

Nov '99

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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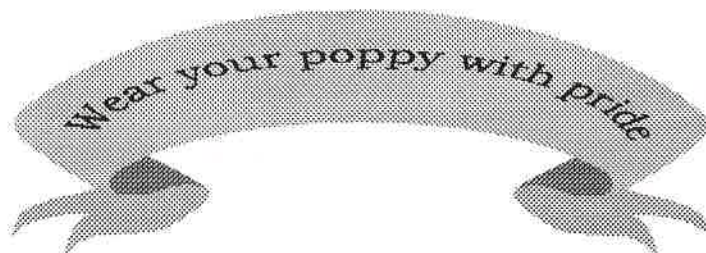
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14th November

10.45 am

*Laying of Wreaths at
the War Memorial*

11.00 am

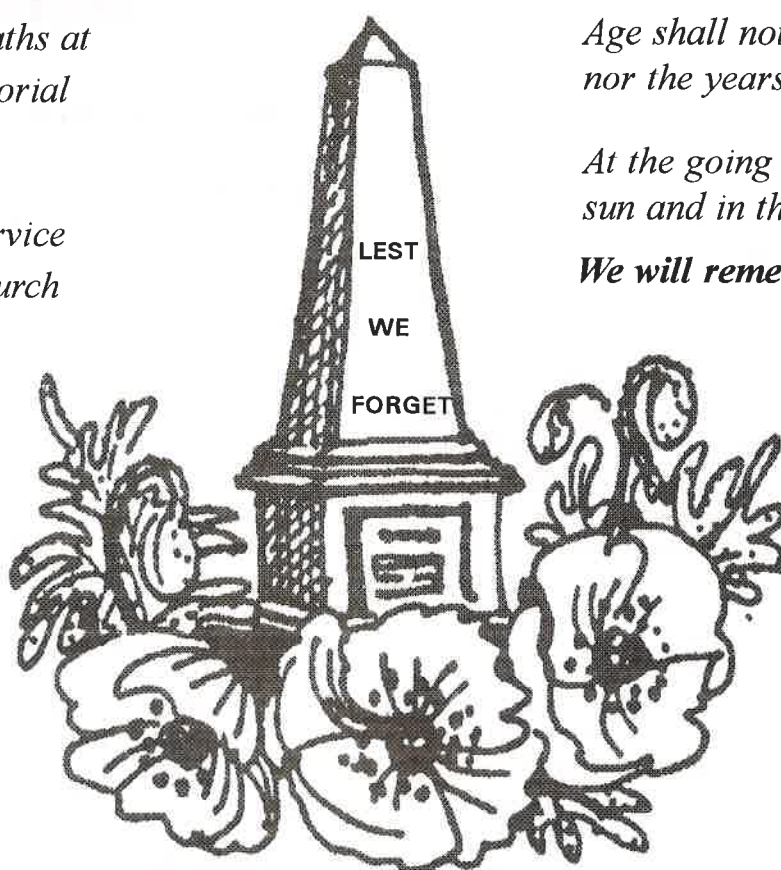
*Memorial Service
St John's Church*

*They shall grow not old as
we that are left grow old.*

*Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the
sun and in the morning*

We will remember them



The Link (price £3 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

Advertising enquiries to Angela Wall Tel 01279 817978

All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to
editor.thelink@stansted.net**

11th November for publication on 28th November

9th December for publication on 2nd January

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Ministers: Rev'd David Simpson
28 Linton Close
Saffron Walden CB11 3BU
Tel 01799 526618

Rev'd Lydia Rapkin
23a St John's Close
Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 523296

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 812593

Worship: Sunday 11am

Preachers for November

7th	11 am	Mrs Connie Bonner
14th	10.45	Wreath Laying Ceremony in the Memorial Garden followed by Remembrance Day Service in St John's Church
21st	11am	Rev David Simpson Communion
28th	11 am	Rev Lydia Rapkin

Don't forget the November Cake Stall is part of our Annual Sale on Saturday 6th November in the Lecture Hall from 10 am. As well as cakes there will be a Pantry Stall, Books, Christmas Gifts, Plants, White Elephant and of course a Raffle and Refreshments will also be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rev'd David Simpson writes:

On 27th August 1999 my wife Sylvia and I finally arrived in Essex having completed a journey from Buckinghamshire with one hundred and forty eight cardboard packing cases together with all our furniture packed in the back of a 50 ft furniture van. As we packed up our belongings in Amersham we were painfully reminded about the temptation of lofts. A loft should be classed as the great enemy of action and change. A loft stifles the decision making process. 'Should we keep it or throw it away? Can't make a decision, put it in the loft'. We found many things in our loft we didn't even know we had. There should be a warning notice on all loft doors: 'DANGER, lofts can take control of your life!' As a nation of settled folk we have certainly lost the knack of travelling light.

Lofts apart, the move marked another milestone in the decision making process for the Simpson family. It was no easy decision to leave a church we had grown to love over 16 years and for which I had been associate minister for the last two. It was no easy decision to give up a job as an engineering director with an international pharmaceutical com-

pany, but the decision was nevertheless made. The move from non-stipendary ministry to full time ministry was an idea that had taken root in the Empty Quarter of the Omani desert and came to fulfilment in a call to the Stansted Group and Saffron Walden. A call always implies an up-rooting, a willingness to reconsider direction and a desire to move to a new challenge, both for the called and the caller. The church profiles of the Stansted Group and Saffron Walden spoke of strengths and weaknesses, a willingness to develop and an openness to change and importantly a concern and eagerness to be involved in the local community. I look forward to working with those who took the risk in calling me and all the churches in the area as we seek God's purpose for His church.

