

Nov 98

The LINK



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Two important events to remember in November ...

VILLAGE FIREWORKS

Saturday 7th November

at the
MOUNTFITCHET HIGH
SCHOOL

Gates open 6.30 pm

Admission:

Adults £2.50

Children £1.00

Hot Dogs ~ Drinks

Proceeds to village charities

8th November

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

WREATH LAYING
in the
MEMORIAL GARDEN
10.45 am

Service in St John's Church
at 11 am
led by Revd. David Cornick

Principal of Westminster College
Cambridge

*Their sacrifice shall
not be in vain*

The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

Advertising and other enquiries to Sheila Parry 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel 814788

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
12th November for publication on 29th November
7th December for publication on 3rd January
(please note early date)**



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

R.A.P.

R.A.P. is starting its 6th year and we are pleased to say that at the end of October a further £200 will be sent to our three charities. The total sum that you have so generously donated in the past five years is £6,000, which means that all of our charities - The Red Cross, Oxfam and Save the Children Fund - have received £2,000 each. Thank you for your support and we look forward to R.A.P. being able to continue to support our charities.

New contributors are welcomed. For further information please contact Mr Dave Morson, telephone number 850 209.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED PRESENT:

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

A concert of congregational carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry will be held in St Mary's Church, Stansted on Saturday 19th December at 4 pm. Admission will be free.

Car parking at St Mary's is limited, additional car parking will be available at the Mountfitchet High School

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Jubilee 2000

Many of you will have heard of Jubilee 2000 and may have signed a petition, because the campaign is supported by many organisations. The aim is to persuade governments and banks to cancel the debt of the poorest countries in the world. At the G8 summit of world leaders in Birmingham this year a 70,000-strong chain of people, as well as the petitions, ensured that debt was on the agenda, but the leaders failed to respond with any action. The campaign is now looking to the 1999 G8 summit in Cologne for a more positive outcome.

Why cancel the debt? Countries are unable to pay for health and education because they are repaying debt, e.g. Mozambique spends more than six times its health budget on debt repayment.

Why did these countries get into debt in the first place? In the 1970's foreign banks and governments were very keen to lend money to developing countries. Interest rates were low and many poor countries took advantage of the loans to finance their spending plans. In the 1980's interest rates rose world-wide and the debtor countries had to pay up to four times as much in interest payments. The original debt has been paid many times over, but they still owe money. At the same time the value of the cash crops and raw materials that poor countries had to sell to finance the debt, fell dramatically. The cost of imported manufactured goods rose. So it became more and more difficult to finance the debt. This is why Jubilee 2000 wants the debt cancelled, so that these countries can move forward and spend money on health and education.

Will the money be spent in this way? Undoubtedly in the past some corrupt governments have squandered money obtained from loans on prestige projects that have been of no benefit to the vast majority of the population. Any debt cancellation would have to impose conditions on how countries spend their money.

This is just a brief simplified summary of Third World debt. Of course it will be difficult and complicated for governments and banks to work out solutions, but where there is a will a way can usually be found.

If you wish to sign a petition or wear one of the chain badges (costing £1 and in gold, silver or bronze colour) to show your support for this campaign, or to find out more, please contact me.

SUPERMARKET CAMPAIGN

You will remember that last year we collected supermarket till receipts in the churches and sent them to the three main supermarkets in this area asking questions about their trading policy with third world suppliers. This nationwide campaign is about to achieve a great break-through. It seems that the supermarkets are about to get together formally with other businesses and major chains and governments to establish codes of conduct ensuring better conditions for suppliers around the world. We pray that this happens soon and that the outcome is the one we are hoping for.

UPDATE ON CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

I reported in the July Link that this year's collection had broken all records and in fact just over £1,800 was collected during Christian Aid week, for which I once again thank all who contributed money and time.

Catherine Dean
813579

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

FINAL TABOO OR ULTIMATE ANSWER?

When one's understanding of 'reality' is limited to a one-dimensional material world, being confronted with death can be scarcely anything other than an unmitigated disaster. Death becomes the final taboo and the thing that many people will not let you mention never mind discuss.

And, yet, other people view 'reality' in a different way. For them death is seen as a gateway to another life; another world. There, there is the prospect of a deeper relationship with God and with so many friends 'on the other side'. The month of November, sometimes referred to as the month of the Holy Souls, is a time to remember again those who have gone before us. It is also a time to reflect on how in mystery we begin life and in mystery we end it. Birth and death are full of wonder and awe and possible revelation;

In the 1960's the Catholic Church held a Council in the Vatican in Rome. It expressed its view about 'reality' in this way: "That the earthly and the heavenly cities, or worlds, exist simultaneously, and intermingle, is a fact recognisable only by Faith". When we celebrated the feast of St Therese of Lisieux on 1st October I was reminded again about her view of 'reality'. Shortly before her death from tuberculosis at the early age of 24 years, her Sisters in the Convent told her that she was dying. Therese replied: "I am not dying; I am entering eternal life".

In general terms I find the perception and faith of this young woman helpful in all kinds of ways. Her conclusions about life were not reached by great intellectual feats but, rather, by an imagination and an inner perception which was truly spiritual. Somewhat naively it has been called her 'little way'!

