





"Therefore my age is as a lusty winter Frosty, but kindly."

As You Like It. Wm Shakespeare



Photo Ted Pretty

The former Fullers Almshouses in Church Road now refurbished as homes for the elderly.

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Services for January 1998



Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

- Minister: Rev'd Michael Havman 2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford Tel 654475
- Mrs Catherine Dean Secretary: 49 Recreation Ground. Stansted Tel 813579

Thought for the Month

I join with all the churches and the three villages of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham in giving a warm welcome and every good wish and prayers to the Revd Andrew Spurr following his Induction and Collation as Rector of the United Benefice. (1 still think 'collation' sounds very painful, but nothing that I witnessed at the fine service at St John's, Stansted, on 16th December confirmed that impression).

I'm used to moving from one church to another, but Andrew has had a rather unique experience. One day he was curate in charge and the next day he was Rector. I wonder what he thought the next morning. Had he got to adopt a new 'persona' or is he the same Andrew that we've already come to know? It wont be easy and he needs our love and prayers, not least because the responsibility of the three parishes will be a large task.

To Andrew we say, Go with God!

BUT what about us as a new year begins? Andrew's story has something to tell us. We can't start a new year by putting everything behind us and opening a new book and beginning again. Two important things are taken with us into the new year. First: ourselves. I mean by that that all your abilities and disabilities, all your history and hopes for the future, your faith in God or not, and everything that is you slipped past the midnight hour and was with you on the 1st January. Tough! I know you wanted to be Tom Cruise or one of the Spice Girls but you are still you in 1998!

The second thing we take into the new year is the network of relationships we have developed with other people: your dear wife or husband, your children, friends and neighbours, colleagues and work - even that bullying unpleasant boss who was such a pain last year! WE can't avoid OURSELVES.

The change of the year doesn't change us, but we can be changed. So if you didn't like yourself in 1997, start again. Say a few 'sorries', smile a bit more, talk to other people, change your habits, find a place for God. If 1997 was good for you, then thank God and go into 1998 with a good heart and a readiness to do good. 'Thatch your house' so that you are ready for stormy days. And may God go with you.

4th	9.30am	Mr John Banks of Bishop's Stortford
Elth	9.30am	The Revd Michael Hayman
		Annual Covenant Service including
		Holy Communion
18th	9.30am	Mr Ron Cox of Bishop's Stortford
	6,30pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer
	-	for Christian Unity at United Reformed
		Church
25th	9,30am	The Revd Ronald Rawlings

Our Monthly Fellowship meeting will be Friday 16th January at 8.00pm. Venue to be announced.

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest:	Rev'd Joe W The Presby Tel 814349	/hite ery, 12 Millsid	e, Stansted
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

Baptism

Sunday 14th December Ella Martine Beckwith Christmas now seems far behind us. Such a lot of preparations and it's gone with the blink of an eve into pleasant memories of times past. The sales follow on with undue haste, even intruding into Christmas celebrations. It seems for us adults that there is almost no time just to stop and ponder how best to keep the Christmas spirit of peace and goodwill extending outwards to embrace joyfully the coming New Year. The Christmas child brought an eternal message and we too can still leave if --We listen to a child And he will teach you something Of love and faith and wonder Listen and you will learn from the child

What this old proverb suggests: If there is right in the soul

There will be beauty in the person; If there is beauty in the person There will be harmony in the home; If there is harmony in the home There will be order in the nation: If there is order in the nation

There will be peace in the world.

Long may it flourish - A Happy and Peaceful New Year to all, with great joy and many blessings throughout the year.

Michael Hayman



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 JANUARY

4th	11.00amMr Huband
11th	11.00amMr Coulton
18th	11.00amRev M McKay Communion
	6.30pm United Service at United
	Reformed Church for Week of
	Prayer for Christian Unity
25th	11.00amRev L Rapkin

The winner of our recent "Number Quiz" was Mary Duckworth of Bishop's Stortford who wins a Christmas Hamper. 140 sheets were sold and 27 returned by the closing date, one coming as far as Oldham, Lancs. Others came from Colchester, Peterborough and London. The winner's score was $98\frac{1}{2}$, one point ahead of the next 2 or $97\frac{1}{2}$. If anyone would like a copy of the answers please ring 814850.