David Simpson

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

Worship: Sunday 9.30 am

Services and Preachers for November

7th	Doug Coulton
14th	No Methodist service - Remembrance Day Service at St John's Church. Meet at the Memorial Gardens at 10.50 am
21st	Rev Harry Wood - This will be a Worship Leaders Recognition service for Marion Dyer
28th	Rev John Graham - Holy Communion

Fellowship Meeting - Friday 12th November at 8 pm



ROMAN CATHOLIC

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest: Rev'd Joe White
The Presbytery, 12 Millside, Stansted
Tel 814349

Masses: Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 10.30 am
Tues-Sat 9.30 am

Confessions Saturday after 9.30 am Mass

REMEMBERING

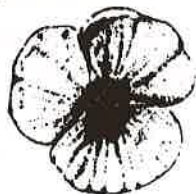
During a recent visit to the Steinberg Centre for Judaism in North London, arranged by the local branch of the Council for Christians and Jews, we paused in the grounds at the memorial to the Holocaust. This is a striking column of plain black marble bearing at the top the single Hebrew word 'remember'. A simple stone at the foot lists the names of the main concentration camps where so many Jewish men, women and children perished in the Second World War. A special memorial service is held here annually on Holocaust Day.

The need to remember those who have died in whatever circumstances, especially those close to us, is universal. The Church asks us not only to remember but to actively pray for the dead. It encourages us to concentrate our thoughts and prayers on them particularly during the month of November. At the feast of All Souls on 2nd November and for the rest of the month, lists of the names of the dead are placed on the altar during all Masses.

Simply writing down the names of deceased family and friends, perhaps recalling particular events and conversations which bring them vividly to mind, is a comforting experience in itself. It is also a comforting experience in itself. It is also comforting to know that they are specially remembered this month at the heart of the Mass. At the same time, this symbolic act reminds us that, as St Paul says, whether dead or alive we are all 'with Christ'.

Ruth Rawlinson

REMEMBRANCE A TIME FOR POPPIES



Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

BARRIERS

Recently, my wife and I were in the USA visiting the home of my brother and his wife. They live overlooking Lake Champlain in Vermont. I don't know whether it is because they live near water or because everybody in the U.S. seems to have a paranoid hatred of flying insects, but every window and opening has a fine mesh screen. This screen is fine enough to stop what we call midges and they call "No see-ums". A British friend of mine, my brother-in-law and I have walked into the screen protecting my brother's patio doors. This has exasperated my brother who now thinks all Brits are visually challenged.

I know how it happened for me. I was looking out of the patio doors, across the lake to the Adirondack mountains of New York State, whilst walking on to Patio deck. I hit the screen and it came as a big shock. I did not see it. In fact I was looking beyond the barrier to the view that stretched in front of me.

Whilst looking through my holiday photos I saw that view again and this reminded me of my walk through the barrier. It also made me think of other barriers that had occurred during our holiday. We had arrived in Canada and we drove south to get to Vermont by crossing the border. Here we met the US immigration officials and we reported to them. They checked our documents, checked my brother's address, then asked us for \$6 each and then we were allowed into the States. During our holiday we went to a large working granite quarry, claimed to be the largest in the world, called "Rock of Ages". We went on a shuttle bus to the working quarry, the observation platform was high above the face. To prevent us falling down there was a high chain link fence. We all looked through this and hardly noticed it. It was only when I tried to take photos that the fence got in the way. One photo shows part of the fence that, at the time, I never noticed.

Life can be considered as a path along which we travel. This is a path "paved with good intentions". It is also a path littered with snags and pitfalls, barriers that must be overcome. We can travel this alone or with company. This company may help you or hinder you in life's journey. Help may come practically or mentally, and to some of us it may come spiritually. We may walk the path of life, not only with our friends but also with our God, who may help us overcome the barriers along life's way.

Peter Burgess

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St John's, Stansted



The United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

All enquiries are welcome at

The Benefice Office located in the Upper Room, St. John's Church Hall, Stansted CM24 8JP

Monday	Open from
Wednesday	9:00am
Friday	-12:00noon

(01279) 815243

<benefice.office@stansted.net>

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Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Rector

Revd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
5 St. John's Road
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Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax (01279) 812203
<rector@stansted.net>

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From July 2nd 2000
43 Gibbey Crescent
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8DT
<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest

Canon Derek Jackson
88 Stansted Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts, CM23 2DZ
phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music

Mrs Glynis Morris
Wakeley
Laetes Lane
Eversden
Cambs, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<benefice.music@stansted.net>

They will not grow old,

Every August, for the last three years I have looked forward to the Remembrance Sunday service I would conduct in one or other of our parishes. Every August I have thought this should be the year we begin to review what we do at that service, and each summer I have put it off another year, needing more time to think and consult.

The service is a precious one, as it is an annual reminder that we live in a peace that was bought dearly with the lives of others. The Kohima Epitaph remains one of the most powerful pieces of liturgy in the year for me (especially when spoken by a veteran of India).

As I hear news each autumn of the demise of yet

another branch of the British Legion, I begin to think about those to whom we pass the tradition on. This is important since the service has a gravity for those of a war generation which cannot be echoed by a generation which has not (mercifully) lived through a world war.

Those who follow us must carry on the tradition, of this I have no doubt, since a civilisation without memory is doomed. This generation now has the opportunity to consider what it wants to say to the youngsters, what they want young people to learn about war, what they would like them to be praying.

Look back we must, to honour the past and safeguard the future, but we must now look forward to teach the young about why this time is sacred, in the hope

Andrew Spurr

St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B
9:30am Parish Communion *sung* Rite A
6:30pm Evening Prayer *said*
11:00am Family Service
on the third Sunday of the month
Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B
followed by coffee
7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

Tiny Tots is a Mother and Toddler group which meets fortnightly at 2:00pm in church. Co-ordinator Mrs. Margaret Duly 816053.

Laser Group is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. Contact Mrs Katy Dockerill 812997.

Home Study Groups meet on Tuesday evenings fortnightly at 8:00pm. In Stansted a fortnightly group meets to study the Book of Job. Contact Mrs. Joan Freeman 813186. In Farnham a fortnightly group is following the *Emmaus* course on Christian basics, contact Mrs Ann Martin 771237.

Additional Services in November

14th November 10:50am Remembrance Sunday service
28th November 6:30pm Service of Carols and Readings for the last Advent of the Millennium - St. Mary's, Birchanger.



