

May 98.

The LINK



Stansted
Mountfitchet

GRAPHIC DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY

PC/MAC INSTALLATION

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CELANDINE

DESIGN

TEL/FNS/FAX

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EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS

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Volume XVIII No 7

The
LINK

May 1998

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Door to Door
Envelope Collection
10th - 16th May
Please give generously

Market Stall
10am - 12noon
Sat 16th May
Quaker Meeting House



STOWELL

“Christian Aid is its supporters. Every pound you give, every hour you spare is having an impact on another person's life somewhere in this small world. There's so much to do, but together we're doing it.”

Dr Rukmini Rao, Deccan Development Society,
one of Christian Aid's partners in India.

The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

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its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

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14th May for publication on 31st May
11th June for publication on 28th June**

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The theme for this year is Live in Hope. The week celebrates the work of organisations Christian Aid supports in Ethiopia: working to improve agriculture and health care, providing credit loans and training for small business and helping street children.

The Service for Christian Aid on Sunday 10th May at 6.30 pm in the Friends Meeting House will also have Ethiopia as its theme

As usual volunteers from Stansted's churches will be visiting every house (hopefully) to collect the envelopes with your gifts. Please give generously.



On Saturday 16th May there will be the usual Market at the Friends Meeting House, 10 am - 12 noon. All contributions of books, toys, cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, bring and buy, will be gratefully received. Please support us.



Those who attended the Harvest Supper in October which had an Indian flavour will be interested to know that £225.56 was sent to Christian Aid and the national total was £585,500 which benefited the dalits ("untouchables"), child and bonded labourers, tribal people and women supported by Christian Aid's partners in India.

Catherine Dean
813579

Prayer for Christian Aid Week

O Lord our God
most holy and most humble,
you were content to come among us
to do lowly service
and suffer insult
for our salvation.
Make us ready to follow your
example
in living out our hope.
In our efforts this week and through
the gifts of many
bless us with your grace
so that the weak may be
strengthened,
the troubled may be saved,
the oppressed may rest,
the hopeless may be delivered
and the sad may rejoice.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Mottoes

My mother has given me a picture recently and it hangs on the wall above my desk. It is an annotated picture of my old school. To me it is full of symbolism and evokes memories of childhood. The school motto is emblazoned across the bottom of the picture. It is: Non Sibi Sed Omnibus or "Not for Self but for All". A laudable statement for a Quaker or perhaps any school.

In the top right hand corner is a portrait of the school's founder Dr John Fothergill, an eminent physician of his day and a botanist of repute. Around his portrait is a motto: "Keep Bright the Chain". Apparently Dr Fothergill gave a silver cream jug to Benjamin Franklin whom he met on his journeys around America. This jug had that motto written on it.

Quakers are often thought to have said goodbye to myth, ritual and symbolism of which the above mottoes are examples. This is not necessarily so as Damaris Parker-Rhodes wrote in 1985 "I find myself set free to discover them (the above) as the very essence of the way I now experience ... Quakers are bridge people. I remain on that bridge, part of my roots reaching back into the Christian past and part stretching forward into the future where new symbols are being born".

Peter Burgess

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

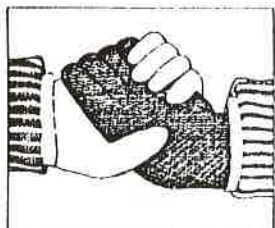
Minister: Rev'd Michael Hayman
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel 654475

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

Services for May

3rd 9.30 am Bernard Engel of Bishops Stortford
10th 9.30 am The Revd. Michael Hayman,
(Holy Communion)
6.30 pm Christian Aid Service led by
The Revd. Roland Rawlings
17th 9.30 am Michael Render of Braughing
24th 9.30 am The Revd. Ronald Rawlings
31st 9.30 am Daphne Cornell of Saffron Walden

In May we support Christian Aid and the needy world and mark the 24th May 1738 when John Wesley "felt his heart strangely warmed" and started a movement that made the Methodist Church.



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

Baptisms

15th March Molly Frances Parker
29th March Lesley Keeling



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 May

3rd 11 am Mrs C Bonner
10th 11 am Mr R Friday
17th 11 am Mr Huband
24th 11 am Rev K Anderson Communion
31st 11 am Mrs C Bonner

Please remember Rev Lydia Rapkin in your prayers as she goes in to hospital for surgery on her back; the second time in six months.