There will be no cake stall in January. We wish all our customers a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to seeing you in February.

Jazz at the U.R.C.

A group of young talented musicians, the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra, had a lively and entertaining concert on Saturday November 22nd at the United Reformed Church under the direction of Martin Hathaway. Based in Colchester, the boys and girls, who are all high school students, meet every month at the Wilson Marriage Community Centre for rehearsals.

They performed a varied programme of jazz classics including Stan Kenton's 'Peanut Vendor', Glen Miller's 'Tuxedo Junction' and Buddy Bolden's Blues. What lifted the atmosphere for me and surely others in the audience was the inclusion of some intricate and colourful Latin American music, notably 'Indei Indei Indei' and 'Manteca', two traditional Brazilian compositions. This is sophisticated, off-beat music with complicated syncopation which they performed with panache!

With the addition of the percussion section the evening's excitement increased. It also offered the opportunity for the section leaders to introduce riffs and for some good solos. The enjoyment was enhanced by the sing of Jo Hendrix who included some Billie Holliday classics in her repertoire.

The evening was organised by members of the United Reformed Church committee who provided some tasty refreshments. They reported a successful conclusion to the evening with £285 being added to the repair and redevelopment fund and a £50 donation to the orchestra's funds.

Peter J Baker





Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, spent many years in the mid-seventeenth century travelling around the country, preaching and gathering supporters for his new version of the faith. Many authorities did not like what he had to say and he ended up in prison, often in terrible conditions, on a number of occasions.

On these occasions he often wrote to follow Quaker ministers exhorting them to continue his work. One letter, written from Launceston Prison in 1656 includes the following well-known words:

"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them, then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone".



Church of England

Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist

Rector:	The Revd. Andrew Spurr The Rectory
	Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8JP
Office:	812203
Home:	815025
Emails	andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

Diary for January 1998

Regular worship continues with 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 evenings. Other services of Holy Communion include 10.30am January 6th at Norman Court, 10.30am January 13th at Mead Court and 11,00am January 27th at Hargrave House.

Guest Preachers at the 9.30am Parish Communion service this month will be **Mrs Marion Johnson** on January 4th, **The Archdeacon of Colchester** on January 18th and **Mr Terry Waite** on January 25th.

February 1st will be a celebration of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple to which recently baptised children and their families will be invited.

Funerals

26th November	Reginald Bell
	(Cambridge Crematorium)
8th December	Hugh Thomas Aveston
	(St John's - Parndon Wood
	Crematorium)
15th December	Cyril George Archer
	(St John's - Takeley Churchyard)



St John's Christmas Market, which raised £1717, was the happy event that these photographs show. Some eleven stalls plus Father Christmas in his 'Upper Room' made for a very successful morning.



Uttlesford Carers & Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

A discussion of carers issues over a cup of tea & biscuits 2 - 4 pm Monday 5th January Quaker Meeting House Everyone welcome Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

Keep Fit resumes

Village Music Club

Shalom Slide Evening

Carers Support Group

Skip at Crafton Green

Coffee Morning

Gardening Club

Cake Stall

Evening WI

Shalom Prayer & Praise

Coffee Morning

Evening W I

Jumble Sale

January

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Wed

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Thu

February

Coffee Morning Hargrave Nursing Home Cambridge Road 10.00 am - 12 noon

Wed 7th January Entrance 40p Come and join the residents for a chat and a piece of cake

Mon Mon Mon Mon Thu Skip at Crafton Green

St John's Hall 8 15 pm Hargrave House 10 am - 12 noon St John's Hall 8 pm 4 Greenfields 8 pm St John's Church 3 pm Bentfield School 2 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm

Hargrave House 10 am - 12 noon Day Centre 8 pm Outside URC 10 am St John's Hall 8 15 pm

Has your organisation planned an event for February?

