

Nov. 97

The LINK



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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GARDEN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

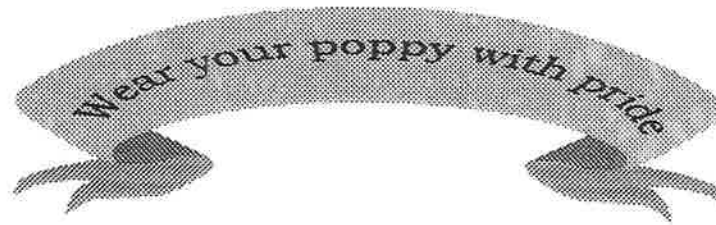
- Paving • Brickwork
- Fencing • Planting
- Lawns • Ground Preparation



PHONE OR FAX

01279 813160

59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted



9th November

10.45 am

*Laying of Wreaths at
the War Memorial*

11.05 am

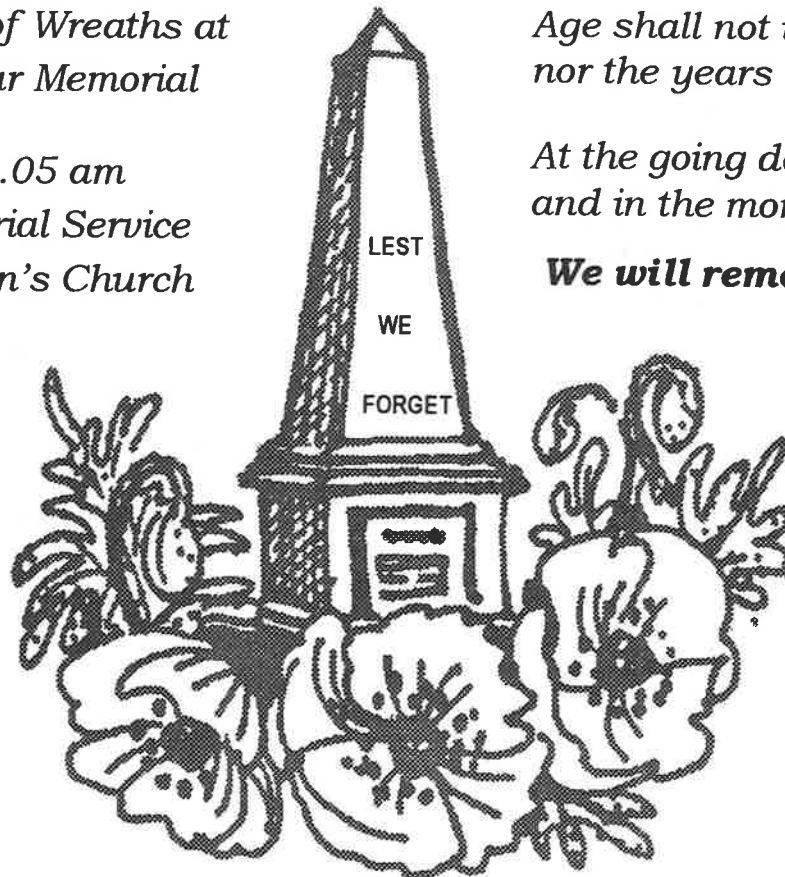
*Memorial Service
St John's Church*

*They shall grow not old as
we that are left grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun
and in the morning*

We will remember them



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
13th November for publication on 30th November
11th December for publication on 4th January**

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

Masses:

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

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass



THE LITTLE GIRL WHO BECAME A GREAT SAINT

Theresa Martin
1873 - 1897

Theresa Martin - now known as St. Theresa of Lisieux - came from a materially secure background and a very close knit and loving family. Her emotional and spiritual life was turned upside down and set in crisis by the death of her mother, Zelie Martin, from breast cancer when Theresa was 4½. She was present with her father, Louis Martin and her four elder sisters when her mother received the Last Rites of the Church and later she kissed her dead mother 'goodbye'. The effect on her was profound, prolonged and, ultimately, spiritually transforming. She later said of her parents, declared 'Venerable' in March 1994, that "the Good Lord gave me a father and a mother more worthy of heaven than earth".

After the death of her mother Theresa turned into an introverted, shy and self-effacing child. At the age of eight she went to the local Benedictine School for five years which she described as 'sad days' for her. Pauline was her second eldest sister and Theresa's favourite, and she chose her as a substitute mother. When Theresa was ten Pauline decided to become a nun. The emotional shock was so great that Theresa fell seriously ill. For a whole month the family were at their wits end not knowing if she was going to live or to die. The doctors could find no physical explanation for the hallucinations, the tossing and turning in bed and refusing to eat. Her recovery when it came, she believed, was through divine intervention.

The white statue of Mary put beside her bed to comfort her 'smiled' at her, she said, and she started to recover. It was another decisive moment in her life, May 1883. Even at this tender age of ten she was convinced of the finger of God present in her life, through direct intervention, through the intercession of Mary or the Saints, or through her family and the community. Part of her being a true Christian is to penetrate something of the mystery of God personally in one's own life. For example, she could simply say: "I was just thinking how wonderful it is to call God 'Father'".

From about the age of nine the idea of becoming a nun was a real possibility to her. She brow-beat everyone to be allowed to enter the convent at the extraordinarily young age of fifteen in April 1888. The nine years of life that remained to her were uneventful and 'ordinary', such as could be paralleled in the lives of numberless other young nuns. She died on 30th September 1897 from tuberculosis after prolonged suffering and no little agony. Even in her darkest hour her response was: "No, I am not dying, I am entering Eternal Life".

She was canonised in 1925 and a large church was built at Lisieux to accommodate the crowds of pilgrims to her shrine. In 1927 she was made patron Saint of the Missionary Church with St. Francis Xavier, quite a spiritual paradox for someone who never went on the Missions! When she was made a Doctor of the Church on 19th October 1997 by Pope John Paul II she joined the other 34 Doctors of the Church, two of whom are women, Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Sienna. In just twenty-four years Theresa Martin travelled a long way, bless her.

