Aug/Sep '98

The LINK

Stansted Mountfitchet





THE TERCENTENARY

STANSTED'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



See VILLAGE EVENTS PAGE for further details

The Link is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted Advertising and other enquiries to Sheila Parry 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel 814788 Cost £3.00 per year or 30 pence per issue

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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 10th September for publication on 27th September 15th October for publication on 1st November **Roman Catholic**

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest:		Rev'd Joe White The Presbytery, 12 Millside, Stansted Tel 814349			
Masses	Saturday	Stansted	6.00.pm		
	Sunday	Stansted	10,30 am		
		Henham	9.00 am		
	Holy Days	Stansted	8,00 pm		
		Henham	7_00 pm		

Stansted

9.30 am

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

Weekdays

(Tues-Sat)

St Therese of Lisieux R.C. Church Ruby Jubilee - 1958-1998

On Sunday 12th July we celebrated 40 years of the opening of the Windmill House as the church dedicated to St Therese of Lisieux. (St Therese known as 'the little flower' spent the whole of her short life - she died of consumption at the age of 24 - in devout prayer. As she was dying among her last words were "I will spend my Heaven doing good upon the earth". Among Catholics she is a much loved saint.)

Many parishioners who were at St Therese's 40 years ago or before, were presented with momentos by Father Joe in the form of souvenir books of the year 1958. The children were not forgotten, they were also presented with books on the lives of the saints.

In the afternoon starting at lunchtime we held a parish picnic and were pleased to see many old friends. The church was opened to all and we picnicked with the Lord in the body of the church. Father Joe kindly opened his flat over the church to all to watch videos of Lisieux and of Lourdes and, later, cartoons for the children.



Photo Eileen Quinn

The afternoon was packed with activity, games for the children, a quiz and games for the adults (with a prize for the winners of Trivial Pursuit Quiz of a bottle of champagne - no less!). A delicious afternoon tea was served outside, the rain having abated.

After tea we were pleased to be able to have our outdoor procession culminating in a very moving service of Benediction (Blessing). The atmosphere for the service was warm and emotional. It was a true feeling of spiritual and physical togetherness.

Father Joe, over the past few weeks, had worked hard to put together a superb display of photographs and memories spanning the last 40 years. Many parishioners loaned photographs and albums and it was wonderful to go back and recall so many happy times with exclamations of 'did I really look that young'!



A very happy and memorable day and we offer our sincere thanks to Father Joe and those who helped in any way to make it such a success

Our Rededication Prayer

The People of the Parish rededicate themselves to the work of the parish and place especially the future of their endeavours to the prayer and intercession of St Therese and St Anthony.

Let us continue to pray for each other so that we will find strength and joy in the Lord always.

Amen

Mary Warnett



FAREWELL TO MICHAEL AND SHEILA HAYMAN

After the Methodist Evening Service on July 5th, Churches Together in Stansted had a bring and share supper in the Friends Meeting House. About 50 people were present to express their gratitude and good wishes to Michael and Sheila, whose support for CTS activities has been unstinting. As a church leader Michael has been a powerful influence and we shall miss him very much.

To mark the occasion Connie Bonner and Dorothy Oswald had made a delicious cake decorated with the emblem of Churches Together.

Father Joe White thanked Michael for all he had done for the Stansted Community and hoped that their retirement would be happy and peaceful. Katherine Hurford, on behalf of CTS, presented Michael and Sheila with a cheque for a garden fountain for their new home in Chelmsford.

We all wish them an enjoyable and fulfilling future.



Photo Michael Dyer

BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE 1998

The Holy Spirit: Dove or Flame?

One of the questions that pilgrims were asked to consider and discuss as they walked from Bradwell village to St Peter's Chapel in bright sunshine was "If the Holy Spirit did not have a dove as a symbol what would you put in its place?"

This theme was taken up in the address given by Dr John Bell from the Iona Community during the ecumenical openair service of celebration. He stressed that the compassionate, peaceful image of the dove was not enough to illustrate the Holy Spirit - which sought to disturb, stimulate and stir to action. So much needs to be done in the world and the Holy Spirit should be urging us to action as well as bringing a benediction. The last two lines of a prayer we were asked to take home with us said:

"Take our hands from the poverty of having and keeping to the riches of giving and sharing. Take our voices from the blandness of safe religion to the proclamation of your radical Kingdom."

