

July 98

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS

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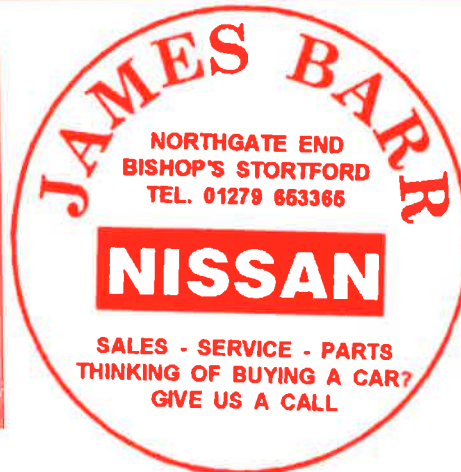
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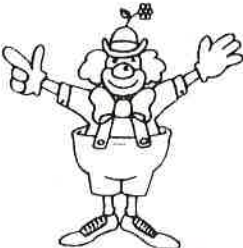


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59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

**TWO WAYS TO ENJOY YOURSELF
AND HELP CHARITIES**

Saturday 4th July	Sunday 5th July
	
STANSTED CARNIVAL	STANSTED Fun Run & Walk
	
1.30 pm Mountfitchet School	11 am Bentfield Green

**SEE VILLAGE EVENTS PAGE FOR FURTHER
DETAILS**

The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
Advertising and other enquiries to Sheila Parry 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel 814788
Cost £3.00 per year or 30 pence per issue

Printed by 'The Print Shop' Bishop's Stortford

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
16th July for publication on 2nd August
10th September for publication on 27th September
Note: No September Edition**



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

CHEVETOGNE 1998

In May the annual exchange visit by Stansted church members to Chevetogne in Belgium took place. The following are two recollections.

This year we experienced a beautiful celebration of High Mass at the monastery at Clervaux in Luxembourg. The simple but dominating grey Romanesque structure provided a very atmospheric setting for the haunting chants of the monks.

In direct contract, a few miles away, we visited the town of Bastogne, scene of one of the most ferocious battles of World War II between American and German troops. The museum and war memorial provides testimony to both the bravery and futility of war.

As always, the highlight of the visit is loving fellowship, both in terms of the CTS party of the coach journey and in the most generous hospitality and care we receive from our friends in Chevetogne. Long may this continue.

Rita and David Morson



Clervaux Abbey



The U.S. Army Memorial at Bastogne

Some two miles from the village of Chevetogne and surrounded by woods and parkland stands the Chateau of Reux where we had the privilege of staying as guests of the Baron and Baroness Goffinet.

Although only about one hundred years old (in fact about the same age as our house in Stansted) the chateau is built in the traditional style of much older chateaux in the area. It has many fine features, but for us the informality of its surroundings gives it such charm. From the imposing hall, situated in the middle of the building, windows look on to a landscape of trees and grassland that slopes gently down to a lake and from the large airy bedrooms on the other side of the building can be seen a magnificent expanse of meadow. On our latest visit we enjoyed a two hour walk with our hostess and the Johnson family mainly in woodland and we are promised another walk next time in a different part of the estate!

Marthe and Christian Goffinet make us feel very welcome. Both are very devout Catholics and Christian is a deacon in the local church and often officiates at the services we attend on our visits. In the last few years he has become passionate about his computer and is now on the Internet. Marthe is tall, straight and very aristocratic with a wonderful down to earth sense of humour.

If we had realised on our first visit to Chevetogne that we would be staying in such a magnificent place I am sure we would have been daunted. Although nobody could say it was a "home from home", we do tend to think of it now as "our chateau" because of the warmth of hospitality we find there. The lack of pretension of our hosts can be illustrated by the following anecdote. We enquired of Christian who was the artist of some of the paintings in their sitting room. He said the name escaped him for the moment but he would probably remember later. "Oh yes" he said some time after. "They're by Breughel!"

Catherine and Alan Dean

PALESTINIAN REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A large congregation gathered at Westminster Cathedral on 2nd May to attend a service arranged at the request of the Palestinian community in Britain to commemorate, in a context of prayer and reflection, the tragic events of 1948 which Palestinians refer to as the 'Kakba', the Catastrophe.

At the founding of the State of Israel, more than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled from their homes, which were then either occupied by Zionists or totally destroyed.

The service began with greetings from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Hume and various other dignitaries and during the service the speakers and readers included a Bishop (Anglican), a Member of Parliament, the Principal of the Muslim College and others representing organisations whose initials we did not recognise.

