

April 98

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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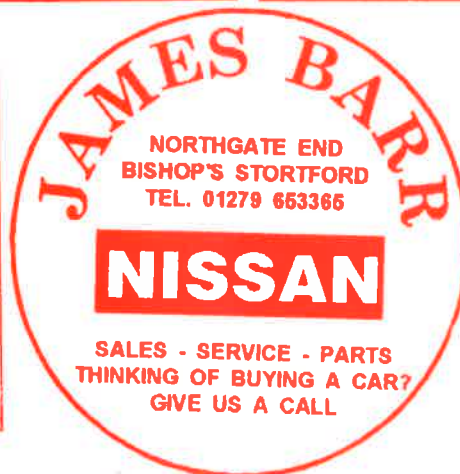
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- Lawns • Ground Preparation

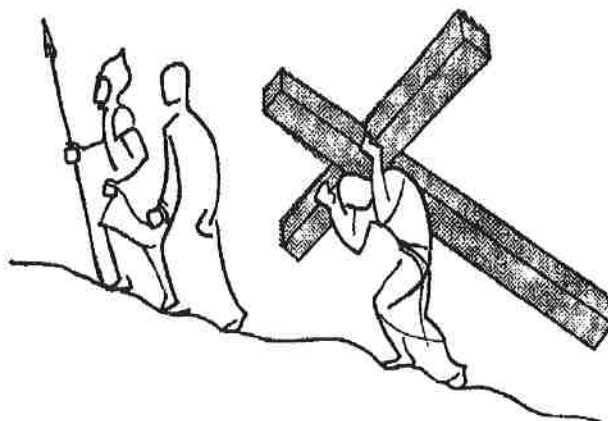


PHONE OR FAX

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59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

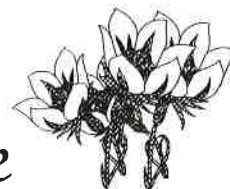
*Keep a Holy
Week ...*



*... and rejoice
in a happy
Easter!*



Jesus died that we may live



The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

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

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Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS,
its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
16th April for publication on 3rd May
14th May for publication on 31st May**

Church of England

Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist

Rector: The Revd. Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8JP
Office: 812203
Home: 815025
Email: andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

And another thing about the Millennium

Much has been written about it, and doubtless a great deal more will follow before the Millennium arrives. To many, the subject has already reached saturation, largely due to an excess of Dome-talk. Nevertheless, if the word means anything it must signify another 1000 years from the birth of Christ, however imprecise the actual date must be. Other significances which we attribute to the occasion are secondary.

Is there any good reason why the church should not seize the high ground and use to promote with vigour the third 1000 years of Christ's teaching? Certainly the fact that our society is pluralist is not a reason, for we are clearly bidden to bring Christ's Kingdom to the whole world. We achieve this by witness, teaching, example, and, above all, love - not by rubbishing the sincerely-held views of others.

If the voices of our church leaders seem muted (and that may be a failing of the media) there need be no impediment to the local churches marking the Millennium in such a way that all inhabitants of Stansted and the surrounding villages are aware of what it is really about. Various suggestions have been made - a grand coming-together of all our churches on a Sunday in the summer; a staffed Christian centre for fellowship and information, and even a church-led pageant at which Stansted once excelled. Other ideas may still come.

Whatever we decide to make of it, we must do it well, and let everyone know the reason why.

Derek Honour
Jane Freeman

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

Our services for **Holy Week and Easter** will include Holy Communion at 8.00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, followed by a vigil; Compline at 8.00 p.m. (**at St. Mary's, Birchanger**) on Good Friday; the First Communion of Easter at 8.00 p.m. on Holy Saturday; and on Easter Day, Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m., Parish Communion at 9.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

Among our **visiting preachers** in the next few weeks will be Dr Martin Sene, of the Atomic Energy Authority, on 26 April, and Ms Vicki Reid, of the Stort Valley Schools Trust, on 17 May.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held in St. John's Hall at 8 p.m. on 24 April. This is more than a formality; it is the occasion when we elect some of our lay leaders, the churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council. It will also be an opportunity for the whole church community to reflect on past experience and future plans. For anyone who has a part in the life of St. John's this will be an important event.

The weekly **Benefice Bulletin** can be found at the back of St. John's and gives more news of the life and concerns of St. John's and its sister churches at Birchanger and Farnham.

Jane Freeman
Derek Honour

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

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

Services for April All services at 9.30 am

5th	Julie Finbow of Bishop's Stortford
Easter Day	Rev'd Ronald Rawlings (Holy Communion)
19th	Rev'd Michael Hayman
26th	Jerry Heyhoe of Bishop's Stortford
3rd May	Bernard Engel of Bishop's Stortford

Our monthly fellowship meets at 8 pm on Friday 24th April. All are welcome - please contact the secretary for venue.