Why not advertise it on this page? Please submit details in writing to 58 Chapel Hill by 15th January

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

Stansted Parish Council		Skip Dates
Mon - Thurs	Weekends	Mon - Thurs
5 - 8 Januaгу	: .	
2 - 5 February	21 - 22 February	÷
16 - 19 March	(-)	20 - 23 April
11 - 14 May	30 - 31 May	22 - 25 June
20 - 23 July	8 - 9 August	31 Aug - 3 Sept
5 - 8 October	14 - 15 Novembe	er 7 - 10 December



resume on Tuesday 6th January St. John's Church Hall 8.15 to 9.15 pm

Everyone Welcome

"Come along and shape up for summer"

For more information please telephone Queenie Brown on 812816



2 pm Saturday 24th January

Bentfield School

For collection please tel 816895



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

ANN MACKAY Soprano

SONIA LEVY Piano

Vocal and piano works by a variety of composers from Scarlatti through to Flanders and Swann

3.00 pm Sunday 18th January St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019 Nockolds Bishop's Stortford Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door £6 adults £4 concessions £2 children



Meets at Stansted Youth and Community Centre. Opening times, 9.15 - 12, every morning for 2½-5 year olds.

Last half term we took the general theme of sensory awareness, looking at smells, taste, touch, hearing and seeing. Activities included making binoculars which were later used under supervision and a short walk with the aim of listening to and identifying sounds. There was also a successful trip to Stansted Airport enabling the children to experience the fun of going on the train and changing trains. At the airport they observed passengers checking in for their flights and they watched the weighing of baggage and the children also used the lifts. It was a great trip.

Leading up to Christmas the children made individual miniature Christmas cakes, Christmas cards and decorations. The Pre-school Nativity was watched by many parents. All the hard work of rehearsals and preparation paid off and the nativity play went without a single hitch and the carols were sung beautifully. A raffle was also held to raise funds for the Pre-school. The prizes were donated by many local businesses and we would like to thank them all, but we would like to give special thanks to the China Garden, Station Road, for donating a meal for two and Harris antiques of Lower Street for giving a bottle of Teachers whisky.

Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to come and visit the children at their party. He also popped down to see the children at Rainbow Tots. For his efforts he was rewarded with a bottle of red wine!

These activities are in addition to the materials and equipment that are available on a daily basis which include a home corner play area, slide, books, jigsaws, drawing materials and scissors, construction toys, water and sand and an interest table. The wide selection of activities allows the children to develop the process of choosing and helps them to become more independent. The play ethos also builds up a play school's social skills and nurtures self-confidence.

All in all it has been a very enjoyable half term and we are looking forward to a busy spring term with lots of new activities. The parents are in a flurry of activity too - swotting up for our spring term quiz (January 31st). I wish them all well.

Lorna (817197) Messy Play and Rainbow Tots Co-ordinator

Bentfield School

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas Fayre. We raised about $\pounds 1,500$ which is an amazing amount. Our aim to get a new computer for each classroom is well under way. As you can see from our entry in the Events page, we hope to further our funds by holding a jumble sale at the school on January 24th.



UTTLESFORD CARERS

can give help and advice If you are looking after a relative or friend

contact us at 12 Stortford Road, Gt Dunmow CM6 1DE or phone 01371 875810

STEVENS SECURITY

INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS DOOR ENTRY INTERCOMS CCTV SECURITY LIGHTING

01279 813345

01708 742944

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Our spring course "Understanding the Earth" will be given by Mr Peter White, our tutor on two previous courses, one on natural history, the other "London and the Thames". Those of you who have been to his classes before will know he is a real enthusiast and full of information on his subjects.

