

March '98

The **LINK**



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS

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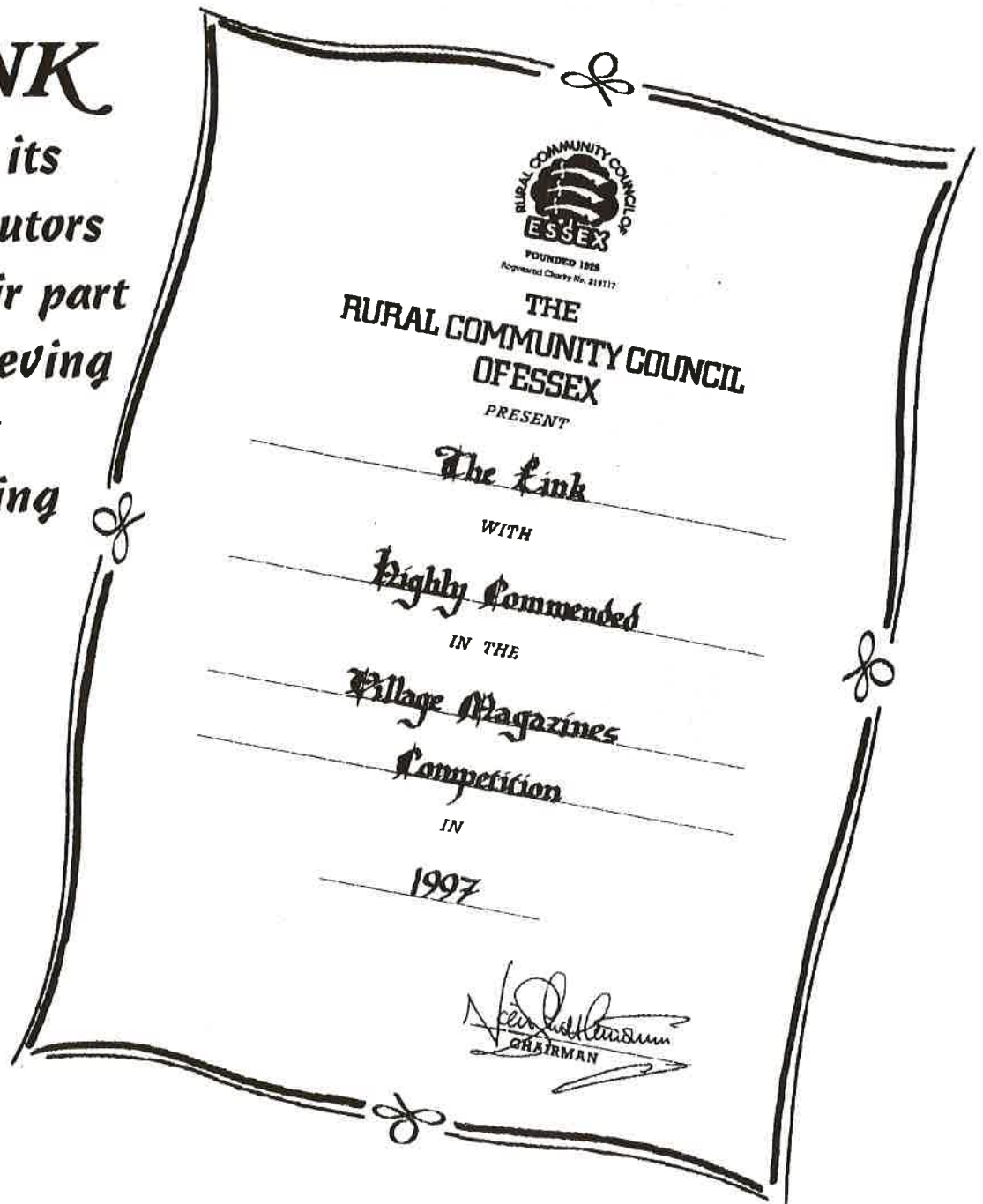


PHONE OR FAX

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59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

The
LINK
thanks its
contributors
for their part
in achieving
a great
beginning
to our
18th
year



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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
12th March for publication on 29th March
16th April for publication on 3rd May**

Pastures New

*Andrew Spurr caught
the Revd. Margaret
McKay for a moment's
reflection on her time
in Stansted.*



*'It's very different in
Stansted to how it was
in the fifties. Under
Revd. Mason's pas-
torate, Stansted was
going like a bomb*

*. . . . we now seem to be
alive in a way that we
weren't'*

While it's usual for people to move to quieter jobs in the years before retirement, the Revd. Margaret McKay will be busier than ever. Margaret, after seven years in the United Reformed pastorate at Stansted URC, is leaving to set up home in Aberdeen with a weekly commute to London. 'I know it sounds daft,' she mused, 'but [husband] Bill's work involves weekdays and mine nearly always takes up the weekend so, when he got his new job, I had to decide what to do so that we could still see each other.'

Margaret and Bill met as students at Edinburgh University and, on graduation, Bill joined the Civil Service working for the Speaker of the House of Commons. After three years as a Clerk Assistant, he was made Clerk to the House of Commons in January, appointed directly by the Queen. 'Bill's work will mean more travel and more entertaining which would have meant my taking time out. This wouldn't have been right for the churches, or for us. I feel we've made the right decision, but it was not an easy one.'

The pastorate has suited Margaret well, and she has enjoyed her time here. 'When I came, Lydia (Rapkin) was well established. She is deeply involved in the lives of our congregations and a fine pastor. My job was to deal with some of the larger issues which affect declining congregations.' For the group to which Stansted URC belongs, this has meant looking at the use of buildings, particularly the church on Chapel Hill and, for Clavering, the beginnings of working in partnership with the other churches in the area and developing new families in the church in Saffron Walden. 'It's very different in Stansted to how it was in the fifties. Under Revd. Mason's pastorate, Stansted was going like a bomb and supporting village congregations in Henham, Tye Green, Rickling Green and Manuden. For Clavering, the ecumenical partnership is very young but very exciting. It has to be handled slowly because if you mention ecumenical, people fear that they will be expected to become Anglicans! While we will probably be worshipping in the parish church the traditions of all the congregations will be represented with ministerial input from all the churches. there are a lot of ideas out there which have not been explored yet, but we have had a service of Agreement of Intent to move into partnership. We have a long way to go.'