With the departure of Rev M McKay from the Stansted Group we welcome Dr Pamela Cressey, a retired G.P. from Cambridge as our Interim Moderator. She has been appointed by the Cambridge District Council and will chair meetings and guide us through our deliberations over the next few months until a new minister is called.

Congratulations to Mrs Connie Bonner on completing the Lay Preacher's training course and becoming accredited Lay Preacher in the United Reformed Church and all good wishes for the future as she begins training for stipendiary ministry in September at Westminster College, Cambridge.



SHALOM

SHALOM DATES

May 4th Four Quartets
The Dry Salvages (T.S. Eliot)
Venue: Rita and David Morson
Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham.

May 18th Four Quartets
Little Gidding (T.S. Eliot)
Venue: Doreen Richardson
6 Foxley Drive
Bishop's Stortford.

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

As we look forward to Pentecost and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit it may be worth considering how we as Christians together should translate the working of God's will in the world in the way we live each day. Recently the Parochial Church Council has been discussing our attitude to charities. In the past we have all too often considered charity as beginning and ending with the giving of money and gifts to those in need. Although such generosity to those in need is welcome it is passive. We are now seeking where possible to change charity into mission by becoming involved with those whom we hope to help and by such involvement that we may learn from them, for those in material or other need have much to give. Three missions will be launched this year:

1. Support for the secondary school in Nazareth which serves the hard pressed Palestinian Christians.
2. Work with the Stort Valley Education Trust which helps to take the Christian faith and life into our - local schools.
3. To support the poor and homeless of East London through the Whitechapel Mission and St Botolphs at Aldgate.

In each of these areas we want to be with, to build friendships and perhaps to learn from experience why Christ found joy in living with the poor and those cast out from their societies. If you want to be part of one world join us in our efforts.

By the time you read this edition Father Andrew and Ben should have moved into the Rectory and we wish them all happiness in their new home.

Services

On Sundays a said Holy Communion is held at 8 am and a sung Parish Communion at 9.30 am. Evensong is said at 6.30 pm. There is a said Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10 am and a time for prayer at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evening.

Peter Jones



STANSTED FUN RUN

This year the Fun Run will take place on Sunday 5th July at Bentfield Green at 11 am. As usual there will be three charities which will benefit:

Local - Uttlesford Carers
National - The Emmaus Community for the Homeless
International - Amnesty International.

For information about registration please contact Marion Dyer on 814059.

Also, we are in need of help on the day, either to help set up from 8.30 am on the Green or to act as Stewards during the Run. If you are able to help in any way please contact Marion Dyer on the above number.

David Morson
Fun Run Committee



Sixty members from five villages met in the Day Centre on 19th March for our Group Meeting. After hearing the reports of activities in the various villages we were entertained by Miss Woodley who told us some amusing anecdotes about her time in the Land Army where she served for 7½ years. She said that it all began in 1917 when men were serving in the First World War and women had to take over work on the land. The Ministry of Agriculture asked Lady Denham to form the Land Army. This organisation grew and by the outbreak of the Second World War 4,500 girls had been recruited.

At our Coffee Morning on 25th March we made a profit for our funds of £174. Our thanks to all those who supported us, despite the rainy weather.

Our next branch meeting will be Thursday 21st May in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome at 50p.

Pat Clower

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am

Sat 2nd May

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)

Coffee Morning

Hargrave Nursing Home

Cambridge Road

10.00 am - 12 noon

Wed 6th May

Entrance 40p

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

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

2 - 4 pm Monday 11th May

Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

VILLAGE EVENTS

May

2	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside UR Church 10 am - noon
3	Sun	Red Cross Week begins Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
4	Mon	Windmill Open Shalom Group	2 - 6 pm Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
6	Wed	Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors Gardening Club	Hargrave Nursing Home 10 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	St Mary's PTFA Quiz Night	
10	Sun	Christian Aid Week begins National Mills Day	Windmill Open 2 - 6 pm
11	Mon	Carers Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
11	Mon		
	to		
14	Thu	Skip at Crafton Green	
14	Thu	Evening W I	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
16	Sat	Christian Aid Market	Quaker Meeting House 10am
	Sat	May Fair	Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm
17	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8am - noon
18	Mon	Shalom Group	6 Foxley Drive, B.Storford 8 pm
20	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
21	Thu	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
23	Sat	Green Waste Collection	Crafton Green 9 am - 12 noon
24	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
25	Mon	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm

June

1	Mon	Shalom Group	
2	Tue	Carers Information Day	Saffron Walden Town Hall 9.45 am
3	Wed	Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors Gardening Club	Hargrave Nursing Home 10 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
6	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside UR Church 10 am - noon
7	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
13	Sat	RBL Social Evening	Day Centre 7.30 pm
14	Sun	St Mary's PTFA Summer Fayre	

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

MARKET

10.00 am - 12 noon

Saturday 16th May

Quaker Meeting House

Toys, books, bric-a-brac, Traidcraft,
plants, cakes, refreshments

MAY FAIR

2 - 5 pm

Saturday 16th May

Bentfield School

Steam Engine ~ Line Dancing
Crazy Bikes ~ Games Galore
Megga Raffle ~ and lots more!

Stansted Windmill



Open Days

2 - 6 pm

Sunday 3rd May

Monday 4th May

Sunday 10th May

Sunday 24th May

Monday 25th May



Uttersford Carers and Alzheimers Disease Society

CARERS HELP AND INFORMATION DAY

Tuesday 2nd June 9.45 am to 4 pm

Saffron Walden Town Hall

To be opened by Sir Alan Haselhurst at 10 am followed by talks at
hourly intervals on a wide variety of topics of major interest to carers

Information ~ Advice ~ Lunchtime Videos on Caring related issues

For further information please telephone 01371 872519 or 875810

Mountfitchet High School Car Boot Sale

Sunday 17th May

8.00 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments

Tel 01279 813384



STANSTED PROFILE

No.1 John Salmon

The Link is initiating a series of profiles of well-known local residents. We are being assisted in this by the Stansted Reporter whose interviewer is Lucy Crofts. We are grateful for this association with a local newspaper and hope that our readers will enjoy the feature.



Dedicating the past 50 years to the scouting movement has earned one well-known and life-long Stansted resident one of the most prestigious awards in its field.

John Salmon, 58, of Bentfield Green, became a cub in 1948 and has never looked back.

"I was a cub and a scout in the village and loved it. In 1971 I took up the role of District Commissioner which lasted for 17 years before becoming the Assistant County Commissioner for Special Needs.

In 1965 I went to the Agoonex Camp in Chelmsford which was for handicapped scouts. I became involved with them and from then until 1967 I ran the service at the camp. It was there I met my wife Dot".

In February this year John heard he was to be presented with the Silver Wolf medal, given "in recognition of service of the most exceptional character in Essex over many years".

"I had no idea and certainly didn't expect it but it is a real honour". John said.

He was part of the renowned Windsor Parade for all Queen Scouts on April 23rd at Windsor Castle, an event for St George's Day where all award holders are given a special invitation. A salute is given by the organisation to the Royal Family member who attends.

The official presentation of his medal will take place somewhere in Essex later this year and will be an opportunity for all cubs, scouts and leaders to turn out and celebrate his success with him.

John was born and grew up in Bentfield End with his parents Walter and Violet and his two older sisters Dorothy and Margaret.

He has fond memories of his childhood and recalls the coronation celebrations of 1953 when all the children

living in Bentfield End had a party laid on at the Rose and Crown pub.

The celebrations continued with a huge bonfire on Castle Hill and a dance for the whole parish on Mayhews Forecourt, now Continental Cars.

As a youngster he attended the village primary school in Mauuden and later Stansted's St Mary's. His secondary education took place at the Saffron Walden County High School, then the Saffron Walden Technical and Modern, where he stayed until he was 16, leaving to take up a three year apprenticeship as an electrician.

He worked as an electrician with village firm Johnsons, moving in 1960 to Stansted's Bentfield Bury Farms, where he took the job of farm fitter, a career that was to span 38 years.

In 1970 he married Dot in her home town of Harold Wood and after a brief spell in Bishop's Stortford, he returned to Stansted after his employer provided him with a home. The couple, who have a daughter Helen, 19, and a son James, 22, celebrate their 28th wedding anniversary on July 4th, American Independence Day.

In the early seventies, John, along with Link Editor, Derek Honour, was instrumental in setting up the Tortoise Group, a scouting organisation for children with various special needs, including asthma, dyslexia, physical handicaps and those who have suffered through bullying.