Wild Goose landing at Stansted

March 4th, 2000 10:00am-4:00pm
The Wild Goose Worship Group from the Iona Community in Glasgow will be coming to Stansted and leading seminars on Bible study, small group liturgy, preaching and music for the non-specialist. All this and a 'Big Sing' at the end of the day.

Anyone interested in Christian gatherings for worship, teaching or Bible study are invited to attend what promises to be a lively and instructive time. The cost will be £10 (£5 concessions) for the day, please bring a packed lunch. Soup and drinks will be provided.

To register call the Benefice Office 815243 or email

<wildgoose@stansted.net>

Or book on the website
www.stansted.net/churches

From the Registers

September
1999

Baptism
September 19th
Anna Elizabeth Florence Wall
Daughter of Chris & Angie Wall
of Old Bell Close
Dylan Franklin Ellis
Son of Elvis Emmanuel Ellis and
Joanne Welsh of Stoneyfield Drive

Marriage

September 11th
Lucy Harriet Williams to
Mark John Mannering
Catharine Frances Essery to
Richard Victor Nealms Berks
September 17th
Karen Hawkes to John Thomas Burke

Funeral

Frances Alfred Patmore, of Woodfield Close, 12th September, aged 90 years
Margaret Page of Hargrave House, 13th September, aged 94 years
Mabel Johnson of Fullers Almshouses, 25th September, aged 84 years

Our new curate - Rhys Martin

By now many people will have heard that we will have a curate. Rhys Martin has accepted our offer to serve his title in the benefice, from the date of his ordination to the diaconate on 2nd July, 2000 in Chelmsford Cathedral. Rhys (31) is the son of a Methodist minister, and grew up in the area. At one stage he was taught in primary school by Jean Cashman.

Rebecca Carter spent an evening with the curate designate and his wife. Rebecca writes:

I met Rhys and Caroline Martin on one Saturday night in a cosy corner of my local, with only the slightest information from the Rector, letting on that Rhys wouldn't object to a drink and that he had long hair. Rhys, himself, was much more revealing in our short telephone conversation the day before we met. He said, to paraphrase, that Caroline is a large part of what he is about.

So, I arrived at the pub looking for an ex-biker who likes a beer. I was also expecting a man whose opinion of his wife is everything it should be and someone who is not afraid to let complete strangers know how important she is to him. That is pretty much what I got too, except that Rhys drinks red wine. Caroline, on the other hand, drinks malt whisky and, I suspect, is something of an expert on it.

The Martins have been married for a little over three years having grown up in the same village - Alresford - outside Colchester, they did not really get to know each other until Rhys was in his mid twenties. They conducted a long distance courtship whilst Caroline studied English at York University and Rhys studied Theology at Heythrop College, London. Their wedding was a wonderfully familial affair given that Caroline's father was a churchwarden at the church and her relatives helped with all the details that make a wedding memorable. Subsequently, Caroline qualified as an English and Drama teacher and works in Sible Hedingham, whilst Rhys became a Bachelor of Divinity and is training at the East Anglia Ministerial Training College, based in Cambridge and will be ordained in July next year.

At this point, a question pops into the mind of this secular interviewer, and I simply cannot ignore it. Sitting in front of me is, to those of us who like to pigeonhole and stereotype, the absolute personification of the word *contradiction*. Rhys has, as has already been mentioned, long hair. He also has tattoos (ask him nicely and he'll show you them); likes rock music and was once a biker. Yet he adores cooking, particularly Italian food, has a gentle disposition and has discovered in himself a profound and inspiring faith in God.

Rhys grew up in happy surroundings, his father being a Methodist minister and his mother a Methodist local preacher. However, Rhys grew away from his Christian roots and spent ten years enjoying a godless existence during which a series of events put him in crisis. It took him some months to fully understand that he had to turn his life round to Christianity. The implications of this *volto face* were impressed

upon him by the reaction of his friends. He has not lost any of them but they do not want to be found. Whilst at Bible College in Derbyshire he discovered he wanted to go into ministry in the Anglican Church. He then set about applying to various theological colleges. It was at this point that something inexplicable (and definitely on the 'Twilight Zone' side of weird) happened to bring him to Heythrop College.

For every question I asked I received an articulate, well thought out and interesting response. I was never once patronised nor was any attempt made to convert me! On a more local and personal level Rhys sees his new role as one of a kind of spiritual social worker. That may not explain it well but he wants to be involved in the community at every level. He believes that God wants to be in a relationship with every individual, and that each person is special. He appreciates the importance of ceremony and symbolism but thinks that the occasional appropriate change, no matter how small, can sometimes be useful. For Rhys, the support of Caroline in everything he does, is vital. For her part, Caroline is enjoying her teaching and wants some day to start a family. They are both looking forward to moving to Stansted and settling into the community and have already been overwhelmed by the warmth of their reception throughout the parishes.

I had a good time on Saturday night. I met this nice couple who told me all about themselves. I hope I have conveyed something of what they are about. They are good people.

Rebecca Carter



St John's Christmas Market

This year, St John's Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, 20th November in St John's Church Hall from 10 am to 1 pm.

There will be a Grand Draw and there will be stalls offering Gifts, Tombola, Cakes, Books, Toys and lots more...

Father Christmas will be there and refreshments will be available.

Come and support St John's Church at its major fund raising activity of the year.



Shalom

Dates in November

- 1st Group Discussion - GM Foods
Quaker Meeting House
- 15th Group Discussion
7 Blythwood Gardens
- 29th Advent Meditation led by Rob Greaves
7 Blythwood Gardens

These are Ecumenical Meetings to which all are welcome.

Shalom is affiliated to the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) and, as described in the item appearing under St Theresa's heading, a visit was arranged by the Harlow Branch to the Steinberg Centre for Judaism in Finchley.

One of our most memorable encounters was with Leon Greenman, an Auschwitz survivor, whose life is depicted in the exhibition with many family photographs and poignant remnants of a family life that was destroyed in the Holocaust.