For Stansted, the last seven years has been planning for redevelopment. 'We have re-started Junior Church, one of the elders has completed a lay readers course and is now candidating for ministry. We seem to be alive in a way that we weren't' Where it may lead will depend on how the Cambridge District assigns new ministers.

Although Margaret is withdrawing from local church leadership, she will be maintaining her roles on the various national committees where she serves. Last year, the URC General Assembly passed three resolutions on the relationship between homosexuality and ministry within the church, and Margaret will continue to chair the ensuing discussions on a national level. 'A lot of work has to be done to examine the issues which surround whether you admit people to train for ministry who are openly in same-sex relationships, and I will be convening one of the working groups.' These are the tasks to which Margaret's clear and compassionate mind is particularly well suited. These are issues which inevitably raise questions about how the church makes decisions and how one listens to the Bible, conscience, societal change and how one understands the ministry. 'There is no one rule with this,' she says, 'divorced ministers, for example, have been accepted without any fuss, even though there is just as strong a biblical prohibition against divorce as there is against same-sex relationships.'

Away from the councils of the church and bright lights of Westminster, Margaret and Bill have bought a small farm in Aberdeen. 'I want to develop a small farm park so that children and school parties can look at crafts like weaving and spinning and the use of fleece.'

Margaret will be missed in Stansted, her keen academic mind and unflappable temperament have been an asset to the church in a time of self-examination and change. 'I shall miss Stansted,' she says, 'particularly the ecumenical life, the Shalom meetings and the friendships that I was offered when I first arrived, it is a very friendly place.' ●



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

HOPE IN A TIME OF CHANGE

This is the theme for our Lent Group discussions this year. In the course we are challenged, as Christians, to be people of hope; and to realise that the Christian way of looking at things can lead people to finding meaning and hope in a bewildering world and to finding the motivation to do something about changing the world.

There will be two evening house groups and one afternoon one, each for four weeks.

Wednesday afternoon 2.30 pm, starting March 4th at Ann Boyd's, 5 St John's Lane (Revd Michael Hayman leading).

Thursday evening, 8 pm, starting March 5th at The Rectory, St John's Road (Revd Andrew Spurr leading).

Friday evening, 8 pm, starting March 6th at Brian and Eileen Quinn's, 48 Greenfields (Dave Morson leading).

The Agape, a Bring and Share meal with readings and prayers, at the end of the course will be in the U.R.C. Hall at 6.30 pm on March 29th.



Corrymeela St Patrick's Evening

The Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre works tirelessly for Peace in Northern Ireland. Youth and community workers live and work for peace and reconciliation in the neighbourhoods of Belfast. The Retreat Centre at Ballycastle on the Antrim coast gives families breaks from the tensions of the city. The Centre needs support even more at this crucial time in the peace process.

Please do your best to support our fund raising event on Saturday 21st March, 8 pm - 11.15 pm at the Mountfitchet High School, Stansted. This is a St Patrick Night's Dance with The Cambridge Crofters. Admission is £5. All proceeds go to the Corrymeela Centre. There is a bar and a raffle.

RAP - REGULAR AID TO THE POOR

This is the fourth year that the scheme has been in operation. People who join decide whether to give an amount monthly by envelope deposited at Stansted Post Office or a stated amount monthly paid by standing order.

The charities who have received over £2,000 over the past three years are Save the Children Fund, The Red Cross and Oxfam, chosen because of their continuous work for the poor and for their response to individual crises.

We are hoping to hold an information evening at the Crafton Green Community Centre in July. In the meantime anyone wanting to join or needing further information, telephone David Morson, 850209.

Chevetogne Exchange 23rd May - 26th May 1998 (Bank Holiday Weekend)

This year it is our turn to visit Chevetogne and we are leaving Stansted at 9 am Saturday 23rd May and will travel by coach and ferry. The journey takes approximately 8 hours.

We will be returning on Tuesday 26th May and will arrive back in Stansted at about 8.00 pm.

This is an Ecumenical visit arranged by the Churches in Stansted and Chevetogne and has been in operation now for about 12 years. We have all made very many friends and it is a lovely way to find out about each other and our respective lives and beliefs. Hopefully we have helped to break down the barriers that limit our understanding and relationships. We also have a lot of fun!

The cost will be about £75 and a deposit of £20 is required when handing in your name. Places are limited so please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

If you would like to find out more about this visit or you think you would like to take part in the Exchange in the future, please ring Eileen Quinn on 812109 or Francis Mercer on 813945.

Proceeds from the CTS Carol Concert

The Carol Concert proceeds from the CTS "A Celebration of Christmas" held at St Mary's, Stansted, on 20th December 1997 raised £191 which was divided equally between The Churches Conservation Trust and the Emmaus Cambridge Expansion Appeal.

In their note of thanks, Ruth Otway, Secretary to the Appeal Committee (Chairman: Mr Terry Waite, CBE) tells us that the first phase of the expansion is nearly complete and the rest should be completed soon. They are hoping to start on the second phase, the expansion of the living accommodation, after Easter.



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 March

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 1st | 11 am | Mrs C Bonner |
| | 6.30 pm | CTS Service 1st Sunday in Lent
at Friends Meeting House |
| 8th | 11 am | Mr Huband |
| 15th | 11 am | Mrs C Bonner |
| 22nd | 11 am | Rev L Rapkin |
| 29th | 11 am | Mrs C Bonner
Agape, U.R.C. Lecture Hall |

It is with regret that we are saying goodbye to our minister of 7 years Revd Margaret McKay. During that time her leadership and vitality have led us to look at the spiritual life of the church in Stansted and the future of our buildings. We have with her encouragement embarked on a major redevelopment programme, the first stage of which (the car park) should begin in the next few weeks. Margaret's husband's promotion means they now have a flat in London and are required to entertain and attend many functions in the evenings, so this means it would be impossible for Margaret to continue as a full time U.R.C. Minister. However, when they settle back in Scotland she hopes to offer her services to the Church of Scotland as a non-stipendiary basis. We send them off with our very best wishes for this next phase of their life's journey.