Eight of us went from Stansted and as we walked and then picnicked we met people from other parts of Essex. There was beautiful harp music to listen to in the Chapel as well as stalls and refreshments in the marquees. We came home tired and hot – but exhilarated!

Katherine Hurford



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

After saying sad farewells to Michael and Sheila Hayman on their retirement to Chelmsford in July, we invite you to join us on Saturday, 5th September at 7 pm at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church in order to welcome our new minister, the Revd John Graham, his wife Liz and their daughter Lydia.

Services and Preachers for August and September Sundays at 9.30 am August

- 2nd Ken Mark of Saffron Walden
- 9th Revd Ronald Rawlings, Holy Communion
- 16th Revd Harry Wood
- 23rd Michael Valentine of Bishop's Stortford
- 30th Don McGregor of Bishop's Stortford

September

- 6th Julie Finbow of Bishop's Stortford
- 13th Revd John Graham, Holy Communion
- 20th Bernard Engel of Bishop's Stortford
- 27th Christine Heyhoe of Bishop's Stortford

Church of England

Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist

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

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more."

Hebrews, Chapter 10, verse 25.

"I am a Christian but I don't go to church."

You often hear people say this but isn't it easier to maintain and build up your faith with the regular support of your fellow Christians? Several of us have been meeting every fortnight or so over the past year as we have followed the Emmaus course. It has been a privilege to share in people's individual journeys of faith and a pleasure to enjoy their company. Our stories are different but we share a common faith.

A few weeks ago one of the questions we were asked to consider was "What gifts have been used by others to care for you?" Ragni voiced my thoughts when she said that the constancy of many members of our congregation was a great help to her. Week after week and during times of personal trial and tribulation a large core of members of St John's attend services in the church.

Sometimes we know of the tragedies in their lives, the problems they are living with and working through but I dare say there are many whose problems are hidden from us.

I don't know if I speak for any others but I know that I do not feel smug or self-satisfied in my belief. At times the flame burns strong but at times it flickers uncertainly. It is at these times when I feel it is so important to keep meeting with fellow Christians, to be reassured by their steadfastness. In this country we are not persecuted for our faith and we are not required to put it to the test in dramatic ways but we **do** have times of uncertainty. At these times the witness of others can be a great comfort so I would like to use this article to say a personal thank you to members of St John's whose regular attendance at church has been an inspiration to me over the last few years.

Katy Dockerill

Norah Snelling

We would like to thank all who sent cards and floral tributes and a special thank you for the flower arrangements in St Mary's Church.

Dot and Bill Barker

Services in August

Sundays 8.00 am Holy Communion 9.30 am Parish Communion 6.30 pm Evening Service Wednesdays 10 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm Prayers

There will be no Sunday School or Family Service until school resumes in September

United Reformed

Chapel Hill

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

Contact: Mrs Janet Townsend 58 Chapel Hill Tel 812593

Preachers for August and September

Augus	st	
2nd	[] am	Dr D Thompson
9th	11 am	Rev S Evans
16th	ll am	Mr M Dyer
23rd	l l am	Rev Lambdon, Communion
30th	l l am	Mrs S McKenzie
Septen	nber	
6th	11 am	Rev L Rapkin
13th	11 am	Rev J Benfield
20th	11 am	Mr M Dyer
27th	11 am	Rev L Rapkin, Communion
	6.30 pm	& Tercentenary Service Rev E Caswell, Moderator of the Eastern Province

It is with sadness and regret that the "Women's Own", a ladies' ecumenical gathering that has been meeting in the Lecture Hall each Monday afternoon, has had to close. It began on Armistice Day 1918, when 2 or 3 ladies, who had been meeting in a house to pray together and support each other as their husbands were away fighting in the war, decided to meet in the Silver Street schoolroom (now Leisure Plan Showroom) and encouraged others to join. It was very successful and they moved to the Central Hall (now Old Court House flats) and then on to the Lecture Hall.

They had interesting speakers on all subjects and they always began their meetings with a hymn and prayers.

On the Monday nearest to Armistice they celebrated their birthday with a lunch or tea party and each spring had a sale to raise funds to pay their speakers.

It would have been their 80th Anniversary in November but illness, age and transport problems have meant they cannot carry on and the decision was taken to close and distribute the remaining funds between the Leprosy Mission, St Clare's Hospice and the URC Repair Fund.

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk:

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

Be True to Yourself

Most of us appear to be role playing for most of the time. I do not mean that we deliberately go about life in a role. After early childhood we seem to become different people at different times We become school children and lead dual lives and have a dual language, that is, a school mode and a home mode. We also develop a classroom mode and an out of class mode.

