

Feb 99

The *LINK*



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LENT - A time for thought



Are you wound up about something?

OR

Would like to talk a situation through?



*Then come to Lent House Groups each week
starting on February 23rd*

Tuesdays at 49 Recreation Ground	8 pm
Wednesdays at 5 St John's Lane	2 pm
Fridays at 4 Greenfields	8 pm



Forgiveness for past wrongs

Respect for the earth

Love in our lives

Delight in the good

Peace for all people



All welcome, Christians and non-Christians alike

The Link (price £3 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
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11th March for publication on 28th March



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

LENT 1999

Catching the Dream

This is the title of this year's Lent Course. It is subtitled - A New Start for the Millennium - and looks forward to the "Millennium Moment" at the dawn of the year 2000. The five sessions are based on the Millennium Resolution.

1. Respect for the earth.
2. Peace for all people.
3. Love in our lives.
4. Delight in the good.
5. Forgiveness for past wrongs and a new start.

There will be three house groups, starting 23rd February.

Tuesdays at 8 pm -
49 Recreation Ground, led by Catherine Dean.

Wednesdays at 2 pm -
5 St John's Lane, led by Rev Andrew Spurr.

Fridays at 8 pm -
4 Greenfields, led by David Morson.

All are welcome, Christians and non-Christians alike, at any group.

On Sunday 21st February at 6.30 pm there will be a United Service to commemorate the First Sunday in Lent at the Friends Meeting House.

HELPLINE

Our local village organization continues to provide assistance, mainly transport, for the needy. The telephone bill has just been met, and thanks to the £317.40 raised by the carol-singers it faces the immediate future (and the next bill) with confidence. The Helpline committee is grateful to singers and all who generously gave during the four nights before Christmas.

Candlemas

Candlemas Day is February 2nd. Another name for this day is "The Presentation of Christ in the Temple" or "The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin". It was the day when Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to be presented to God in the temple, and the old man Simeon took the baby in his arms and said the famous words which we now sing or say at every Evensong called the Nunc Dimittis. You can read about it in St Luke, chapter 2, verse 22.

Nowadays remembering the words "A light to lighten the Gentiles" many churches have special services of light at this time. The church is darkened, then one candle, the Priest's Candle, is lit. Other people then come with tapers, take a light from the priest's candle and go and light candles in other parts of the church.

The people often represent different organisations in church and town. Lighting candles in this way is a symbol to show that the light of the Gospel of Christ should be carried out into the world in all that we do.

E.F.T.



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 February

Sundays at 9.30 am

7th	Mr Michael Valentine
14th	Rev John Graham - Holy Communion
21st	Mr Kenneth Mark
28th	Mrs Bettie Kime

On 21st February at 6.30 pm we shall be joining in the United Worship for the first Sunday in Lent at the Friends Meeting House.

Church Fellowship Meeting - Friday 21st February at 8 pm.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

Having just been (in January) working on the joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I have been made aware of the difficulties of producing a form of service acceptable to all denominations. We like to have at least one fairly long period of silence, but we know that not all others are happy with this. In fact it is impossible to plan a service in which all will be perfectly at ease. Either each church can just follow its normal form of service, or there should be an attempt to provide one which incorporates elements of all, and the shortcomings of this accepted because it is a joint service which is bringing members of all churches together in an act of worship.

I have never believed that Christian Unity meant combining as one church with one form of service for all. In Stansted, we show unity in many different ways, especially through the work of Churches Together in Stansted, which produces 'The Link', runs Helpline and RAP (Regular Aid to the Poor), organises Christian Aid collections, and maintains links with other churches and communities in this country and in Belgium. Members of Stansted churches meet regularly in the 'Shalom' group which also has its own activities, including work at the Whitechapel Mission, close contact with the Jewish community in Harlow and is largely responsible for the organisation of the Stansted Fun Run, which raises money for charities.

Margaret Whitelaw



SHALOM

SHALOM - FEBRUARY

Monday 8th - A debate. Venue: Quaker Meeting House.

Weekend 19th-21st - Shalom Retreat, Hengrave Hall.
Leader - Rev Tony Bundock.

Monday 22nd - Speaker from Emmaeus Community.
Venue: 7 Blythwood Gardens.

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 February

7th	11 am	Mrs C Bonner
14th	11 am	Mrs Kendall
21st	11 am	Rev J Benfield
	6.30 pm	CTS at Friends Meeting House for 1st Sunday in Lent
28th	11 am	Rev Lydia Rapkin: Communion

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am

Sat 6th February

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)

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

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is the future, today is called the present because it is a gift from God. When Rev Jackson said this in his sermon a while ago it struck a chord. How many of us live our lives in the future? The present often passes us by. Whatever we are doing now is overshadowed by all the things still left to do and the pressures of modern life crowd in on us.