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

Masses:

Saturday	Stausted	6.00 pm
Sunday	Stausted	10.30 am
	Henham	9.00 am
Holy Days	Stausted	8.00 pm
	Henham	7.00 pm
Weekdays	Stausted	9.30 am
(Tues-Sat)		

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

Many of you will remember Father David Chapman who was our Parish Priest for most of the 80's. Father David died on 27th February after a long illness. He was born into a Protestant family in Northern Ireland, but following his father's death and his mother's remarriage to a Catholic he became a Catholic in his teens. It seemed somehow very fitting knowing of his great interest in the ecumenical movement that his funeral should have been held in the Parish Church at Gt Bardfield just opposite his own small Church of the Holy Spirit which was in the upper floor of a converted house.

Up until the last days he maintained his great interest in technology and kept a computer by his bedside. He loved music and his great joy was listening through his headphones to a wide range of classical music.

When he was at St Theresa's he owned a large black motorbike and loved to ride to the Lake District for walking holidays or use his camper van for trips to the West of Ireland. The photographs which he took were used as a pastoral spiritual journey and the Shalom group were privileged to re-live many of these journeys on a Monday night with him.

He and Rev Eric McIlwain made the first journey together to Chevetogne to set up Stausted's ecumenical link with the village.

He was a very spiritual man and his sermons were a true nourishment of the soul. Just weeks before his death he composed the following poem which he wanted to share with others and he gave a copy for publication in the Link.

Eileen Quinn

I am with you
always

HYMN OF HOPE

All was black, all was despair,
No light, no love, no hope was there.
No power to call on Your Dear Name
No whisper from my soul now came,
I sank.

There in my sinful misery,
Back to my nothingness I went.
Nothing to hold, nothing to see,
Nothing to notice, that I am me,
I fell.

There You were in my despair,
There You saw me trying to hold,
"Let go, let, let go", You called,
"I can see you - come to me"
"My God, my God, why have You .."?
I died.

There was nothing where You were.
And now I am no more ...
Come Holy Spirit, Creator come,
In Your great mercy, come.
I give myself to You.
I rest.

With scented balm, with gentle touch,
You soothed my soul, You gave so much,
You spoke kind words of healing grace.
You freed me from my sinful self,
I arose.

Dear God, My Lord, to You I owe
My all, my being, all that is good.
Without You I know I can do nothing.
Be with me, Lord, I pray today.
I hope!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Praise the Lord, for He is good.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Praise the Lord, for He is good.
I rejoice!



Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

"Joseph of Arimathaea's Easter"

This is a poem written by Revd W.H Vanstone and quoted at the end of his book "Fare Well in Christ":

"He's gone" says Joseph, and, with Pilate's leave
Eases the nails and lowers him from the Tree,
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts
And lays him in the cave called Memory.

That cave is deeply hewn in Joseph's heart:
All that's within will always be his own:
In memory's cave the treasure of his past
Is safe for ever, walled and sealed by stone.

"He's safe", says Joseph "safe in this cool place
And no-one now can take my Lord away.
In years to come I'll still see his dear face
As clearly as I've seen it on this day".

"He's gone!" cries Joseph at the empty tomb:
But Mary says "He's left a word for you:
He cannot rest content to be your past,
So he has risen to be your future too".

The punch line "He cannot rest content to be your past" is gently put, but crucially important. We must not keep a nice safe picture tucked away in our hearts of Jesus' life and works and relationships with God. The whole point of His life and work was to show us the way, and to enable us to carry out what he believed to be God's will. We must somehow find a way to hold on to His precepts in a very different world to the one in which he lived. We cannot always stick rigidly to rules and guidelines formed for an ancient society. We have to be imaginative enough and brave enough to be open to new insights so that he will indeed have "risen to be our future too".

Katherine Hurford



United Reformed

Chapel Hill

Ministers: Rev'd Margaret McKay
1 Howe Hall Cottages
Littlebury Green
Tel 01799 528155

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

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 812593

PREACHERS FOR APRIL

5th	11am	Mrs Connie Bonner
9th	7.30pm	Rev L Rapkin Communion
Maundy Thursday		
10th	11am	Easter Meditation at Clavering
Good Friday		
12th	10.30am	Rev L Rapkin - Mrs C Bonner
Easter Day Group Service followed by coffee - Hot Cross Buns		
19th	11am	Rev M McKay
26th	11am	Rev L Rapkin Communion

Rev Margaret McKay's farewell service in the Stansted Group will be on April 19th at Stansted. All are welcome. This service will be followed by Lunch in the Lecture Hall.



The Revd. Margaret McKay receiving her presentation from CTS at a party held on 7th March.