Janet Townsend



The 1997 Village Carol Singing was the now familiar and cheery pattern of singing in many of Stansted's roads, this time in cool and mainly overcast weather which slightly suppressed the singers joyous cadences in their annual contest with double glazing and high volume televisions. However, the callers were generously received and were able to hand over £228 to the Huw Johnson Club.

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

Our Services for March 1998 are as follows:

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 1st | 9.30 am | Mrs Christine Heyhoe of
Bishop's Stortford |
| | 6.30 pm | United Service for the First
Sunday in Lent at The Friends
Meeting House |
| 8th | 9.30 am | The Revd Michael Hayman
Holy Communion |
| 15th | 9.30 am | Mr David Drewett of Hatfield Heath |
| 22nd | 9.30 am | The Revd Ronald Rawlings |
| 29th | 9.30 am | The Revd Harry Wood of Saffron
Walden |
| | 6.30 pm | Churches Together 'Agape' at the
United Reformed Church |

Our Fellowship Meeting will be on Friday 20th March at 7.30 pm, venue to be announced.

We share with the rest of Stansted in wishing the Revd Margaret McKay of the United Reformed Church every joy and blessing on her move. Her seven years in Stansted (and Saffron Walden, Clavering and Newport) have been a blessing to us all. Her enthusiasm and willingness will be difficult to match, her knowledge and experience will be hard to lose. We will all miss her, but our love and prayers go with her and her busy husband.

Michael Hayman



SHALOM

- | | |
|------------|--|
| March 9th | Tape and discussion - Gerry Kearns
Venue: Ruth Rawlinson, Mont House,
High Lane |
| March 21st | St Patrick's Caelidh
Stansted Mountfitchet School
Proceeds in aid of Corrymeela
Reconciliation Centre (see display
notice) |
| March 23rd | Lenten Meditation - David Morson
Venue: Chantry Hall, Crow Street,
Henham |

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

On Sundays a said Holy Communion service is held at 8 a.m. and a sung Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. Evensong is said at 6.30 p.m. There is a said Holy Communion service on Wednesday mornings at 10.00 a.m. and an informal time of prayer at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

Our congregation on January 25th was privileged to have Terry Waite as our visiting preacher. Terry spoke of the effects of 4 years of solitary confinement, of the benefits derived from his memorisation of much of the Prayer Book and the joy of having a Bible again (albeit a modern version) after years of reading deprivation. Through it all came the impression of a man who like the psalmist had come through the vale of misery yet used it as a well. It was an inspiration to share the Eucharist with someone who had triumphed over adversities which few in our generation can have experienced.

The St. John's congregation has been fortunate to have a variety of preachers in recent months. Some, like Terry Waite, have been eminent in their respective vocations. Others, also talented, have been drawn from our own congregation. For most of the Sundays we have heard our own Fr. Andrew. For many of us this has led to a realisation that there is a wealth of human experience and insight which can be ours if only we open our minds and listen.

The trend for lay people to take part in the leading of worship which Fr. Barry Rose started here some 15 years ago is gathering pace in our three parishes. The lay ministry in all aspects of parish life is one of the encouraging signs of our time.

Derek Honour

**Bentfield School PTA
QUIZ
28th March 8 pm
Tickets £5 from School or 816895**



Recipe of the Month Kedgeree

8oz / 227gm long grain rice
8oz / 227gm smoked haddock
2oz / 57gm butter or margarine
2 large hardboiled eggs
Salt and cayenne pepper

- (a) boil the rice in salted water for 15 minutes
- (b) cook the fish in boiling water until tender
- (c) drain the rice
- (d) flake the fish and remove skin & bones
- (e) stir the butter into the fish
- (f) mix with the rice
- (g) add pepper to taste
- (h) form into a mound
- (i) decorate with slices of hardboiled egg

Serves 3-4

STANSTED FUN RUN



**TONER
CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING
PROJECT**

This year's *Fun Run* donated over £2300 to charity. Here is your opportunity to help make it more next year - and you don't even need to run!!!

Do you (or any of your friends) use a **laser or deskjet printer**? Did you know that most empty cartridges can be recycled?

This is both environmentally friendly and a painless way of raising money for charity.

20% of the money raised will go to the *Link*, the remainder towards next year's *Fun Run* administrative expenses.

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 - collection can be arranged, or they can be left in the porch.



Thank you for your help

YOUNG PEOPLE - THE CHURCH OF TODAY, NOT TOMORROW

Liz Jennings talks to Pete Ward, Advisor on Young People to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Some of you will have heard Pete Ward in St John's Church, Stansted, on November 23rd. Pete is a friend of Revd Andrew Spurr's from college days, when they were in a rock band together. As well as his role of Advisor on Young People to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Pete runs a project in Oxford called Youth Works and is soon to take up lecturing at Kings College in London.

When the Archbishop asked him to be his advisor there was a high priority on mission. At that particular time there was a project running called 'Springboard' for the Decade of Evangelism. As Pete says "The feeling amongst those people starting the project was that it didn't touch young people and this should be addressed. Young people were a priority". This then was the reason for the appointment of an Advisor on Young People.

Pete says that during the first three years of the project he has had three main priorities:

- To make contact with churches around the country and to encourage them in their work with young people - meaning the 15-18, or perhaps 20, age group;
- To support the people who do the job at grass roots level;
- To understand the ways in which the young are using new ways of worship, such as "raves in the nave" and encouraging them in their worship.