Often it seems that life has lost its spontaneity - everything must be planned. Seeing friends and family has to be fitted in with work and jobs to be done. Things we've enjoyed doing often become another chore to be completed before

we can move on to the next thing on our list. We complain that time passes quickly, but if we never stop to truly appreciate the present then how can we value it?

When presents are given, the giver hopes that the gift will be enjoyed and cherished; that perhaps the gift will spark thoughts and fond memories of the giver. God has given us a present, we should cherish it and use it wisely. Allow ourselves times to be quiet, times to reflect, times to build friendships, including our friendship with God, the giver of the gift. As with any friendship it will only develop and grow if we spend quality time building it.

I am reminded of the parable of the rich fool who spent his life securing a wealthy future only to die in the night when he was on the brink of achieving his aims. What a pity if we use up God's entire gift planning for and worrying about tomorrow.

Lyn Inston

Services for February

Sundays

8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11 am Family Service (21st February)
6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Prayers

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 in mass

LENT

When Jesus was 30 years old he left Nazareth, but before he began to preach and teach he went away by himself into the desert to be alone with God. For 40 days he fasted and prayed to discover God's purpose for his life. He resisted the temptation to become a popular and successful figure and faced up to a life of hardship that would end in certain death.

In remembrance of those weeks the Christian church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to practise self-denial and a time to think and pray quietly to God and so gain spiritual renewal. This time is called Lent, the word for springtime.

In the Middle Ages everyone fasted during Lent, which meant eating only plain food. As there were no fridges or deep freezers all the food such as butter, eggs, cheese and cream had to be eaten up before the beginning of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, therefore all the fancy foods forbidden in Lent would have to be eaten up, hence Shrove Tuesday - Mardi Gras - pancake day.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and in the Middle Ages sinners would walk barefoot to church to show how sorry they were for their sins. Ashes would be put on their foreheads as a sign of repentance. Gradually, the friends who came with them joined in the service of penitence. The Roman Catholic Church still keeps the feast of Ash Wednesday and ashes are put on the forehead of each member of the congregation to show sorrow for their sins and to remind us that eventually we shall return to dust.

Self-denial alone will not make us holy or persuade God to be pleased with us, but it should remind us not to be selfish and give in to ourselves too often. Today most of us in the western world have plenty to eat the whole year, while others in the third world are always hungry. Lent is a good time to share the plenty we have with others who have very little or who are starving. It should be a time for giving extra and as well as giving money to deserving causes we should look round our own locality, as well as on the other side of world, to offer our help.

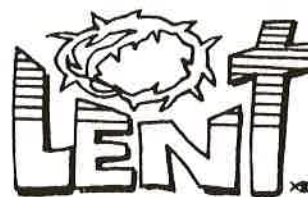
Mary Warnett

Baptisms

15th November Matthew and Zoe Salmon
6th December Dominick Stoddart
10th January Thomas Stenhouse

Funerals

4th December Bob Fuller, aged 69
8th December Etienne Van Driesche, aged 69
23rd December Noel Purcell,
15th January Ken Turner, aged 78





CASTLES & CATHEDRALS

Illustrated talk by Keith Gibbs

7.30 for 8 pm

Tuesday 2nd February

Day Centre

Entrance £2.50. Refreshments

Uttlesford Carers & Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

A discussion of carers' issues over a cup of tea & biscuits

2 - 4 pm Thursday 11th February

Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

VALENTINE DANCE

in aid of Corrymeela

'THE INNOCENTS'

8 pm Sat 13 February

Mountfitchet School

Refreshments - Bar & Raffle

Everyone Welcome

Tickets £5 (under 14s £2.50)

Tel (Eve) 814791 (Day) 306191

February

VILLAGE EVENTS

- 2 Tue HEAL Talk
- 3 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club
- 4 Thu Local History Society
- 6 Sat Cake Stall
- 8 Mon Shalom Debate
- 8 Mon to 11 Thu
- 11 Thu Carers Support Group WI
- 13 Sat Valentine Dance
- 17 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors
- 18 Thu RBL (Women)
- 19 Fri Essex Police 'Rural Policing'
- 20 Sat HEAL Dance
- 20 Sat to 21 Sun
- 22 Mon Shalom Group
- 23 Tue Hearing Help
Lent Housegroups begin
- 26 Fri WI Fashion Show
- 27 Sat Lib Dem European Evening
PTA Quiz Night

- Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
- Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Outside URC 10 am
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- Skip at Crafton Green
- Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
- St John's Hall 7.45 pm
- Mountfitchet School 8 pm
- Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
- Day Centre 7.30 pm
- Day Centre 7.30 pm
- Mountfitchet School 8 pm
- Skip at Crafton Green 10 am - 3.30 pm
- 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
- Day Centre 10 am - noon
- St John's Hall 8 pm
- Ugley Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
- Bentfield School 7.30 for 8 pm

March

- 3 Wed Garden Club
- 5 Fri World Day of Prayer
- 10 Wed Coffee Morning for Meningitis
- 12 Fri MP's Interview Time

- Day Centre 8 pm
- St John's 2 pm
- Day Centre 10.30 am - noon
- Council Offices 5.45 - 6.30 pm



DANCE

to live music of the 40s - 60s by

The Jim Freeman Sound

8 pm Sat 20th February

Mountfitchet School

Licensed Bar

Tickets £10 Tel 813871



Lent Groups

You are warmly invited to join one of the discussion groups meeting each week from 23rd Feb - 19th March

8 pm Tue 49 Recreation Ground

2 pm Wed 5 St John's Lane

8 pm Fri 4 Greenfields

For further details see under Churches Together in Stansted

Bentfield School PTA Ladies Fashion Show

Leading High St brands for sale up to 50% off ~ not seconds

8 pm Thurs 25th March

Tickets £2.50 incl glass wine

Advance booking desirable ~ please tel Michaela 815796 or Mandy 816895

Licensed Bar ~ All Welcome

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'God's Tender Touch'

2 pm Friday 5th March

St John's Church

Speaker Mrs Janet Hollis

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



Stansted Evening WI FASHION SHOW

by ZOOM FASHIONS

8 pm Fri 26th February

St John's Hall

Clothes in sizes 8 - 18

from High Street Stores

Tickets £2.50 incl refreshments

Tel 812470 or 812725

Stansted Evening WI



COFFEE MORNING

10.30 am Wed 10th March

Stansted Day Centre

Raffle ~ Bring & Buy ~ Cakes

Entry 50p incl coffee/tea & biscuits

All proceeds to Meningitis Trust

Bentfield School PTA Quiz Night

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 27th Feb

Licensed Bar

Tickets £5 incl light supper

Please call Michaela on 815796 or Mandy on 816895 to book your team!

All Welcome



Stansted Liberal Democrats EUROPEAN EVENING

with Mike Gutteridge

Dancing - Supper - Bar

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 27th Feb

Ugley Village Hall

Entry £7.50 (by ticket only)

Tel 813080 or 813432

HEARING HELP UTTLESFORD

Due to lack of support on Wednesdays, as from 26th January 1999 the Hearing Help sessions at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Stansted, will be held from 10 am to 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month.

We would like to thank the management of this Centre for allowing us use of the office on this day. We hope that by making this change to a day when the Day Centre is open for normal business more people will attend. Free help and advice is always available to the Hard of Hearing and their families but in particular we hope that National Health hearing aid users will attend for the routine changing of tubes which is desirable about every 6 to 9 months.

Edwin Planterose
01799 522915



St Clare Hospice

All of us at St Clare Hospice would like to thank everyone who has supported our charity in 1998. It would be impossible to mention all the clubs, churches, companies, organisations and individuals who have lent a hand but we are grateful to you all. Without financial assistance and help in kind from local people the Hospice would not be able to continue providing its much-needed services.

We are particularly grateful to the members of our five fund-raising groups based in Dunmow, Epping, Harlow, Loughton and Saffron Walden, for all their hard work raising essential funds. Among their many achievements were some of the recent street collections, ably helped by other Hospice volunteers and staff. The gross results of the collections were as follows:

4th and 5th December	
Outside Waitrose, Buckhurst Hill	£789.69
8th December	
Streets of Saffron Walden	£779.46
11th December	
Outside Sainsbury, Harlow	£551.67
12th December	
Outside Sainsbury, Harlow	£436.58
Harlow Town Centre	£740.35
Streets of Dunmow	£308.72
Streets of Epping	£777.94
Total	<u>£4,384.41</u>

Thank you to everyone who donated or collected. Thanks also to the staff at Waitrose in Buckhurst Hill, Sainsbury in Harlow and Abbey National in Harlow.

Having started building our eight-bed extension this summer we are now well on the way to being able to offer in-patient care by this time next year. To achieve this we will need the continued help of our supporters. Let us all hope for a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Seasonal wishes to you all.