The first hymn (this was a Christian congregation) was followed by the personal testimony of four people who had been driven from their homes and were unable to return to them. This was real - not Kate Adie on the Nine O'clock News seen from the comfort of our favourite armchair, sherry glass in hand, but the desolation of the dispossessed.

The theme of the prayers was always:-

'We remember all the victims of violence, oppression and injustice down the centuries'.

There were songs, poems and readings, some from the Bible, one from the Koran, the language flowing easily from English to Arabic and back again.

Dr Naim Ateek, in his address, described how his home town, Beisan, was occupied two days before the Declaration of the State of Israel and the inhabitants forced to flee 'If you do not leave, we shall have to kill you'. He spoke with great sorrow and understanding of the Holocaust, when so many Jews were murdered by the Nazis but went on to point out that the price, the atonement, for that genocide was being paid by the Palestinians, scattered throughout Europe and the Middle East, some still living in refugee camps in Lebanon, still vulnerable to attack, while those remaining in Israel being treated as second-class citizens in their own land.

The theme of the service, repeatedly, was 'To love mercy, to do justice and to walk humbly with our God' (Micah), and to:-

'Say 'No' to peace
if what they mean by peace
is a rampart of gleaming missiles,
the arming of distant wars,
money at ease in its castle
and grateful poor at the gate.'

from 'Say 'no' to peace' by Brian Wren.

The final hymn ended with the words:-

'Peace with justice. Peace with justice'
All God's world a neighbourhood.'

As we filed out of the Cathedral, still feeling humbled by this shared experience of sorrow, we followed a Jewish member of the Knesset, in cap and white, black-fringed, prayer shawl and we felt a great surge of hope. Pray for peace in Israel/Palestine.

Francis and Joan Mercer

Farewell to Michael and Sheila Hayman

Many of us have only known Michael and Sheila for just under seven years but in that time they have endeared themselves to us in such a way that we feel they have been our lifelong friends. Sadly, even the best of friends end up parting for one reason or another. Happily, they will not be far from us when they retire to Chelmsford towards the end of July.

Michael was born and bred a Methodist but his ecumenical zeal has been much appreciated by all Christians in Stansted, Braughing and Bishop's Stortford. It is perhaps fitting that he was born in the year that the three main branches of Methodism came together after many years of uncomfortable separation. The Deed of Union of 1932 brought together the Primitive, Wesleyan and United Methodists in recognition that their differences were insignificant in comparison with their common faith. I am sure Michael hopes to see the day when Methodism takes a further step of unity as it comes closer to other mainstream denominations.

In spite of having spent five years as an articled clerk after leaving school, he will have clocked up forty years in the ministry, the last sixteen of them as a Superintendent. It is not only the secular City that goes in for head-hunting: in 1989 Michael was head-hunted to move from Finsbury Park & Southgate to Barking and then again from Barking to Bishop's Stortford in 1991 after the sad death of Revd. Tom Allen. He is the sort of man that can fit into any situation and make people feel at ease. Yes, his mischievous sense of humour and flippant manner may have got him into trouble occasionally, but more often than not it has helped others to experience the joy that can be found in living the Christian life.

Stansted has surely been blessed by Michael's contribution to the various activities embraced by Churches Together in Stansted. This is to be recognised by CTS at an informal farewell gathering in the Quaker Meeting House at 7.30 pm on the evening of Sunday 5th July. Everyone is invited to bring and share a last joke, a piece of cake, or a cup of tea with Michael and Sheila. If you come along at 6.30 pm you can share in worship led by the man whose preaching is in the tradition of those great Methodists William Sangster and Leslie Weatherhead. Thank you Michael and Sheila for bringing us close to God and thank you God for bringing Michael and Sheila close to us, albeit for only seven brief years.

Michael Dyer

Methodist

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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 and Preachers for July

It's FUN RUN Day on 5th July, so our Service will be at 6.30 pm. Our minister, the Revd. Michael Hayman, will lead the worship and afterwards there will be an ecumenical farewell as he retires this month
Sunday 12th July: United Holy Communion at St John's
Sunday 19th July: United Service at Bishop's Stortford at 10.30 am
Sunday 26th July: 9.30 am preacher; Michael Render of Braughing

August

2nd 9.30am Mr Ken Mark of Saffron Walden
9th 9.30am The Revd. Ronald Rawlings, Holy Communion
16th 9.30am The Revd. Harry Wood of Saffron Walden
23rd 9.30 am Mr Michael Valentine of Bishop's Stortford
30th 9.30 am Mr Don McGregor of Bishops Stortford

On Saturday 5th September at 7.00 pm at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church we share in giving a warm welcome to our new minister, the Revd. John Graham, his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Hilary. We shall also welcome the Revd. Harry Wood as our new Superintendent minister. Come and join us!