Fr Joe White

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 November

1st 11am Group Service
Speaker Amanda Walker for Charity
"Grandmas"
8th 10.30am Remembrance Day Service at St John's
Church. Rev David Cornick
Principal Westminster College
Cambridge
15th 11am Mr D Salisbury
22nd 11am Rev L Rapkin Communion
29th 11am Mr Malcolm Fyfe

Please support our Annual Bazaar on November 7th in the Lecture Hall at 10 am which will incorporate our monthly cake stall. As well as the cake stall there will be plants, gifts, household and white elephant stalls, raffle and, of course, a cup of coffee.

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: Rev'd John Graham
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel 654475

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

Services and Preachers for November

Sundays at 9.30 am

1st Doug Coulton
8th No Methodist Service
15th Don McGregor
22nd Rev John Graham Holy Communion
29th John Banks

On 8th November we shall be joining in the Remembrance Day Service, meeting at 10.50 am in the Memorial Gardens.

Church of England

St John the Evangelist, St John's Road

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory, St John's Road
Stansted
Tel 812203
email andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

Benefice Office:- Tel. 815243

At a recent Shalom meeting the group considered the wonderful evolution of our world and the brief span of time in which Man has emerged. 44 billion years condensed into 44 minutes! It was inevitable that thoughts turned to the cosmos, its immensity and its significance. We then become aware that there is a strange paradox. Our present knowledge is immeasurably greater than was the case one or two millennia ago; we now have an idea of the spans of time in which the distant galaxies were (and still are being) created; we have some understanding of the physics and chemistry of the universe; we are able to make some calculations of the forces involved and we have a better concept of infinity. Above all we know that among the provable formulae which govern creation there are other controlling factors of which we know next to nothing and which seem to operate randomly at the behest of the Creator.

Yet with this massive extension to our vision we seem in our corporate worship to be less awesome than our forefathers and give less space to the sheer majesty of God. We do devote time to God's love, to interpreting the scriptures and to our commitment to our fellow beings. All of which is so right. But are we so conditioned by our hi-tech environment and general affluence that we are becoming less wonder-full, less awe-inspired and increasingly handicapped by an inadequate appreciation of the first chapter of St John's Gospel? With a sense of Mystery we can be so much richer.

In domestic mode we must express our thanks to Sid Stringer for his attention to the vestry lighting and, more importantly, for fixing the external lamps which had suffered from water on the wires. Sid has been a good friend of St John's for many years. Another thank you is overdue for the flower ladies who unfailingly and uncomplainingly make the church so attractive week by week. Their Harvest efforts were a particular triumph.

Our declining finances received a timely boost from the recent Quiz which raised £700. It was good to have a social occasion in a full hall again. The next semi-social event is the Christmas Market when we hope to again host a good crowd. See you there.

Services in November are:

Sundays

8 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evening Service

Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Prayers

On November 1st Eucharist for All Souls at 6.30 pm

On November 8th Remembrance Service at

11 am

Derek Honour



Join us
for a

CHRISTINGLE
CELEBRATION

at

St John's Church

on

Sunday December 13th

at

3pm



SHALOM

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 2 | Speaker from Community Church, 4 Greenfields |
| November 16 | Pat Kearns on the Beatitudes 4 Greenfields |
| November 30 | Fr. Jim Brand - Advent Meditation 7 Blythwood Gardens |

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

A few years ago when I first saw some of the panels of the Quaker Tapestry (all 75 panels are now on permanent display in Kendal) the one that caught my eye had beautiful golden cupolas embroidered on part of it. I discovered it was a tribute to Daniel Wheeler who, in 1814, was asked by Czar Alexander I of Russia to advise on the drainage of 100,000 acres of marsh and swamp round St Petersburg.

All this was brought back into my mind when reading Ruth Rawlinson's article in the October Link, and I found it intriguing to think that these Russian waterways, travelled now by many nationalities, should have been planned and executed by a group of English miners, farmers and engineers led by Daniel Wheeler. He was there until 1832 and formed a Christian (predominantly Quaker) community there. When he returned to England he decided to take the gospel to the Pacific islands, New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land. This endeavour is depicted on the panel by a very small sailing ship surrounded by very large whales - that according to legend protected the ship as it rounded Cape Horn.

Even in those days, it seems, missionaries worked at their trades as well as carrying the Christian message and certainly 'lived adventurously' as we are all advised to do.

Katherine Hurford



WHY HAVE PLAYSCHOOLS?

When asked the question "What do children need?" many people would think of shelter, a balanced diet and clothing, that is the basic physical necessities which sustain life. For most of us these are easily attainable for our children. However, there have been many studies to show that children equally have a need to feel loved, secure, valued and to have a degree of control in their life, that is, they have emotional needs too. Studies have also shown that children have a need for a learning environment, that is, they have a mental need, in order to develop to their full potential.

So how can providing opportunities to play be a way to provide for some of these needs? It may seem that child is playing just to pass time. Whilst this may be partly true, if we look closely at what they are doing we will understand more clearly how playing can provide for some of these

needs and we can see how we can assist children in their play.