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

We invite you to celebrate Easter with us by coming to any of our Holy Week and Easter Services for worship and prayer.

There will be a joint procession of witness
on Good Friday evening -
leaving the Lower Street/High Lane junction
at 6 pm
and ending at St Theresa's for the
Stations of the Cross

**All are very welcome to join us
for this Procession**



It is now six months since the Stansted Branch of this organisation came into being. Our inaugural meeting was held on Monday 4th August 1997 and our first committee meeting on 14th August. Since that date we have raised the magnificent total of £2,500 plus.

Our first event was a Coffee Morning, combined with the name of Barbara Tyson who did so much towards the first 'Heal' event in 1996 before she died. This was held at the Day Centre and raised £800. We have since held a Quiz Night and a Race Night. Two clothes parties have been very successful (Week-Enders Range). We have been regular supporters of the Boot Sales at the Mountfitchet School (come and see us, 7 am onwards!). Individual members have also raised money. A Bowls Tournament is being arranged later this year. We are hoping that Fiona Castle (widow of Roy) will be a guest speaker in autumn. She raises money for a Cancer Charity called 'Family Care'. Our next event will be a Quiz Night at 'The Cock' Public House, Silver Street - date to be announced. Our third Annual Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 9th September.

We would like to thank everybody for their support of this really local and worthwhile charity. For further information on 'Heal' please contact Pam Jackson, 647354 or Sue Hitchmough, 814265.

Sue Hitchmough, Secretary

Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

Families of people with hearing problems often suffer as well; for example, television and radio sets can be far too loud for their comfort and here again CamTAD can offer practical advice.

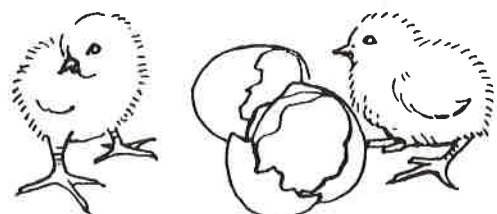
CamTAD makes no charge for any of its services because it is a wholly voluntary charity and all its activities are supported by subscriptions and donations. In addition to domiciliary calls, it also runs Hearing Help Sessions once a month in Great Dunmow, Stansted, Thaxted and Saffron Walden.

Although CamTAD Saffron Walden has been serving Uttlesford for nearly 15 years it is still not well known and we believe that part of the reason is the lack of clarity in the acronym, CamTAD, which causes some confusion because of our proximity to Cambridge (which was the original founder group) and we are therefore planning to change our name in the middle of 1998 to Hearing Help - Uttlesford. We hope this will more readily identify the work we do.

In the meantime though, you will continue to see our advertisements in this magazine under the CamTAD name and if you like to know more about us or wish to receive a leaflet, please contact one of our co-ordinators: Edwin Planterose on 01799 522915 or Ann Whitehead on 01371 873310.

It is not generally realised that about one person in six has a hearing problem and some research calculates that nearly 7%, that is about one if fifteen, wears a hearing aid! Most hearing problems are the result of acquired deafness which usually relates to those who suffer hearing loss after being born with normal hearing ability and it is often, though by no means entirely, associated with the ageing process.

People who wear hearing aids feel very isolated if for any reason their aid breaks down or doesn't seem to work properly. And that is where CamTAD can help. CamTAD is a voluntary organisation which visits people in their own homes to assist users and their families with advice and practical support. Trained volunteers clean, check and re-tube national health hearing aids, advise on and demonstrate additional equipment that is available to help those with hearing problems.





SHALOM

SHALOM DATES

- April 6th AGAPE Mary Warnett
Venue Mike and Marion Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens
- April 20th Prayer and Praise
Rev Michael Hayman
7 Blythwood Gardens

SHALOM RETREAT 1998

When I signed up for this year's Retreat with the theme of spirituality in everyday life I have to admit that my excitement as the weekend approached was limited to the anticipation of being able to worship in the company of many of the Christian friends I had made during my ecumenical life in Stansted. I felt that last year's Retreat with Fr. Gerard Hughes and subsequent use of his book 'The God of Surprises' had given me all that I needed for developing my spirituality.