Monday 13th July

SHALOM

Picnic Prayer and Praise
Meditation led by Revd. Michael Hayman
Meet at Crafton Green Car Park for a lift for 7.30 pm.



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 Bradwell Pilgrimage for 1998 will have taken place on Saturday 4th July as you read this article. The main speaker this year is the Rev John Bell from the Iona Community, perhaps not such a well-known person, outside church circles, as last year's speaker, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

On the last Sunday in May, the church celebrated Whitsunday and the first reading for all church services which use the Common Lectionary was from the Acts of the Apostles, where they were given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. John Bell has been blessed with great musical ability and has the gift of being able to share this ability with many, even if you do not know one musical note from another; with his enthusiasm and guidance anyone can sing his hymns.

As I have grown older and look back on life, I often wonder at the gifts of life, and give thanks for the talents that have been given to my children and grandchildren - the gifts of cooking, creative painting and sculpture, of singing and playing musical instruments, being able to see beautiful things and to appreciate them; the enjoyment of walking and of helping others and of being able to find that inward peace. Many of us receive gifts from God that we fail to recognise, may we all quietly reflect on the gifts we have received.

I close with a prayer from the Community of Aidan and Hilda:-

Spirit of God
The breath of creation is yours
Spirit of God
The groans of the world are yours
Spirit of God
The wonder of Communion is yours
Spirit of God
The fire of love is yours
And we are filled
And we are filled.

Francis Mercer

St Theresa's Register

Baptism

24th May Daniel Taylor

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
Email: andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

An occasional look at the Link's predecessor, the Stansted Parish Magazine, can be an instructional experience.

The Vicar's letter, dated June 1901 hopes that "this new and very first magazine for Stansted is here to stay" and that these monthly letters will give Canon Oakshott an opportunity "to set before the Parish the many things which I am unable to say in the pulpit". The bound copies of the original magazine are indeed a window on the world of the village in the early 1900s, but some of the Vicar's views are too controversial to be published in this magazine!

At the Whit Monday joint cricket and athletics meeting between the two Friendly Societies, the Foresters and the Shepherds, several of the prize winners' names are familiar - Watsons, Herringtons, Jordans, Hutleys. The Vicar was delighted with the jolly, good natured Smoking Concert which ended the day and although there was plenty of drink, there was no unseemly behaviour and no-one the worse for imbibing: "I'm afraid I haven't much patience with teetotalism. Teach a man instead the dignity of his manhood - so that he may be temperate in all things".

Canon Oakshott was not above criticising current fashion - making "a very serious comment on large hats at Communion. The lady must kneel quite upright, holding both hands well out before her. The Celebrant cannot otherwise see what he is doing and accidents will occur". He "observed the wearing of bridal veils hanging down behind only and not worn over the face in front. Is this some dressmaker's new idea? If so, it is wrong; the raising of the veil is of symbolic significance in the marriage ceremony". While on the subject of marriage, he deplored - at some length - the throwing of "silly bits of coloured paper - a most objectionable custom".

1905 saw the proposed changes in County boundaries and Stansted would have been transferred to Hertfordshire. Canon Oakshott obviously objected and a Mr Barnard stated that the Canon would have to be placed in the witness-box and would find it a very different position from the pulpit. The Vicar affirms to his readers that he would "endeavour to do there what I try to do in the pulpit, set forth my honest and sincere convictions".

These letters from "Your sincere Friend and Vicar" are commended to all those living or interested in Stansted and its past. The last one for 1905 states that it comes from "Stansted, ESSEX (and long may it be so!)"

Audrey Rodgers

Services in July will be at the usual times:

Sundays:

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion
9.30am Sunday School (except 3rd Sunday)
11am Family Service (3rd Sunday only)
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays
10am Holy Communion
7.30pm Prayers

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

From 'Quaker Faith and Practice':

"We unite in the desire that Friends everywhere should share in the life of the wider Christian community and co-operate as fully as possible in its work. Many of us value opportunities for worship and service with our fellow Christians. No-one can measure the debt we owe to the influence and inspiration and leadership of many of our fellow Christians, to the stimulus and fellowship some of us have known in inter-church groups and inter-denominational movements".