Leon was born in the East End but was living in Holland with his wife and child when it was occupied by the Germans. He was eventually liberated by the Americans but his wife and child died in the camps along with many of his friends and family.

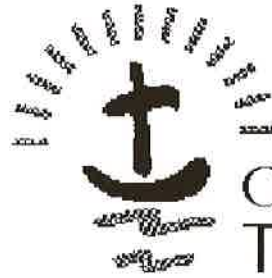
Leon found that information regarding the horrors of the extermination camps was little known by people in England, and he started giving talks. He has recounted his experiences in schools and colleges and universities in both England and Holland, even though at times his memories are a little too much to bear.

Leon has made many trips back to Poland to Auschwitz and he feels it is now more important than ever to fight the prejudice which destroyed his life. At the age of 85 he still fights racist injustice of all kinds.

He says:

"Young and old alike must learn about the Holocaust as a warning against the dangers of racism. There is no difference in colour or religion. If I had survived to betray the dead it would have been better not to have survived. We must not forget. Please do not forget".

Eileen Quinn



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 18 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.

SOARING



INTO THE FUTURE

Marion Johnson reminds you that she would like to take the children into the next millennium with a one-off "Good Friday Project". The day will involve a journey into space with all the excitement of preparation and participation. Helpers are needed so that the children who take part will know that the Millennium is all about the Life of Jesus.

If you have helped in the past, if you took part as a child many years ago, if you have no idea what a project involves, you are the person we need. Please contact Marion on 812284 if you would like to help or want to know more. Good Friday in the year 2000 is on April 21st.

What's in a Name? No 3

An occasional series explaining some name derivations.

High Lane So called to distinguish it from Low Lane, now a footpath.

Normans Way. Commemorating Luther Norman who was a member of Stansted Parish Council for 40 years, and whose ginger beer "brewery" stood on what is now an engineering works opposite Bentfield Lower Green.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

10 am Sat 6th Nov
URC Hall
Plants ~ Books ~ Cakes
Household Goods
Refreshments



Christmas Shopping in Norwich

Saturday 13th 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 WI

Mountfitchet High School

CRAFT FAIRE

Sunday 14th November
10 am to 4 pm
Admission by donation
Free Car Parking

Grand Firework Display & Bonfire

Mountfitchet High School Saturday 6th November

Gates open at 6.30 pm - Hot Dogs - Drinks
Adults £2.50 Concessions and Children £1 - Proceeds to local charities



St John's Church Christmas Market

10 am - 1 pm Sat 20 Nov
Grand Draw ~ Gifts ~ Books
Tombola ~ Cakes ~ Toys
Refreshments & lots more ...

plus

FATHER CHRISTMAS



VILLAGE EVENTS

November

- | | | |
|--------|--|---|
| 1 Mon | Shalom Group | Quaker Meeting Hse 8 pm |
| 3 Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors
Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm |
| 4 Thu | Local History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 5 Fri | Sparkler Party | Bentfield School |
| 6 Sat | Bazaar & Cake Stall
Green Waste Skip
Village Bonfire & Fireworks | URC Hall 10 am
Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
Mountfitchet Sch 6.30 pm |
| 11 Thu | Carers's Support Group
WI | Quaker Mtg Hse 2 - 4 pm
St John's Hall 7.30 pm |
| 13 Sat | Shopping Trip to Norwich
Skip at Railway Sidings | meet Sworders 8 am
7.30 am - 3 pm |
| 14 Sun | Act of Remembrance
M'fitchet Seniors Craft Fair
Craft Fayre
Skip at Railway Sidings | Memorial Garden 10.45 am
Day Centre 10 am - 4 pm
M'fitchet Sch 10 am - 4 pm
7.30 am - 3 pm |
| 15 Mon | Shalom Group | 7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm |
| 17 Wed | NCT Coffee Morning | Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am |
| 18 Thu | RBL (Women) | Day Centre 7.30 pm |
| 20 Sat | Christmas Market | St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm |
| 21 Sun | Car Boot Sale | M'fitchet Sch 8 am - noon |
| 29 Mon | Shalom Group | 7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm |

December

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 1 Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors
Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm |
| 2 Thu | Local History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 4 Sat | Windmill Goods Stall
Cake Stall
HEAL Dance | Savages, Lower St 9.30 am
outside UR Church 10 am
Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm |
| 9 Thu | WI | St John's Hall 7.30 pm |

Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 21st November
8 am to 12 noon
£6 in advance £7 on the day
Refreshments
Tel 01279 813384



STANSTED MILLERS Mill Goods Stall

Savages, Lower Street
9.30 am Sat 4th Dec
Buy Christmas presents &
support Stansted Windmill



HEAL Millennium

The Jim Freeman Sound
7.30 pm - Midnight
Sat 4th December
Mountfitchet High School
£12 incl Supper Tel 813871
Raffle ~ Bar ~ Smoking Areas

Why not advertise your December special event on this page?
Please submit details by 11th November to 58 Chapel Hill
or by email to editor.thelink@stansted.net
Please note, all items are subject to the editor's approval.

Revised Route for No 7 Bus

From 25th October

The new route will be of considerable advantage to those living in the east and west of the village. It will now serve Lower Street, Maitland Road, Chapel Hill, Bentfield Road, The Causeway, Bentfield Green. The timing point is the Rose and Crown - from there it will travel the usual route through Longcroft to the Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill, then take the Church Road, Maitland Road loop before proceeding via Lower Street to Elsenham, Henham and the Airport, Takeley and Bishop's Stortford.

Journey time to the Airport is approximately 35 minutes and to Bishop's Stortford, about an hour. So far, those who travel on these buses have found that they have been reliable in their timing. The drivers on this Village Link Service are most helpful - at least, we've not heard anyone report to the contrary. Passengers have been known to be taken right to their door - drivers have helped with shopping, pushchairs and children and the elderly have been particularly well looked after.