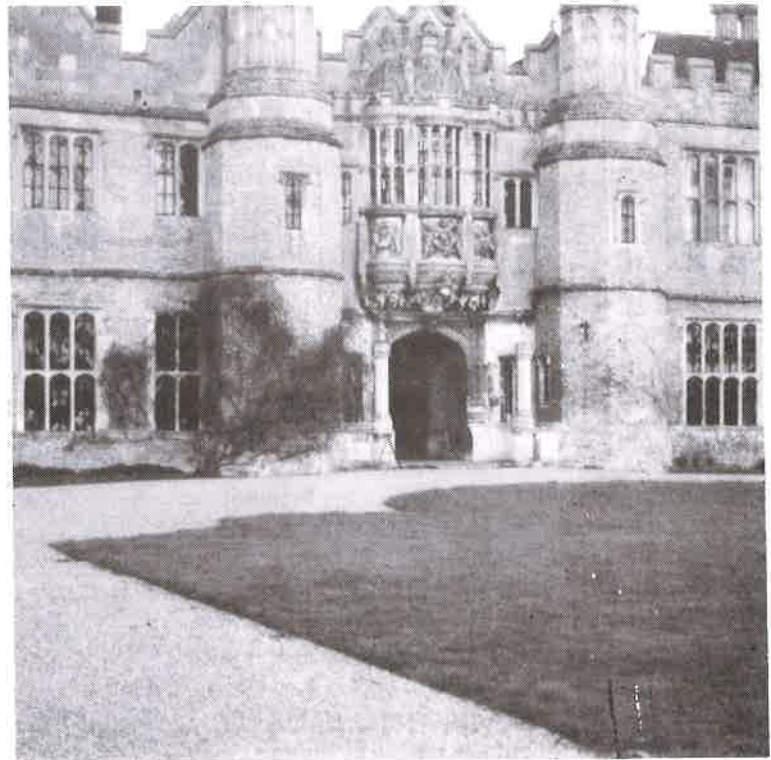
In the very first session God gave me one of those surprises which prodded me to sit up and take careful notice. Julie Holme, our leader for the weekend, had chosen the theme 'The Brokenness that Mends the World'. As a child in Rugby I remember my mother's distress when I said how pretty the sky looked while Coventry was burning so that the meditation on the destruction of its Cathedral using her own beautiful poetry was especially poignant. During this first session we also considered the darkness we feel when life is hard and painful and we feel cut off from God.

As the weekend progressed we were led to see how we could use these dark moments if we held on to the belief that God was with us in our and other's suffering. Julie described faith as a triangle consisting of intellectual assent or head faith, religious experience or heart faith and allegiance to our Church. We were likely to lose our head faith when confronted by intolerable suffering, saying there cannot be a God if he allows this to happen! It is at these times we use our heart faith and stored experience, which she described as being like a camel's hump on which we can feed when we cannot feel God's presence. However, if this fails us we have the third side of the triangle, allegiance, which will never fail us if we persevere in attending our Church and trying to pray. She described this willingness to walk in the dark as true faith which we will find leads us to a deeper experience of God. We can expect God to put us to these tests as he lovingly draws us closer to him just as a parent removes the supporting hand as a child is learning to walk.

Using the parable of the feeding of the five thousand, we considered how we can help others. Like the disciples we often feel our resources are insufficient but if we take what little we have and offer it to God we will find that it is more than enough. Often there is nothing we can do except to be with those who have asked for our help and remain with them in love. Suffering carried in love can be redemptive but not necessarily for those doing the suffering. Julie described how one of her parishioners, dying of cancer and in pain, made a conscious decision to carry her illness in love and transformed those caring for her so that they went that extra mile in their care of her and her room became a place everyone wanted to visit. Another example was how an unhappy marriage was coped with because both partners, by carrying their unhappiness in love, were able to find ways to give each other respect and space to fulfil themselves.

Julie Holme gave generously of her time and experience to make this a very valuable weekend. She gave us valuable tools to sustain our faith in a world of pain and meaningless suffering. We were also greatly helped by her talent for both the spoken and written word and her two books of poems and meditations 'The Light Beyond the Wall' and 'Winterspring' are a consolation and invitation to action.

Angela Gough



Hengrave Hall, Suffolk. 'Home' for Shalom Retreats





**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

SPRING SHOW

2.30 pm Sat 4th April

United Reformed Church Hall

Raffle ~ Refreshments
Presentation of Awards

ADMISSION FREE



**Stansted Mountfitchet
Parish Council**

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Saturday 4th April

Lend a hand and have a laugh whilst
cleaning up a few of our local eyesores.
Old clothes. Gloves and tools provided.