What are children actually doing when they play? In play children EXPLORE CHARACTERS, ROLES AND SITUATIONS, they EXPERIMENT WITH IDEAS AND MATERIALS, they INVESTIGATE THE WORLD AROUND THEM, they INTERACT WITH OTHERS, they COMMUNICATE and USE THEIR IMAGINATION. THESE ARE ALL MENTALLY CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES, that can FURTHER DEVELOPMENT and ALLOW PROGRESSION.

How can play link in with emotional needs? During play the children can direct the activity themselves and so they FEEL MORE IN CONTROL. They are usually involved in setting the standard themselves, so the LEARNING IS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. They are only experimenting and if it 'goes wrong' they know it is not real life, so they FEEL SAFE IN THEIR LEARNING. They can explore self-expression and roles and investigate how they fit into the world, so they KNOW MORE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

How can we as workers and parents help them in their learning through play? We must think of safety first, that is ensure that we PROVIDE SAFE AND SUITABLE TOYS for their age range. We also have to think of ADEQUATE SUPERVISION, especially with sand and water play and the physical activities. Provide a RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, materials such as playdough, water and sand play are excellent in allowing the children to explore their senses and investigate the physical properties of the substances as well as providing great scope for their imagination.

Dressing-up clothes (obtained cheaply from jumble sales) and other role play props and equipment allow the children to explore roles and situations, as well as providing opportunities for social interaction. Singing songs and reading stories increase vocabulary as well as introducing new concepts as well. Playing can be extended to introducing numbers in a fun and real-life way, spotting numbers on front doors, looking at numbers on the telephone and on clocks, counting the number of eggs going into the cake. The same can apply for letters, looking at letters and words on the shopping list and on packaging and playing 'I spy'.

In short, the adult can help the child in their playing by providing a RANGE OF ACTIVITIES which are both safe and suitable, KNOWING THE STAGE OF THE CHILD, so to present activities that allow for progression, ASKING APPROPRIATE QUESTIONS, EXPLAINING WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE CHILD'S WORLD OF FUN AND IMAGINATION to steer and be an active participant in their learning.

When children are playing they are learning about themselves and other people and the world around them. The manner in which they are learning is fun; it is also directed by them, and so they have a feeling of control; it is also meaningful to them and therefore it is likely to be more memorable and they can repeat it feeling safe, knowing it is not real life.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The millers, having completed the public opening season of stewarding and windmill events, are now turning their attention to the Bonfire and Fireworks. Together with the scouts, ATC and St Mary's FPTA this event raised money for the organisations involved and for the village playground equipment last year and we hope for good weather and an even more successful event this year.

If you did not visit the mill this year we have continued to make additions to the range of unique souvenirs of the mill. Many of them make good presents for sending to friends and family, so if you have started thinking about Christmas you should make a note that we will be having a **Christmas Stall in Lower Street** in December. The sale of goods will be outside Savages (opposite the butchers) on the morning of **5th December from 9.30am**.

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.

(No more public openings until next year).



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Education for Parenthood

We had a great summer, despite the weather, with lots of outings to various parks, Hatfield Forest, lunches in child-friendly pubs, a paddling pool party, visits to Rascals and Playbarn, cream teas and messy morning. The latter was full of all those things that kids love best, like finger painting, digging in sand and soil, water play, gluing on a grand scale and play-dough.

The Nearly New Sale went well, with lots of people getting excellent baby equipment, toys, books, videos and clothes at very modest prices. If you have any good quality items to sell look out for details of our next sale.

We have a full programme leading up to Christmas for children and parents alike: a bike ride for pre-schoolers in Hatfield Forest, ride on toys for toddlers (bring your shin pads!), a Christmas party which will be full of activities, fun, food and, of course, a visit from Santa himself. Not content with that, the children have another opportunity to see Santa on the Santa Express at Audley End, while the parents can fend off the cold with sherry and mince pies. Parents are invited to a cookery demo, a girl's night out at Pizza Hut (sorry dads - your turn to baby-sit) and Christmas Dinner at a good village pub.

The coffee mornings are well attended at the moment, with quite a few new faces. Now that we have moved the pre-school coffee morning to Friday afternoon we are getting good sized groups. All the coffee mornings/afternoons are open to newcomers and details can be found on any of the village noticeboards or call 850 287 for further details. We also have an **Open House at the Crafton Green Day Centre on Wednesday 18th November**, at which we are having a sale of lovely hand made wooden toys and quality greetings cards.

With all these events organised you can't afford to miss out if you have young children, so do call our membership secretary on 850 287.

Wendy Train

Aisle Attire

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Worn once. Immaculate and Affordable.

Approximately 50% off new prices

Tel 01279 814073 *(By appointment only)*

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Bonfire & Fireworks

Mountfitchet High School
Saturday 7th November



6.30 pm Bonfire 7.30 pm Fireworks

Admission - adults £2.50
concessions and 5 - 14 yrs £1

Refreshments



ANNUAL BAZAAR

10 am Sat 7th Nov
URC Hall

Numerous stalls ~ Plants
Gifts ~ Cake stall
Refreshments

Admission free

St John's Church Christmas Market

10 am - 1 pm Sat 14 Nov
Gifts ~ Books ~ Plants
Tombola ~ Cakes ~ Toys
Refreshments **and**