When we get older we become whatever profession we adopt, we become a married person, or not, we may become a parent and we become busy being all those roles that we happen to be

Like everybody else I have and do play roles. I will not bore you with my past and present However. I do like to try and get back to the inner me. I do this whilst walking our dog in the countryside, walking amongst mountains and wild places and, best of all, in Quaker Meetings for Worship. The silence enables my mind to roam freely and centre down on one or two fundamental thoughts and ideas.

"Meeting is the chance to escape from the trivial thoughts of everyday living and to find answers from yourself or from God . Value the opportunity to think unguided by the world. Learn what you feel you need to know, let other information pass No moment of silence is a waste of time." Peter Burgess

Requests for bookings for the Meeting House between 1st and 23rd August should be made to: Mary Rice, 15 Carrigans, Bishops Stortford, Herts, Tel: 01279 651769.

GREEN WASTE

Any reader who has garden waste but no space to compost it should note that the District Council provides a skip for this purpose on one Saturday morning each month. The next ones are on August 15, September 12 and October 10. Otherwise the rubbish can be put in special bags available from the Parish Council offices at 60 p each.

NOWHERE STAYS THE SAME

Receiving the latest "Village Guide" publication from the Parish Council this week made me look out copies of previous booklets. One priced at 15p was from the days when we were in the Saffron Walden Rural District. Unfortunately, it does not have a date but from the text it was obviously published towards the end of 1973 or beginning of 1974, by the Parish Council.

Another was issued free by The Stansted Chamber of Trade in 1977. One would have thought that we would have more need of Accountants nowadays but from 3 in 1977 we have only 1 listed today. The same number of Antiques businesses but one of the Banks has gone. Architects and Surveyors have increased but Butchers down - whatever does that tell us I wonder. It is interesting to compare the lists of businesses, some of which do not seem to have been thought of in 1977, such as Corporate Hospitality and Fitness Development, let alone all matters relating to Computers.

Looking at the earlier Parish Council publication, it seems that our Village Organizations have kept going well over the last 24 or so years. Sadly, we now have only one W.L not two and there are no longet Mothers' Union or Young Wives meetings. However, there are some additions to the list including the History Society and Music Club

The Parish Council must be congratulated on this useful Village Guide, which will provide interesting information for future local historians. At present the Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society is considering the possibility of a Millennium Project to gather more material on Stansted as it is now and in due course an item will appear in the Link setting out the aims and how you can help.

Peggy Honour





Uttlesford Carers and Alzheimer's Disease Society Carers Support group

Please note that there will be no Carers Support Group in August.

We are changing the date of the support group to the second Thursday of the month. The meeting in September will be on **Thursday 10th September**.

Margaret Whitelaw

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerki Mrs Ruth Clifford Office Hours: Monday to Priday 1800 s.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Council Offices Crafton Green House 72 Chopel HW Stanated Mountlachet Essex CM24 EAQ Telephone: (0220 813214

Playschemes - 1998

Commencing Monday 3rd August through to Friday 28th August at the Community Education Centre in Lower Street. Sessions run from 10.00 am - 12 noon and 1.30 -

3.30 pm. Each 2 hour session costs £1.50.

We are arranging one special event or outing per week and hope to visit the following places:

Wednesday 5th August - Walton on the Naze Wednesday 12th August - Swimming/ice skating, Chelmsford Wednesday 19th August - Whipsnade Zoo Wednesday 26th August - Toboganning in Harlow

Prices will be notified by Ann Conroy at the start of the Playschemes but keep an eye on the notice boards for any updates.

Stansted in Bloom

As you will have noticed, Lower Street is all in bloom with hanging baskets and troughs - thanks to the traders who participated in the scheme and to all those who made financial contribution to the scheme. Judging is taking place as we write for the Best Front Garden, Best Frontage and Hanging Basket as well as Best Pub - watch the next edition for the results. Our thanks also to the pupils of Bentfield School, who participated and hope you will have enjoyed seeing their work on display in Foxton Hayes' window.

I hope by now you will all have received your copy of the latest Parish Newsletter and the new Village Guide. A plea in particular to all the local organisations to keep us up to date with officers within your organisations retiring/ moving, etc. so that we can update our master copy.