Those of us in the Meeting who are able to take part in ecumenical activities in Stansted value the experiences, links and friendships we have found. It would be good if more, from all the churches, could be involved.

Margaret Whitelaw

United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Minister: 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 July

5th 11am Mrs C Bonner
12th 9.30am Ecumenical Communion at St John's Church
19th 11am Mr D Coulton
26th 11am Revd. L Rapkin, Communion

Cake Stall as usual - July 4th

STANSTED PROFILE

No. 3 Hilda Seymour

by Lucy Crofts

NOT many people can say they remember watching Zeppelins fall to the ground in flames or that they left school at the tender age of 14, but a much loved Stansted resident has these among hundreds of memories to share spanning her 93 years.

Hilda was born in 1904 to Arthur and Esther Seymour, the fifth of six children. Hilda's childhood was a happy if strict one. A very religious family, her parents insisted their children regularly attend church and she recalls being severely reprimanded by her father when she was caught running on a Sunday.

Two memories among many of her pre-Stansted years remain clearly with her; one was of her mother making her children's clothes and keeping them in excellent repair, and another of "Living Whist" a game involving players representing cards in which she took part in the big houses of Old Harlow in the early twenties.

In 1924 she moved from Old Harlow to Stansted and got a job working at Hawthorns on the Elsenham Road as housemaid to the Gold family, where two of her sisters, Florrie and Edith, worked as the cook and parlour maid.

She has stayed in Stansted ever since, living in the Hostel Bungalows in Church Road and since 1985 in Normans Court.

During the Second World War Hilda wanted a change from domestic work and landed a job at Marconis in Chelmsford where she made electrical components. Secrecy surrounded much of the work carried out there and it was only months later that Hilda discovered that some of the equipment they had made on site was instrumental in the destruction of the Bismarck. Hilda says she was lucky that none of her family or friends were lost in World War II, unlike in the first war when two of her cousins died.

A member of the Stansted WI, she vividly remembers knitting Christmas gifts and comforts for the soldiers stationed in the village and unable to get home to their families. Rationing meant wool was an expensive luxury so it had to be saved up and used sparingly.

The church has remained of great importance to Hilda, who can be found every Sunday in St. John's Church, Stansted. In her work for the church she has arranged flowers for the services, helped with the necessary needlework and made marmalade to sell at fund raising events. "My faith is extremely important to me", she said, "I always say I shall meet my family again when I get to heaven."

Hilda is the only remaining member of her family. Her father was tragically killed in a road accident when she was a child and her only brother Walter died from a hole in the heart when he was 12 years old. Only one of her sisters, Edith, ever married and her niece Marjorie, who also lives in Stansted, visits her aunt often.

Hilda was a long time member of the Stansted Operatic Society along with another sister Alice. Her father had always wanted her to sing and learn to play the violin and his love of music had inspired the rest of the family. As a child the young Seymours would take turns to choose a hymn which they would then sing around the fire before going to bed. Hilda also proudly remembers when her father quietly slipped in to watch her perform in a school play and let her stay up late to watch the older pupils take to the stage.

Her love of music still gives her great pleasure and she loves to listen to Alan Keith on BBC Radio 2. "I love to listen to music but only classical, I can't bear rock and roll or jazz."

At her grand age, Hilda can say she has seen many of Britain's historical events. When she heard the First World War had ended she jumped for joy and ran home to tell her mother who she knew would be taking the family to church to thank God. By the end of the Second World War she was already approaching middle age and was actively involved in the celebrations being held for the Queen's coronation.



She has seen the motor car evolve from a novelty to a way of life, the invention of penicillin, the Wall Street Crash and the invention of nuclear weapons. But despite all the changes that have occurred during her lifetime, Hilda believes there are only two that she couldn't live without.

"The telephone and electricity. The telephone is really my lifeline these days and electricity just makes everything so easy!"

Lucy Crofts
Stansted Reporter



HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am

Sat 4th July

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



St Mary's Church Open

St Mary's (opposite the
Mountfitchet High School) will be
open to visitors from 2 - 5 pm on
Saturday 4th July (Carnival day)
Sunday 5th July
Everyone Welcome

STANSTED CARNIVAL

Saturday 4th July



This year's theme is

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

so dress up everyone!!