FATHER CHRISTMAS



VILLAGE EVENTS

November

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 1 Sun | Art & Craft Market | Youth Centre 10.30 am - 4.30 pm |
| 2 Mon | Shalom Group | 4 Greenfields 8pm |
| 3 Tue | RBL AGM | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 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 | Conservative Dinner MP's Interview Time | Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm Council Offices 7 pm |
| 7 Sat | Green Waste Collection Annual Bazaar Junior Tennis Coaching begins | Crafton Green 9 am - noon URC Hall 10 am - noon 9 am |
| 8 Sun | Bonfire & Fireworks Wreath Laying | Mountfitchet School 6.30 pm War Memorial 10.45 am |
| 12 Thu | Evening W I | St John's Hall 7.30 pm |
| 14 Sat | Christmas Market W I Shopping Trip Carnival Quiz | St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm |
| 14 Sat to | | |
| 15 Sun | Skip at Crafton Green | Mountfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm |
| 15 Sun | Craft Fayre | 4 Greenfields 8 pm |
| 16 Mon | Shalom Group | Day Centre |
| 18 Wed | NCT Open Day Mountfitchet Seniors | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm |
| 19 Thu | RBL (Women) Social Evening | Day Centre 7.30 pm |
| 21 Sat | Village Clean Up HEAL Folk Evening | Crafton Green 1.30 - 3.30 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm |
| 22 Sun | Car Boot Sale | Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon |
| 25 Wed | Rainbow Christmas Fayre | Youth & Adult Centre 1 - 3 pm |
| 28 Sat | Quiz Night | Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm |
| 30 Mon | Shalom Group | 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm |

December

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Wed | Gardening Club | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 3 Thu | Local History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 5 Sat | Windmill Goods Sale | Lower Street 9.30 am |

Music Quiz

STANSTED
CARNIVAL

7.30 pm Sat 14th November
St John's Church Hall
Teams of 8
£6 including supper
Please tel 812743



Christmas Shopping in Canterbury

Saturday 14th November
Depart - 8 am Sworders
Deposit £5.50
(shouldn't be any extra)

A great day out - All Welcome
Tel Pearl Wellings 813614
Organised by Stansted Evening W I

Mountfitchet High School



CRAFT FAYRE

Sunday 15th November
10 am to 4 pm

Admission by donation

Hot and Cold Refreshments all day



Mountfitchet High School

Quiz Night

7.30 for 8.00 pm
Sat 28 November
£5.00 (incl supper)

Teams up to 8

Bring your own drink!

For details please tel 813384

Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 22 November

8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day

Refreshments

Tel 01279 813384



Stansted Mountfitchet
Parish Council

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Sat 21st November

Lend a hand and have a laugh whilst
cleaning up a few of our local eyesores.
Old clothes. Please bring gloves.
Crafton Green 1.30 - 3.30 pm

When muck can be FUN!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Following a service at St. John's Church a splendid meal was served by an enthusiastic group of helpers. The evening was suitably rounded off by our old friend the Revd. Chris Bishop whose abilities in song and humour are legendary.



Great interest was generated by the wormery at the Pre-school. The layers of yellow coloured sand and deep brown soil were gradually mixed by the worms into a network of tracks. The trick to encouraging the worms to the edges of the wormery was to cover the sides with tinfoil and to remove this later on, then to have a look before the worms burrowed away again. The wormery fitted in with the term's theme of 'creepy crawlies', now more usually referred to as 'mini beasts'.

As a special occasion the children took part in a harvest festival at St John's Church. The children presented their gifts in baskets of their own making and they watched Auntie Ann and Auntie Sylvia 'fight it out' as the kings of banana land and apple land until they learnt the benefits of sharing thanks to the mediation of Ragni, who was narrating the story. The realness of the play fighting and the making up was quite superb and brought a smile to everyone's faces.

The committee have co-ordinated the purchasing of new kitchen equipment for the home corner with the funds raised last year. This term's main fund raiser was the recent jumble sale.

The Rainbow Messy Play and Rainbow Tots groups held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons respectively have been busy making blue whales in the sea and painting pink pigs at the farm and sticking down stripes on zebras on the African plains amongst other things, as well, of course, as having fun.

Written by Lorna Williams

Ann Conroy Rainbow Pre-School Leader (812457)
Lorna Williams Rainbow Messy Play and Rainbow Tots
Leader (817197)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Peter Brown, assisted by Peter Baker, gave Part 2 of "The Stansted Fire Service" at our October Meeting, illustrated not only by slides but "real" firemen in old and modern uniforms, which added an element of surprise and interest when they arrived. We are grateful to some of our busy Stansted Fire Service personnel for appearing. Peter has amassed a vast amount of information on the subject and no doubt we shall hear Part 3 in due course.

On Thursday 5th November Anne Padfield will tell us about "Farm Buildings in Essex". There is a wealth of such buildings in the county, particularly outstanding being the barns at Temple Crossing, so we are sure to have an interesting evening.

On 3rd December Tony Rook from Hertfordshire will be coming to talk on his County.

Both meetings at 8 pm in the Day Centre. For further information contact Peggy Honour, 813060.

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MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



The High School has become a community centre for top play basketball. It has now installed equipment worth £4,000 to provide two new full-size basketball courts which will be open to people living in the area for 40 hours each week.

The equipment for the new site has been funded by the English Sports Council using Lottery cash as part of a scheme to promote outdoor basketball throughout the country.