Fr. Joe White

Parish Register

Baptism

28th September

Dominic Matthew Latham



SHALOM

November

Monday 3rd

Speaker - Rev Margaret McKay
Venue - Eileen and Brian Quinn's
4 Greenfields

Monday 17th

Bible Study
led by Derek Honour
Venue - Ruth Rawlinson's
Mont House, High Lane

All welcome for ecumenical fellowship.

Church of England

Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist

Rector: *Vacant*
Curate: The Revd. Andrew Spurr
43 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8DT
Office: 812203
Home: 815025
Email: andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

Office Hours: for Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings, the Parish Office is open on Saturday mornings from 10:00am-12:00pm at 5 St. John's Road, Stansted.

Diary for November 1997

Regular worship continues with an 8:00am said Holy Communion and 9:30am sung Parish Communion services on Sunday mornings with said Evensong at 6:30pm. There is a said Holy Communion service on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am and Prayers at 7:30pm on Wednesday evening.

Other services of Holy Communion include 10:30am November 4th at Norman Court, 10:30am November 11th at Mead Court and 11:00am 25th November at Hargrave House.

Guest Preachers at the 9:30am Parish Communion service this month include **Canon Roy Brookstein** on Sunday 2nd (All Saints'), **Fr. Geoffrey Steel** on Sunday 16th (6th Before Christmas *see below*), **Mr. Pete Ward**, Advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury on Youth Work on Sunday 23rd, and the **Revd. Tony Wheeler** of Christians on the Internet (COIN) on Sunday 30th (Advent Sunday). On Advent Sunday at 6:30 in the Evening there will be an **Advent Carol Service** at St. Mary's, Birchanger.

Our World/God's World. For those who are interested in the relationship between Christian worship and life, there will be a **Day Seminar** devoted to exploring the world of the modern communion services on Saturday November 15th. Fr. Geoffrey Steel, member of the International Consultation on English Liturgies (ICEL), former liturgy tutor at Ushaw College, Durham, and Roman Catholic parish priest will be taking us through the world which is invoked by the language and structure of the modern rites of the Lord's Supper, Eucharist or Mass. There will also be an introduction to the changes in the shape of the Church's year which come with the new Calendar and Lectionary originally developed by the Roman Catholic Church which many denominations including the Church of England will be adopting from

Advent Sunday 1997.

The session will go from 10:00am-4:00pm. Participants are asked to bring £3.00 to cover the expenses for the day and a sandwich lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. To register, please phone Revd. Andrew Spurr (815025) since space will be limited.

Housegroups begin in November. The Revd. Andrew Spurr and Dr. Jane Freeman will be leading housegroups based on the British and Foreign Bible Society's *Emmaus: the Way of Faith*, a course about the faith-journeys of established Christians and enquirers and those new to Christian belief. The course begins with an introduction to Christian faith and is intended for those who want to grow in their faith as well as forming a basis for those who want to prepare for baptism and/or confirmation in the Christian Church. The first meeting is on November 4th at 8:00pm at 43 Gilbey Crescent. Those wishing to obtain preparatory material for the course should contact Jane on 814084.

Remembrance Sunday will be observed in an ecumenical service of thanksgiving sponsored by Churches Together in Stansted. The Remembrance Service begins promptly at 10:55am on Sunday 9th November at the War Memorial in Stansted and continues at St. John's Parish Church. This year we are very pleased to welcome the **Revd. Michael Hayman** of Stansted Methodist Church who will conduct the service and preach.

The **Annual Service of Commemoration of the Departed** will take place at 6:30pm on Sunday November 2nd. This is a service in which friends and loved ones who have died are remembered by name. Those who would like to add names to the list of those who will be included in prayer are asked to send them to the rectory, 5 St. John's Road in an envelope marked **Memorial Service**.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

The appeal for funds to replace the hall roof has now closed with the sum of just over £18,000 having been raised. We are most grateful to all the individuals, village organisations and the Parish and District Councils for their generous contributions towards the cost of this essential work.

Regular users of the hall will have seen that 60 new chairs have been purchased and we hope to complete the replacement of all the old chairs by next year.

A reminder too that the Upper Room, which was refurbished a few years ago, can be hired separately from the main hall for only £6 per session (morning, afternoon or evening). It is suitable for meetings of up to 25 people and has its own facilities for tea/coffee making, etc.

Enquiries and bookings for either the main hall or the Upper Room are dealt with by the Booking Secretary, Tom Johnson (01279 812284).



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

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

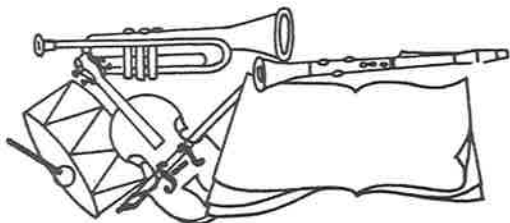
Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 523296

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 812593

PREACHERS FOR NOVEMBER

2nd	11 am	Mrs C Bonner
9th	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday Village Service at St. John's Church led by Rev M Hayman
16th	11 am	Rev M McKay Communion
23rd	11 am	Rev L Rapkin
30th	11 am	Rev L Rapkin

We have started our redevelopment project at last. The Eastern Province Committee of the U.R.C. have passed our plans and the newly acquired piece of land at the side of the church has been cleared by members to enable the design of the car park to be finalised. The work on this car park is expected to be completed this winter. However, we still need more money and our fund raising continues with a concert by the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra on November 22nd at 7.30 pm. Tickets £4 (£3 students) to include refreshments are available now from 58 Chapel Hill, tel. 812593. The orchestra under their musical director Martin Hathaway, who is a professor at the Guildhall School of Music in London, has a good reputation and plays all styles of jazz, the emphasis being on exciting enjoyable music.