CARNIVAL PROCESSION

leaves Bentfield Green at 1 pm
Floats - Majorettes - Bands
Prizes for best float, bicycle & fancy dress
Tel 812692 or 812660 to enter

CARNIVAL FETE

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Mountfitchet High School

Admission free - Car Park £1

Displays - Fairground - Side Shows & Stalls

Refreshments - Beer Tent - Barbecue

In aid of the Stansted Carnival
Trust Fund for needy children

VILLAGE EVENTS

July

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Gardening Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
4	Sat	Cake Stall	Day Centre 8 pm
		Bradwell Pilgrimage	Outside UR Church 10 am
		Stansted Carnival	1 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
5	Sun	Fun Run	Bentfield Green 11 am
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
6	Mon	Carers Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
9	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
11	Sat	St Mary's PTFA Outside Event	
		Hargrave Fete	Hargrave House 2.30 pm
13	Mon	Shalom	Meet Crafton Green 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Rainbow Pre-School Fayre	Youth Centre 1 - 3 pm
16	Thu	RBL Ladies	Day Centre 7.30 pm
19	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
		Windmill BBQ & Sail Turning	from 2 pm
20	Mon	RAP Open Meeting	Day Centre 8 pm
	to		
23	Thu	Skip at Crafton Green	

August

2	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
8	Sat		
	to		
9	Sun	Skip at Crafton Green	



GRAND



CARNIVAL DANCE

8pm Saturday 4th July

Mountfitchet High School

Live Band 'Blues with a Feeling'

£7.50 (incl supper) ~ Bar ~ Raffle

Please tel 850631 or 812508

Organised by 1st Stansted Scouts



Summer Fayre

1 - 3 pm

Wednesday 15th July

Stansted Youth Centre

Lower Street

All welcome



10K CHARITY FUN RUN & WALK

Bentfield Green 11am Sun 5th July

SERIOUS RUNNER - needs a challenge

FUN RUNNER - improve your time

WALKER - enjoy a pleasant stroll

THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!

Register at the Fun Run stall at the Carnival
or on the day between 10 and 10.45 am

Hargrave House
1950's Theme



2.30 pm

Saturday 11th July

Tombola ~ Cake Stall
Raffle ~ White Elephant
plus MUCH MUCH MORE!

Special Guest

local ELVIS impersonator

Admission: Adults 50 pence
Children & Senior Citizens FREE

Proceeds to

Hargrave House Nursing Home

Tel 817272 for further details

Stansted Regular Aid to the Poor

Very Important Meeting

8 pm Mon 20th July at the Day Centre



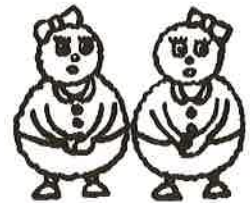
Representatives from the 3 charities supported by this project (Red Cross, Oxfam & Save the Children) will talk about how funds raised by Stansted RAP have been used. Christopher Hall who has worked extensively in Ethiopia will also speak.

In view of the terrible scenes in South Sudan, this is an opportunity for present and potential collectors to find out more about the scheme and how the money is used. Please come along - we look forward to seeing you - or tel 850209 for details.

SEASIDE ADVENTURE

The Bouncer family, small round furry creatures with little arms and legs, lived under the platform of an old railway station. One morning Mrs. Bouncer bounded out of her home and called out to her husband. "Benjamin, it's a lovely day, just right for a trip to the seaside." Mr. Bouncer peeped out and blinked up at the sun. "You're right, Betty," he agreed, "you pack a picnic while I get out the truck." Billy, his elder son, came to help him and soon they were all ready.

"We're going to the seaside, we're going on a picnic," sang the twins, Bluebell and Bunty, over and over again until their Mother cried, "Oh, do be quiet both of you or we shall leave you behind." After that they did not say a word until they were on their way. They drove the little wooden truck along the track where the railway lines used to be but which was now a path for people to cycle along. Baby Bouncer loved the ride and cooed and gurgled all the way.



Mr. Bouncer stopped the truck where the track ran near the sea and, with Billy and Bertie helping, fitted runners onto it so that it could be pulled over the sand easily. The four big Bouncer children splashed about at the edge of the sea and Mr. Bouncer settled down and went to sleep.



Baby seemed happy just sitting there watching her brothers and sisters playing. After a while the hot sun made Mrs. Bouncer sleepy and she shut her eyes for a few minutes. When she opened them again the baby had gone! "Benjamin, wake up quickly," she shouted. "What's that, what's the matter," mumbled Mr. Bouncer.