Now run by another villager, he still visits when he gets the chance and believes it provides a much needed service for the youth of the village.

Both his own children attended the Mountfitchet High School where John has served as a parent governor and currently as the County Council governor, his position on the board ending in 2001.

Wanting to "make a difference in the village" he joined Stansted Parish Council ten years ago and is now one of the longest serving members.

"The village has changed an awful lot here over the years with shops disappearing and developments going ahead but if I could see just one thing happen it would be the opening of the sports complex which I have been hoping for for ages.

Not one to shy away from hard work, he plans to return to his job very soon.

"I had to give it a rest after a heart attack in October last year but I am looking forward to getting back into it". With his retirement at 65 John is not quite sure how he will occupy his time. He will also be expected to give up scouting but he is keen to carry on representing the village on the parish council.

"I'll have to see what comes along, but I am sure I will find enough to do to fill my time".

Lucy Crofts, Stansted Reporter



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A short burst of the Blaze Away March played by the Edison Concert Band commenced "The History of Gramophones" at our April meeting. Richard Lewin talked about and demonstrated early recording machines, even to the extent of shouting "Mary had a little lamb" into a horn (as Edison did for his first recording) and playing the result back to us on a wax cylinder. Surprisingly, ideas for CD's were patented in the 1890's by Edison and Bell, but using gas jets not lasers.

Please note that our meeting at 8 pm on Thursday 7th May will take place in the **Friends Meeting House**. After the AGM we will hear about Joseph Green's Stansted and details of our outing on Sunday 28th June to Castle Hedingham.

Peggy Honour



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

April Meeting

This month our meeting was in two parts, our AGM followed by a quiz.

David Williams, Chairman, opened the meeting with a review of our activities for the past year. The club enjoyed a successful year apart from the necessary cancellation of one of our shows due to the funeral of Princess Diana.

Election of officers and committee.

Chairman	David Williams
Treasurer	Sheila Bowles
Vice Chairman	Janet Townsend
Minute Secretary	Margaret Loynds
Show Secretary	Derek Francis
Speakers Secretary	Sally Drew

The following members were elected to the committee: Paul Embleton, Gordon Fuller, Meg Monaghan, Cyril Stonham and Wilf Wood. Special thanks were recorded to those members retiring from their positions at the AGM, namely, Ros Fuller, Janet Townsend and Paul Embleton.

The Quiz arranged by Sally Drew was won by Margaret Loynds' team. The year long members competition was won this year by Mr Adamson.



Spring Show

Our show was held at the United Reformed Church Hall on Saturday 4th April. The club was pleased that despite some odd weather conditions we were able to mount an impressive display made up of a large number of entries in most classes. The Grand National was a counter attraction but we still had a good flow of visitors throughout the afternoon.

Principal Awards:

Committee Shield (most points in show)
Oldfield Shield (highest points in flowers)
Maud Banks Tankard (highest points in vegetables)
Prentice Daffodil Cup (best daffodil exhibit)
Daffodil Society Medal (most points in daffodils) - all of the foregoing were won by Gordon Fuller.
Humphrey Vase (best entry in floral art) was won by Margaret Loynds.

Our Autumn Show is schedule for September 5th.

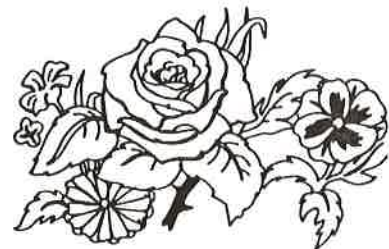


May Meeting

On Wednesday May 6th we have Sue Buckingham who will speak on Countryside Flowers. As usual at the Day Centre at 8 pm. All Welcome.

WATCH THIS SPACE for details of our exciting range of topics to be covered by our expert speakers. Among the subjects we are covering are Plants from Russia. Making a Garden, Garden Planning, Management, plus speakers from three specialist nurseries.

Visitors are welcome at all of our meetings. Give us a try.



Stansted Tennis Club



Club Tournament - A notice is now up in the clubhouse for this year's Club Tournament so please put your name down before the end of May if you would like to enter.

Boyd Tournament - This popular doubles event will take place on Sunday 31st May. Please put your name down on the Club noticeboard if you wish to enter.

Coaching - If you are interested in tennis coaching please contact either Chris Hollis, 466973, or Norman Elson on 850057.