The Parish Council had pressed hard to have this bus restored to an hourly service into the village from Maitland Road. That it now serves the Bentfield End side of the village is an added bonus. It will provide easier and reliable transport to the centre of Stansted for shopping, Post Office, Library and Day Centre and will make Surgery appointments easier for many. Train travellers and school children will also find it of benefit, with its early start and later finishing times.

The service already has its firm and dedicated supporters - the more we use the service, the more likely we are to keep it.

By the time this article appears in 'The Link' timetables will have been distributed and will be available on the buses, but in the meantime this brief timetable may help:

From the Rose and Crown 7.06 and at these mins past until 18.06 the hour

Croasdaile Road	7.08	18.08
Barclays Bank	7.11	18.11
Chapel Hill	7.12	18.12
Maitland Road	7.15	18.15
Lower Street	7.17	18.17

* * * * *

From Lower Street 8.00 on the hour until 20.00

Maitland Road	8.02	20.02
Chapel Hill	8.04	20.04
Bentfield Causeway	8.05	20.05
Rose and Crown	8.06	20.06

Audrey Rodgers



Huw Johnson Club

Plans are going ahead for our 25th birthday and millennium party on Friday 3rd December. Anyone who has been connected with the club in the past are welcome to join us on this great occasion. Invitations will be circulated.

As usual we need more drivers. With a sudden increase in numbers (we seem to become more popular every week) even using the mini bus twice a month hasn't completely solved our problems. Do please volunteer. Driving usually involves one night a month and you either pick up our members from their homes or return them at the end of the Club evening.

This year we shall be returning to the Arts Theatre in Cambridge to see the pantomime "Mother Goose" but before that we have our firework party on the 11th of November. Local residents need not fear the noisy evening as we will be holding the party at Lindsell, Great Easton, at the kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Ropkins and Joanne.

Our open invitation to visit us for a coffee on our club evenings still stands. We meet from 7 pm to 9 pm but ring Marion first on 812284 for the venue as we do not always meet in St John's Hall.

Marion G Johnson



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

On 16th September we welcomed three members from the Royal British Legion to our branch meeting. Our Treasurer, Mrs Levey, listed donations totalling £600 which we had agreed to make to various Legion charities.

We then held our annual harvest sale with a wide variety of fruit, vegetables, flowers, etc., ably auctioned by Mrs Fuller and which resulted in a profit to our funds of £60. Our thanks to everyone.

Our Social Evening will be on Thursday 18th November at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. There will be no Bring and Buy stall that evening.

Carols at Felsted Parish Church on Sunday 12th December. All to be seated by 5.30 pm.

Pat Clower



Stansted Football Club

SANTOS

Thanks go to our sponsors: Ampersand Associates, D.C. Poulton & Sons, 'blue post production', Leonische, Urbanhurst Ltd.

The season has well and truly 'kicked off', and each team has had some very encouraging results, not in the least Santos, who are currently managed by Peter Hawkins. They have achieved an enormous feat and proudly sit close to the top of their division. Over the past few years Santos have had a catalogue of poor luck and misfortune, however since the change of leagues from Harlow to Royston and Crow, things have improved and they have not looked back.

A few new players and a strict training programme has seen the Under 13's climb into a respectable position in their league. Although Santos started off the season with a heavy defeat in the East Anglian Cup, most of us at the club felt they were in for another hard season. However, since the opening day's defeat in the cup they have not lost a league match and have made great progress. The EA Cup covers a huge area and includes many teams that have players that are already trained with professional teams including Premiership outfits such as Arsenal, Spurs, etc. At this level of football it can make an immense difference. Santos have now also received their new kits and tracksuits from sponsors D.C. Poulton & Sons, which can also make the players feel better. If you look the part then you feel like playing the part. So well done to both the players and the manger, I know the season has a long way to go but I am sure you will carry on this great momentum and finish the season well.

Club news includes the preparation for our Christmas/New Year fund-raiser. This is being discussed as I write and the club will have more information in the next issue of the Link. After last year's huge success with our 'end of season trip', the club are already making enquiries for this season. This year the club had hoped to make it to a Premiership club, but the prices are so high that it looks like we may have to choose a club at lower level. This is a bit of a disappointment but the whole day will be enjoyed whatever club we choose. Again this is open to non-club members. We will, of course, let you know more as the date and price are confirmed.

More club news includes: the club is to send some of the managers on a referee's course. This is not to say they do not know the rules but to improve their knowledge and, of course, any further training is always an added bonus. Believe me, even at junior level the parents are critical of nearly everything that doesn't go their son's way on the pitch! The club have also introduced goalkeeping training nights. this is solely for the benefit of the club's keepers.

John Turner, who has played locally for many years and is respected for his experience has proved to be an excellent choice for this and the keepers are doing well. Goalkeeping is normally a very unrewarding position as if he should make a mistake it nearly always ends up being a goal to the opposition. So good luck to them all. Finally I must apologise for no photographs this month. We are still waiting for film to be developed and as soon as this happens we will include pictures of the boys in action.

Good health.

Luke Pearman

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis will continue with lessons through the winter on Saturday mornings between 8.45 - 10.25 am. If you would like to join in or require further information please contact Chris on 466973.

Used Tennis Balls

These are still available at £1 for a tube of 4. Please contact Janet Hollis on 812073 if you would like to buy some.

Save the Children Tournament

This took place on Tuesday 28th September at Stansted Tennis Club. Organised by Jane Beard, 14 players from Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Henham took part in this very popular round-robin tournament. The final was won by Janet Hollis and Trudy Cockburn who defeated Pat Groves and Carol Hearn 6-1. Just over £100 was raised for Save the Children.

Christmas Dinner

Places are booking up fast for the annual Christmas Tennis Club dinner to be held this year at the Millhouse, Lower Street, Stansted, on Friday 10th December at 7.30. Please put your name up on the noticeboard in the clubhouse if you would like to come along, or contact Richard Mott on 466348.

If you would like to join the Tennis Club please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on 813053. For any other enquiries please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348.

Essex County Council

Following my recent report on matters at County Hall, I felt it would be of interest if I wrote a few lines on the County Fire Service so everyone had some idea of what seems likely to become a matter of national interest in the coming months.