Jo Price
(Fund-raising Organiser)"



Huw Johnson Club

The club members were all saddened by the death of Harold Graves. Harold and June with their daughter Denise were founder members of the Huw Johnson Club. While June was Club Treasurer, the amount of work put into the club by both of them showed great dedication. Harold was always there quietly helping our members and he was a true friend to all our helpers. Over the last five years he has not been well. We have seen him suffering a lot of pain yet he still took an active interest in the club serving on the committee right to the end. Our thoughts and prayers go out to June, Julian and Mandy and the children and, of course, Denise. We will always remember Harold with affection.

We were delighted to receive a cheque from the Peter Kirk School Association of £567.99. Nick Lenton, as one of the last pupils at Peter Kirk School, presented the cheque which will be put to good use as soon as possible. We were very sad to say goodbye to the school especially as so many of our members received their education there in the past. We will certainly miss Martyn who was always on hand to give us advice and encourage all our activities.

Rather belatedly we welcomed in the New Year at our party on January 15th. Father Christmas visited and we all danced the night away to Gary's disco. The food was plentiful and delicious giving us plenty of energy to keep time to the music.

Marion G Johnson



Recipe of the Month

Curried Parsnip & Walnut Soup

- 1oz / 28gm butter
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1lb / 450gm parsnips, peeled & sliced
- 1 teaspoon / 5ml curry powder
- 1 teaspoon / 5ml soft brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons / 45ml chopped walnuts
- 1½ pints / 850ml chicken or vegetable stock
- ¼ pint / 150ml milk
- salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 142ml pot of single cream

1 red apple

- (a) melt butter in large pan
- (b) add onion and parsnips
- (c) stir until vegetables are coated with butter
- (d) cover pan
- (e) stir & cook over gentle heat for 10 mins
- (f) add curry powder, sugar, walnuts, stock, milk & seasoning
- (g) cover and simmer for 15-20 mins until parsnips are tender
- (h) liquidise or purée the mixture
- (i) gently reheat (not boil) soup with cream
- (j) serve garnished with diced apple in lemon juice

Serves 4 - 6

THE PETER KIRK SCHOOL

A Day of Reflection and Celebration

A day of reflection and celebration - the best way to describe Saturday December 5th when pupils, staff, parents and friends of the Peter Kirk School marked the closure of the school finally scheduled for the end of 1998. The day started with an afternoon service at St John's Church attended by over 130 people including Sir Alan Haselhurst M.P., staff from Riding for the Disabled and East Herts Swimming, etc. when the successes of the school were remembered by the Headmaster, Martyn Phillips. The congregation quietly reflected on the school including the recently awarded "Investors in People" and a positive OFSTED Report.

After this the school was opened up to everyone associated with its past and present activities. A memorabilia hall was well frequented and every child present enjoyed an afternoon party of games organised by staff and parents with the cheerful support of Gary and his ever flexible disco. Just before 6 pm an organised fireworks display adjacent to the school's premises meant that the children left their jellies and cakes for a time to see what was a fabulous closing session to the first part of the day, enjoyed by all. In the evening the party continued in full swing with everyone there recounting the wonderful days that the school had celebrated. Parents and staff alike were joining in what, it was determined, would be an evening to remember all the good things achieved rather than to lament on the sad and regrettable decision which finally led to the school's demise.

Paul Embleton, Chairman of the Governors, echoed much of the thoughts of everyone in his speech. He talked movingly of his own experiences as a parent of a past pupil and in common with many other past and present parents praised and acknowledged the headmaster and his staff for all that had been achieved during the lifetime of the school.

Presentations to the headmaster, staff and helpers were then made, each person receiving a gift from past or present pupils. It was an emotional and poignant moment for all concerned.

The evening rounded up with all present enjoying sundry refreshments and continuous dancing to the disco with another spectacular display of fireworks closing the event at 11 o'clock.

Farewell Peter Kirk School. You accomplished much for all your pupils and the people of Stansted who have supported you for so many years. We will miss you but you will not be easily forgotten. This day recalled all the good things that you did and celebrated the regrettably too short a life of a school that helped and inspired special needs children from many different walks of life.

Richard Lenton
Chairman
Peter Kirk School Association



Photographs Revd. Andrew Spurr

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Annual Parish Meeting

This year our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 24th March at 8.00 pm in the Day Centre. We have decided not to have an official speaker but the Council will present to the village "Its Statement of Intent" for the forthcoming year. This will detail the projects that the Council hopes to undertake and the proposals for future projects. Your views on these matters will be invited - it is your main opportunity to come and tell the Council what you think about its work. It is also a forum for raising complaints, criticism or even compliments about any matter in the village that concerns you.