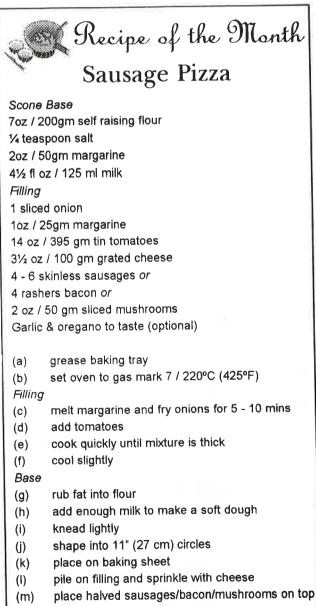
Hopefully by the time you read this we will have some new adventure-type play equipment on the Recreation Ground and the equipment at the Mountfitchet Estate will have been moved into the newly fenced play area. Provision for older children, i.e. skateboarding, is under consideration and any progress will be reported in due course. We are still hoping to provide more play equipment particularly at Bentfield Green play area but this is not cheap so any person(s) or companies who feel able to make a contribution it would be much appreciated. Any donations should be made payable to the Parish Council (Play Equipment) and sent to the Clerk.



Member of Parliament's Interviews

Friday 11th September The Guildhall, Town Street, Thaxted The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street,	5.45-6.30 pm
Saffron Walden	7.00-7.45 pm
Friday 2nd October Town Council Office, 47 Stortford Road, Dunmow	5,45-6.30 pm

Alastair Richardson 01279 815959



(n) bake for 20 minutes



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Stansted Windmill Open Days 2 - 6 pm

Playscheme commerces

Mountflitchet, Seniors

Skip at Crafton Green

Sun Windmill Open

16 Sun Windmill Open 19 Wed Mountfichet Seniors

23 Sun Windmill Open

30 Sun Windmill Open

12 Wed RBL Coffee Morning

Evening W I

Wed Mountfichet Seniors

Cake Stall

Sun Windmill Open

Mon Carrival AGM

Gardening Club:

Shalom Group.

Wed HEAL Coffee Morning

Thu Carers Support Group

Set St Mary's Church open

Thu RBL Warrien's Section

Wed Stansted Dist Lunch Olub

Caiminal Music Quiz

URC Tercentenary Weekend

Evening W I

Wed Mountfichet Seniors

Jumble Sale

Jumble Sale

WEA enrolment

Tue Keep Fit resumes

Local History Society

St Mary's Church open

Mon Windmill Fete & Mill open

Sunday 2nd August Sunday 9th August Sunday 16th August Sunday 23rd August Sunday 30th August Monday 31st August (with Fête) Sunday 6th September Sunday 4th October



Mondays to Fridays 3rd - 28th August Community Centre, Lower St Outings ~ Games ~ Surprizes For details please tel Ann Conroy 812457

VILLAGE EVENTS

Commmunity Centre, Lower Street Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

2 - 6 pm Day Centre 10.30 am St John's Hall 7.30 pm 2 - 6 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm Day Centre 8 pm Outside UR Church 10 am - noon 2 - 6 pm 2 - 5 pm Day Centre 8 pm Chantry Hall, Henham St John's Hall 8.15 pm Day Centre 11 am - 1 pm Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm 10 am - 6 pm Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm Mountfitchet School 1 pm Fire Station am Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm

Day Centre 7.30 pm

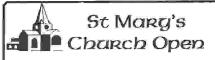


St John's Church Quiz Night 7.30 for 8 pm Saturday 3rd October St John's Hall Tables of 8 ~ Bar ~ Supper Tickets £5 Tel 813160/815225

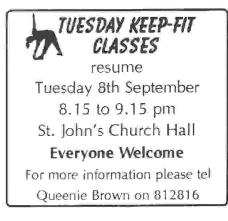
Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill ANNUAL FÊTE

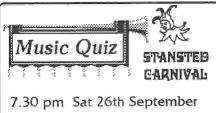
2 pm 31st August (Bank Holiday Monday) Stalls, Games, China Breaking, Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Plants and Millers' Teas

A great village and family event All proceeds to Windmill Funds



St Mary's (opposite the Mountfitchet High School) will be open to visitors 2-5pm Sunday 6th September 10am-6pm Sat 12th September Everyone Welcome





Mountfitchet High School Teams of 8 £6 including supper Please tel 812743

Stansted URC Tercentenary Sat 26th September Noon - 6 pm Craft Fair ~ Souvenirs ~ Cake Stall ~ Refreshments

7.30 pm Concert by Summer Wine & Friends Tickets £4.00 Tel 813433/812593





Pictured above are Lucy and George Harrington with the cake they won at the Stansted Carnival by guessing the weight which was 15lb 7oz. The competition raised funds for HEAL (Herts, Essex and London), a really local cancer charity. Our group has supported 'HEAL' for almost a year and has raised £4,000. Our next event is our Annual Coffee Morning coupled with the name of Barbara Tyson on **Wednesday 9th September** at 11 am at The Day Centre. We would appreciate bric-a-brac, books, cakes and contributions for a taffle and bring and buy stall. Anyone who can help in any way please ting Joy on 813871 or Sue on 814265. See you there!