In the ten weekly lectures Mr White will explain how Earth, having evolved in the solar system, uniquely with its geology, atmosphere and oceans, is able to support life; how man has lived off, explored and exploited resources and sources of energy, and the threat that this exploitation has now caused; how nature, as well as natural hazards like volcanoes and earthquakes, hurricanes and drought, is being affected by the "greenhouse effect". The latter part of the course will cover how man can conserve and better manage natural resources, the energy options, wind, wave and solar power, also what is fact and what is propaganda by vested interests. The course will be illustrated by slides and it is hoped to arrange an outing in connection with it.

The course will be held as usual at the Day Centre on Monday evenings, beginning on 19th January. The first evening we open at 7.30pm to allow for enrolment, lectures at 8 pm. There is a reduced rate for retired people. If you would like any further details please ring Jean McBride, 812214.

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR HEARING AID?

Why not obtain FREE help and advice on National Health Hearing Aids 10 am - 12 noon LAST WEDNESDAY of each month STANSTED DAY CENTRE Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness is a registered charity For further information ring 01799 522915 or 01371 873310

HELPLINE

Monday - Friday 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

ON Sale NOW!! Lettercards - drawings of St John's Church Pack of 6 cards - only £1.50 All proceeds to St John's Church Available from Sheila Parry Tel 814788



We are opening 1998 with a recital by the international soprano Ann Mackay with pianist Sonia Levy on Sunday 18th January at 3pm in St John's Church, Stansted. For more details of the programme and availability of tickets, please see our display advertisement in this edition of Link.

Stanley Sadie wrote of Ann Mackay in 'The Times Literary Supplement' that she "...was commanding in her presence and a joy to listen to, with gleaming tone, impeccable tuning and crystalline passage work ..." while 'The Guardian' said "... meltingly sweet in the upper registers and with ample reserves of power ..."



Your local voluntary community care service requires new volunteers

A telephone is essential - and use of a car would be particularly helpful as requests for transport are many

If you agree to add your name to our list of volunteers it will not entail any regular commitment

For more details please ring: Yvonne Ayres (Organiser) - 814706 or Francine Cope (Chairman) - 814562

Reflexology & Accupressure Massage

Reflexology is a method of deep foot massage offering relief from many conditions -Backpain, Neck and Sciatica, Menstrual Problems, Digestive, Asthma & Allergies and many more.

Reflexology is a wonderful relaxing experience that greatly improves your well being.

For consultations or advice

Gillian Smith 16 Wetherfield, Stansted Tel 01279 815606

Supplier of Jorever Living Aloe Vera Products

STANSTED EVENING



Members at the December meeting were introduced to their new committee for the coming year and informed of the jobs they would be doing. During the business it was agreed to again support the Meningitis Trust by donating our March Raffle proceeds. We will be having Ken Crowther, a gardening expert from Radio Essex, as our speaker at this meeting and will open it to other people in the village who may be interested in hearing him.

Our January meeting is our usual New Year party when we will all learn about 'Line Dancing' and hoping to take part in this, so evening dress is jeans and check shirts.

Members have been sad to learn of the closure of our sister W.I., the Afternoon Meeting. Formed 73 years ago and helping us to form 37 years ago, the remaining members felt they were unable to continue. This is a piece of village history brought to a close.

Our speaker, Tony Rooke, gave a talk entitled "One in the eye for Harold" with slides of the Bayeaux Tapestry. He told how the tapestry was made and also the story of Harold, Edward the Confessor who he succeeded, and of Count William of Normandy who became William the Conqueror. Looking more closely at each section of the tapestry you could see life as it was in the 1060's and also some of the funnier sides of the pictures embroidered on the cloth. Only four women appear on the whole of this wonderful work, well out numbered by men and horses, and even strange coloured Falcons looking more like parrots. Mr Rooke was thanked for a very interesting and amusing talk by Mrs Honour.

Our meeting continued with Georgina Coombes showing some of her slides of Zimbabwe, taken when she was there with Raleigh International. She worked on four projects to help the local people, one of these being for people with cataracts. She told us these operations only take about 20 minutes and give sight to children who were born with cataracts and not able to see.