Meet Crafton Green 2 pm

Refreshments at 4 pm

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

2 - 4 pm Monday 6th April

Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519

April

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	Liberal Democrat AGM	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
4	Sat	Village Clean Up Garden Club Spring Show St Mary's PTFA Disco	Crafton Green 2 pm URC Hall 2.30 pm Youth Centre 2 - 6 pm
5	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
6	Mon	Carers Support Group Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
9	Thu	Evening W I	St John's Hall 8 pm
10	Good	Friday Procession of Witness	Lower Street / High Lane 6 pm
11	Sat	Liberal Democrat Ploughmans	Day Centre 12 - 2 pm
12	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
13	Mon	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
16	Thu	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sat	Carnival Quiz	Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm
19	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - 12 noon
20	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
20	Mon		
	to		
23	Thu	Skip at Crafton Green	
24	Fri	Conservatives Dinner	
30	Thu	Garden Club Special Event	Day Centre 8 pm

May

1	Fri	St Mary's PTFA Cake Stall Conservatives Fashion Show <i>Closing date for 'Stansted in Bloom' entries</i>	School Entrance 3.30 pm 8 pm
3	Sun	Red Cross Week begins Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
4	Mon	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	St Mary's PTFA Quiz Night	



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in
STANSTED**



Good Friday Procession of Witness

6 pm 10th April
Leaving from Lower Street /
High Lane and ending at
St Teresa's Church

COME AND JOIN US

STANSTED CARNIVAL



QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 18th April
Mountfitchet High School

Licensed Bar ~ Teams of 8
Tickets £5 incl Ploughmans

Tel Margaret on 812743

Stansted Windmill Open Days



2 - 6 pm
Sunday 5th April
Sunday 12th April
Monday 13th April
Sunday 3rd May
Monday 4th May

Mountfitchet High School Car Boot Sale

Sunday 19th April

8.00 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments

Tel 01279 813384



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



**Special Event
for New Members**

8pm Thur 30th April
Day Centre

Informal meeting ~ speaker
from Van Hages Nursery

Admission Free

Tel Derek Francis 831900



STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

(for composting)

Bring along your green waste
to Crafton Green 9 - 12 am on
these Saturdays:

25th April ~ 23rd May ~ 20th June

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Chapel Hill
Tel 813214

Please remember the Village Clean-up on Saturday April 4th. See Display notice.

Stansted in Bloom

You should by now have received in your Parish Newsletter an entry form for this year's Stansted in Bloom competition. Please return the form to the Council Office. You may enter more than one category or you may nominate another property which you consider worthy of consideration. Forms should be returned by Friday 1st May. Categories are listed below:

Best Front Garden - Best Frontage - Best Hanging Basket.

Skip Dates

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May
Saturday/Sunday 30th/31st May.

For your information, the following people are members of the Parish Council:

Andrew Aberly, 814278. Catherine Dean, 813579. John Hudson, 814489. Janice Loughlin, 812346. David Parry, 814788. Alastair Richardson, 815518. John Salmon (V. Chair), 814789. Melanie Watson, 814231. Ray Clifford (Chairman), 812239. Bridget Gott, 814440. Peter Jones, 813252. Steve Morrison, 814152. Adam Pounds, 757885. Brenda Ryan, 812725. Geoffrey Sell, 815925.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

It is always a pleasure to hear a talk by someone who retains a fascination with the job they do. David Lodge, Vice-chairman of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings is such a one and brought to the Millers Annual General Meeting some of the "treasures" he had found when renovating his old house. Not valuable in money terms but of worth as an insight into the lives of past occupants. He also told us about some of the churches his building firm has worked on including St. John's and St. Mary's in Stansted.

Steve Clements remains as Chairman of the Millers, with the present Committee re-elected on bloc, and the addition of Julia George. New lines in goods, as well as old favourites, are on sale in the Mill. Next opening 2 - 6 Sunday 5th April



Rainbow Pre-school is very sad to record that 'Auntie' Carol Battson suddenly collapsed and died on Tuesday 24th February 1998. A memorial service in her memory was held at St John's Church on 5th March. Rainbow Pre-School have begun a collection for a seat in the village in memory of Carol. Any donations towards this seat can be handed in at the Pre-school on weekday mornings.

Carol's contribution to the Pre-school spanned 17 years. She started as a mum help when her own son attended the Pre-school. Later she became a leader. In more recent years she worked as a part-time volunteer at the Pre-school and also as a special needs helper. She also did much of the unseen work at the Pre-school by helping keep things clean, tidy and organised. She would pop in and see if any extra help was needed, even when she was not rostered to do so. She had a friendly nature and always had time to help others. 'Auntie' Carol will be greatly missed by colleagues and the children and our thoughts are with her family at this time too.

Lorna Williams



We met again in February after our Christmas break and, normal business completed, we were treated to some spectacular slides of a three week sailing holiday taken by Edna and Alan Wright.

Starting from Plymouth they sailed to Dover where they waited for the weather to improve. They then crossed the Channel to Dunkirk. After that they hugged the Belgian coast with its many seaside towns and hundreds of restaurants.

Holland was next, with its harbours running right into the towns and its fields of flowers. We were particularly impressed with the slides of Middleberg and its lovely models of many villages.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th April at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. Visitors welcome at 50p.