From 15th April Wednesday Evening Club Sessions begin for adult members. People usually start playing from 5 pm.

Please remember that subscriptions should be paid by 31st May.

For any other information about Stansted Tennis Club please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073, Richard Mott (Secretary on 466348 or Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on 813053.



Recipe of the Month Pork Spare Ribs

Pork spare ribs/small chops/filletts/small pieces of fillet

1 small onion

4oz / 115gm mushrooms

14oz / 395gm tin tomatoes

1 tablespoon rice

1½ tablespoons soft brown sugar

1 tablespoon Worcester sauce

2 tablespoons vinegar

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon dried mustard

¼ pt / 142 ml water

Pinch cayenne pepper

- (a) chop onions and mushrooms
- (b) brown meat in frying pan
- (c) put meat into casserole dish
- (d) mix together all other ingredients
- (e) pour over the meat
- (f) cover casserole
- (g) cook for approx 2 hours on 180°C (350°F)
- (h) serve with boiled rice and vegetables

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Office Hours

10 am - 1 pm

Monday - Friday



Council Offices

Crafton Green

Chapel Hill

Tel 813214

Surplus to our requirements, the Parish Council has an **electric Gestetner duplicator** needing a new home. If anybody is interested please ring the Clerk.

Skip Dates

Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th June

Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd July.

Village Clean Up

The Council would like to thank the stalwart members of the community who braved the elements and helped at the Village Clean up on Saturday 4th April. A lot of rubbish was collected!

Stansted in Bloom Competition

We are still happy to accept entries to the three competitions being run for Stansted in Bloom - application forms available from the Clerk. The categories are: Best frontage, Best hanging basket and Best front garden.

Art and Craft Market

The organising committee for the annual Stansted Art and Craft Market have announced that this year's event will be the most ambitious for years with a number of significant improvements and additional attractions.

The event will be held over the weekend of October 31st and November 1st at the Centre for Community Education in Lower Street and the committee are currently reviewing arrangements to generate wider publicity and attract a broader attendance from the local community.

For the first time the annual market, one of the village's biggest fundraising events, will include craft demonstrations offering villagers the chance to try their hand at traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. The enthusiastic new committee intend to retain the original concept of a local market for fresh and original talented artists within a historic setting run entirely for the benefit of the parish.

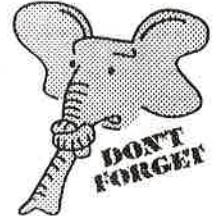
Anyone interested in helping with the organisation or wishing to participate by becoming a stall holder or exhibiting artwork should contact Rachel Mortishire-Smith on 816837.

Philip Duly

The Forgetful Elephant

It is said that elephants never forget. Well, perhaps most of them have good memories but not all; Alfie for instance. He was just about the most forgetful baby elephant there could possibly be.

Every day his Mummy would take him down to the river to bathe, and every day she would have to show him once again how to squirt water all over himself, as he could not remember how to do it from one day to the next. Most elephants are good swimmers, but Alfie could not get it right, no matter how often his Mummy showed him. He would learn how to move his front legs in the water and while he was doing that he would forget all about his back legs, and if his Mummy had not been close by with her big strong trunk to lift him up, he would have sunk many times. The only thing he remembered to do without being told was to eat. He would eat and eat with the result that he was getting rather fat.



One day he noticed some delicious looking leaves a little way from where the herd of elephants was feeding. He wandered over to taste them. Then he saw some more leaves further on, so he went to try those, and so on, until the other elephants were all out of sight. It was quite a while before he realised this, but at first he did not worry. 'They will come and find me soon' he said to himself, and being so full of food that he could not walk any further, he lay down and went to sleep. When he woke up.....

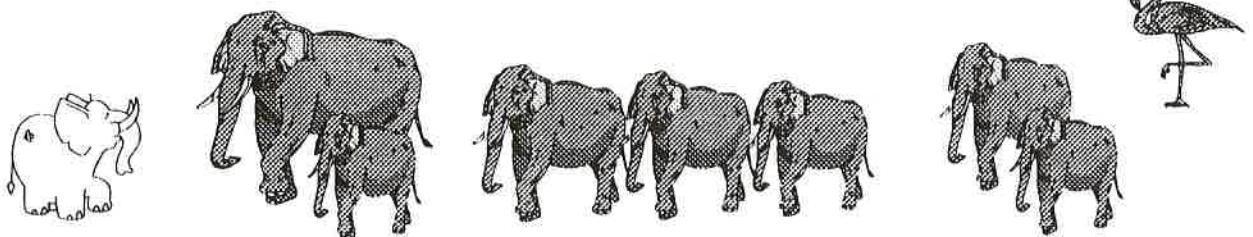
He decided to go back the way he had come, but which way was that? He shut his eyes, turned round a few times, and when he opened them again, trotted dizzily along the path which was in front of him. He walked for a long time, not forgetting to eat on the way, and was just beginning to feel tired again when he came to the river. He did not recognise this part of it, and was sure it was not where he used to go swimming. He saw a stately looking bird with pink legs standing nearby.



