we won't ask your age - we just assume you are the proud owner of a Pension Book, and with our subscription at only £2 per annum we can ensure some afternoons in good company in pleasant surroundings.

We in the Club are all getting older - some of us are 90+, and a few more very nearly ready for our tea-party when they reach that special 'Top of the Shop' score! We need some younger blood to keep the Club alive and kicking. Why not give us a try in 1997?



### ADVANCE WARNING TO ALL 'CHURCH CRAWLERS' BOOK THIS DATE FOR 1997:

*Saturday 12th July - when a coach will travel into Norfolk and Suffolk to visit some Churches of interest, followed by tea with the parishioners of Barsham, near Beccles. Further details will be available later.*



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### The Wood

Our class went to a wood on 25th September. We walked down the path first. I found some hawthorn leaves and a feather. We walked a bit further and we went through the kissing gate out the other side. Then we walked back a bit further and went into the woody part.

When we got in we sat under a larch and a beech tree. I found lots of cones and beech nuts there. Tim had his tape recorder with him. He tried to record the birds but all he got was the rustling of bags and talking.

Then we got up and we went past a horse chestnut tree. Michael and Jack found conkers there, I didn't. Then we came to an oak tree. It was hollow inside. We saw a hole in the bottom of the tree. Round the other side of the tree there was a dead squirrel. Somebody found an egg. Then Mrs Minshull told us to sit still so Oliver could take a photo of the class sitting under the tree. I found some acorns and then we got up and went on. Next we went past a sycamore. I got a green and yellow leaf and some sycamore seeds.

Near the tree there was an old tree that had four tree mushrooms on it. After that we went past a horse chestnut and a maple. I found some maple seeds. We walked on past another oak where I found a feather and a couple of acorn cups. Then I found some other seeds, I don't know what they are called. We came out of the wood on the grassy part to sit down again. We saw some rabbits tracks and some fungus. Somebody brought a plastic glove. They put the glove on, picked some up and put it in a little plastic bag to take it back in. I saw a squirrel then we started going back to school. THE END.  
Sanjay Cheema (7)

Butterfly Butterfly,  
Shining Bright,  
Shining Shining Pink. Rosie Chatto (5)

The white owl sleeps in the barn the horse trots around  
the farmyard this is what you see at the farm when you go  
there. Jamie Looker (6)

The flowers are dying  
The winter is nearly here  
We are all nice and warm in our house. Rachel Gemmill  
(6)

The morning sun is shining  
Outside its a lovely morning  
There are no clouds of rain. Abigail Watson (5)

The winds that whistle the birds that sing,  
Winter is nearly here but we are so snug  
in our houses me and my friend play out  
Together in the winter time it is fun. Anjuli Cheema (5)

The winter is coming the flowers are dying,  
In the night it gets darker sooner. Katie Pye (6)



The Link apologises for the error in the November issue arising from part of the Rainbow Pre-School article appearing within the Tennis Club contribution. We are sorry for the confusion which may have inconvenienced any of our readers. We are doing our best to prevent a recurrence.

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## Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

Hands up all those who thought that Dick Turpin rode to York on his horse Black Bess. Well, you were wrong, as we heard from Georgina Green in her talk "Dick Turpin, Fact and Fiction" at our December meeting. That part of the legend was written as an episode in a work of fiction about 100 years after Turpin was hanged in York for horse stealing. Many other stories about him are untrue. Although he was a highwayman and house robber he was certainly not a romantic character and seems to have been generally rather nasty, as were the gangs with which he was associated.

Something of a party atmosphere was generated in the Day Centre, decorated for Christmas, by starting the meeting with wine and finishing with coffee, mince pies and a raffle.

On Thursday 2nd January, Peter Brown will talk on the history of Stansted Fire Brigade and Thursday 6th February will be Members Evening with various contributors. Both at the Day Centre at 8 pm.

Peggy Honour



### THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

Saturday 7th December saw us enthusiastically welcome the popular vocal group NOT PAVAROTTI to Stansted where they performed to a capacity audience in St John's Church.

Having had two very successful concerts the stage is now set for the forthcoming recital of works on Sunday 26th January - see Village Diary page for details.

Members are again reminded to please bring their membership cards with them to gain admittance.



The children (and staff) were really busy over the Christmas period. The older group acted out the Nativity for all the mums, dads, grannies, grandads and everyone else who came. We had a Christmas raffle drawn on the same morning and lots of people went home with some wonderful prizes, including a hamper and a Christmas cake. Both groups had a Christmas Party, after which they performed a small concert for their parents. They had a visit from Father Christmas who gave them each a present.

Because both schools are taking children earlier we are able to accommodate children at an earlier age if parents wish. We will be taking children from the age of two and a half years into the Pre-School. We also have a Messy Play group for those who are younger but enjoy painting, sticking, sand play and other such activities. For both the Pre-School and Messy Play a phone call to Ann Conroy on 812457 can put your child's name on a waiting list. You can also phone the same number to arrange a visit to see us if you wish. We run a group called Rainbow Tots on a Wednesday afternoon. This is for mums, dads or any other carers who wish to meet other people and let their children play with others of a similar age.

We have many plans for the next year. These include a quiz on Saturday February 1st. The tickets will be £6 and this will include a light supper. Tickets are available from Mandy Honour if you phone 816895. We also have a table-top sale arranged for early March so watch this space!! We wish a very Happy New Year from all at Rainbow Pre-School.

#### Answers

1. Snowdrop
2. Aconite
3. Pansy
4. Christmas Rose
5. Cyclamen
6. Viburnum
7. Euphorbia
8. Hebe
9. Daphne
10. Marigold
11. Ivy
12. Rose
13. Dandelion
14. Chrysanthemum



Aconite, Winter  
2-6 in. January-March

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