Pat Clower

GROWING THINGS



Elizabeth had a playhouse in the garden. Inside was a pretend cooker, with kettle and saucepans, and a box containing plastic plates, cups & saucers, knives, forks & spoons, and pretend food. There were two chairs and a table, and Mummy had made curtains to put up at the windows, and found a piece of carpet for the floor.

Elizabeth played in the house for hours with her dolls, but something was missing. The little house needed its **own** garden, with pretty flowers growing in it. She had been given a small watering can, fork, trowel and rake for her birthday, so it was agreed that she could have the patch of ground alongside the playhouse to grow what she liked. Elizabeth dug it over and raked it level, then the next time she went shopping with Mummy, she was allowed to choose packets of seeds from the rack in the shop, and pay for them herself with her birthday money. She planted them carefully and watered them, and looked at them every day to see what was coming up. Some started growing soon, although it seemed a long time before the flowers bloomed. Others, when they came up at last, just stayed green. They were funny round things, and bits of white began to appear in the middle. Elizabeth was very disappointed, and wondered whether to pull them up, but decided to leave them for a bit longer.

One day, Mummy said "O, look, your cauliflowers are nearly ready to eat!"

"**Cauliflowers?**" cried Elizabeth, "I thought because the packet said flowers they would be pretty like the others!"

But when they were cooked, Elizabeth enjoyed them with her dinner and decided she would grow some more next year.

Do you know the names of these flowers?



Rose
Poppy
Sunflower
Violet
Forget-me-not

Put the numbers
against the names

Answers on page 13

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

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

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

If you are interested in joining the club please contact Kate Rutter (Mambership Secretary) on B/S 813053 - and don't forget you can join at a discounted rate if you join by April 30th.

For any other information please call either Richard Mott (Secretary) on B/S 466348 or Janet Hollis (Chairman) on B/S 812073.

Diary Date

To open the new season there will be a spring tournament on Sunday April 19th at 1.00 pm. Please add your name to the list in the clubhouse if you would like to play.

HELP WANTED PLEASE

STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK 3-9 May 1998

It would be greatly appreciated if I could have some volunteers to help with the door-to-door collection in the village. Quite a few people who have kindly helped me in the past cannot manage this year so there are gaps to be filled. It would only take one or two hours of your time to support this very good cause - please contact me soon. Thank you.

Diana Pelly (tel. 812883)

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Many well-known literary figures lived in, or had connections with, Hertfordshire. At our March meeting Ann-Marie Parker showed us slides of portraits and houses and inns associated with, among others, Francis Bacon, Samuel Pepys, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his friends Mary and Charles Lamb, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, George Eliot, George Orwell and George Bernard Shaw.

The History of Gramophones will be R.A. Lewin's subject on Thursday 2nd April and on Thursday 7th May, after the A.G.M., there will be a presentation on Joseph Green's Stansted. Both at 8 pm in the Day Centre.

Peggy Honour

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Forthcoming Events

Constituency Dinner: Friday 24th April
Fashion Show: 8.00pm on Friday 1st May

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

Membership enquiries: Alastair Richardson, (01279) 815959.



Stansted Liberal Democrats

Chairman: Steve Riley, 815455
Secretary: Robin Scarr, 813080

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting - 3rd April, 8 pm, at the Quaker Hall.

Monthly Ploughman's Lunch - 11th April, 12 noon - 2 pm at the Day Centre.



Photo: Peter Brown

These views of Silver Street taken at an interval of some 90 years are another example of how much of the village has resisted change. The late 18th century weatherboard dwelling now known as Crown House was formerly a commercial inn named the Rose and Crown before that name was transferred to the pub on Bentfield Green. It is said to have had stabling for 18 horses and to have closed between 1860 and 1870. A century later it survived a spectacular lorry crash. The road traffic signs came early in the Edwardian era, while the entrances to the Byth estate and The Limes are just visible on the left. This is an instance of the number of posts and wires diminishing rather than increasing over the years.

Silver Street and Cambridge Road were busy coaching highways in the days following the popularising of Newmarket racecourse and had at least seven ale houses or inns, four of which are still with us.



Photo: David Martin's Stansted postcard collection. 814673.

THANKS AND FAREWELL

An era in Stansted's history ended in March when two village shops finally closed their doors. Les Oldfield and his wife Betty ran the hardware store on Chapel Hill for over 40 years and offered goods from a plug to a preserving pan together with the friendly advice that went with them. Peggy and Charles Rogers had their gift and card shop for 22 years and became known for an atmosphere of old-world courtesy. Both shops were a byword for service and between them supplied almost all that a household needed.

Unless there is a last minute surprise we shall have to travel to Bishops Stortford or its boundary for the myriad small things that are in constant demand and it has to be admitted that this is the down side of modern retailing. Both families suffered the anxieties resulting from burglaries and wanton damage but their standards of cheerfulness and help to customers did not falter.