"How do you do", said the bird, 'let me introduce myself; my name is Francis Flamingo'. "How do you do", stammered the little elephant, "I'm sorry I can't introduce myself because I can't remember my name". "Tut, tut, how unfortunate", said Francis, "do you know where you come from?" "No", wailed Alfie, "I'm so unhappy, please help me find my Mummy",

"There is a herd of elephants further downstream", said the flamingo. "If you would care to follow me, I will lead you to them and we can then find out whether your Mummy is among them". "Thank you very much Sir", said Alfie, and followed the flamingo, who flew ahead of him along the river bank. They soon came to a bend in the river. As you know, birds do not have to bother about such things, and Francis flew straight across. Alfie was not looking where he was putting his feet because he was so busy watching Francis up in the air, so before he could stop himself, he had fallen right in the water.

It was a terrible shock for the elephant, but, do you know, without even thinking about it, he started to swim, and for a moment he forgot he was lost, and actually enjoyed his dip in the water. He squealed with delight and shouted "Look, look, I have remembered how to swim; won't Mummy be proud of her Alfie! Oh! I have remembered my name as well!!"



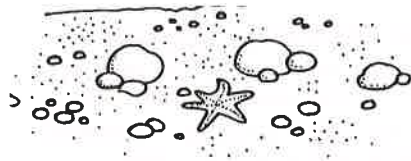
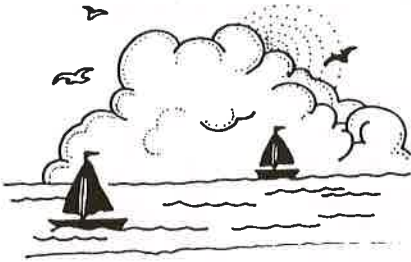
Francis settled down on the river bank and thought what a fuss the silly little elephant made. The other elephants, hearing the noise Alfie was making, came to find out what was happening. His Mummy was delighted to see him, and after that adventure, Alfie's memory was never so bad again.

STANSTED'S OWN POET

Nora Turner of Bentfield End had until 1991 concealed her poetic abilities from all but her close acquaintances. She was 'discovered' by Dr Penelope Gough and made Feature Poet in an issue of the international poetry magazine Orbis. The Editor was impressed by an original use of language and amazed that she had received no formal education after leaving school at 14. The Link is pleased to publish one of her works and to offer belated congratulations.

BEACHCOMBING

And there will be lilies, you say
and roses, and light on the harbour
over the bay.
And shall we walk by the sand dunes
this night by the starlight
and search for our seashell of yesterday?
A breeze worries and weaves
the sea nibbles lazily,
there's a sound in the sand
mouse-ear small and full of
tracery; lacy foam
spilling white frills at our feet,
let us return without plunder,
keep only the splendour of yesterday,
let us leave the fun and the laughter
the sand-heat, the sun-shore,
and quietly mull and fold the stars away.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The April meeting was well attended despite the adverse weather conditions. Mrs J Fuller, as acting President, opened the meeting. Two new members were welcomed. Three of our members were congratulated on their poster which has been displayed in the Library and is well worth taking a look at.

This month the draw took place for bursaries to attend the W.I. Denman College for a short course and the winners were Mrs K Johnson and Mrs L Gurr.

Mrs S Witchall gave a very informative and interesting talk with slides on the traditions and history of weddings, most of which were originally pagan fertility rituals. We here that in the 18th Century a child as young as 7 years old could be betrothed and would probably marry at the age of 12. Honeymoons originated in the 1920-30's. Engagement rings are usually diamonds named 'the fire of love'. Wedding dresses were mostly coloured until the 19th Century saw a change to the traditional white dress. Queen Victoria wore a cream and white silk dress with deep Honiton lace. Her wedding cake weighed over 300 lb and was 1 yard across with models of Victoria, Albert and Britannia on the top.