We are hoping to have representatives of the Highways, Planning and Community Services departments present to answer any queries you may have. Please put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are also hoping to have a further attraction at the end of the evening but watch noticeboards and next month's issue for details.

Rural Policing

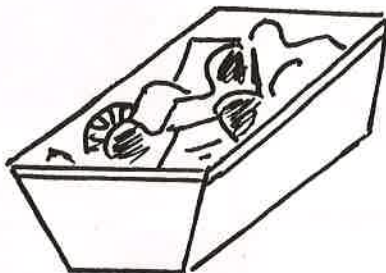
You may be aware that Essex Police have been undertaking a review of rural policing. They have now formulated their proposals, which will be presented for consultation at a public meeting.

This is your opportunity to listen to the details of how our community will be policed and to make comments thereon.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting which will be held in the **Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill** (next to the Library) at 7.30 pm on **Friday, 19th February**. All are welcome.

Skip Dates

Monday 15th - Thursday 18th March
Monday 19th - Thursday 22nd April.



Our speaker for November was unable to attend so members amused themselves with a group quiz organised by Mrs Colliver and Mrs Ryan. We followed this with our Annual General Meeting. Reports were given by our Treasurer, Mrs Holland; her figures show we have a healthy bank balance. Following Mrs Colliver's secretarial report President, Mrs Ryan, thanked her committee and the members for all their help during the past year, so making the meetings very successful.

Our new committee remains the same as last year with one exception. Mrs K Hartnell replaces Mrs Meadows, who is taking a well earned rest. Mrs Ryan was returned as President for the coming year.

With Christmas fast approaching, members were given a demonstration by Mrs Pat Pratley and Mrs Joanna McKee of "Traditional Christmas Decorations". Mrs Pratley also told us of the origins of many of our Christmas customs. Both these ladies belong the Boundry Flow Club in Bishop's Stortford and a number of their arrangements were given for our raffle.

We celebrated the New Year at our January meeting with "Elvis the King". David Padwick gave us an interesting and entertaining insight into the life of Elvis Presley. He accompanied his talk with some of Elvis's songs helped along by members.

Mr Padwick and his wife joined us for a cheese, pate and wine supper served by the committee. During business members were once again reminded of the Fashion Show by Loom Fashions on Friday February 26th in St John's Hall.

We will also be holding a coffee morning in aid of the Meningitis Trust in the Day Centre on Wednesday March 10th at 10.30 am. Entry will be 50p, which includes coffee. There is to be a bring and buy stall and also a cake stall and a raffle. We hope this will be supported by the village.

Our Carol Concert held in the United Reformed Church proved a success with the choir from St Mary's School singing Little Donkey and Away in the Manger. We had a solo from Valerie Trundle who sang What Child is This? and W.I. members gave readings with a seasonal theme. Mrs Rosemary Minshull was thanked for putting together this very enjoyable evening. A total of £102 was raised and given to the church towards their rebuilding costs.

Our next meeting will be on February 11th when we will have Leslie Markham talking about "Sunday Markets". Meetings begin at 7.45 pm in St John's Hall and visitors are most welcome.

Brenda Ryan
812725

In Memoriam

DONALD PERCY TURNER

Born to Frank and Rose Turner at The Stores, Bentfield End, in 1911, it is doubtful if anyone called him Donald from the day of his christening - he was 'Don', 'Dinnick', 'Gunners' or 'Perce' to family, friends and colleagues.

When speaking of Don to older residents of Stansted all remember him on two wheels of one sort or another - always in shorts. For work in days before the war there was the trade bike, piled with hampers from the laundry or hung about with nets of footballs; it was Don's job to blow up those old fashioned, leather footballs ready for Saturday's game. For leisure Don had his racing bike, but he and Nora were innovative - not many couples in Stansted shared the fun of a tandem. Both machines are still in the loft.

Not until arthritis set in, in both hips, did Don take to four wheels - some years after he'd retired as a full-time fireman, with postings to Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Braintree and Harlow.

Don was keen on all sport and games, as a player and spectator, particularly football, and the nickname 'Gunners' came from his support of the Arsenal Football Club - he used to bike up to London to watch them play at Highbury. There is a typical photograph of Don, reading a newspaper with the headline 'The King sees Arsenal win at Wembley!' - some time in the Thirties.

The garden and the bonfires were legendary, but 5th November saw the best of them all. It was always handy to have a fireman in the family, especially when sparks ignited the entire stock of fireworks - a spectacular, if short, display that year!

Only in later years was Don idle - early days were spent helping father with the pork butchery business and with the laundry and then with the huge garden; but he always had time to mend our bikes and, later on, to sweep the chimneys, help with furniture and house moves and help with decorating.