The Outdoor Basketball Initiative was launched by the English Basketball Association to give as many young people as possible the chance to learn and play the game. By the year 2000 it is expected that 10,000 goals will have been installed nationwide.

Mr Tim Dunne, Head of Physical Education, said that the new courts are already proving extremely popular with youngsters at school. "The courts could also be used by primary school children" he said. "We would also welcome any local club that wants to use the facility".



Recipe of the Month

Golden Apple Mincemeat

2lb / 900gm dessert apples
Juice of 1 lemon
4oz / 113gm lemon peel
2lb / 900gm sultanas
½ teaspoon mace
1½lb / 680gm sugar
1 teaspoon ratafia or almond essence
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 pint / 568 ml water

- (a) peel, core and dice apples
- (b) shred lemon peel
- (c) grease bottom of preserving pan with butter
- (d) put apples, sultanas & water in pan
- (e) cook gently for 20 mins
- (f) rub spices into sugar & add lemon juice
- (g) boil for 20 mins
- (h) allow to cool
- (i) stir in essence
- (j) turn into small jars & cover



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Ron Usher our speaker for October, told members of the history of Toaist Tai Chi, how it started among monks as a way of protecting themselves from assailants. A very fit looking Mr Usher, who professed to being nearly eighty, showed us the movements of Tai Chi, using our treasurer Susan Holland as an assistant. He went through a movement of how to defend yourself with little apparent effort. He was very pleased to answer the many questions put to him by members, some of whom already go to classes on Tai Chi. After this demonstration I think more will be taking it up.

During business members agreed to use our raffle proceeds to sponsor a cycle ride by a gentleman who is doing it in aid of a charity for deaf children. We will once again lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Our presentation in "Sworders" window had proved a success and all those who had contributed were thanked, especially Mrs Marion Pretty who had come up with the suggestion to promote our W.I. during National W.I. awareness fortnight.

Our future events which members will be taking part in cover a trip to Canterbury for early Christmas shopping on 14th November, an evening at Harlow Playhouse, members attending our County's half yearly council meeting at Thurrock and our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Cock Public House.

Our Christmas Carol Concert is again in the U.R.C. Church on Chapel Hill; we have moved the date back a week to Thursday 17th December. We do hope you will all attend at 8 pm.

A number of members have also agreed to help again with the refreshments at the Art and Craft Market on 31st October/1st November. So once again another busy couple of months for our members, who also help out with other activities in the village.

Our November meeting is entitled a "Stonethrow". This talk will be followed by our Annual General Meeting which is kept to a minimum but never dull.

Brenda Ryan
812725



ENCOURAGING REMINISCENCES

This year has seen the fulfilment of a few minor ambitions. Firstly we completed the 'Thames Walk' which we had started in what turned out to be the hottest week of the year last August. The walk covers a journey of 180 miles and starts in a Cotswold meadow, finishing at the Thames Barrier in the district of New Charlton. This mileage does not take into account the miles you have to walk looking for accommodation, especially during the early part, or for places to have a much needed drink or rest! It was our first attempt at back-packing and provided many new experiences along the way and encouragement.

This spring we returned to Windsor where we had reached last autumn to continue and were again blessed with good weather. As we got nearer to London the number of buildings and bridges increased and we discovered much of 'hidden London' and its history, as well as some fine sculptures along the towpath where so many of the old warehouses are being demolished or converted to make way for large luxurious flats. We found 18th century churches with delicate spires, dwarfed at the moment by huge cranes; 17th century pubs; a former 18th century charity school for boys and girls and walked through the Surrey Docks Farm with its animals roaming free. Alas, when we reached the Thames Barrier on a wonderfully hot sunny Friday there was no one about to take a photograph for us and even the last boat had returned to Tower Bridge! It was quite sad in a way that our mission was accomplished; we have thought of doing it again in reverse.

Another ambition was to re-visit the place where I was evacuated over 50 years ago in Morecambe Bay. It was relatively easy to do so following a week in the Lake District and I was fully prepared to recognise nothing for surely it must have changed out of all recognition. But it had not, and as we drove slowly through I saw the Town Hall, set in large gardens and looking just the same - as a child I thought it looked like a Palace. We parked the car and walked and walked, while I kept finding shops I remembered, the row of boarding houses where we were billeted and even the now re-vamped Scout Hall where my brother and myself went to an improvised school for evacuees. It was sad to discover that the pier, with its penny in the slot machines, had been destroyed by fire some years ago. Gone also was the lovely outdoor swimming pool where the contest for 'Miss Great Britain' used to be held. The station has become a theme pub and the strange 'Art Deco' hotel opposite, used as a hospital for servicemen during the war, still contains much of the original art work and furnishings and has a wonderful view across the bay. On my return my brother and I wallowed in 'do you remember' stories of our time there.