Don't forget to look out for our posters on the noticeboards each month and if any of our speakers interest you do come along and join us for the evening.



ST CLARE WEST ESSEX HOSPICE CARE TRUST

All of us at St Clare Hospice would like to thank everyone who has donated to or fundraised for our charity in 1997. Particular thanks must go to our five Fundraising Groups; the Dunmow. Epping, Harlow, Loughton and Saffron Walden Friends of St Clare all of whom have worked tremendously hard to make their fundraising activities so enjoyable and successful. Among their many achievements were the recent street collections, ably helped by other local people we are pleased to have as active supporters. The gross results of the collections were as follows:

Saturday oth December

Epping			£	633.13
Harlow			£	556.58
Lakeside	Shopping	Centre	£	242.93

Tuesday 9th December: Dunmow £ 292.39 Saffron Walden £ 809.91

Total £2,534.94

Thank you to everyone who participated. Without such practical help, St Clare would not be able to provide much-needed Hospice Care Services to people in West Essex. We are also well over halfway to reaching our target to raise the funds to build an eight-bed extension to the existing Hospice Centre.

With the continued support of the local community, we hope to fundraise even more successfully in 1998. A happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all.





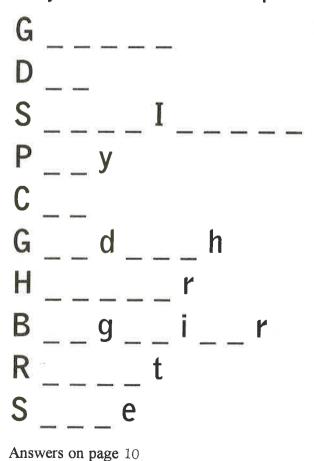
A Pet for Adam

Adam did so want a pet of his own. Some of his friends had cats. "Can I have a cat please, Dad?" he asked. "No, Adam" replied his father, "it would probably scratch up the seeds in my garden". One of his friends had a puppy. "Can I have a dog please, Mum?" Adam asked. "No dear, I don't want muddy paw marks all over the house" said his mother. Adam thought sadly that he would just have to wait until he had grown up.

On Saturday, Dad took all the things out of the garden shed, swept it, and put all the things back again. All, that is, except two large wooden boxes, some pleces of wood, a tin of nalls, and a hammer. Dad left them on the lawn, and drove off down the road. Adam walked round and round the things on the grass, wondering what was going to be done with them. Dad came back with a roll of wire netting. This was even more puzzling; Adam watched while the boxes were turned on their sides and joined together. Then a hole was cut out between them and pieces of wood nailed on for legs. Wire netting was fixed across the open part of the biggest box, and a door hung on the front of the other box. Adam asked his Mum what Dad was making. "Wait and see" was all she said, and smiled. All day on Sunday and Monday, Adam thought about what had been made but couldn't guess what it was. Can you?

On Tuesday, Dad did not go to work, but took Adam and Mum to the nearby town instead. Dad parked the car and took out of it a cardboard box with holes in the lid and pieces of straw sticking out. They walked through the shopping centre and went into a shop with tanks of fish and cages all round the walls. It was a pet shop!

Then Adam guessed what Dad had been making - a rabbit hutch! "Oh, I would like a rabbit more than anything else in the world" he cried. It was difficult to choose, they all looked so beautiful to Adam. At last he picked a white one with a little pink nose, pink ears and lovely red eyes. While Dad went to fetch a bale of hay and a bag of rabbit food, the white rabbit was carefully placed in the cardboard box. "I think I'll call him Snowy" said Adam. As he proudly carried the box to the car, he thought happily that he had a pet of his very own at last, and he would take great care of it.



Can you fill in the names of these pets?

All children love the idea of owning a pet, but which one?

Pupples eat anything and everything from slippers and socks to armchairs! Dogs need a lot of exercise and should be walked twice a day. Fun to start with, but what about the rain?