The Link is pleased to represent the gratitude and goodwill of thousands of customers past and present and to wish Les, Betty, Charles and Peggy a well-earned retirement.



PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Hello again.

This term the children have been learning about numbers, odd and even. They have made pictures of their houses and pasted them on to streets with day and night time themes. The "Special People" vehicles will go underneath; the children made these a few weeks ago. We will then have an over all view of part of our village.

There will be more fund raising events after the Quiz Night. "I Spy Nature" boards which are always a huge success and "My Little Hands" prints which parents like to buy to send to relatives.

Mother's Day cards are to be made and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt around the churchyard. Also, the children have been asked by the Whitechapel Mission in London, which cares for the homeless and destitute, to send them chocolate cream eggs as a special treat,

teaching them (the children) that it is good to give at Easter time.

Usborne Books will visit us in the last week of term. "Buy a book not an Easter Egg" is the slogan.

In answer to Editor's question last month:

Mathematical elephants are plastic elephants in four different colours of three different sizes to help the children learn matching, sorting and orderly skills. They come with colourful wipe-clean boards which help them with patterns and number work.

The things children say!

After putting some pots, pans and plates into the play kitchen sink one child said "I'll just leave them there to sulk!"

Don't forget to call in at St John's Church Hall any day - 9-12, stay and play.

Auntie Helen



Recipe of the Month Apple & Orange Flan

Shortcrust Pastry

8oz / 227gm plain flour

2oz / 57gm lard

2oz / 57gm margarine

cold water to mix

Filling

2 oranges

2 cooking apples

2 eggs

4oz / 113gm caster sugar

- (a) rub fat into flour to resemble breadcrumbs
- (b) add water to make a firm dough
- (c) knead lightly
- (d) roll out to line 8" flan dish
- (e) scrub oranges, grate rind & squeeze juice
- (f) wash apples and grate coarsely (do not peel)
- (g) beat eggs in a bowl
- (h) add orange rind & juice, grated apple & sugar
- (i) mix well & put into flan case
- (j) cook for 35-40 mins on 200°C (400°F) until set
- (k) serve cold with cream

Halve quantities for 6" flan dish

The Link occasionally receives articles prepared for school projects which have a wider appeal. Here is one.

A DAY IN LISBON

Lisbon. A city of contradictions. On one side of the road a tall metal structure, surrounded by long-necked yellow dinosaurs swinging gently to and fro. On the other, a dirty, narrow street, with rubbish choking the pavement where unwashed, ragged beggars huddle.

For the western tourist, Lisbon seems like home at first glance. Even the taxi driver who brought us from the airport chatted brightly to me in English. Well-known companies such as Virgin and MacDonal'd's have grasped the city with one huge megastore and numerous fast-food outlets.

Taking a walk through the less commercial streets, however, provided a different view. Here, Lisbon is still untouched by the modern world. Traditional houses line narrow cobbled streets where locals walk unperturbed by the blaring of car horns.

We then began our assault on Lisbon hill. A steep gradient that is so difficult to walk up, Lisbon has two tram lines especially to carry travellers up and down. Naturally we decide to climb it on foot.

Twenty hot, tiring minutes later with leg muscles aching we finally reached the summit of the hill where Lisbon castle once stood. The view from the ruins is breathtaking. The city of Lisbon is spread out before our feet with roads and housing forming a delicate patchwork. This, plus the majestic water that frames the south end of the city, is a spectacular sight that will never be forgotten.

As with any tourist attraction, however, there is the inevitable group of locals trying to profit from the beautiful location. While this is still true in Lisbon the assorted sketch artists and trinket sellers seem to have the same laid back attitude of the whole city. They smile and chat with passing tourists and each other, not seeming too concerned whether they make a sale or not. There is no 'hard sell', no feeling of pressure to buy and people are free of constant harassment as they wander through the ruins.

As the sun beat down on dry Lisbon we decided to escape the scorching midday heat by taking refuge in a small cafe for lunch. As with all eateries in the city the service was slow, the food good and the staff friendly.

The day in Lisbon ended as it had begun, at the airport. It, like everywhere else in the city, was under renovation. As in the rest of the capital, old and new is forced together, not always seamlessly. Lisbon is a city under transition, where tradition is retained despite the ravages of the modern world.

Simon Ayres



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

March Meeting

We welcomed to our meeting this month Mr Roy Brabbins, who had journeyed from Holland on Sea to be with us. Mr Brabbins' subject was 'Growing Vegetables Economically'. He was certainly a mine of information with tips on how to garden with a view to saving money. From sharing seeds and plants with neighbours to growing varieties that are easy to provide you with seed for later years.