The small village of Marazion lies opposite St Michael's Mount in West Cornwall where I have long wanted to stay and to wake up to see that view across the water and to visit the Mount first thing in the morning before all the other visitors. This August we did just that. One Sunday morning we took the boat going over on a choppy sea and under a grey sky. The hotel receptionist had told us that if we went to the Church Service the Lord would probably give us a personal tour of the Castle. I raised my eyes heaven-ward - 'You mean ...?' I said hesitantly. She looked at me for a moment 'Well, we re special down here, but not that special - Lord St Levan!' The Church Service was very special, attended by about twenty visitors, a few locals and the Lord and Lady St Levan. The present Church was rebuilt in the 14th century on the site of a former Benedictine Abbey and the sense of years of worship was very strong. The Vicar began his sermon with the story of finding a country Church where the words 'The Gateway to Heaven' were inscribed above the porch. Underneath on the large wooden door a notice - 'This door is locked!' The Priory Church on the Mount is always open allowing onlookers even during the Service.

Perhaps during the next 12 months I can find some more small ambitions to add to my collection; but whenever I go away now, after 34 years of living in Stansted, it really does feel like coming home!

Judy Colliver

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Forthcoming Events

Diary dates for the coming month are:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Branch Dinner | Friday 6th November Mountfitchet School 19.30 for 20.00 hours |
| Christmas Drinks | Sunday 29th November at "Savages" 12.00 - 13.30 hours |

Member of Parliament Interviews

Friday 6th November
The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden
17.45 - 18.30 hours
Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, Stansted
19.00 - 19.45 hours.

Your County Councillor is
Richard Wallace (01279) 812471.

STANSTED PROFILE NO. 6

Brenda Scarr is one of Stansted's best known residents and in the village her name has come to be synonymous with the needs of the less fortunate and elderly.

Brenda's school days were spent in Putney until, with the majority of her London generation, she was evacuated in 1939. Reading became her reluctantly-adopted home during the early forties, following which she returned to London and trained as a nurse at Guy's Hospital. It was in 1952 that she took a short-service commission in the RAF and spent several exciting years in Casualty Evacuation. Those were the days of the Malayan and Kenyan Mau Mau emergencies when our forces were still active world-wide. Among Brenda's responsibilities was the care of the wounded on the long flight home. At the conclusion of her commission she trained at the LSE to be a probation officer and spent some 3½ years in this role. By this time she was living in Orpington where she met and, in 1962, married Robin and it was here that Sarah was born.

In 1965 Robin's job moved to Harlow and the family came to Stansted. Jose was born shortly after and for some years Brenda devoted herself to being a mother and building a home. In the early 1970's she re-entered professional work with Social Services in Saffron Walden and served with them for a few years. An important moment came in 1968 when she was persuaded by Mrs Gosling to join the Red Cross. The development of the Red Cross in the Stansted area over the past thirty years owes a great deal to Brenda's sustained efforts. Apart from attendance at outside events the Red Cross team provide nursing back-up and equipment and form a structure to deal with emergencies. She remembers clearly the arrival at Stansted of the Ugandan Asians by Idi Amin and more recently the Albanian and Sierra Leonian refugees. She became Welfare Officer for the Red Cross Branch and then Nursing Officer.

In the late 1970's Brenda was elected to Stansted Parish Council and became one of those who strove long but successfully for the formation of the Day Centre. She became the Centre's first Organiser, a post which in a modified form she still holds under the title of Co-ordinator. It says much for Brenda and her team of helpers that in Uttlesford the Stansted Centre is the only one which operates entirely on a voluntary basis, those at Dunmow and Saffron Walden depending on paid officials for their operation.

The committees on which Brenda has served in recent years are legend - the Essex Council for the Red Cross, Community Health Council, Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service, Uttlesford Community Transport Council and the Uttlesford Volunteers Bureau. When the Revd. Tony Bundock started the Stansted Helpline in 1985 she was a founder member and is still one of the 14 listeners who keep this greatly appreciated service in place. The Toy Library at the Peter Kirk School was

another of Brenda's initiatives and this became coupled with a governorship of that shortly-to-be-lost school. If these contributions to local life make Brenda sound like an Organisation Woman, the truth is to the contrary. She is thought of much more for her warmth and caring and has a healthy disregard for kudos or status. If Brenda has any regrets it is that there is still too little money available for near-essential needs in our community. No-one is in a better position to know.

All Stansted mourned with Brenda, Robin and Jose when in 1986 Sarah tragically died in a car accident. The family are grateful for the years she was with them and Brenda speaks with pride of her work as a speech therapist. Jose is now an electrical engineer in Holland and her home visits are a joy to them both.

Since Robin's retirement, he and Brenda have bought a cottage in the Cotswolds where they can spend richly earned periods of rest and recreation. Most of the year, however, they are both to be seen in Stansted - at the Day Centre, at WEA classes, Liberal Democrat events, St John's Church and at many other places and occasions. Brenda's favourite recreations are the theatre and travel and it is our wish that she can now find more time to enjoy them.

In 1996 Brenda was awarded the MBE for services to the Red Cross. There could be few more fitting tributes than this for one to whom we have all turned whenever a social crisis has arisen.

Derek Honour



Stansted Tennis Club



With the arrival of October we have to start thinking about the Tennis Club Christmas Dinner and this year we have chosen to celebrate at Michael Mann's in Bishop's Stortford on Friday 11th December. So to avoid disappointment if you would like to come along please contact Richard Mott on 466348.

On Sunday 4th October the last Open Tournament of the season was played at the club. The Pearce/Frodo Tournament was won for the second successive year by Matt Whitbread and Jenny Appleby who beat Richard Mott and Kate Rutter in the final.