We have also produced for your enjoyment a quiz sheet which can be purchased from Betty Francis, 814850 for £1 and completed and returned by 1st December. The prize, a Christmas Hamper. Have a go.

No Room at the Inn

You are invited to the promotion of this book written by the late Rev. Michael Melvin, on Saturday, November 15th at Trinity URC, Harberts Road, Hall Street, Harlow, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Michael wrote "No Room at the Inn" for everyone to read, not just for those who attend church regularly, but for all the people who used to come to him during his Ministry. In Michael's Ministry no-one was turned away no matter what they asked for.

This book is Michael speaking, proving that many churches do have an open door whatever your needs and views may be.

Jean Melvin

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

When thinking what to write about for this article I begin to think of the National Poetry Week and this passage written by Clive Sansom in 1965.

"I feel that the creation of poetry is not unlike the upsurging of words in a Quaker Meeting. First, heart and mind must be prepared - and the emotional and mental preparation for art is something which few non-artists realise. Then there is the waiting, perhaps for months, because poetry cannot be forced: it is an act of imagination, not of will ... and then at last comes the moment of certainty, accompanied usually by some physical action and the words begin to flow."

From Quaker Faith and Practice





CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

HARVEST FESTIVAL

A well-attended Harvest service at St. John's Church was followed by an 'Indian evening' at which an excellent spread of Asian food was eagerly devoured by Stansted natives. Exotic entertainment was provided by talented local young people some of whom appear in our photograph. There was also a hastily assembled harem of which The Link, with due deference, declines to publish any photographs. The Sikh commentator also wished to retain his anonymity.

Those who attended were fortunate, for such rare cultural meetings of East and West (of the M 11) can seldom be repeated.

A total of £225.56 was raised at the service and supper to support Christian Aid in India.



Congratulations go to Joan and Francis Mercer of Bentfield Gardens on their Golden Wedding which was celebrated on September 20th. A re-affirmation of the wedding vows was made in St. Johns Church, followed by a reception for their family and many friends in the Hall.

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

PREACHERS FOR NOVEMBER

2nd	9.30 am	Mr Don McGregor of Bishop's Stortford
9th	10.30 am	United Service for Remembrance Day at St John's Church, led by the Revd Michael Hayman
16th	9.30 am	Mr David Drewett of Little Hadham
23rd	9.30 am	Miss Jean Hay of Saffron Walden
30th	9.30 am	The Revd Harry Wood of Saffron Walden

STANSTED PERSPECTIVE

It's Good to Walk!

Since partial retirement and now retirement, we have taken up walking in this area in a big way. Armed with Pathfinder Maps of the surrounding villages (2½" to the mile and very detailed) we have managed to follow footpaths, get hopelessly lost, land up in some very strange places and discover the best pubs in the district. I know where you can buy the cheapest sausage sandwiches and also the most expensive!

Walking is a very inexpensive hobby - unless you are in the Lake District, where they advertise fitting you out fully for only £550! Around here, some walking boots, thick socks, small haversack and a cagoule will suffice. If, like ours, your doctor recommends it for health reasons, then every dry day throughout the year is an invitation to leave the housework, gardening or decorating, because you never know, it might rain tomorrow! That's not to say we never walk in the rain; but it's best to start out dry.

We have walked from our house to Saffron Walden, along the route that would have been used in the old days by those who had to attend the Assizes. Starting off from Gall End it goes to Ugley Green by Fieldgate Farm and alongside Quendon Woods, across the railway at Little Henham and through Priors Wood to Widdington, where you can stop for refreshment. Then up by the church to Debden Park, Debden Common and eventually arriving in Claypits at Saffron Walden. It is still possible to get through the Housing Estate by the old footpaths - the whole distance being roughly 11 miles. Imagine having to walk all that way back again, unless you were sent to jail, which may have seemed the soft option! (we get the school bus!).

It doesn't matter how many times you do the same walk it is always different as the seasons bring such variations. In spring, Patmore Hall Woods in Albury are alive with miniature daffodils, like something on a birthday card that you never quite believe is real. Quendon Woods are packed with bluebells and also the dogs of our famous 'gentleman of the road'. We disturbed them once when we lost the path and they all started barking like a '101 Dalmatians', which we could hear long after we had crossed over the road to Rickling. Autumn-time is the season to go the Ash Valley in the Hadham area, when the trees on a sunny October day compensate for the regrets of passing summer.

We have seen foxes slinking past and deer rutting in Hatfield Forest and even a badger near Molehill Green. Alas, it was dead as were a rabbit and swan seen earlier that day near Durrel's Wood - we half expected to find the pub shut for a funeral!

We have walked past Rickling Hall many times on our way to Berden and admired its old red-brick walls and magnificent moat, so we were delighted this year when it was open for two days and we could go in to the grounds. We have visited most of the surrounding village churches and graveyards, where I spend a few minutes reading the epitaphs and recognising local names.

Not all can be left open, but earlier this year we explored Clavering Church with its wonderful memorial tablets for the three wives of Haynes Barlee, a leading family from the 15th-18th century.

Gradually our walks have increased in length and so, of course, the places that we can reach even from Stansted are more varied. We are always surprised at how little the proximity of the Airport and motorway and even the railway affect this lovely part of Essex at the moment!

Well, they say "it's good to talk" and if you have enough breath you can walk and talk, but while I can, I'll stick to the former!

A Happy Villager



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Lower Street, Stansted

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Now Being Taken
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Free Range Turkeys
(Black or White)
plus

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Ducks, Geese, Guinea Fowl
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Venison, Hares & Rabbits
Additive -Free Cooked Meats
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Taste The Difference

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

There is now a community transport service operating in our area.

Called Uttlesford Community Travel - or UCT for short - it uses new 6-seater "people carriers", each of which has a hoist lift for loading wheelchairs and their occupants. All our drivers have received full training and instruction for these specialised needs.