So far as Stansted Division is concerned, we are not likely to be adversely affected by any dispute because our fire cover is provided at Stansted and Newport by retained firemen who in general are not concerned in disputes and work on a "call-out" basis. In other words they come when required.

The disputes which have occurred off and on over the past three years in Essex have been between the Fire Authority and the full time firemen represented by the Fire Brigade's Union (FBU). These disputes are too complex to outline in a few words here but concern increases in rates of pay and adjustments in working practices and have been between the County Fire Authority and the FBU.

At present a national dispute is developing between all the County Fire Authorities and the FBU over the revision of the "Grey Book". This governs the current working practices and pay and allowances paid to firemen. The Book was produced in the middle 1940's and though it has been amended over the years is now felt by many to be not relevant to modern life and in particular up-to-date fire service working practices. The FBU has taken their stand in the "Grey Book" and wish to see no changes. The Fire Authorities tasked by the Government to provide a modern cost efficient and effective service wish to negotiate changes and adjustment. Here is the impasse which unfortunately may lead to a serious dispute and perhaps strike action. How the matter develops we shall see.

Fortunately, as I have remarked, the dispute is unlikely to affect us in Stansted but for those who work in areas where there are full time Fire Brigades they may very well suffer and so should know and understand the basis for the strikes if they occur.

This problem is complex and emotive but one which everyone should be aware of.

Should anyone wish to know more, please contact the undersigned on 01279 812471.

Richard Wallace
Member for Stansted Division
Tel: 812471

Uttlesford Topics

Do you think that traffic speeds on our rural roads should be lowered? This issue will be discussed at the first meeting on the Stort Valley Forum in Ugley Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 22nd November. All are welcome.

District and county councillors on the west side of Uttlesford representing all the wards from Birchanger to Clavering have set up the forum. The idea is to meet with parish council representatives and members of the public to address matters of common concern - and then to get action.

As the death rate from road accidents per head of population is highest in this part of Essex, we thought road traffic and speed was an important subject to kick off the forum. Do come along.

Most Link readers will by now have picked up stories about a new proposal to turn the Stansted area into an urban metropolis. A regional planning report has advised the government to support building 7,500 new homes in Essex EVERY YEAR until 2016, and has pinpointed the Stansted area, with a hint that east of the airport is favoured. There are currently 4,500 homes in Stansted Mountfitchet.

The report says that "planning guidance should propose an area of plan led expansion in the general area of Stansted Airport". "A plan for the Stansted/M11 corridor should ... take account of the growing economic potential offered by Stansted Airport, indicating locations for airport induced economic growth and improvements to the infrastructure which would contribute to the manifest economic potential in the long term."

Uttlesford District Council, which is now preparing its next District Plan, is set for hours and days of agonising debate now that this report has been published. Stansted residents will undoubtedly wish to make their views known.

If given the go-ahead, these proposals will drastically change the local rural environment. The report says the Stansted area is "no more attractive than is general in the South East". A question that has to be asked is what good will this housing be for local people? Many local people, especially the young, cannot afford to buy their own homes in Stansted. No way has so far been found to stop local youngsters being priced out of their own villages when new homes are snapped up by people moving in to the area. Maybe that is the subject of a future Stort valley Forum. My council colleagues and I would be interested to hear what Stansted people think.

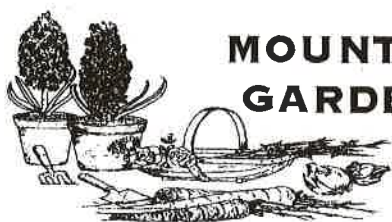
Councillor Alan Dean
Uttlesford District Council
Tel: 813579



St Clare Hospice

The St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust provides Hospice Care Services to help and support people with life-threatening and terminal illnesses and to ease the stress of caring that family and friends experience. Over 250,000 people live in West Essex. Every year 600 of these people will die from a terminal illness and would benefit from hospice care. The Hospice Centre is situated on the roundabout of junction 7 of the M11 on the outskirts of Harlow. We offer Day Care facilities, a Family Support Service, an Equipment Loan Scheme, Bereavement Support, a 24-hour Helpline and by 2000 we will be able to provide in-patient care too.

For more details please telephone Jo Brennan on 413590.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

October Meeting

Members at our meeting this month were treated to something rather different. Our visiting speaker was Mr Peter Cross who worked from its inception on the organisation for the Hampton Court Flower Show. This event has now developed into one of the major events of the gardening year and many of our members have visited it on a regular basis. We learnt of the huge amount of work that goes into making events like these successful with hundreds of people working as a team in the background. Mr Cross backed up his presentation with a selection of slides and many anecdotes.

The members competition this month was won by Cyril Stoneham with his "End of summer flower".

November Meeting on Wednesday 3rd at The Day Centre

Always an important part of our autumn show the subject for our speaker this month is "Dahlias". We look forward to meeting Mr Gillingwater who is an acknowledged expert on this flower.

The members competition is a Dish of 3 Apples.

Members competition for our December meeting is a "Dried Flower Christmas Arrangement".

Derek Francis



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

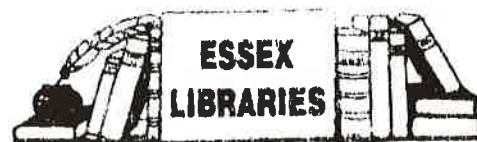
Mr Roy Tricker of the Churches Conservation Trust delivered his talk about the Churches under the Trust's care, with slides and great humour, which caused many chuckles from his audience. The Trust takes on Churches that become redundant for one reason or another, usually because there is another church nearby or the village has moved over the years nearer to railways and work, etc. and some of the churches are left on their own outside the modern community. They are very well looked after and there is a wealth of history to be seen. Some have Naves which are 1000 years old. Some of the slides showed medieval carvings with strange faces, to which Mr Tricker put some funny comments about what the expressions of the faces might mean.