A strong field of 16 ladies supported the Save the Children Tournament, played on September 23rd. Over £100 was raised on the day for this ever popular event. Kate Rutter and Pat Coombes defeated Jane Beard and Janet Scholes 6-0 in the final. If you are interested in further information regarding Save the Children please contact Jane Beard on 655268.

Chris Hollis will continue his junior coaching sessions throughout the winter months. From 7th November the class for ages 10-13 will be held every Saturday from 9.00 - 9.45 am. This will be followed by the class for ages 7-10 from 9.45 - 10.30 am. If you are interested or would like further information please contact Chris on 466973.

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

BUSES - STOP PRESS

We apologise that in the last issue of Link we stated that the No. 333 bus served the three local hospitals. Shortly before publication the service was withdrawn so that for several weeks Stansted people were deprived of a direct link to these essential destinations.

However, the good news is that the service is to be reinstated in November. Details will doubtless be more generally published but in the meantime please enquire at the Parish Council Offices for times and route details.



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Monday - Friday



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Village Clean-up - Autumn 1998

The Parish Council has arranged another village clean-up for **SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER from 1.30 - 3.30 pm**. The starting point is outside the Council Offices at Crafton Green where black sacks, protective gloves and locations will be issued. Black sacks will then be returned to Crafton Green at about 3.30 pm and all participants will be invited for tea and buns at the Day Centre as reward for their hard work!

Your assistance, for however long, would be very much appreciated.

Skip Dates 1999

Monday 4th - Thursday 7th January
Monday 1st - Thursday 4th February.

(Above dates are subject to confirmation from UDC).



Royal British Legion Women's Section

At our September meeting we were pleased to welcome as our guest Mr Bob Stoddart of the Royal British Legion and also to recruit two new members to the Women's Section.

Our Treasurer listed the donations which we had agreed to make to various Legion charities.

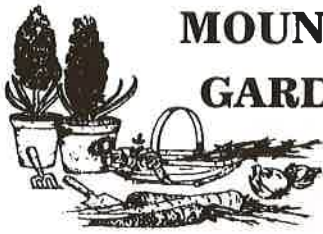
We were told that the "C" Group Royal British Legion Carol Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on 13th December next - congregation to be seated by 6 pm and the service starts at 6.30 pm.

We then held our annual harvest sale with a wide variety of produce ably auctioned by Mrs Jean Fuller resulting in a profit for our funds of £61. Our thanks to everyone.

Our Social Evening will be on Thursday 19th November at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre.

Pat Clower





MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At our meeting on 7th October the speaker was Mrs P Liechti. She told us how when she and her husband were first married they bought a house with a half-an-acre run down garden. With no previous gardening experience she set out to make something of it. With slides of how it progressed we were told of the snags and pitfalls that she found until it developed into the beautiful garden it is today, which is often open to the public.

The monthly competition for the longest runner bean was won by Jean and Gordon Fuller.

The speaker at our meeting on November 4th will be Mr J. Hull talking on Garden Planning for Simple Management.

The monthly competition is a spike of heather.



Huw Johnson Club

Book the date now for our "Grand Christmas Concert". This will take place on Thursday December 10th at the Peter Kirk School. Doors will be open at 7 pm and the performance begins at 7.30 pm. Seasonal refreshments will be obtainable. Our members under the guidance of Ragni are practising hard for this event.

Are there any teenagers willing to come along and help at the Huw Johnson Club? We still have three teenagers working with us but we would like a few thirteen or fourteen year olds to come along and rebuild our team again. If you are thinking of doing the "Duke of Edinburgh Award" this can help you get through part of your test. Please consider this as, like all our teenagers past and present, you will find that not only will you help our members, they will inspire you. If you would like to know more please ring Marion on 812284.

Marion G Johnson



REMEMBRANCE (See also p.1.)

The Flanders Poppy was first described as the "Flower of Remembrance" by Colonel John McCrae, who before the First World War was a well known Professor of Medicine at McGill University, in Montreal.

At the second battle of Ypres in 1915, when in charge of a small first-aid post and during a lull in the action, he wrote, in pencil, on a page torn from his despatch book, the following verses:

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

The verses were sent anonymously to "Punch" magazine and published under the title "In Flanders' Fields".

In January 1918 Colonel McCrae was brought as a stretcher case to one of the big hospitals on the channel coast of France. On the third evening he was wheeled to the balcony of his room to look over the sea towards the cliffs of Dover. The verses were obviously in his mind, for he told the doctor who was in charge of his case:

"Tell them this,
If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep".

The same night Colonel McCrae died. He was interred in a beautiful cemetery on rising ground above Wimereux, from where the cliffs of Dover are easily visible on sunny days.

At 11 am on November 11th, the last shot of the War was fired. For many years afterwards Armistice Day was observed on the 11th November but now it is known as Remembrance Sunday and is held always on the second Sunday in November

An American lady, Miss Moina Michael, had read the poem and was greatly impressed, particularly by the last verse. The wearing of a poppy appeared to her to be the way to keep faith. The first Poppy Day was held in Britain on November 11th 1921.

CRICKET 98

Following our June issue when we showed a photograph of a Stansted Cricket Club team in the late fifties, we now come up to date with a photograph of members of the Junior Team from Stansted Hall Cricket Club.