Initially, UCT are providing a Book-A-Ride scheme which can be used for a fee by members of the scheme

- a) To go the shops
- b) To visit relatives and friends
- c) To go to their club or church
- d) To attend social activities
- e) To attend Further Education centres
- f) For hospital visiting (**but not for hospital appointments**)

and much more.

Anyone can become a member of Book-A-Ride if they cannot access existing public transport because:

- They are geographically isolated
- They are in a wheelchair
- They have some other physical disability

Passengers will assist with the cost of the scheme by making a contribution of £1.50 for any distance up to 4 miles and 25p a mile thereafter. Price estimates for journeys can be obtained by request when booking.

Booking a ride is simple. Just telephone the UCT office on 01371 875787 between 09.00 am and 1.00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Bookings cannot be more than 14 days in advance. It would be helpful if at least 48 hours notice is given - though it is always possible that a booking can be made at shorter notice.

To obtain further information and to become a member (annual fee £5.00, payable on taking the first journey) ring 01371 875787 for an Application Form.

It is important to understand that Book-A-Ride does not replace the Social Car Service where this exists. The two transport services will aim to work together in partnership. Indeed, one of the jobs of the new UCT is to work with local communities to increase the number of Social Car Services throughout the Uttlesford District Council area.

David Bright
Transport Organiser
Uttlesford Community Travel
Tel: 01371 875787



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

October

At our meeting this month we welcomed a husband and wife team to speak to us about Clematis, Honeysuckle and Passion Flowers. Mr and Mrs Greenaway visited us from their specialist nursery near Ware where they retail the varieties included in their presentation. It was good to have a wide selection of real plants on display to illustrate the talk.

November Meeting

On Guy Fawkes day we look forward to our visitor, Mr Joe Sharman, who will tell us about collecting plants from the wild. The venue as usual is the Crafton Green Day Centre at 8 pm. All welcome. Raffle and refreshments. Members Competition: One winter cabbage.

Advance Notice December Meeting

On Wednesday 3rd December we have one of the highlights of the year when a specialist from Unwins Seeds will tell us about Seed Trialling and its benefits. This meeting as you would expect will be "Christmas Orientated". The Members Competition is 'One decorated candle'.

This meeting will be the last chance members will have to submit their seed order.

TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO RECOVER FROM CHRISTMAS YOU WILL WISH TO NOTE THAT THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY 1998.



BENTFIELD SCHOOL P.T.A.

After a successful year by the previous hard working PTA in which they raised enough money for some outside play equipment - no mean feat - now a new PTA with only one original member has been thrown in at the deep end.

The school has a varied social life for both children and parents. The Halloween disco was our first event with prizes for the scariest costume, lots of ghoulish edibles and some wonderful dancing. Next is our sparkler party with games galore from feely boxes to apple bobbing, paper plate masks, lots of food and sparklers. Hopefully a good time will be had by all.

Mandy.

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Jerry Wheeler

Social Services Benefits Advisor

will be talking about help available
2 - 4 pm Monday 3rd November
Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

Collection for WHITECHAPEL MISSION FOR THE HOMELESS



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in
STANSTED

10 am - 2 pm Saturday 8th November
Quaker Meeting House

All donations of clothing - both ladies' and men's - but particularly
men's shoes and underwear - will be most gratefully received.

Also required are toiletries and non-perishable foods, especially tins.

Enquiries to Catherine Dean on 813579

Coffee Morning

Hargrave Nursing Home

Cambridge Road

10.00 am - 12 noon

Wed 5th Nov & 3rd Dec

Entrance 40p

Come and join the residents for
a chat and a piece of cake



Good as new

TOY SALE

1 - 3 pm

Wednesday 12th November

Stansted Youth Centre

Lower Street

November

VILLAGE EVENTS

3	Mon	Carers Support Group Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm 4 Greenfields 8 pm
4	Tue	Royal British Legion AGM	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Wed	Rainbow Book Sale Coffee Morning Gardening Club	Youth Centre Hargrave House 10 am - 12 noon Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	CTS Collection for Whitechapel Lib Democrats Ploughmans	Meeting House 10 am - 2 pm Day Centre 12 - 2 pm
8	Sat		
	to		
9	Sun	Skip at Crafton Green	
12	Wed	Rainbow Toy Sale	Youth Centre 1 - 3 pm
15	Sat	WI Shopping Trip Book Promotion Mind Bazaar HEAL Quiz	URC, Harlow 11 am - 4 pm Meeting House 10 am - 12.30 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
16	Sun	Craft Fayre	Mountfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm
17	Mon	Shalom Group	Mont House, High Lane 8 pm
20	Thu	R.B.L (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
22	Sat	Christmas Market Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra	St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm URC Hall 7.30 pm
23	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - 12 noon
29	Sat	Rainbow Open day Lib Dem Russian Evening	Youth Centre Chantry Hall, Henham 7.30 for 8 pm



BAZAAR

10 am - 12.30 pm

Saturday 15th November

Quaker Meeting House

Bargains for everyone

Please come!



Christmas Shopping in Norwich

Everyone Welcome

Interesting shops - Museums

Cathedral - Bookshops

Antiques - Markets etc etc

Saturday 15th November

Depart - 8 am Barclays Bank

Return - leave Norwich 5 pm

Cost - £5 deposit (plus a little more)

Tel Pearl Wellings 813614

Organised by Stansted Evening WI

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

CRAFT FAYRE

All articles handmade
by local craftworkers

Sunday 16th November

10.00am to 4.00pm

Admission - Free

or by donation

Free Car Parking

Hot and Cold Refreshments

Tel 01279 813384

No Room at the Inn

by the late

Revd Michael Melvin

All are warmly invited to the promotion
of this newly published book

11 am - 4 pm

Saturday 15th November

Trinity URC, Harberts Rd, Harlow


Refreshments

Peter Kirk School

Quiz Night

7.30 for 8.00 pm
Friday 5th December
£5.00 (incl supper)
Tables of 6
Bar ~ Raffle