Cats are easier than dogs, but can be rather snooty about children and sometimes do not return the adoration they receive. Some, however, can be very loving and friendly. A child with asthma will not be helped by a cat in the house. Rabbits need more space than people realise, needing a hutch and an outside run. They need cleaning out often and can be nervous and need kindness. This is the same for guinea plgs. They are very sweet and strokeable but can be quite smelly. They are tricky for young children to handle.

Hamsters are relatively easy to look after, although short-lived. They tend to be awake at night, so may not be very exciting for children until late afternoon. The RSPCA does not advise snakes as pets for children under 11, but if you have no objections to keeping bags of dead mice or day old chicks in your freezer, then the choice is yours!! Children can get satisfaction out of watching fish swim about and feeding them, but they still need cleaning out regularly.

All pets must be thought about carefully before buying, as they are a big responsibility, whatever their size. Children need to learn how to handle and feed them, but a pet can be a loving companion. Leaflets about petcare for children are available from RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham RH12 1HG.



Our social evening, at which several members of the Royal British Legion were also present, included a very interesting talk on "Old Stansted" by Peter Brown assisted by Peter Barker. We heard many anecdotes and learned something of the history of Stansted Fire Service up to the time of the fire which destroyed Bentfield Hall in 1940.

Presentation of plants were made by our Chairman, Mrs Hollis, to Mrs Snow and Mrs Measures who were retiring from the committee after many years service. Delicious fish and chips and ploughman's were served, washed down with lashings of white wine and the drawing of a generous raffle completed a memorable evening.

We meet again on Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm in the Day Centre. Visitors welcome at 50p.

Pat Clower



Recipe of the Month Turkey Flan

8oz / 225gm shortcrust pastry 5oz / 140gm cooked diced ham 5oz / 140gm cooked diced turkey 4oz / 115gm grated cheddar cheese 2 eggs 1⁄4 pint / 140ml milk Salt and pepper

- (a) line an 8" / 200mm flan, ring with pastry
- (b) add ham and turkey
- (c) sprinkle with cheese
- (d) beat eggs
- (e) add milk and seasoning
- (f) mix with other ingredients
- (g) bake for 10 mins gas Mark 6 / 200°C / 400°F
- (h) bake until egg is set (approx 20 mins) gas Mark 4 / 180°C / 350°F
- (i) serve hot or cold

Serves 6

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LUNCH CLUB

Stansted has no forum to promote and foster the interests of local businesses and traders. Past attempts to establish a Chamber of Commerce or Trade have not attracted sufficient support or interest to survive. But there is a need for some kind of forum for the exchange of ideas and the promotion of issues on behalf of the business/trading community in Stansted.

Perhaps a lunch club can serve this purpose whilst, at the same time, providing an opportunity for local businesses and traders to meet on an informal and relaxed basis. Therefore, following a Parish Council initiative, an exploratory lunch was held at The Old Bell Hotel at the end of November.

The exploratory lunch was well attended and 27 sat down to an enjoyable meal in convivial surroundings and company. A questionnaire completed by those present indicated strong support for the Club and, in particular, it suggested that:

- lunch was preferred to breakfast;
- the Club should be open to businesses/traders in the Stansted area, rather than Stansted only;
- occasional speakers on subjects of local and
- general interest would be welcome;
- the opportunity should be given to members to
- make brief 5 minute presentations on their
- businesses;
- most saw networking as one of the Club's
- principal benefits, whilst others regarded it as a
- pleasant interlude in good company;
- lunches should be held every six to eight weeks;
- all present would be back for more!!

This strength of support has encouraged us to arrange the second Club Lunch at Bacchus Wine Bar, 7&8 Castle Walk (the shopping precinct behind Lower Street) at noon for 12.30pm on Wednesday 21st January 1998.

The Club is open al all businesses/traders in Stansted and district. There is no membership subscription; on the cost of lunch £15 per head). Those interested in joining should contact Alastair Richardson, the Coordinator.