During the interval we were entertained by a display of "weekenders" clothes which several of our members modelled very successfully. After this we will all be well set up to spend a weekend away!

The raffle was drawn and the competition, a wedding souvenir, was judged. These were very interesting ranging from small mementoes and an original receipt, to a coronet and beautiful embroidery.

This was a very full and interesting evening and we look forward to our Spring Group Meeting which is on 23rd April.

Sheila Clark

SUMMER OUTING

Something a bit different this time. We have arranged a "Constable Country" tour with our own guide. It will be on Saturday July 18th, leaving Crafton Green in Stansted at 9.15 am and arriving back at approximately 6.00 pm. The cost is £12 per person plus £2 if you want tea at Flatford Mill Field Study Centre. There will be stops for coffee and lunch which you can buy or you are welcome to bring your own picnic.

Places are limited (anyone can come) so get in touch with me as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

See the board in the Library foyer to find out about all the other interesting things your local W.I. is doing - in fact, why not join?

Pearl Wellings



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

In addition to the normal openings, May sees an extra opening for National Mills Day (May 10th). We are having a **Quiz Walk**, starting from the mill and going round the village, based on the mill and things to be seen in Stansted. Contact below for information or turn up on the day, from 2 pm. We normally see some visitors from further away and we will have a video display and tea for visitors on that day and those returning from the quiz. Everyone is very welcome.

For those interested in helping on open days, getting involved with work on the mill, or anyone who would like further information, please contact Steve Clements Tel. 816514. See Village Events for other open days.



We are holding an open Social Evening at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Stansted, on Saturday 13th June, 7.30 for 8 pm. The speaker will be retired Police Inspector, John Emmerick, who has titled his talk "Police and the Medics, Fact and Fiction". Fish and Chip Supper £4.00. It should be a hilarious evening.

Everyone welcome. Tickets from Bob Stoddart, 38 Sunnyside, 814015, or John Segar, 813289.



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The children finished off the spring term by performing a selection of songs for their parents. The Easter theme was made complete by hot cross buns and coffee being served and a raffle was held too. After the concert the Easter Egg hunt began. The children searched outside for the chocolate egg that had their name on it.

There had been other Easter activities too. The children made their own hot cross buns. They also made some delicious chocolate birds nests and they painted hard boiled eggs. Each child took home a hand-made Easter bunny card for their parents. There was a group effort to decorate a branched piece of tree with paper Easter eggs. It looked rather good when it was finished.

During the spring half term each child had been given a sponsored alphabet square sheet. They had to do a drawing or find a picture or item that they could stick into the alphabet square. They had to match the letter in the alphabet square with the first letter of the word for the item. This raised money to buy a personal cassette player which the children could use during free playtime. The Book Fair also raised money which was used to buy some new books for the library.

The relaunch of the Rainbow Tots Group went very well. The session has been structured so as to provide a carpeted play area with play mats, activity arches and toys for the young babies and a home corner and selection of table activities which include a rotation of gluing, painting or playdough and a rotation of water or sand activities or sticklebricks on a weekly basis for the older pre-school children. The session also includes a story and song time and, weather permitting, a time to play outside on bikes and push around toys. There is also a slide and toddler books on offer. It is the aim of the new Rainbow Tots Group to provide an entertaining and fun session for all the young members of the family, that is babies, toddlers and pre-school children too.

Finally, the pre-school had a very favourable Ofsted report. We were very pleased and we plan to publish the report for prospective parents and parents of the children who already attend.

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

Rainbow Pre-School Leader - Ann Conroy (812457)

In view of present concern being shown in the willow tree at The Fountain, readers may be interested in these pictures taken some ten, fifty and ninety years ago.

1909

This postcard picture shows the mile post in its original position, elegant gas lighting and an earlier and more passive form of pedestrian traffic. The ventilator pipe must have seemed intrusive at that time. The trees precede those pictured in 1949.

Postcard from David Martin's Stansted Collection



1949

A "quiet" scene with two red chestnuts, a traditional signpost and, most noticeable, undamaged railings.

Postcard by Peter Brown

1989

Not dissimilar to today apart from the unused Enormity which now forms the backdrop

Photograph by Peter Brown





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