Just then Billy shouted, "Mum, Dad, look! Baby is floating away." And sure enough, there was Baby sitting on a blow-up sun bed that she had managed to roll onto, drifting out to sea.

Mrs. Bouncer began to cry, "Whatever shall we do, we can't swim." The twins began to bounce up and down, crying too. "Be quiet," roared Mr. Bouncer, "I'm trying to think. Quick Billy and Bertie, help me push the truck into the sea. Twins, go and fetch that long plank of drift wood, it will make a good paddle." They quickly did as they were told. Mr. Bouncer jumped onto the floating truck and began to paddle after Baby. "Oh, do be careful not to tip up," cried Mrs. Bouncer.

"Don't worry, Mum," said Billy, "Look Dad has reached her and is pulling her into the truck." It was hard work paddling the truck back to the beach again as the tide was going out but at last Mr. Bouncer managed it and while he sank down to rest, the children pulled the truck up onto the beach. "What a dear clever husband you are," said Mrs. Bouncer as she cuddled Baby, who did not seem to have been at all disturbed by her trip out to sea.



"But we must never again both go to sleep when we have the children to look after and we must tell everyone how dangerous it can be to have a sun bed where it can float out to sea."

They had their picnic and loaded everything back into the truck, pushed it up to the track, took off the runners and drove back home. "Next time we will take Baby's play pen to put her in," said Mrs. Bouncer, as they arrived back at the old railway station tired but happy.

ERRATA

The Link apologises for omitting Mr. P. Carter from last months caption to the 1958 Stansted Cricket Team. Several readers have notified Peter Brown and we are pleased to know that interest in being taken in memories from the past.



At our May meeting, our Chairman, Mrs Hollis, reminded members that sponsorship money for our Marathon runner was now due and this was duly paid by all members. She also reminded members that the Social Evening run by the Royal British Legion would be on Saturday 13th June. Our speaker for the evening was Lady Mosley, who gave a very interesting talk on Latvia which she illustrated with some beautiful slides. She told us that Latvia was the most interesting country she had visited to date. It had been occupied over the centuries by one or another great power and the people had been forbidden to speak their own language. At one time, out of a million citizens in the beautiful city of Riga, three hundred and twenty thousand had been deported to Russia. But the Latvians had eventually triumphed over their oppression by founding the National Independence Movement of Latvia and, in 1991, had elected their own National Government and gradually re-established their own culture.

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday 16th July at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre.

Pat Clower



Huw Johnson Club

Many thanks to Gary for giving our Club members a super disco. Everyone joined in with a lot of enthusiasm. They certainly needed the exercise to work off the lovely food which Paul cooked on the BBQ. Thank you Paul, Sandra and Andrew for giving us a really good night. Fortunately, the rain which had poured down all day stopped in time for our evening together. We say thank you too, to Martyn Phillips for letting us use Peter Kirk School.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Richard Wallace, who has helped us in the club for the past six years. We will all miss him and we wish him well next term when he goes to sixth form college.

Plans are now going ahead for our summer outing. We hope to spend the day at Nene Park, Peterborough, after a ride on the Nene Valley Railway.

We are still looking for some new drivers. If you can spare one evening a month to transport our members please contact me on 812284.

Marion Johnson



The return trip on the 333 bus to Bishop's Stortford park was just one of the summer outings that the older pre-school children went on. It fitted in well with the summer term's theme of transport. The children walked from the station bus stop to the town park along the canal tow path. They were lucky enough to see some ducks with their ducklings on their way.

A trip to Harlow Park by train has been arranged for July. The children will use the paddling pool (weather permitting) and go to the Adventure Playground, as well as have a picnic.

A Rainbow Outing has been arranged to Hobbs Farm. Any spare places will be offered to members of Rainbow Tots and Messy Play. This is an annual event for the group, to varying destinations and is one of the summer highlights.

The relaunched Wednesday afternoon Rainbow Tots has been very well received. Come and see for yourself. It is open to all ages of Pre-school children, from babies to toddlers to children due to start school.

There are some places left at messy play on a Tuesday afternoon (1-2.30 pm). The group is designed to allow time spent doing messy activities that perhaps you don't want to do at home. There is an age restriction; it is open only to children between 18 months and when they start Pre-school. Exceptions are made to accommodate brothers and sisters of the child attending.

We extend an invitation for all to come to our Summer Fayre on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th July. There will be face painting, raffles, tombolas, children's games, book and craft stalls and a bouncy castle. Come and see.