He was a quiet man - everyone will agree - but Dinnick's grin and humour, the card games he taught us and his teasing will always be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known him.



Future Courses

We should like to give the opportunity to those who are not attending our current course, but hope to be at the next, to have a say in the subject matter for the courses in the new academic year from September 1999. It is not possible to list the titles of individual lectures but below is a list of the main subject areas. If you would like to make up to three choices of subject and put the form in a box in Stansted Library your preferences will be taken into account when members vote at the AGM on 22nd February. However you may prefer, and would be welcome, to attend the AGM in person.

History By Country/Period	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reminiscence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heraldry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medicine.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archeology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Law	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Natural History/Wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST (NCT)



We have had a fairly busy start to the year with the AGM (short on business and long on socialising - as every good meeting should be). We have had one of our regular Ride-on-Toys mornings for toddlers at Henham Church hall. We make a corral of chairs around the babies and then the toddlers race around the outside. Just the exercise they need after being cooped up by poor weather. On the 27th January there was an Open House at Crafton Green Day Centre. Early in February we have a Messy Morning for toddlers - these consist of paint, play-dough, glue and glitter for knee high Picassos to get "stuck" into. Yet another social evening (ladies only) Wine and Desserts - last time we waded through a huge pile of profiteroles - delicious! It is a shame that the Obstacle Course over ½ term is only for the kids - the parents could probably do with the exercise after all this social stuff.

If you are new in the area, expecting a baby and would be interested in antenatal classes, need advice from a Breastfeeding counsellor or have young children, then do contact Hayley - 850287, or simply come to one of the coffee mornings.

FEBRUARY

Mon 1st	Under 1s and Expectant Mums	Caroline	Elsenham	(647157)
Wed 3rd	Toddlers	Penelope	Elsenham	(814219)
Fri 5th	Pre-School 1.30 - 3.00	Sally	Stansted	(814208)
Mon 8th	Under 1s and Expectant Mums	Tina	Stansted	(814371)
Wed 10th	Toddlers Messy Morning	Henham Church Hall		
Fri 12th	Pre-School 1.30 - 3.00	Wendy	Stansted	(813387)
Mon 15th	Under 1s and Expectant Mums	Jane	Henham	(850735)
Wed 17th	Toddlers	Sandra	Stansted	(647054)
Thu 18th	Obstacle Course for kids 10 am	St. John's Hall Stansted		
Fri 19th	Pre-School 1.30	Isobel	Henham	(850354)
Mon 22nd	Under 1s and Expectant Mums	Anna	Stansted	
Wed 24th	Toddlers	Danuta	Stansted	(816263)
Fri 26th	Pre-School 1.30	Petrina	Elsenham	(816675)

MARCH

Mon 1st	Under 1s and Expectant Mums	Emma	Stansted	(814993)
Wed 3rd	Toddlers	Wendy	Stansted	(813387)
Fri 5th	Pre-School 1.30	Penelope	Elsenham	(814219)

All Monday and Wednesday coffee mornings are 10.00 - 11.30 am.

Friday Coffee afternoons are 1.30 - 3.00 pm. Refreshments 50p per family.

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Poppy Appeal

The Appeal in the district has now reached a record amount of £5,250 with more to come. To this must be added the contribution raised by Tony Pitt who ran in the London Marathon on behalf of the Branch raising over £750.

May I congratulate all concerned and renew my most grateful thanks.

Local Services Committee

We have a small Benevolent Fund in desperate need of funds. An afternoon tea is to be held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 14th April 1999. Please reserve this date in your diary. Full details will be given in the next Link.

John L Segar

DAY CENTRE

DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED

To collect people from their homes during the morning and bring them to the Day Centre and return them home in the afternoon. This would be either on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, just once in every two or three weeks and would involve making one or two journeys mainly in Stansted, possibly in Birchanger or Elsenham.

If you can help please contact Wilf Wood, 3 Millfields, Stansted, tel: 814477.

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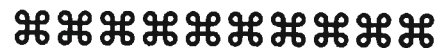
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The Uttlesford Care Network is a voluntary umbrella organisation which serves the many village Care Groups in Uttlesford (the Stansted Helpline is one of them). As Co-Ordinator, I act as a contact person for groups and agencies to network with each other and exchange information and I also give support for new groups, which form in the area. This is an evolving role, which is potentially a very interesting and a challenging one. However, my other commitments mean that I cannot develop it fully and I would very much like to share it with someone. If you might be interested in helping out, either in a shared Co-ordinator role or as an assistant and you have some basic office experience, please give me a call. The hours can be arranged to be mutually suitable. Call Chris Hoyer on 816343.