Members competition: Cyril Stoneham won this month with his three shoots of sprouting broccoli.

April Meeting

On the first of the month we hope for a good attendance at the club's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8 pm at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, Stansted. As we will have some vacancies for officials and committee it is very important that we have a good turnout of members. The AGM will be followed by a Quiz. We hope to see you there.

Mountfitchet Garden Club presents its Spring Show, Saturday 4th April

Open for Public Viewing, 2.30, Free Admission, United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

Refreshments - Raffle - Presentation of Awards.

Advance Notice

Special event for prospective new members, Thursday 30th April at 8 pm, Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Admission free. All welcome. Speaker Andrew Stewart from Van Hages.

Come and see how you can enjoy your garden.

Answers to the children's flower quiz

- 1 sunflower
- 2 forget me not
- 3 violet
- 4 poppy
- 5 rose



Stansted Evening Women's Institute



Huw Johnson Club

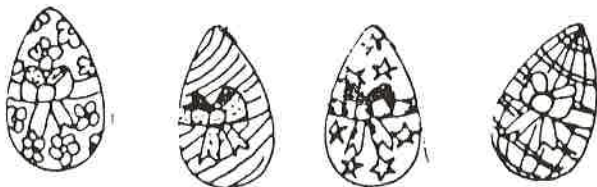
Ken Crowther, the gardening broadcaster of 'Down to Earth' on BBC Essex, spoke to a packed audience, including a number of husbands, at our March meeting. He told members how, even as a child, he loved gardening and had cost his father great amounts of money as he tried out different gardening schemes, continually changing the flower beds in their garden. When the career's officer at his school asked what he wanted to do when he left school and he said gardening his teacher thought this meant Ken wanted to walk around wearing a peak cap and long coat, but he assured the man he did not want to be a Park Keeper.

He told us about his garden centre at Abridge and how he had become a regular speaker on BBC Essex with his own gardening programmes. He has a BBC Essex garden at his Abridge centre which is to be revamped shortly and an expert on Clematis. Sheila Chapman, has now joined them at the nursery. His talk covered all aspects of his life as a gardener, some of it in London. He answered members questions and then during our coffee break he wandered around talking to members and husbands answering even more questions. Mrs Townsend thanked him for a most enjoyable and entertaining talk.

Our raffle for this evening was in aid of the Meningitis Trust and raised a total of £35. Jhuggi jumpers are still coming in. We have already sent off eight parcels containing 60 of these jumpers to various parts of Africa and some members are now making small dresses and shorts from a pattern sent by Oxfam. Fund raising by members is going well. Over £200 was raised at our Jumble Sale and £101 at a lunch we held for a group of people on a day outing. The £27 raised at last month's meeting will be spent on a flower tub for "Stansted in Bloom", hopefully to be put at the Fountain on Chapel Hill.

We were able to welcome two more new members to this month's meeting. We are pleased to report the steady growth of our membership which is now over the fifty mark.

Our April meeting on Thursday 9th in St John's Hall is entitled "For Richer for Poorer", all about weddings by Ann Witchalls. If you wish to join us for this meeting you are most welcome at 7.30 pm.



How beautiful we should all look in the future following Heather's "Hygiene and Make Up" talk. Sarah was a willing model for the make over and we were all most interested in the way Heather transformed her. Heather has promised to come back and give all the girls an opportunity to experiment with make up under her watchful eye. Next week we have Andrew's 22nd birthday disco so we will be on the lookout for some glamorous ladies.

A big thankyou from Tom and I for everyone who helped out while Tom was in hospital. Without help from our members, parents and from our other friends we could not have managed. Thankyou too for all the kind wishes and prayers from so many people.

Once again we held a very successful Coffee Morning raising £105 to augment our funds. We are also very grateful to the Bishop's Stortford Lions for a donation of £250 which will be used to purchase some much needed new equipment for Club evenings.

We also thank again our good friend Mr Cashman and the "Dunmow Occasional Golf Society" for a magnificent £1,000 which will ensure that once again we can hire a coach for our annual holiday.

Although we have a very faithful band of drivers to bring our members to Club we do need at least three more for our return trip to Saffron Walden. This means picking our members up at 9 pm and transporting them home. Usually we ask our drivers to drive once a month but at the moment some have to drive more often. Please contact me on 812284 if you can help in this way. If you are unsure about driving our members why not pop into St John's Hall one Thursday evening between 7 pm and 9 pm and meet them before committing yourself.

Marion G Johnson

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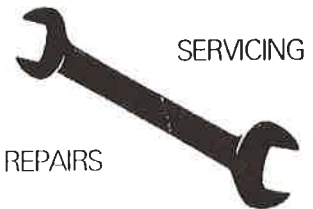
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