Lorna Williams

Messy Play and Rainbow Tots Co-ordinator (817197)

Ann Conroy

Rainbow Pre-School Leader (812457)

Aisle Attire

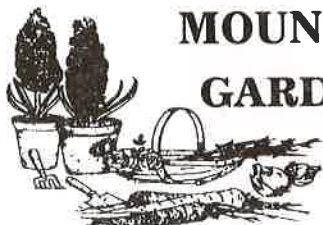
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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Our June meeting was an evening trip to R & R Sagers Nursery at Newport. We were given a tour of the nursery by Mr and Mrs Sagers. On display were many not so common plants and it was a very enjoyable evening despite uncertain weather.

Our July meeting on the 1st July is a talk by Mr Ted Wearn on How to Succeed at Flower Shows, so why not come along and learn how it's done? The competition is for Five Sweet Peas.

STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK MAY 1998

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village who gave so generously to the British Red Cross collection. We raised the excellent sum of £1043-18. This is the third year running when we have raised over £1,000. May I also thank all those people who kindly gave their time once again to collect for this very good cause.

Diana Pelly



Recipe of the Month Cheesy Ham Crescent

3oz / 85gm grated Cheddar cheese
1oz / 28gm chopped cooked ham or bacon
8oz / 227gm self raising flour
1 level teaspoon baking powder
1 rounded teaspoon salt
¼ level teaspoon mustard
2oz / 57gm margarine
1 egg
7 tablespoons milk
milk to glaze
tomato wedges

- (a) reserve a tablespoon of cheese
- (b) mix all ingredients in a bowl with a wooden spoon for 1 - 2 minutes until well blended
- (c) turn onto floured board
- (d) shape into a roll about 8" long
- (e) make 8 cuts about 1" apart down one side
- (f) place on greased baking sheet
- (g) curve roll so that cut sides splay out
- (h) brush with milk
- (i) sprinkle with remaining cheese
- (j) bake on middle shelf on gas mark 7 / 220°C (425°F) until risen (15-20 mins)
- (k) garnish with tomato wedges
- (l) serve with butter



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

May and June have been busy months for us with regular activities and extra ones designed for the half-term holiday.

There was a first-aid talk in the middle of May as well as a pub lunch and one of our regular "open mornings" at the Crafton Green Day Centre.

Half-term brought a repeat of the ever popular Hatfield Heath walk where we had hoped that the weather would be kinder to us than it had been at Easter!

The younger children enjoyed a morning at Rascals after half term and there was also an evening at The Crown in Elsenham followed by one of our regular photo sessions at the Quaker Hall.

As summer (hopefully) approaches, we have more outdoor activities planned and we are looking forward to participating in the Stansted Carnival at the beginning of July. Many of our coffee mornings also give an opportunity for our children to play in someone else's garden! All parents and carers are welcome at any of our events and they do provide a good way to meet others in the area. If you would like to find out about any future events please call Sally Thorp on 814208.

Stansted Tennis Club



The Boyd Tournament was held on 31st May. 11 players battled through the round robin stage. The final was won by Steve Aylott and John Inston, who beat Jenny Appleby and Matt Whitbread 6-1.

Stansted Tennis Club is organising the Hospital Cup Tournament this year and the competition is now well under way. The finals will be held on Saturday 25th July at Stansted. Please come along and support this event - it's your chance to see some of the best players in the local area.

Tennis coaching - if you are interested please contact either Chris Hollis (466973) or Norman Elson (850057).

If you are interested in joining the tennis club, please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary), tel. 813053. If you have any other queries please contact Janet Hollis (Chairman) tel. 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) tel. 466348.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

How does an optimistic person planning an outdoor event remain rational when long spells of fine weather are so rare? Nevertheless

We will have a bouncy castle and Millers membership stand at the Carnival on 4th July and hope to see you there. On Sunday 19th July our Mill Weekend will include sail turning, a picture competition for children, a BBQ and a teach-in for those interested in the history and mechanics of the Mill. Come along and join in the activities. Everyone is welcome, umbrellas and all, and we remain optimistic. Also, a reminder that our Fete takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August. Anyone wanting more information, interested in helping or becoming a Windmill member (free admission), please call Steve Clements on 816514. See Village Events for other open days.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

"The Hidden Treasures of Whitehall" was the title of our June meeting talk. Peter Lawrence, an ex-London policeman, showed members slides of London and told us how it had developed through the centuries. Starting on the island of Thorneye, the city grew with the Palace of Westminster eventually becoming the Houses of Parliament. The Strand was the original foreshore of the river. We were reminded by one of his pictures that Horse Guards Parade was Henry VIII's jousting yard. We were also shown pictures of his tennis court that had been uncovered when a building had been refurbished.