Youth workers are being employed across the country in large numbers. For example, in Canterbury diocese there are 16 and in Oxford there are 30 full time posts, demonstrating the importance placed on working with the young, but it is a new initiative which does not follow the usual structure of the church. A great deal of energy is being put into this support system.

Pete has noticed the change in young people over the years. When he first started youth work "you had to do something which didn't seem like church to entice them in, but my evidence is that this is not so now. They don't want something fake - the sugar on the pill. They want the real thing".

He feels that ownership is the key. Adults laying something on for the young people is not right. The young should be questioning and exploring. They themselves will work with tradition in a creative way. Pete says that "we are working with inherited material from the 19th century but we have in turn to be creative, perhaps by letting small groups expand it".

He talked about a youth festival called Soul Survivor and how he just wouldn't have believed something like that was possible. There, almost unbelievably, kids would

spend six hours a day worshipping. Approximately 4000 youngsters, average age 14, spend three hours in the morning and another three in the evening, worshipping. It's fun. There are rock bands too, but the festival is run by Anglicans. People go back year after year.

When asked about his current activities Pete explained that he has been set two further tasks by the Archbishop. The first is to organise a presentation for the forthcoming Lambeth Conference. There are only four presentations made: world debt, Islam, the Bible and youth, so the importance placed by the church on youth work is clear.

The second is the co-ordination of one of the largest church events to be held in London, which is taking place in 1999. "Time of our Lives" is the title for this Anglican initiative. Venues, including the Albert Hall, are being booked all over the capital. In Pete's words "The Archbishop will race around on his moped from venue to venue!"

When asked how we, as church members, can encourage the young he suggested that it is worth getting groups of people together to go to major events - such as one that is taking place in Wembley next year. A Mass is to be held in the arena there and anyone from Chelmsford Diocese can attend.

Pete's feeling is that although it is said that young people are no longer coming to church there is activity in many parts of the country. 'Youth Apart' was written by Pete some two years ago but is now published as a Synod Report. The main argument of the report is that there are many good things going on at a grass roots level. Across the country, things are happening in churches in unsung ways. Young people are in church - not necessarily in the congregation, but ringing the bells or singing in the choir.

It was encouraging to hear his views and know that so much is being done in the field of youth work in the church and the hope is that we can encourage our own young people accordingly.



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy Peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm.
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

1807-1892 John Greenleaf Whittier

John Greenleaf Whittier was born in Massachusetts of Quaker parents. He did not have much schooling but he read a great deal - he found the poems of Robert Burns inspiring. He became a journalist and published an anti-slavery work "Justice and Expediency". For thirty years he devoted himself to the cause of abolishing slavery. He wrote a number of nature pieces which were compared to Longfellow.

This well known poem (hymn) shows the quietist distinction between outward creaturely faculties - obstructing divine communication and the pure visitation from God. God gives the still dews of quietness; we human beings contribute striving, strain and stress.

In our rather hectic present time how much we need to listen for the still, small voice of calm.

M Rice



A date for your diary to enjoy our annual 'fun run', making this a village weekend commencing with the Carnival on Saturday 4th July.

Each year the charities supported are from an international, national and local dimension - these charities will be published in the next edition of The Link, but meanwhile keep this date free and, perhaps, begin your training for the run!

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

Following an operation and 7 long weeks of recuperation, we are very thankful to have Father Joe back; if not in full harness yet, at least in situ and gaining health and strength day by day.

We have missed you for your gentle humour, your constant caring for us and your presence which ensures the smooth running of the Parish.

'Welcome Home'.

Congratulations to Ken and Delia Turner on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

R.I.P. Mary Cunningham, a much loved member of our Parish. Mary typed our Newsletter for many years and also helped run the repository. A Eucharistic Minister, she gave her full support to her Parish and her Faith: her quiet presence will be greatly missed.

Baptism

25th January Oliver Edward Barrett

Funeral

Mary Cunningham, aged 83

STANSTED FUN RUN

Sunday 5th July 1998

The Fun Run starts from Bentfield Green and covers 10 Km over road and countryside. Sponsorship forms and application forms are available from Marion Dyer (814059). **Remember**, it is a cheaper entry fee if you 'sign up' before the day. More details in next month's Link.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET STATION

The photographs show Stansted - now Stansted Mountfitchet - Station circa 1913 and at the present day. The old one which went with the coming of electrification in 1985 was well-worn and slippery towards the end, and it is doubtful if the corrugated iron roof contributed to the otherwise elegant architecture of the Great Eastern Railway, most of which remains. The new one, so typical of the eighties, may become a useful engineering monument for future generations. Platforms on both tracks were lengthened considerably with electrification.

Unfortunately the old photograph does not bring out the bookstall which stood on the down (or northbound) platform until modernisation. It may not be generally known that the ancestor of W.H. Smith, whose bookstall it was, lived in Stansted in the eighteenth century.

In the Edwardian days the Station staff who maintained a 24 hour service numbered 25, comprising passenger and goods clerks, signalmen, shunters, platelayers, porters, crossing keepers for the two crossings near the "Black Bridge" and the access to what was to become New Farm and Hazel End, and of course a Station Master.

Although journey times for the "best" trains may not have shortened dramatically over the years, the standards of cleanliness now reflect the improvement which the absence of smuts and smoke have brought. However, one of the casualties of progress is the loss of the cheery coal fire in the "up" waiting room. Perhaps unbeknowingly we are living in the great days of Stansted's railway but it is likely that the nostalgia of steam will linger for years to come.

Postcard
Courtesy of Paul Embleton



G. E. R. STATION STANSTED



Photograph by
Peter Brown

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

2 - 4 pm Monday 2nd March

Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

Coffee Morning

Hargrave Nursing Home

Cambridge Road

10.00 am - 12 noon

Wed 4th March

Entrance 40p

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

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



'Who is my neighbour?'