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am
Sat 6th December
outside the
United Reformed Church
 Chapel Hill
(in church if wet)



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

CONCERTANTE ENSEMBLE

with soloist Neil Shewan
8.00 pm Saturday 6th December
St John's Church
Tickets from Stansted Carpets 812019,
Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door
£7 adults £4 concessions £2 children

December

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
3	Wed	Coffee Morning Gardening Club	Hargrave House 10 am - 12 noon Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Fri	Quiz Night	Peter Kirk School 7.30 for 8 pm
6	Sat	Windmill Christmas Stall Cake Stall Christmas Fayre Village Music Club	Lower St 9.30 am - 12 noon Outside URC 10 am Bentfield Primary School St John's Church 8 pm
8	Mon		
	to		
11	Thu	Skip at Crafton Green	
10	Wed	Huw Johnson Coffee Morning	62 Chapel Hill 10 am - 12 noon
11	Thu	Huw Johnson Concert	Peter Kirk School 7 for 7.30 pm
12	Fri	Evening W I Carols	URC 8 pm

If you would like to advertise your December or January event on this page, don't forget to submit details to 58 Chapel Hill by 13th November.

Please note, all items are subject to the editors' approval.



Coffee Morning

10 am - 12 noon
Wed 10th December
62 Chapel Hill
Stall ~ Raffle
Entrance 60 pence



Concert

of carols, sketches
& songs

7 for 7.30 pm
Thurs 11th December
Peter Kirk School

Refreshments ~ Raffle ~ Tombola



ESSEX YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

Director Martin Hathaway
7.30 pm
Saturday 22nd November
URC Hall
Adults £4.00 Students £3
Tel 812593

St John's Church Christmas Market

Saturday 22 November
10 am to 1 pm
in
St John's Church Hall

Gifts - Books - Plants
Produce - Cakes - Crafts
Toys - Games - Toiletries
Refreshments - Grand Draw

and

FATHER CHRISTMAS



Stansted Evening WI

warmly invite you to an
evening of

Readings & Carols

to celebrate Christmas
8 pm
Friday 12th December
United Reformed Church
followed by refreshments
All are welcome
Hope to see you there!

Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 23rd November
8.00 am to 12 noon
£6 in advance £7 on the day
Refreshments
Tel 01279 813384





On Tuesday 11th November at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, the Legion Branch will pay tribute to all those who gave their lives in all conflicts and wars by observing the two minutes silence in the Memorial Gardens. Last year we had a good response and it was so moving to see the school children amongst us.

Please give as generously as you can to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The Stansted and District Branch holds its A.G.M. at the Day Centre Crafton Green, 8 pm, November 4th.

G.R.M. Stoddart
Hon. Secretary

"A Caring Gentle-Man"

These words above were said by his son at Fred Hoffman's funeral in August. Although born in Dorset he lived all his life in Stansted, which he loved, and involved himself in most things and always took on his share of responsibilities.

He was educated at Newport Grammar School and, on leaving, joined a prestigious City stockbroking firm and served them for forty-four years, a record unlikely to be broken. A talented sportsman, playing cricket, football, tennis and badminton, he had a special affection for Essex County Cricket Club.

As of all young men of that period, the War interrupted his way of life in September 1939 and he enlisted in the 5th Essex Regiment. He fought in three theatres of War, Africa, Italy and Germany. On his return home he joined his local Branch of the Royal British Legion. He was elected to the Committee in 1951, serving as Vice Chairman, 1955-58, and Treasurer 1958-82, as a member from 1946 to 1977 and thirty two years as a Legion officer. Truly "Service not Self", a testimony to Freddie's loyal and devoted service.

Since his retirement in 1983 he was able to give more time to his family affairs as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Together with Barbara, his wife, they enjoyed their love of theatre, churches of Suffolk and the Gardens at Wisley.

Fred will be sorely missed in the village and it is an honour to have known this Gentle-man who will be long remembered by all who knew him.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Update on the campaign 'Change the Rules'. We have now heard from Tesco's: a syndicate of Directors, with advice from Christian Aid, is devising a code of practice for supplies from developing countries.

We are still waiting to hear from Sainsbury's.

Catherine Dean

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The September meeting was told that donations had been made to the Benevolent Fund, Poppy Appeal, Services Committee and Group and H.Q.

A very entertaining Group Meeting had been held at Thaxted in early September when the speaker, who had been a professional opera singer, told many amusing anecdotes about her life.

Our Harvest Sale with produce auctioned by Jean Fuller, was amusing and successful and made a profit for our funds of £60.

Our November meeting on Thursday 20th November will be in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm. It will combine our Social Evening with a talk by Peter Brown.

Advance Notice: Stansted will play host to our March Group Meeting - let us ensure that it is an enjoyable occasion.

Pat Clower

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Stansted's voluntary
community care service

The Link

Please note that subscriptions are due on November 1st and collectors will soon be round for your money. Yet again this year there will be no increase in the amount - £3 per year remains good value.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The public opening season, which has been very busy and successful this year, ended in October. A total of over 1000 visitors came to the mill on the open days, which is an impressive number if you remember that there were 17 days when the mill was open and it is difficult to cope with more than about 10-12 people in the mill at a time! In addition to this there are school and other organised visits which bring the total number of visitors overall to well over 1500. So thank you to everyone who gave up a couple of hours to help with the stewarding, this probably makes it the busiest season for quite a number of years.

Another aspect which has gone well this year has been the sale of goods. If you did not visit the mill this year you will not have seen that there were several new additions to the range including some unique souvenirs of the mill. Many of them make good presents for sending to friends and family, so if you have started thinking about Christmas you should make a note that we will be having a **Christmas Stall in Lower Street** in December. The sale of goods will be outside Savages (opposite the butchers) on the morning of **December 6th from 9.30 am.**

For those interested in helping on open days, getting involved with work on the mill, or anyone who would like further information, please contact Steve Cements
Tel: 816514. (No more public openings until next year)



Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

Henham Past and Present was the apt title of Miss Pimblett's talk at our October meeting. Slides of photographs and paintings enabled us to compare as it was with the present day. Seeing cattle and chickens on the green and sheep with their lambs following the shepherd through the snow showed how truly rural it was.