> Alastair Richardson Co-ordinator 16a Lower Street, Stansted Tel: 01279 815959 Fax: 01279 813362

Answers to Children's Pet Puzzle

Gerbil	Goldfish
Dog	Hamster
Stick Insect	Budgerigar
Pony	Rabbit
Cat	Snake



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET'S SENIORS' CLUB

Early in January we held our Subscription Meeting followed by a New Year tea party. 54 members paid up their £2. We missed some of our older members - Ted Dicks and Fanny Watson, who died within a short time of each other. Several of our 90 year olds can no longer be with us - Mrs Sage, Mrs Livings and, of course, the Founder - Mrs Mary Page. We do like to keep in touch with them all and they look forward to any contact with old friends. Another two long-standing members have moved away - Mrs 'Patsy' Palmer to live with her daughter and Mrs Hazzard, whose failing health made it necessary for her to go into a nursing home. We do miss them both - especially Mrs Hazzard's laughter!

Mrs Ethel Jolly had been a member of the committee for many years and always ran the Tombola so profitably for the sale - collecting all year round so that it should be a success. Sadly Ethel was taken ill before our year began and we were grieved when she died earlier this year. The devoted service and loyalty to the Club of all these former members has laid the foundation for its continuing existence in 1997.

We've had some good speakers this year - we know more about the history of Punch and Judy, we learned something of the days of the Land Army Girls during the war and our own local boy, Peter Wright entertained us well with tails of his Stansted childhood - swift retribution of Headmaster Enoch, Sergeant Ayres, followed by wrong doings. Even some of our members not of Stansted origin greatly enjoyed his reminiscences. He'll be back in 1998!

Outings were good, especially the 'Age Concern' Music Hall in the lovely Princes Theatre in Clacton. 50 seats are already booked for May 21st 1998. The day out to Wroxham and the tour of the Norfolk Broads was a really lovely day and much enjoyed by all of us. But why did we have to choose the one day of bad weather for our half-day tour of the Cambridgeshire - Suffolk countryside, with tea by the river in Ely. An enjoyable trip, in spite of the chill wind - and a good restaurant to remember for other outings.

September saw the great Exodus to Brighton - 600 people in 12 coaches - courtesy of Airport Charities Fund. Free lunch, a disco - and more noise than most of us could cope with. Of course, there were the events which have become 'annual' now - the Grand National Draw, the Easter bonnets, the General Knowledge Quiz, the Sale and those afternoons known as 'Games and Gossip' days. Our last meeting of the year was especially enjoyable, when some of the children from St Mary's School came and sang and played for us. We do hope that this can be an annual event too. It was so good to have both audience and players say how much they'd enjoyed the afternoon.

This year we have a complete change of venue for our Christmas Lunch, when we shall have the pleasure of our volunteer drivers' company as our guests at St Mark's Abbey Barn at Audley End. There are quite a number of our members who could not be with us but for their kindness in providing transport to the Day Centre. I do hope all goes well for us on 17th December and that the 'wintry showers' spoken of for next week stay away, at least until Thursday! The Abbey is a place of great charm and antiquity - like its visitors on 17th December!

In conclusion we do offer a warm welcome to new members - our programme is published in the Day Centre - and you don't have to join for the whole year, just drop in and join us for a cup of tea (served at 3 o'clock) if you would like to hear one of our speakers - or even on a 'Games and Gossip' day.



Forthcoming Events

Diary dates for the next two months are as follows:

MP's interview : 7-7.45pm Friday 6th February 1998, Stansted Parish Council Offices

Winter Warmth : Noon on Sunday, 15th February 1998 Joint Branch AGM : 8.00pm on Friday, 20th March 1998

Ladies' Branch AGM : Noon on Wednesday, 25th March 1998

Annual Dinner Dance : 7.30pm on Saturday, 28th March 1998

Winter Warmth will be held at Savages, Lower Street, Stansted, by kind invitation of one of the Vice Presidents of the Branch and his wife, Peter and Kay Jones.

It should be noted that the **Annual Dinner Dance** is to be held later in the year than has been the practice in the past.