*meets at the Youth Centre,
Lower Street*

This term the children at the Pre-School have been thinking about the weather - snow, rain, wind and sun; and they have made a weather chart where these aspects are shown. In addition they have been matching the weather conditions with clothing that might be appropriate. Also they have been thinking how certain weather conditions occur more often at certain times of the year. They have made bird cake for the birds, which in the cold, wet and snowy winter weather cannot often find enough food.

The children of messy play have been thinking about shapes and they have been painting, brushing, splashing and sticking ... and having fun!

Our fund raising activity for this term is the Quiz Night, which will take place at the end of March. Anybody is welcome to come and bring a team of people.

As an important end to this article, Rainbow Pre-School would officially like to thank all those who donated money towards the commemorative bench which gives tribute to the life of Carol Battson (Ex-Rainbow Pre-School Leader). The bench is now outside St Mary's Church.

Written by Lorna Williams
(Rainbow Tots and Messy Play Co-ordinator, 817197)

For details of the Pre-School please contact Ann Conroy, 812457.



A. B. C.

The weather was damp and dark. It was no fun playing outside, everything was dripping wet and muddy. The young Bouncers and their friends much preferred to be out in the fresh air rather than in their home under the old railway station or in their burrows. The excitement of Christmas and playing with their presents was weeks past and they were bored.

One day Bertie heard a scratching noise at the door and answered it to find the little field mice huddled there. "Come in," called Mrs. Bouncer, "I have just made some biscuits, do come and taste them." The mice hurried in and whilst eating, they watched Mr. Bouncer. He was sitting in a comfortable chair that he had made himself, looking at the papers. "It says here that there will be a change in the weather soon and then it will be fine enough for you to go out to play again," he said.



"How does your Dad know that?" whispered the field mice to Bertie. "Oh, Mum and Dad can read and they are teaching us," he replied. "It must be lovely to understand what all that means," sighed Matilda Mouse, "I look at the pictures on pieces of paper sometimes and wonder what it says about them."

Mr. Bouncer looked very thoughtful and when the mice had gone home and the Bouncer children were in bed he and Mrs. Bouncer had a long talk.

The next day Mr. Bouncer went to see Mrs. Field Mouse, who agreed with what he suggested. She sent her little mice over to the Bouncers and there on the door they saw a notice, "Learn the A.B.C." was written on it in rather wonky letters. "I did that," said Bertie proudly, "and Dad says he will teach you to do that too."



There was much squeaking and scampering and at first they were difficult to settle down such was the excitement, but the mice came for a little while every day after that and eventually they could write "a b c" too. Mrs. Mouse was very proud of Matilda when she saw her writing and put it up on the wall of their home. "I do like going to the Bouncers," said Matilda, "but it must be even better to go to proper school like human children." It was Mrs. Mouse's turn to look thoughtful and later she went off for a talk with Mr. & Mrs. Bouncer.

I wonder what will come of that!

A B C . . .

A Annie is angry

B Brian is bashful

C Cathy is careful

D Danny is doubtful

E Edna is excited

F Fred is fussy

G Glenda is greedy.

H Henry is hungry

I Irene is idle

J John is jealous

K Karen is kind

L Len is lonely

M Maisy is merry

(more alphabet next month)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A wide range of members' talents and interests was evident at our January meeting. "Canals" by Tony Gurr and Pearl and Tony Wellings showed that if the one linking the Stort to the Cam had come about we would have had two locks in Stansted and several between here and Elsenham. The railway eventually followed a similar route to that proposed for the canal.

Marion Pretty read a letter about the writer's early memories of the blacksmith and wheelwright's on Cambridge Road. Jean McBride's research into the early years of the Stansted British Legion proved of great interest, particularly to "native" residents who remembered some of the people mentioned. Paul Embleton spoke on the Peter Kirk School and its recent closure and Ralph Phillips provided railway memorabilia for us to see, including some interesting old lamps.

The next meeting continues our series on local churches with The History of the Roman Catholic Church in this area on Thursday 4th February. On 4th March we will hear about the work of the Essex Record Office. Both meetings at 8 pm in the Day Centre.

Peggy Honour

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior coaching with Chris Hollis continues through the winter months. The classes are held on Saturday mornings at the following times:

Ages 10 to 13 - 9.00 - 9.45 am
Ages 7 to 10 - 9.45 - 10.30 am

If you would like to join in or require further information please contact Chris on 466973.