On Thursday 6th November the speaker will be Jean Gumbrell on Favourite Haunts in Saffron Walden and on Thursday 4th December we will hear "A History of English Pubs" by Kate Muskett. Both 8 pm in the Day Centre.

Peggy Honour

REMEMBRANCE

St Mary's C of E Primary School Visit to War Graves in France

These poems reflect the children's
impressions

D-Day

One by one they were slain.
Shouts and screams all in pain.
But their battle was not in vain.
For other armies never came.

They were brave, very tough.
With other armies they got rough.
They kept men well away.
And that's still lasting to today.

People died for your freedom.
For everyone in your kingdom.
It's important what they died for.
Their names live on for evermore.

If only I could say thankyou.
I would say it again and again.
Many of them died in battle.
Generations of relations will never
be the same.

Neil Loughlin
Age 11



D-day memorials

So quiet not a stir
Silence in the memorial
Men tired, resting from war
Silence in the memorial
Women sleeping from bombing,
machine guns wailing
Silence in the D-day memorials

Adam Lunn
Age 10

Cemetery poem

Thousands and thousands,
Millions and millions of graves,
90 probably in one bomb,
All because of one man.

They died for our freedom,
so we should say thank you,
thank you,
thank you.
As they slowly closed their eyes,
'For king and country'
they would say
as their voice faded.
Some were tortured to their death,
But for others it was very quick,
seventy in a row hundreds and hundreds
of rows
May they rest in peace
and their names live forever.

Michael Eaton
Age 11



The cemetery

The cemetery is still
No noise
People pray, cry
The soldiers and young boy
Resting in peace
Flowers are being laid
People praying
Every night thinking of them
Wanting to be with them.

Jodie Hayden
Age 11

OUTING TO NORFOLK CHURCHES SATURDAY 12TH JULY 1997

After an early start from Stansted our first stop was for coffee at the Angel at Larling. The bus driver then had to negotiate his first taste of Norfolk lanes taking a more cross country route across to Bungay where we picked up our guides for the day - Maurice Elliott and John Campbell. The roads became narrower still as we made our way to Ditchingham where we were met by Sir Rider Haggard's grandson, Commander Cheyne, a wonderful old man who had retired from the navy 37 years ago. He began his talk by deftly removing his teeth because he said they got in the way but he proved to be very knowledgeable about the history of the church and most interesting about his family. The church is a fine example of Norfolk flint building with much of it dating back before the Reformation. Inside we saw a unique memorial to victims of the two world wars and many dedications to the Rider Haggard family including his tomb in the chancel. There were some interesting stained glass windows and very well worn steps up to the pulpit. At the back there was a model of the church and at present the congregation are wrestling with the difficulty of providing a parish room for Sunday school, meetings and somewhere for coffee. The traditionalists are resisting it being built adjoining the existing church - a dilemma being faced by many parishes.

We reluctantly got back onto the coach but were cheered by the thought of lunch at Beccles. Unfortunately we were already running late and were told to be back by 1.30 pm. However, this gave time for a bite to eat and a tantalisingly quick look at Beccles church but no time for the river or some interesting looking antique shops. The next stop was Gillingham which turned out to be virtually part of Beccles. Up a road that looked like a dead end we found three churches together. In the first we were welcomed by Mrs Bramley whose family built this interesting Roman Catholic church which resembled churches of the same period in Italy. The only difference was that this one was red brick on the outside instead of stucco as Italian churches. It now has to be kept locked because of vandalism. This seemed hard to believe in such a quiet setting. Literally next door we found the Anglican church which had fine examples of early Norman arches on the tower and west door. The tower was supported by grand Norman arches. The Victorians had been busy too - they had added a transept each side and enlarged the chancel. The able bodied were then offered the chance to follow John Campbell into the undergrowth to investigate the remains of another church next door. This proved very hazardous and necessitated negotiating some barbed wire, nettles and a steep bank. For our pains we saw the remains of an ivy covered tower and numerous grave stones. I am afraid I never did discover why this church had been built beside the other one.

Our next stop was Raveningham where the coach driver had to get through a very narrow gateway. The first impression of this church was disappointing as the rendered outside belittled the grandeur that was waiting inside. Like many Norfolk churches the round tower was topped with an octagonal upper storey. The memorials in the chancel were the most impressive feature of this church and are all dedicated to the Bacon family dating back to the sixteenth century. At other times the gardens at Raveningham Hall are open to the public but we could only take a tantalising glance.

The last church we visited was an absolute gem, now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. It is a perfect example of a Norfolk church built of local flint with a rounded Norman apse, thatch on the nave and chancel and with a round tower. We wondered whether the perfect Norman doorways at each side actually rival those at St Mary's, Stansted? The setting of this church is idyllic - there is so much wildlife all around. There was a mass of wild flowers, butterflies and even a nest containing partridge eggs and certainly not a house in sight. Inside this tiny church, lit only by the light of the Early English windows, were remains of medieval wall paintings. Otherwise it was a fairly plain interior which left a lasting impression of hundreds of years of worshippers coming to this place. There remains the lower section of the rood screen and evidence of steps up to the top of it.

On coming out of this tranquil church one became aware of some agitation - there was even talk of the coach being on fire. Certainly the coach was nowhere to be seen. Still, we had great faith in our driver and sat down to wait and enjoy the sunshine. After a while a call came for some strong young men - seven volunteers leapt forward and ran up the road to push the coach to jump start it. The coach driver had done a temporary repair and we were able to proceed to our tea stop. The cups of tea were most welcome and although the poor ladies had had rather a long wait they still had the kettles boiling and delicious cakes waiting to revive us. The Elliott's garden at Barsham was the setting and a delightful place to relax, enjoy the garden and even the opportunity to buy a few herbs to take home as a souvenir of the day. A relief coach from Norwich came to take us home a little later than planned.