> Alastair Richardson 815959

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT BANK

A new venture for Stansted

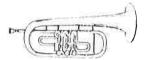
Music can be a very expensive subject for any parent to offer a child. The cost of instruments is very high, as is the cost of tuition and sheet music and we feel that this balance should be restored allowing everyone to participate.

The aim of the music bank is to provide at very low cost a variety of instruments for hire to school children whose families may not be able to afford the cost of a new instrument.

The bank will make no profit for those involved in running it. All monies received for hire of instruments will be re-invested and used for (a) insuring the hired instruments and (b) the purchase of more instruments. We are hoping that anyone who has any instruments lying around that they no longer use will offer them to the Music Bank for hire. The instruments will remain the property of the donor and would be returned if required at a later date.

St Mary's Primary School in St John's Road, Stansted, have kindly offered the use of their hall to hold a concert in order to raise money to buy instruments. This will take place early next year and will involve many children who already learn a musical instrument. More details will be announced nearer the time.









STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A drink of hot punch welcomed members to the December meeting which was followed by an appropriate talk on English Pubs by Kate Muskett. She showed slides of pub signs, some of them beautifully done and many surrounded by wrought iron work and explained their meanings. Tea, coffee, mince pies and a chance to chat closed the evening. Meetings in the Day Centre at 8 pm.

February 4th	Norman Mead on "The Anti-Airport
	Protest Movement"
March 5th	Ann-Maric Parker with the intriguing
	title "Hearty Homely Loving Herts"
April 2nd	"The History of Gramophones" by
	R.A. Lewin.

Peggy Honour

Another vintage photograph from David Martin's Stansted Postcard Collection. Can any reader remember the names of the nine or ten shops in Silver Street and possibly the approximate date? So much remains of this scene but the quiet of those days can only be imagined. Anyone wanting copies should ring 814673.

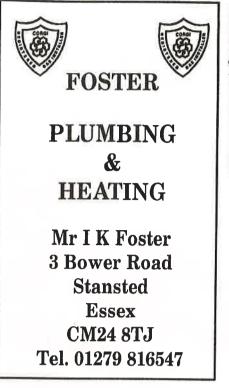


STANSTED PERSPECTIVE

Whilst we still bask in the Season of Goodwill, this may be an opportune moment to list some of the encouraging elements which make up Stansted life. The list (which is not in any order of importance or merit) is certainly not exclusive. Readers may wish to add other 'things', tangible or otherwise, and advise Link of their favourites.

- New improved paving and street furniture in Lower Street, making for a pleasant and uncluttered shopping environment.
- 2. Helpful and cheery shopkeepers in both locations.
- 3. One of the County's best examples of a view down our principal hill (Chapel Hill).
- 4. Several fine period buildings easily visible to the passer-by
- 5. Many welcoming pubs with good menus.

- 6. Numerous walks of varying duration in delightful surroundings and within a 2 mile radius.
- 7. Despite occasional lapses, good public transport to our nearest towns, and to London and Europe.
- 8. A wealth of voluntary welfare services with willing people to run them.
- Plenty of clubs and societies for physical and cultural development.
- 10. Good schools within walking distance.
- 11. A library which opens for most of Saturday (and other times).
- 12. A population containing a spread of social strands, all making for a well-balanced community
- 13. A fire service on the doorstep-
- 14. A wide range of medical and allied facilities.
- 15. A place where there is always something happening.





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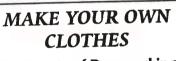
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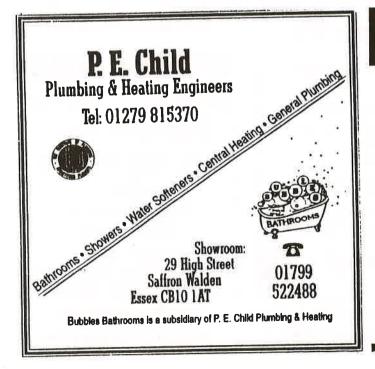
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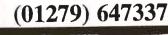
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