One stone effigy of an ancient Bishop leaning on his elbow, half asleep, was a good representation of what can happen today as we were shown a slide of the front of The Church Times, which showed four modern day Bishops fast asleep in their seats at some debate.

Our Millennium tea cloth and notelets are now complete. There will be afternoon tea on Thursday 4th November at 2 Greenfields, at 2.30 for new members to come along and meet some long standing members and learn a few ins and outs of the W.I.

At our next meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday 11th November, 7.30 for 7.45 pm, our speaker is Dr Peter Brandham; his talk is 'A Year at Kew'. Visitors are welcome at this evening and, following our speaker, we will hold our A.G.M.

K. A. Johnson
813225



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Thursday	2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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We are all now back into the swing of things after the summer break which seems like a lifetime ago. Everyone has their work cut out at this time of the year preparing for many events ahead: Halloween, fireworks, Christmas and Millennium, talking of which, the children loved being a part of the build up to "2000" having their photos taken with the "capsule". Last month we had a very successful A.G.M. A great turnout and also a great informative talk from Mr Alan Bell, Admissions Officer for the schools in this area.

The children are also very busy preparing for school. Topics include shapes, colours and later on in the term, senses. Early this month the children took a special trip on the train to our airport. All who went had a great time and can't wait until the next expedition wherever it may be.

The children's next event is their Halloween party where all spooks come together. The fundraising side of things is going well and our thanks to everyone who has helped. Our forthcoming event is a trivia night. All will welcome. See you there.

Liz Boyton



Nature Notes

Stansted village is fortunate in having two nature reserves within walking distance, the Aubrey Buxton Reserve in Alsa Street and Turner's Spring at Burton End. Both reserves are owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust, E.W.T. and managed for the benefit of wildlife.

Formerly known as Stansted Wildlife Park, the Aubrey Buxton Reserve was donated by Lord and the late Lady Buxton in 1976. Its attractive, largely man-made landscape comprises parkland, woodland and plantations with a considerable variety of trees, grassland and a series of small lakes. Much tree cover has been lost by Dutch elm disease, the great hurricane of 1987 and 1990 gales. Wild bees have been recorded in one dead beech tree by the lake although not this season. Over-mature hybrid poplars were felled in 1993 and replaced with native trees but removal of their suckers and the invasive elder scrub requires regular conservation work.

The E.W.T. has been fortunate in obtaining money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and this is to be used on the smaller reserves in the county. Aubrey Buxton Reserve is one of them. A team from the Trust assessed all the reserves this summer and projects have been scheduled and plans made to cause the minimum disturbance to plants and wildlife. The repairing of hedges is a major priority at Aubrey Buxton reserve. It is also planned to replace noticeboards which have suffered badly from vandalism.

The Warden is Michael Rowley from the Uttlesford Group of the E.W.T. and together with members of the Bishop's Stortford Natural History Society, there are regular working parties on this reserve. If any Stansted residents wish to be involved they should contact Michael on 01799 550378. The Bishop's Stortford and District Natural History Society meet at Birchwood School on alternate Friday evenings and their programme is available in the library.

Judith Coombes



Recipe of the Month

Fish Casserole

2 fish steaks (if frozen can be used without thawing)
2oz / 50gm tomatoes, skinned & chopped
2oz / 50gm mushrooms, wiped & chopped
2oz / 50gm fresh or frozen peas
2oz / 50gm carrots, peeled & chopped
1 tin condensed mushroom soup

- (a) place fish steaks in ovenproof dish
- (b) add chopped vegetables
- (c) add seasoning (not too much salt)
- (d) cover with condensed soup
- (e) cook for 1½hrs gas mark 5 / 190°C / 375°
- (f) serve with creamed potatoes & other vegetables if desired

Vegetables can be varied to taste

Stansted Profile No 17 - Basil Irwin



Basil Irwin has become a well known figure in Stansted having lived at The Thatch on Elsenham Road since 1954. His earlier life, however, was more cosmopolitan. He was born in Dublin of an Army family and had the customary boarding school education in England while his father served on various overseas stations. His first post on leaving school was with J. Henry Schroeder & Co., merchant bankers, and at the same time, with an army background, he was commissioned into the London Irish Rifles. Shortly after the outbreak of war he spent some months in Clare and developed an affinity with eastern England which brought him back in later years. In 1942, after a short period in Iraq, he was persuaded by an old friend to enter what he discovered to be the SOE (Special Operations Executive). There followed the necessary training in sabotage, explosives, parachuting and intelligence gathering, following which he was dropped into Bosnia to assist the resistance by Tito's partisans. Subsequently he went to Serbia until it was over-run by the advancing Russians who failed to treat the partisans with the recognition which they felt they deserved. Basil feels that perhaps this went some way to account for their exclusion from the Warsaw Pact powers. Basil Irwin's final military service was in a 3-power observation team during the turbulent Greek elections. One feels that many remarkable events took place in those years which still remain under the cloak which characterises so many SOE activities.

Upon demobilisation Basil returned to banking - first with Robert Benson Lonsdale, then with Alan Harvey and Ross. he then joined the Ionian Bank which was moving from Middle Eastern business into corporate financing. As one of a specialist team he steadily rose to be Vice Chairman and Chief Executive. After retirement he became a Gilt-Edge consultant for a further 6 years.

In 1949 he had married Eleanor - another SOE veteran, and after 5 years in London moved to Stansted. He rejoined the London Irish where he was appointed Brigade Colonel but after that it has been local activities - a year on the Parish Council, twice a candidate for the District Council and President of the Bowls Club (where he advocated the hitherto unheard of concept of lady membership). In the 60's he was invited on the Parish Civil Defence committee and later became a member of the Uttlesford branch of the Alzheimer's Disease Society. The Royal British Legion has, understandably, been a constant interest and probably had its highlight in the year when he arranged for the London Irish Pipe Band to parade round Stansted for publicity.