During business, members were reminded about the cake stall we will have at the Carnival, our trip to Constable Country with Mr Lawrence as our guide (there may be a seat or two left on the coach, phone Mrs Wellings, 813614) and a trip to Ken Crowther's garden centre at Abridge where the BBC Essex Radio has a garden - this will be in August.

The competition of an old tin was won by Mrs Minshull with a 1909 cycle puncture outfit. The social time organised by Mrs Ryan entitled "Numbers" had seven winners, just to prove the ladies know their dates and general numbers knowledge.

At our July meeting on the 9th we will have Joyce O'Connor telling us about her life as a WAAF in wartime. If you are interested in hearing this talk you are welcome to join us. We meet at 7.30 pm for a 7.45 pm start in St John's Hall, St John's Road.

Brenda Ryan
812725

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Well done Stansted! This year's envelope collection is going to break all the records. So far about £1,500 has been banked, £200 of which was raised at the Market. In addition to that, our Rector, Andrew Spurr, arranged for every house in Birchanger to receive an envelope with the church newsletter, so the final total will be well in excess of previous years. As we are all too aware, there is a demand for emergency aid in several parts of the world at the moment - Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sudan and Eritrea, to name a few. Christian Aid will be supporting these countries as well as financing the long term projects that enable many people in the poorest countries to improve their standard of living and so to experience "life before death".

Thank you to all who contributed and especially to the volunteer collectors. Some may have been caught red-handed, as the colour from the plastic carrier bags comes off onto hot fingers!

Catherine Dean



PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Thank you very much to all those who came to our special Dads' Morning. It was good to see other members of the families who cannot always get to Sideways. The children enjoyed showing them around and playing with all the equipment.

This half term the children will be out and about. There is a train trip to Newport Rec. and a picnic arranged. There will be a special lunch for those children going to Big School and an entertainer. Sports Day will be the last Friday (17th July) and we hope to have a BBQ like last year. Everyone welcome!!!

Our Ofsted inspection is due in July and we are confident of reaching the same high standard as previously.

With some of the money raised from the I Spy Boards, we have bought two huge cushions for the Book Corner (very comfy), some new scales for mathematical work and some proper clay called Terracotta. This was part of our Knowledge and Understanding of the World project. The children thoroughly enjoyed working it, hard work though, but very good for large motor skills and once pliable helps fine manipulative skills. They also had posters and books telling them all about clay. A visit to a pottery is to be arranged for next term.

If you have recently moved into the area and would like more information about Sideways please phone 813828 or call in any morning at St John's Church Hall, 9-12.15. You will be very welcome - Stay and Play.

Auntie Helen



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TWO MORE GLIMPSES OF THE PAST

CIVIL DEFENCE



Photograph Mrs. L. Foster

This 1944/5 photograph taken in the grounds of Crown Cottage and Limes stables shows Stansted's Civil Defence volunteers shortly before standing down. Can readers please supply the missing initials and names? This would complete a valuable village archive. The address for information is Sheila Parry, 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel 814788

E. Bradford ? Tabor R Waterman W. Bedlow P. Smith W. Turner ? White
H. Robinson I. Robinson ? Carter J. Watson J. Mumford V. Turner T. Levey E. Roberts ? Hanscombe
I. Powell ? Ridgwell ? Brown ? Bush ? Catton H. Bradford



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James Blyth, later 1st Lord Blyth of Stansted Mountfitchet, purchased Wood House in 1875. He employed W. D. Caroe, a noted architect who was also responsible for Croft House and St. John's Church, to extend and improve the house which was then renamed Blythwood House. One particular feature was a wall raised by hydraulic lift from the basement. The house was destroyed by fire on 12th August 1926, a year after Lord Blyth died. Recently fragments of burnt material have been found buried in a garden where the house once stood.

This photograph was taken about 1890 and Stansted Mill, then working, can be seen in the background. The mill was purchased by the 1st Lord Blyth in 1887 and given to the village by the 2nd Lord Blyth in 1935.

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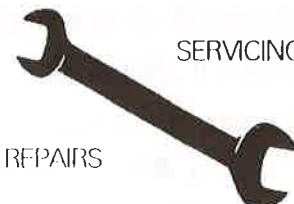
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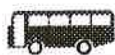
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