2 pm Friday 6th March

Quaker Meeting House

Speaker Mrs Barbara Engel

Everyone Welcome
(men and women)

March

VILLAGE EVENTS

4	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Gardening Club	Day centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Fri	St Mary's PTFA Cake Stall Women's World Day of Prayer	St Mary's School 3.30 pm Quaker Meeting House 2 pm
7	Sat	Family Quiz HEAL Race	Scout Hut 6 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm
9	Mon	Shalom Group	Mont House, High Lane 8 pm
14	Sat	Liberal Democrat Ploughmans Village Music Club	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm St John's Church 8 pm
15	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - 12 noon
16	Mon		
	to		
19	Thu	Skip at Crafton Green	
18	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Annual Parish Meeting	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm
19	Thu	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Fri	Conservative AGM	8 pm
21	Sat	Peter Kirk Jumble Sale St Mary's PTFA Family Casino	Peter Kirk School 2 pm Youth Centre
		Shalom Ceilidh	Mountfitchet School 8 pm
23	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
24	Tue	Tennis Club AGM	105 Cambridge Rd 8 pm
25	Wed	Conservative Ladies AGM Stansted Mountfitchet Lunch Club	12 noon
28	Sat	Sideways Quiz Conservative Supper Dance	St John's Hall
	April		
4	Sat	Village Clean Up St Mary's PTFA Easter Disco	Crafton Green 2 - 4 pm Youth Centre

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am

Sat 7th March

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN
STANSTED

Lent Groups

'Hope in a Time of Change'

You are warmly invited to join one
of the discussion groups meeting
each week from 4th - 27th March

2.30 pm Wed 5 St John's Lane

8.00 pm Thu Rectory, St John's Rd

8.00 pm Fri 4 Greenfields

JUMBLE SALE

2 pm

Saturday 21st March

Peter Kirk School

Admission Free

For collection please tel 812627

Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 15th March

8.00 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments



Tel 01279 813384

1st Stansted Scout Group

FAMILY Quiz Night

6 pm Saturday 7th March

Scout Hut, Water Lane

Tickets £1.50 (Food on Sale)

Please tel 814967 or 850631



St Patrick's Ceilidh

with the renowned CAMBRIDGE CROFTERS



in aid of the **Corrymeela** centre for reconciliation in Northern Ireland

8 - 11.15 pm Saturday 21st March - Mountfitchet High School

Refreshments - Bar - Raffle

'The event of the year' 'Be there or be square!' 'The craic of the century'

Adults £5 Under 12's £2

Tel Dave & Rita Morson 850209



PIANO PLUS

Wind Quintet

8 pm Saturday 14th March

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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our February meeting Norman Mead explained how the Anti-Airport Protest Movement had arisen after publication of airport development proposals and a number of inquiries which led to Stansted Airport being as it is today. Now, the North West Essex Preservation Association monitors aircraft movements, noise levels and adverse effects on the area and endeavours to influence the alleviation of any nuisance these cause.

Our summer outing is planned for Sunday 28th June to Castle Hedingham. Meetings at the Day Centre at 8 pm are on Thursday 5th March with Ann-Marie Parker on "Hearty Homely Loving Herts" (last word **not** a spelling mistake!) and on 2nd April "The History of Gramophones" by R.A. Lewin.

Peggy Honour

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN UTTLESFORD

With the help of a grant from BAA Stansted Airport, Springboard Housing Association have launched a new scheme for Uttlesford. The HANDYPERSON SERVICE - designed to help with small repairs or adaptations for which no other assistance is available and which the homeowner cannot do him or herself.

To qualify for a grant, applicants must be homeowners within the District of Uttlesford, aged 55 years or older, or be disabled, and unable to afford to do the work themselves or get a grant from the Council.

If you meet these qualifications a grant of up to £180.00 can be paid towards the cost of labour or materials (or both) for any of the following work:-

- a) Security measures - e.g. fitting window or door locks, external lights.
- b) Safety measures - e.g. smoke alarms, grab rails.
- c) Minor repairs - e.g. changing taps, locks, repairing gutters, windows, etc.
- d) Decorations - external or internal.

Springboard also operate a Home Improvement Service, again designed for the elderly or disabled homeowner, but relation to necessary works of a larger nature. In these cases, Springboard can make all the necessary arrangements, including appointing reputable contractors to ensure that works are carried out to a satisfactory standard. A fee will be charged for this service but, if the works qualify for a grant, the fee will be incorporated into that grant.

The contact at Springboard for either of these services is Graham Field, FREEPHONE 0800 317872.

Copies of leaflets describing the Handyerson Scheme are also available at Stansted Day Centre or from Francine Cope (Helpline), who will be pleased to provide further details of either scheme, telephone no. 814562.

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Forthcoming Events

Joint Branch AGM: 8.00 pm on Friday 20th March
Ladies Branch AGM: Noon on Wednesday 25th March
Spring Supper Dance: 7.30 pm on Saturday 28th March
Constituency Dinner: Friday 24th April

Sir Alan Haselhurst, our local MP, will address the Joint Branch Annual General Meeting.

Eleanor Laing, MP for Epping Forest, will address the Ladies Branch Annual General Meeting.

The Branch Committee is planning to make up a party to attend the Constituency's St George's Day Dinner at Woolcott House on 24th April (black tie/tickets £25). Anyone wishing to join the Committee's party should ring me as soon as possible.

Spring Supper Dance tickets, unchanged at £25 each (£20 under 20s) are now on sale. As demand is always brisk, application should be made to me for tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment (01279) 815959.

Stansted Art & Craft Market

At an open meeting held on February 10th it was decided that, with new additions on the committee, this village event would continue.

With Rachel Mortishire-Smith chairing the committee the Art and Craft Market will be held again in the Youth Centre, Lower Street, on the weekend of 31st October - 1st November.

As the Art and Craft Market raised money for many village organisations it is hoped that this event will be well supported by villagers and that other village organisations will leave this weekend free of other events.

If anyone else feels they are able to contribute towards the organising please contact Rachel on 816837.