Back: David Mickelborough (coach). An unnamed Northants player. Paul Taylor. David Capel.
An unnamed Northants player. David Earl. Alan Fordham
Front: Grant Felstead. Dan Wood. Jamie Williams. Neil Bishop. Michael Clayton-Smith.

The photograph was taken on the occasion of a 6-a-side tournament at Bishops Stortford when coaching was given by Northampton County Cricket Club players. Rob Bailey also played for Stansted Hall. The tournament rules required different age groups among the boys. Jamie Williams has played regularly for the Senior side with great success. Neil Bishop took a wicket with his first ball when playing for the Sunday side. David Earl (back row) is Chairman of the Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club which sponsors the Junior players and provides the shirts.

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BABY'S PRAM

Let me remind you about the Bouncer family who live under an old railway station near a small village. Dad, Mr. Benjamin Bouncer, is very good at making things and is hardly ever seen without his tool box. Mum, Mrs. Betty Bouncer, likes cooking and knows how to use things growing in the countryside to serve delicious meals which probably helps make her family so round and bouncy. Billy is the oldest of their children and like his Dad he is good at making things. The next is Bertie who tries hard but somehow mishaps and adventures just happen to him. The twins, Bluebell and Bunty, are younger and do giggle a bit and last of all is the Baby who smiles a lot and hardly ever cries.

Mr. Bouncer found an old doll's pram on the rubbish tip. Most of it was too broken to be of any use but he straightened out the wheels and handle, fixed them to a box, and there was a pram for Baby. Mrs. Bouncer put in a cushion and a blanket and the twins, who loved looking after Baby, were allowed to take her for a little walk.



One day the twins took Baby into the meadow, spread the blanket on the grass and sat there playing "Pat-a-cake" and other games with her. Bertie did not know what to do with himself, everyone else was busy, so he went to the meadow as well to see if his friends the field mice were out to play, but there was no sign of them.

Bertie went over to his sisters and started pushing the pram backwards and forwards. Then he sat in it although he really was too big and his little legs and feet stuck out at the front. But, oh dear, he had moved the pram from the flat part of the meadow to the slope and the pram began to move, faster and faster. Bertie was stuck in it and shouted "Help!". Leaving Bluebell to look after Baby, Bunty bounced after Bertie but he was going much too fast to catch. Near the bottom of the slope



there was an old branch that had fallen from a tree in the hedgerow. The pram hit it and tipped over, shooting Bertie high into the air, then down into a patch of stinging nettles. "Poor Bertie," said Bunty as she collected dock leaves to put on his stings although as Bouncers are a bit furry he was not hurt very badly.

When they all got home and told Mrs. Bouncer about it, she said, "Do you know that young stinging nettles are nice to eat when they are cooked?" Bertie did not think he wanted to try them but Mr. Bouncer, knowing the farmer left that part of the meadow for butterflies and other creatures, put on his gloves and set off to collect some nettles. They had them for supper and Bertie admitted that, "They are not too bad" as he ate up his plateful.

Remember

Mrs Bouncer knows what's good to eat, but not everyone does. So don't eat berries or fruits without asking a grown up first if they are safe. Some can give you a nasty tummy ache!

PAST AND PRESENT

St. John's Road



These two photographs taken some 70 years apart make a good case for the contribution which trees make to our village. Since the later photograph was taken the large willow tree has disappeared and the limes in St. John's churchyard (just out of the picture) have had one of their periodic pollardings, but todays impression is still leafy. Another interesting contrast comes from the advent of electricity. Poles and modern lighting columns are less elegant, but the gas lighting may seem more romantic than effective to our eyes. Did the road flood in those days too?



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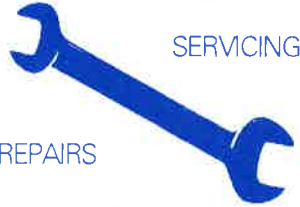
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

OPEN 2.00 - 6.00 pm

1st Sunday in month - April to October

ALSO

Sunday & Monday of Bank Holidays
and every Sunday in August

ADMISSION

Adults 50p accompanied children 25p

PARTIES by appointment

Tel 01279 813160

Featured in

'GOOD NURSERY GUIDE'

**Montessori Day Nursery &
Pre-Preparatory School**

(opposite Airport terminal)

Tel 01279 870898

Accepts children up to 7 years



**Meadow Montessori Day
Nursery, Saffron Walden**

Tel 01799 513858

Accepts children from 2-5 years

Traditional values of Montessori
teaching with structured reading,
language and number.

*Children accepted full or part time
Flexible hours*

**ARE YOU
RETIRED?**



Then a warm welcome
awaits you at the
Stansted Day Centre.



♥ lunches ♠ snacks ♦
social activities



10.00 am
to
4.00 pm



Tuesday, Thursday and Friday



**Come and enjoy the friendly
atmosphere at -**

**Crafton Green - top of Chapel
Hill. Tel. 815091.**



MARTIN WEST ASSOCIATES

*Consulting in
Elocution*

Voice Training

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**Also a Video, Voiceover and
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**43 Chapel Hill, Stansted
CM24 8AD**

Tel/Fax 01279 813514