Our thanks must go to Audrey Rodgers for organising the outing so efficiently and we all hope she will arrange another one soon.

Rosemary Minshull





Timmy, the Pussy Cat

"Pussy cat, pussy cat
Where have you been?"
"I've been to London
To visit the Queen."
"Pussy cat, pussy cat
What did you there?"
"I frightened a little mouse
under a chair."

Most people have heard that nursery rhyme but how many know how it came to be written? I know, so I will tell you.

Peter lived in the country a few miles from London many, many years ago. He was a lucky boy for his father was rich and he had lovely things to play with, but the thing he prized most of all was his cat Timmy.

One day Peter's father told him that he had to go to London for a few days and would take Peter if he promised to be good. Peter said he would love to go and promised to be very good if only he could take Timmy with him. After thinking about it for a time his father agreed.

Early in the morning a few days later Peter woke up feeling very excited. Today he was going to London. He hurriedly dressed and rushed downstairs. After breakfast his father's carriage was brought round to the door and off they went with the coachman cracking his whip and Peter sitting inside with Timmy in a basket on his lap. That night they stopped at an Inn and Peter was thrilled as he had not slept away from home before. Peter hoped they might meet a highwayman on the journey but they arrived safely at London the next day and feeling very tired he went straight to bed.

Peter woke up early in the morning and after a meal was taken out to see the sights of London by the young man who lived in the house where they were staying. It was a thrilling day as everything was different from home. They took Timmy Cat with them wherever they went as he was usually very well behaved.

In the evening they had their biggest thrill of all. The Queen came by in her beautiful coach, wearing jewellery which sparkled in the last rays of the sun. Peter was so excited he dropped Timmy! The noise of the cheering crowds frightened the cat who darted away between the feet of the people standing by. Timmy soon realised he was lost and followed a carriage which was moving

slowly down the road. It went through some big gates and into a courtyard. A lady stepped out and went through a large door, at either side of which stood footmen dressed in green and silver. The cat darted through the door into a warm and brightly lit hall where lots of people were dancing. The Queen sat on her throne on a platform watching and tapping her foot in time to the music. Suddenly one of the ladies screamed and ran off lifting her long skirt high. Others followed and through the gap that was left Timmy saw a mouse. He crouched for a moment then sprang just as the mouse ran under a chair and from there down to his home through a hole in the corner of the hall. Everybody was so pleased with Timmy; they made such a fuss of him; they gave him some milk and stroked his lovely fur and wanted him to stay with them. But Timmy thought of Peter and how he would be worrying about his cat and darted off across the hall, out through the great door, through the big gates and into the street. He ran and ran and ran not knowing where he was going until he heard Peter's father calling his name. He was pleased to be taken back to Peter who asked:

"Pussy cat, pussy cat, where have you been?"
"I've been to London to visit the Queen" answered Timmy.
"Pussy cat, pussy cat, what did you there?" asked Peter's father.
"I frightened a little mouse under a chair" the cat replied.

So, now when you hear that nursery rhyme you can say "Ah yes, I know how that came to be written."



This autumn term the children have been looking at colours and shapes. They also went to the Harvest Festival at St. John's Church. The children presented their produce gifts which will be taken to St. Botolph's in London where it will be distributed to the needy.

On Saturday 18th October we had a jumble sale. The proceeds will be used to buy computers for the children.

Please phone Lorna Williams for more information, 817197.



Huw Johnson Club

We are planning a Christmas Concert of songs, sketches and carols to be held at Peter Kirk School on Thursday 11th December. Doors will open at 7.30 pm. Please put the date in your diary for an entertaining evening by our members with some assistance from our helpers and teenagers. We will make a small entry charge and there will be a tombola and raffle. Coffee and mince pies will also be available. This is a way for our members to contribute some Christmas cheer and raise money for the Club. They would really love to see a large audience. Watch out for posters with more details.

We held our termly Short Tennis Tournament on 9th October and this time the boys really stole the show. Nicholas was the champion, Robin (one of our young helpers) was runner up, closely followed by James and Andrew. Our method of scoring is known only to the umpires but everyone seems very happy with the final results. Thank you to our friends at the United Reformed Church for letting us use their hall for this event.

On 25th September we were very pleased to welcome the D.O.G.S. to our meeting to thank them for the £1,400 they raised for the Club holiday. Thanks to them and all our benefactors we had a great holiday. The D.O.G.S. which stands for Dunmow Occasional Golf Society, play golf to raise money for charity. This year Mike Cashman was captain and he chose the Huw Johnson Club for their charity. We had a great time posing for photographs under an archway of the golf club. We presented a thank you card to Mike from our members complete with holiday photographs. Three members of the Society spent the evening with us and helped us celebrate two birthdays. Jane and Caroline each received a small present and blew out the candles with ease.

Please put the date 10th December in your diary when we have a coffee morning with tombola at 62 Chapel Hill at 10 am.

M G Johnson

**Windmill
Christmas Stall**
Saturday 6th December
Outside Savages Lower Street
(opposite the butchers)
9.30 - 12.00 noon



PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Hallo again. Summer seems long ago now as we fast approach Hallow'een and Guy Fawkes Night. I hope you all had a super holiday and a much enjoyed break.

The new children have settled in well, and are busy filling their scrapbooks with colourings, stencils, tracings, Alphabet and Number work concerning our topic for this term 'Ourselves'.

We have huge pictures hanging in the hall of faces, hands and feet and we will be decorating the windows with black cats, witches, bats and pumpkins, etc. as well as a colourful Bonfire Night picture.

As a fund raising activity this term the children are being given tubes of Smarties to take home, hopefully share the sweets, and then fill the tubes with silver coins (we may even get the old gold one!)