Huw Johnson Club

When we were Carol Singing before Christmas in the village many people asked "Who is Huw Johnson"? So many people in the village knew Huw that it hadn't occurred to us that newcomers to Stansted must wonder who he was.

Huw was born in Stansted on May 4th 1959 and soon after his birth it became apparent to Tom and me that all was not well with him. He was late sitting up, late walking and yet it was obvious that Huw was a very bright, alert baby. My brother Arthur had suffered from muscular dystrophy and when Huw was also diagnosed as having muscular dystrophy we were not surprised by the news, although completely devastated. We knew that, like my brother, he would not live beyond his teens. Huw did eventually learn to walk when he was about 2 years old but as time went on his muscles deteriorated and by the age of 9 years he needed a wheelchair.

Huw was a very happy and contented child and his biggest thrill came when we managed to purchase him an electric wheelchair. The mad games he played with his brother Peter often filled us with fear as he raced up the garden path with Peter following on his bicycle. We were, however, determined that Huw would live his life to the full so we hid our fears and turned a blind eye to their escapades.

Huw was well known and well loved by everyone who met him. We took him everywhere that he wanted to go, however difficult. He attended St Mary's Primary School but later, when a short spell at a school for the handicapped in Cambridge did not work out, he had home tuition. His great love was music and his grandfather introduced him to playing the organ. As time went on Mrs Valerie Trundle began teaching Huw the piano and when Valerie became his Home Tutor he would sit at the piano when she arrived hoping to put her off more boring subjects like English.

Before Huw died we took him with our daughter Ann, and Peter, on a cruise on the Oriana. What a wonderful time the crew and passengers gave him. Huw died in his sleep on Peter's 9th birthday, April 16th 1974, while we were on holiday at Hemsby. He would have been 15 two weeks after his death. Soon after the Huw Johnson Club for Handicapped Children was formed as Tom and I realised that parents needed to get together to help each other in difficult times. The Club was named as a memorial to Huw and has flourished ever since. We now have 27 handicapped members all of whom live in Uttlesford. We meet every Thursday, usually in St John's Hall. Why not come along one day and meet our members?

Marion G Johnson



PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Hello again.

Continuing our theme on Our Village, we have studied the Emergency Services, including the fire service, ambulances and police cars, helicopters and the life boats. The children learned about 999 calls. We are now carrying on with the theme, important places in the village including the library, the vets, the doctors, the post office and shops, i.e. newsagents and chemist. We have asked the 'lollipop lady' to visit to talk about road safety and hopefully a visit from our favourite policeman, Steve Pike, will reinforce the importance of wearing seat belts in the car.

We will be making kites with a view, weather permitting, to take them to the 'Rec' to fly them.

We are holding a Quiz Night on 28th march at St John's Church Hall. Tickets available from Sideways teachers or a committee member. With the money raised from our Smartie Tube fund raiser we have bought new equipment including cultural puzzles, interlinking construction toys, mathematical elephants to help with sorting sizes colours and numbers.

Sideways meets every day, Mon-Fri, from 9-12 in St John's Church Hall. Call in and see us anytime - stay and play! or phone 813828 for more information.

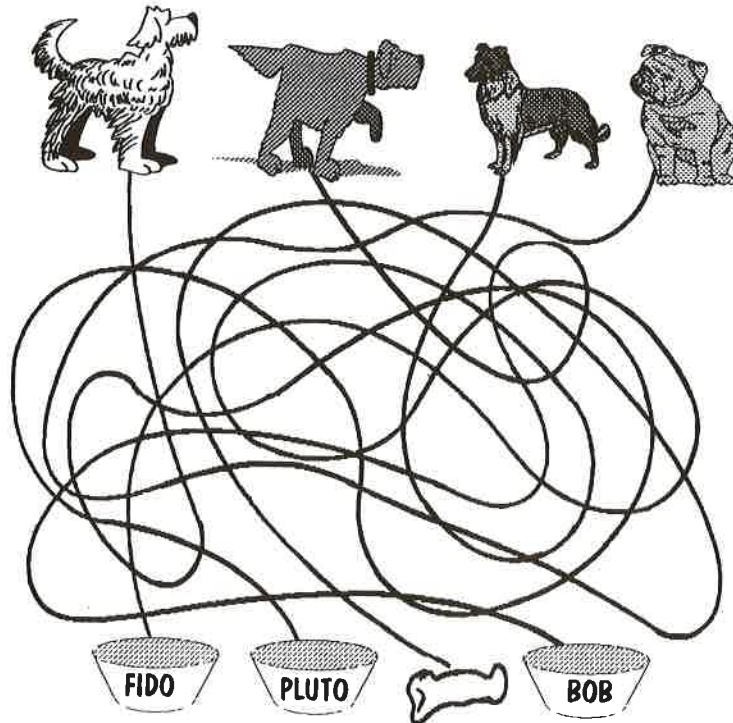
Auntie Helen

What is a mathematical elephant? asks the editor!



This month's puzzle

Follow the lead to find which dog has the bone, and the names of the other dogs.



POM-POM

Pom-pom the poodle thought she was a most superior dog, and walked along beside her owner with her nose in the air. Her coat was always neatly trimmed and clean, and the bow on her head matched her little jacket and lead. When other dogs stared at her, Pom-pom thought they were admiring her and feeling jealous; but really they felt sorry for her and thought she did not have any fun. A good run round on the muddy Recreation Ground chasing after a ball was the sort of thing dogs should do, and if there was a puddle or a pond to splash in, that was 'grrrrr...eat'.

One winter's day, Pom-pom's owner had to go away, and left her to be looked after by the boy next door, who had a dog of his own to take for walks. So Pom-pom was taken along too. They went to the village pond, and there sliding on the ice were some children and their dogs. 'Come on' barked the dogs to Pom-pom. 'Don't be so stuck up - this is fun!!'. But Pom-pom was frightened of the ice.