We have a current vacancy for a court sweeper/light maintenance person to work at the club for a few hours a week. The starting pay will be £5 per hour. If you are interested or would like further information please contact Janet Hollis on 812073.

Sunday morning open sessions continue throughout the winter and we always welcome new members - so please come along and join in! The session starts at 10 am.

If you would like to join 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 366348.

Stansted Tennis Club A.G.M.

This will be held on Wednesday March 24th at 8.00 pm at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL



Recent Sports Results

Year 11 Boys Football

Mountfitchet High School beat Notley High School 4-2, goals scored by J Coates (2), D. Rock, M. Cakebread.

Year 8 Boys Football

Mountfitchet lost to Notley 2-0 (Sam Woodward man of the match)

Year 10 Netball

Mountfitchet beat Notley 28-6

MHS team: Helen Trott, Hollie Dare, Nicola Sweeting, Amy Cosham, Leanne Farrow, Louise Yarnold, Laura Thompson.

Year 9 Netball

Mountfitchet lost to Notley 16-11.

Year 8 Netball

Mountfitchet beat Notley 15-2

MHS team: Jennah Dowsett, Becky Loveridge, Claire Cakebread, Nicola Aken, Amanda Howes, Katie Field, Louise Coffey, Michelle Faulkner.

The following poem was written by a pupil in 1998.

Martin Luther King - His Dreams

For black and for white
He had a dream and aim
In this human race
Every child be the same.

Why should we tolerate inequality?
Why should such situations be?
Injustice, discrimination, racism
Third worlds, such as we see.

The opportunity to create a place
Where one and all reside
Harmony and peacefulness
Living side by side.

Time has made things better
Where everyone can be free
People are now equal
Like him, you and me.

So spare a thought or two
And give some of your time
To help re-build a world
Where trust and love combine.

Adrian Phillips

Stansted Profile No. 9

Martyn Phillips

Again we are featuring a non-resident of Stansted and for the very best of reasons. The closure of the Peter Kirk School in December was a major happening in the recent history of the village and its disappearance will be regarded as a loss for a long while to come. It is therefore right that we should acknowledge the part played by its Head Teacher over two decades.

Martyn hails from Newport, Gwent, and has given his whole working life to teaching in its various forms. His first post was at Aldershot, followed by appointments at Bracknell and Braintree. In those days he was a craft teacher - principally woodwork, an ability which he is still pleased to practice whenever possible.

Martyn came to Stansted in 1979 to organise and equip what was to be the Peter Kirk School. Since then the names of Martyn Phillips and Peter Kirk have become almost inseparable. The origins of the school were in the 1970 Education Act which in 1971 led to the Junior Centre at Saffron Walden moving to Stansted and becoming "St Mary's SSN UNIT". St Mary's C of E School required more space and moved into its present accommodation so making the older buildings - originally the British School - available for special needs. The new (old) school, named after the widely respected local MP, opened at Easter 1980 with 12 pupils. Over the ensuing four years it grew to 93 children all with moderate or severe learning difficulties. A decline in numbers, due to changes in education policy which led to children attending primary schools who would otherwise go to special schools, began later in the eighties and was locally exacerbated by the move of the Hargrave Home from Stansted to Baddow. Throughout these years Martyn was committed to a truly inclusive system where each child is accepted and educated at a local school, but the need for support in finance and expertise was, and remains, essential for the fulfilment of this ideal. Under his leadership the school provided highly successful education during a critical time of change, and in its penultimate year earned a glowing OFSTED report. A testament to the policies pursued by Martyn is the many Peter Kirk pupils who have obtained worthwhile jobs. However, the finest tribute, which can be paid to him and his staff is the spirit of community, which the school engendered both within its walls and into the village. The celebrations on December 5th when so many former pupils and their parents and a host of other friends attended a farewell service and then culminated the day with a memorable party and spectacular firework display were a triumph. It is to Martyn's and the governors credit that the spirit was of thanks for 18 happy years.

Despite his almost total commitment to the school, Martyn has found time to keep his vintage MG car in a superb condition. Scuba diving is another of his interests which includes some treasured experiences in the waters around St Kitts. Gardening remains a pastime, but he has given up sailing his Laser boat on the east coast. Together with his

wife and two children he lives at Rayne which happens to be twinned with Verberie in France. The reciprocal visits have brought many happy occasions when Martyn's gift for relating to people provided hilarious enjoyment as well as enhancing the local sales of wine.

He is now studying for an M.Sc. in Educational Management at Anglia University. Whatever the future holds for Martyn Phillips, he leaves behind an appreciative village and takes with him the good wishes of a host of people both within and without the world of education.

Derek Honour



Photograph Revd. Andrew Spurr

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