Basil Irwin's garden, particularly its trees, has absorbed him in recent years. It is a delightful place in which to relax and enjoy that sense of tranquillity which is the hallmark of a country garden. He likes to point out a 60 foot eucalyptus which was reduced to ground level in the great 1963 frost but has since regenerated to become the principal tree among many.

The photograph, taken only a few weeks ago, shows Basil Irwin next to a newly erected memorial to the occupants of a supply aircraft which crashed towards the end of the Italian campaign. Few can have had such a full and varied life and we wish Basil well, surrounded by his trees and the richness of his memories.

Derek Honour



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

You do not have to be a serious historian to join the Stansted Local History Society, merely have an interest in past events, particularly as they affected this area. Some members do research but others just come to hear the speaker each month.

Subjects are wide ranging as we try to find something for all tastes. So far this season we have heard some of the history of Elsenham and The Civil War in Essex. On 4th November, Keith Lovell will talk on Village Signs and on 2nd December, Peter Brown will bring us up to date with the third part of The Stansted Fire Service.

The January meeting brings a variety of short talks by members and coming later is The Elsenham and Thaxted Light Railway, Stansted: the last 250 million years and the Blyth family. All at 8 pm in the Day Centre.

Subscriptions are modest and there is a small charge for visitors. Look out for posters or phone Peggy Honour 813160 for further details.

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The National Childbirth Trust Education for Parenthood

Yet another active month for our local branch - we ran riot at Rascals; played messily at Henham with paint, glue and play-dough; visited various playgrounds and walked/ran/ cycled/ pushed our way through Hatfield Forest.

We had an excellent baby massage demonstration at our Under 1's coffee morning. Usborn books came along to a pre-school session (just in time for Christmas) and not forgetting us grown-ups - we had a good night at Pizza Express in Stortford.

November sees us just as active with a creepy songs and stories session; a big play over lunch at the Playbarn and tea at Rascals; a swimming session and a playground session, both in Saffron Walden. We have a children's photograph morning for pictures in time for Christmas.

Toys and books will be on sale at our Open House Coffee Morning in Stansted, 17th November at the Crafton Green Day Centre. All parents/carers of children 0-5 are welcome from 10.00-11.30 am. As well as all these activities we have regular weekly coffee mornings - all details are on Parish noticeboards.

Mondays 10.00-11.30 am - expectant mums and under 1's.

Wednesdays 10.00 - 11.30 am - toddlers.

Fridays 1.30 - 2.45 pm - pre-schoolers.

If you would like to know more about us or are interested in joining, please phone Wendy on 813387.

Cheryl Salmon

MILLENNIUM PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

The Stansted Local History Society is now getting going on the project to photograph as much as possible, given our resources, of how Stansted is at the turn of the century. Many of the Clubs and other organisations we sent forms to have already returned them, and we will be contacting them soon. We would like to hear from anyone else who would like to take part by having their organisation's activities recorded or furnishing us with their own photographs. In due course they will be on display in Stansted and the negatives to which we hold the copyright will be sent to the Country Record Office Photographic Section for future generations interest and research.

Peggy Honour 813160

BERTIE BOUNCER'S BACK AGAIN

Bertie was feeling fed up as he had no one to play with. The twins had gone to see their friends, baby was having her afternoon nap, and Mrs. Bouncer was busy in the kitchen. Mr. Bouncer and Billy had gone to see Mr. Rolly about making some more desks and chairs for the school.



“I know,” Bertie thought to himself, “I will go to see the new family that has moved in down the hill.” Bertie had heard Mrs. Bouncer talking to Mr. Bouncer at breakfast about someone at the bottom of the meadow. “Perhaps they have children who will be coming to school.” He got very excited at the thought of having some new friends to play with and quite forgot to tell Mrs. Bouncer where he was going. That was very naughty of him wasn't it?

It was a lovely afternoon. The sun was shining and there were tiny fluffy white clouds in the sky. Mrs. Blackbird was sitting outside her nest singing to herself. When she saw Bertie she called down to him, “Where are you off to in such a hurry, Bertie?” “I am going to see the new family,” Bertie told her as he hurried past. “Be careful,” she started to say, but Bertie didn't hear her.

He was hurrying across the field when he heard a loud noise, he turned round and saw a very large brown animal coming towards him. Bertie was scared and wished he had stayed at home. He began to bounce towards the hedge at the side of the field as fast as he could but the large animal could run faster and was catching Bertie up. Just before he reached the hedge he saw a hole in the ground and in he went headfirst. Plop, straight into Mrs. Rabbit's living room!



“Goodness, Bertie, you did give me a fright,” exclaimed Mrs. Rabbit. Poor Bertie was so out of breath from bouncing so hard that he could not speak for a minute! Then he said he was sorry but he was trying to hide from the large animal in the field. Mrs. Rabbit laughed and told him that it was Primrose a new baby foal who had come to live in the field and that she only wanted to play with him. “Oh,” said Bertie, “I wonder if that's who Mum and Dad were talking about at breakfast?”

After a drink and a biscuit Bertie went back up the hole and scampered home as fast as he could to tell his Mum and Dad all about Primrose. Do you think they will be cross with him?

Where are the Babies Hiding?

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally

F	O	A	L	Y	J	I	D	E	K	K	B	D
H	Y	E	N	R	I	S	T	C	A	I	O	B
M	P	U	P	P	Y	W	I	I	C	T	D	U
S	Y	T	F	A	M	H	U	L	T	T	P	C
W	U	C	B	D	C	N	B	Y	G	E	D	H
S	F	H	A	E	H	H	N	E	K	N	Y	B
B	I	I	K	L	L	J	I	R	D	A	L	R
X	G	C	L	K	F	G	N	I	L	S	O	G
K	D	U	C	K	L	I	N	G	K	F	U	S

- DUCKLING
- FOAL
- CUB
- GOSLING
- KITTEN
- PUPPY
- CHICK



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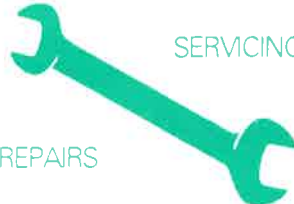
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