Suddenly there was a loud **crack** and the ice began to crack under a little girl who had gone to the middle of the pond. The other dogs began to howl and run round in circles, but Pom-pom ran forward, gripped the girl's coat in her teeth, and managed to pull her to the edge of the pond. Just then a grown-up came along and took charge, asking the children to get off the pond, and telling them how dangerous it was. The other dogs crowded round Pom-pom and told her how brave she was, and how they wanted to be friends. After that they all rubbed noses and wagged their tails when they met. Pom-pom thought how lovely it was to have friends, and felt so happy, and not a bit stuck up.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford
Office Hours
10 am - 1 pm
Monday - Friday



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Chapel Hill
Tel 813214

Village Diary

You will no doubt all be pleased to learn that the Village Diary is back in the Library where it belongs!

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 18th March in the Day Centre, 8.00 pm.

Village Clean Up

Another village clean up is to be held on Saturday 4th April, 2.00 - 4.00 pm, meet at Crafton Green. Refreshments will be available in the Day Centre afterwards.

Skip Dates

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th March
Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd April.



St Clare Hospice

St Clare Hospice is pleased that the Trustees are in a position to announce that the building of the much needed in-patient Hospice at Hastwood will begin by June this year. This development will allow 200 patients to be cared for every year and will complete the range of Hospice Services.

Over 250,000 people live in West Essex. Every year 600 people die from terminal illness and would benefit from hospice care before they die.

Tenders have gone out to all those involved and it is expected that a tender contract will be agreed on during mid April. The Capital Appeal currently stands at £890k, which is not the full amount needed to complete the project, but at the moment approximately £20-£30k is being donated per month to the Appeal which means that we still hope it will be completed by September 1999.

When the building is up and running the annual running costs will be approximately £920k. The Health Authority is now budgeting to increase the service grant they give to St Clare to cover 1/3 of this cost.

Thank you for helping us get this far. Please continue to support the Capital Appeal and help us complete your Hospice Centre. Telephone 01279 413590 to find out more about our work.

Stansted Tennis Club



Please note that the date publicised in last month's "Link" for the Tennis Club AGM has been changed. It will now take place on **Tuesday 24th March** at 8 pm at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. Please support the AGM as it is your chance to air your views about the tennis club.

A "Chilli Tournament" was held at the club on Sunday 25th January. Amazingly, 15 keen players braved the "chilly" weather and enjoyed competitive tennis and a filling meal. The final was won by Richard Johnson and Richard Mott, who beat John Inston and Martin Nankivell.

Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis will be taking over from Linda Kelsey on Thursday afternoons, starting in the spring. The course will run for five Thursdays (24th April - 21st May). Ages 11 and under 4.30 - 5.15pm; ages 12 and over 5.15 - 6.00 pm. The cost for the course will be £13.75. If you are interested please contact Chris on B/S 466973 for further information.

Norman Elson will also continue to run coaching sessions. Norman can be contacted on B/S 850057.

If you are interested in joining the club please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on B/S 813053. For any other information please call either Richard Mott (Secretary) on B/S 466348 or Janet Hollis (Chairman) on B/S 812073.



Stansted will play host to the March Group Meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18th March in the Day Centre. Our speakers will tell us about the Land Army and illustrate their talk with slides.

Our own branch meeting will be on the following evening, 19th March, also in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm.

We shall be holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 25th March in the Day Centre from 10.30 am - raffle, bring and buy, tombola, cakes, etc. Please come along.

Pat Clower



The theme of our village, which we began in January, continued throughout February. The children thought about the local shops and in small groups they walked to the green grocers. They bought a selection of fruit and vegetables. These were chopped up for vegetable printing and used in collages too. Also, a selection was prepared for use at milk break to replace the biscuits.

There was a short break from the village theme so we could celebrate the Chinese New Year. The children made a dragon. They decorated a large cardboard box with shiny paper. This was to be the dragon's head. They then painted a sheet for the dragon's legs. The dragon came to life with the children underneath the sheet as the legs. The dragon did a dance in the playground accompanied by the sound of drums and tambourines. After the dance the children were in much need of refreshment and they ate Chinese noodles which was flavoured with sweet and sour sauce. They ate the noodles with real chopsticks! They also made and decorated coolie hats and lanterns. There were even woks, small bowls and chopsticks in the home corner so the children could make and eat their own imaginary noodles.

The children also visited the Peter Kirk's soft play room. This is usually a termly visit for the older group which they very much enjoy.

Lorna Williams
Messy Play Co-ordinator

Please contact Ann Conroy (812457) for information on Rainbow Pre-School.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET AND DISTRICT LUNCH CLUB

The Club held its second lunch on 21st January which again was well attended and much enjoyed. Martin West, of Martin West Associates, gave an entertain address and advice on how to make an effective 5 minute presentation of one's business which we hope will lay the groundwork for interesting and informative presentations by members of the Club in the future.

The next lunch is to be held on Wednesday 25th March at a local village venue.

Apart from providing an occasional opportunity for local businessmen and traders to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere, the Club is intended to provide an informal forum for the discussion of village issues affecting the business and trading community and to provide a two way channel of communication between that community and the Parish Council.

The Club, which normally meets every couple of months on a Wednesday within the village, has been successful in attracting local businesses but it has not been so successful in regard to traders and retailers. There may be any number of reasons for this, such as inconvenient time or day, cost, perception that it is not tailored sufficiently for traders, and so on. I want to address this imbalance of attendance and I am very anxious to hear the views of local traders who may wish to participate but who so far have felt unable to support the initiative. Anyone interested in participating please ring me for details of the Club and to express any views on how the Club may be made more appropriate for local traders and retailers.

Alastair Richardson
Co-ordinator
815959



Chairman - Steve Riley, tel. 815455
Secretary - Robin Scarr, tel. 813080

Forthcoming Events

Ploughman's Lunch Saturday 14th March
Day Centre, 12 noon - 2 pm

Do come along to this popular monthly event which is held on the second Saturday of each month OR contact any of your local Liberal Democrat Councillors.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Our first meeting for this year was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 4th February. Colin Horner, who is well known internationally as a leading expert on roses, was our speaker. Most members will know Colin as a life long resident of Stansted. He was warmly welcomed by a well attended meeting and showed us a wide range of rose varieties from all parts of the world giving recommendations, names, etc. all without notes! Supported by slides we even took in a trip to New Zealand. A very successful meeting for the beginning of a new year.