Last term we had very positive results from the OFSTED and Social Services inspections. We are offering early learning activities in conjunction with the Key Stages in the National Curriculum with an exceptionally good ratio of adults to children in preparation for their start in the large reception class in their schools.

The staff and helpers at Sidesways are continually updating their training and First Aid qualifications so they can keep abreast with the changing methods for the under 5's. We offer a large hall with plenty of room for the children and a varied supply of equipment to stimulate their interest in learning through play.

If you would like more information please call in any morning Mon. - Fri. at St. Johns Church Hall between 9.00 - 12.15 or you can phone me on 813828 for further details. Children can come as often as you wish. We look forward to seeing you.

Thanks,

Auntie Helen.

**The
LINK** needs help!!

Can you spare a couple of hours a month on a Friday to help us collate and staple the Link?

Could you deliver a few copies of the Link in your area, when your regular deliverer is on holiday or unwell?

Please telephone Janet on 812593 if you are able to help in either way.

Stansted Tennis Club



Contact in case of any queries: Chris Hollis 01279 466973.

On 23rd September there was another very successful Ladies Doubles tournament organised in aid of Save the Children. Over £100 was raised for the charity. The tournament was won by Fran Cayless and Jane Harrison, who beat Kate Rutter and Trudy Cockburn in the final. Anybody interested in finding out more about Save the Children should contact Jane Beard on 655268.

The annual Pearce/Frodo trophy was played for on 5th October. There were twelve entrants who enjoyed an excellent ploughman's lunch on top of some competitive tennis. The trophy was won by Matt Whitbread and Jenny Appleby who defeated Sandra Ayres and Sarah Hollis 7-5 in the final.

Used tennis balls of all standards are available for sale at very reasonable prices from Janet Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

Anybody interested in playing winter tennis can join the club for the winter months at half the annual rate. For further information please contact our Membership Secretary, Kate Rutter, on 813053. And don't forget we have club mornings every Sunday morning throughout the winter ... all members welcome!



Recipe of the Month

Pasta Bake

- 2 teacups Amori pasta
- 1 small tin tomatoes
- 2 heaped teaspoons pesto sauce
- 1 red or green pepper
- 4 oz grated cheese
- Salt and pepper

- (a) cook pasta for 10 mins in salted water until tender
- (b) drain the pasta
- (c) mix tomatoes, sauce, chopped pepper, seasoning and half the cheese
- (d) add mixture to the cooked pasta
- (e) put in greased casserole dish and sprinkle remaining cheese on top
- (f) leave to stand for a while
- (g) bake for 30 mins on gas mark 5

Serves 2 good portions



The Antarctic was the subject of October's meeting when Kate Muskett showed us slides of her trip to this wonderful place. Travelling by boat with scientists, naturalists, reporters and paying tourists, they went first to the Falkland Islands where they saw a number of new buildings that had been erected since the war and a pair of Victorian semis which had been dismantled and taken to the Islands some years ago. They saw the Governor's house which had been damaged along with its conservatory during the war. They then carried on to the Antarctic passing huge icebergs, numerous penguins, sea lions, seals, old whaling stations, Russian weather crews and Chileans clearing up mess that had been left by their countrymen years before. Everyone in the party had to wear special clothing because of the intensely cold weather and some of the pictures showed the people in their outfits looking rather like a lot of red penguins.

During business, members were informed that the Spring Group Meeting for 1998 would still go ahead even though the group now only consisted of four W.I.'s due to the suspension of two groups. It is hoped to find a good speaker to encourage all members of the four W.I.'s to attend. Our W.I. will be the convenors of the meeting.

Our social time organised by three members was a "Guess the Face" quiz thoroughly enjoyed by the members and won by Mrs Hope and Mrs Poole.

Members were reminded that November is our A.G.M. and ten ladies were nominated to form a new committee. Our speaker before the A.G.M. will be Hugh Joscelyne on the "Clement Joscelyne Story". Visitors are welcome.



Cub Scouts

Reg Wisbey of Wetherfield has retired from Scouting after 57 years, 27 of them as Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs. We all wish Reg a happy retirement among his many friends.

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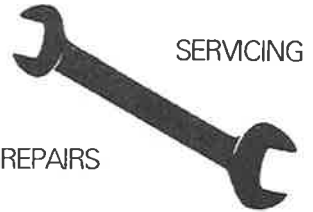


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NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums</u>	Penelope	Elsenham	[814219]
Wed 5th	<u>Toddlers</u>	Isobel	Henham	[850354]
Fri 7th	<u>Pre - school</u>	Petrina	Elsenham	[816675]
Mon 10th	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums</u>	Petrina	Elsenham	[816675]
Wed 12th	<u>Toddlers</u>	Wendy	Stansted	[813387]
Fri 14th	<u>Pre - school</u>	Hayley	Henham	[850287]
Mon 17th	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums</u>	Cathy	B. Stortford	[651457]
Wed 19th	<u>Toddlers</u>	Penelope	Elsenham	[814219]
Fri 21st	<u>Pre - school 1.30 - 3.00pm</u>	Sally	Stansted	[814208]
Mon 24th	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums</u>	Sue	Elsenham	[647343]
Wed 26th	<u>OPEN MORNING</u>	Crafton Green Centre Stansted		<u>All ages Welcome</u>
Fri 28th	<u>Pre - school 1.30 - 3.00pm</u>	Isobel	Henham	[850354]

DECEMBER

Mon 1st	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums</u>	Petrina	Elsenham	[816675]
Wed 3rd	<u>Toddlers</u>	Jane	Stansted	[813010]
Fri 5th	<u>Pre - school</u>	Debbie	Widdington	[01799 541457]
Mon 8th	<u>Under 1s and Expectant Mums 1.30pm</u>	Danuta	Stansted	[816263]
Wed 10th	<u>Toddlers</u>	Sarah	Stansted	[813656]

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE NCT OR WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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