Members Competition

Derek Francis won this month's competition which was for a photograph of a rose taken in the member's garden.

March Meeting

This month our meeting is on Wednesday 4th March as usual at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill, Stansted at 8 pm. Roy Brabbins will be coming to tell us 'How to Grow Vegetables Economically'. The competition will be 'Three Shoots of Sprouting Broccoli'.

Advance Notice

As part of our ongoing policy to encourage a larger membership we will be holding one of our informal evenings on gardening generally on Thursday 30th April. Make a note in your diary now. With an expert speaker you will enjoy an informative evening. More details next month.

Derek Francis

County Magazine Competition

The Link team was delighted to receive the equivalent of joint second prize in last year's Essex Village Magazine competition. More importantly we are aware that the award is the result of consistent monthly effort by the 70 plus loyal volunteers who contribute to, produce, manage, collate and distribute our magazine. As it is our intention that the Link should continually improve its representation on Stansted's many-sided life, we see the Award not as a reason for complacency but as an encouragement to future efforts. Our chairman, Derek Honour, is here photographed with the certificate in the company of Stansted's knight. Other members of the team will be depicted in a future issue.



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

Our opening concert for 1998 by the international soprano Ann Mackay with pianist Sonia Levy, generously sponsored by D C Poulton & Sons on Sunday 18th January was a resounding success when, despite extremely adverse weather, we had almost a capacity audience.

To close the 1997/8 season we have invited **Piano Plus** with wind quintet to our usual venue at St John's, Stansted, on Saturday 14th March at 8 pm. Their programme will be:-

Mozart	Quintet for piano and wind
Reinecke	Trio in A minor for oboe, bassoon and piano
Arnold	Sea Shanties for wind quintet
Poulenc	Sextet

Tickets may be obtained from:-

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, 812019
Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, 815282.

Adults £6, Concessions £4, Children £2, Members' Children £1.





Stansted Evening Women's Institute



NARNIA BEAVERS

St John's Hall was alive with Jhuggi Jumpers (not Thuggi) at the February meeting of the Stansted Evening W.I. when members arrived with 63 little jumpers of all sizes and colours. One of our ladies has knitted 14 and is still knitting. These jumpers will go to four places in Africa, Lesotho, R.S. Africa, Botswana and Lusaka. The local press arrived to take our photos so we hope to see our efforts in colour in the local newspapers. We even have ladies who are not W.I. members knitting these jumpers, so if anyone else is interested I have the pattern and some spare wool (Brenda Ryan 812725).

Our speaker, Mr Don Gardener, gave us an insight into the myths and truths of Calamity Jane in his talk entitled "Wagons Westward". He showed slides of the West and the terrain that the pioneers would have had to face when they went "west", "Calamity's" family being among these. He even had slides of Calamity Jane and of her funeral in 1903 when she died at 53. Her death was caused mainly through drink. She didn't look a bit like Doris Day and there are more myths than truths about her life and all the many things she was supposed to have done.

Members were reminded of the March Meeting when it will be open to the public as our speaker is Ken Crowther, a BBC Gardening presenter. Our raffle at this meeting will go to the Meningitis Fund. Look out for our posters advertising this.

Our Spring Group meeting this year will be held in St John's Hall when five W.I.'s will get together to hear Linda Scoles talk on her time with the U.S. Air Force; it is our turn this year to convene this meeting.

Our members agreed to donate this month's raffle proceeds to "Stansted in Bloom" being organised by the Parish Council. A total of £27 was raised towards the cost of a hanging basket or tub.

Our "County" has asked if we will donate toilet rolls and personal toiletries to be sent to Croatia. We will take these with us when we attend our County A.G.M. in March at Colchester.

With the results of our competition of a local view won by Julia George, our very packed meeting was brought to a close.
Brenda Ryan



The Beaver section is the youngest part of the Scout Group (for 6-8 year olds). Narnia Beavers meet on Tuesdays between 4.15 and 5.30 pm. We have a programme based on creative, educational and, above all, fun activities.

This half term we have been looking at 'Our World'. We have thought about the food we eat and we made some scrumptious pizzas and some 'funny' face biscuits. We thought about our climate and we made some wonderful pasta collage weather scenes. The Beavers made up their own family tree and added photographs of family members too. We thought about the people of the world, we talked about where people live, what they wear and what they do. The Beavers made chalk pictures of some of these people.

The Beavers also met up with some of the older cubs. The cubs had very kindly agreed to lay a trail for the Beavers to follow. The cub scout leader came and helped them to do this. The trail led to the park where they could all play and then a different trail led them back to the hut. The cubs and cub scout leader showed them some games. This gave them a taste of what is to come when they move up to cub scouts.

Narnia Beavers is looking for another leader to help us as well. Volunteers need to be able to make the 4.15 - 5.30 pm time. They need to be friendly and hard working and above all they need to enjoy working with children.

Please phone Lorna Williams on 817197.



The 1997 Poppy Appeal

The total to date is now £5009.36. Grateful thanks to all the collectors and to all who gave so generously.

1998 Appeal

Tony Pitt, a committee member, is running in the London Marathon on behalf of the Legion. He is seeking sponsors. Please give him a ring on 01279 812339 or call Bob Stoddart, tel. 814015, or John Segar, tel. 813289, to offer your support.

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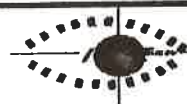
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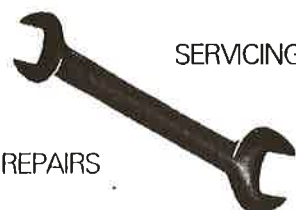
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