Sue Hitchmough Secretary



At our monthly meeting on July 1st the guest speaker was Mr Ted Wearn. The subject of his talk was "How to succeed at Flower Shows". With his tips and ideas on how to present our flowers and vegetables to the best advantage and catch the judge's eye it was a very enlightening evening.

The monthly competition which was for five sweet peas was won by Cyril Stoneham.

On July 11th we had our outing to the R.H.S. gardens at Wisley which was an enjoyable day.



HuwJohnson Club

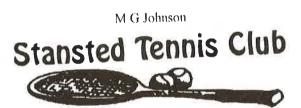
When you read this we could be already enjoying our holiday at Cleethorpes. Let's hope the weather is kind then we will be able to enjoy our seaside visit.

Our outing to Peterborough became an outing to Ely. Our members enjoy travelling by train and this year we changed trains at Stansted Airport which added to the enjoyment of the day.

We had a lovely although rather sad evening when we said goodbye to Gina, Nina, Laura and Kate. Marion and Tom wish to say "Thankyou to you girls for giving us that beautiful wall clock. Every time we look at it we will think about the time you gave to our members. They will certainly miss you as I'm sure the handshakes, kisses and hugs you received made very plain".

A big thank you to all our drivers for being so loyal and caring to our members. We are still looking for some more volunteer drivers, so please think about driving on one Thursday evening of each month. You would either collect members from Saffron Walden for Club at 7 pm or return them to Saffron Walden at 9 pm.

Lots of news about our holiday in the October issue, until then we wish everyone a happy holiday.



Members will have noticed that work has started on converting one end of the clubhouse into toilet facilities, a changing room and new kitchen - many apologies for the chaos. We hope it will be well worth it in the end.

With Wimbledon now fading into the distance our courts are full of budding Tim Henmans. For anybody interested in coaching please call either Chris Hollis on 466973 or Norman Elson on 850057.

The club tournament is now well under way - finals day is Sunday 6th September - please come and support this event.

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

Any queries please call Chris Hollis on 466973.



THE PIECE OF PAPER

The Bouncer twins were just coming out of their home under the old railway station, when they saw a piece of paper blowing past. They chased after it and were quite out of breath when at last they caught it. They sat down to rest and tried to read the words on the torn bit of paper, but it did not make sense to them.



When they got home Bunty said, "Mum, what are Grand Feet?". A puzzled Mrs. Bouncer looked at the paper and exclaimed, "It is not feet but Grand Fête!" She explained that it was something humans did and seemed to be fun. Mr. Bouncer, who was tidying up his tool box, said, "That gives me an idea, come on Billy, give me a hand and we will have our own Grand Fête tomorrow." Billy was the oldest of the Bouncer children and by far the most sensible so Dad was teaching him how to use tools properly. Off they went in the truck to the old rubbish tip.

The twins told Mrs. Field Mouse about the Fête and she had an idea. She told Mrs. Vole and Mr. Mole and they had ideas too. Word soon spread around and the next day lots of little animals could be seen scurrying about in the meadow getting things ready.



The birds collected seeds and berries and the rabbits supplied some salad for refreshments. The field mice had made an acorn shy, like a tiny coconut shy. Mrs. Vole made everyone laugh when she painted their faces and Mr. Mole organized a game of Blind-man's-buff.

But everyone agreed that the best thing of all was the roundabout Mr. Bouncer and Billy had made from an old bicycle wheel and odd bits of wood. Everyone took it in turns to go round and round until they were quite dizzy. Then they sat on the grass and drank Mrs. Bouncer's mint tea and fruit juice and played guessing games.

When the twins went to bed that night Bluebell said sleepily to her sister, "Shall we go and look for some more bits of paper tomorrow?"





A Boy's Week

On Monday I'll fly my kite so high, I really think it will touch the sky. On Tuesday when taking my dog for a walk, I'll meet some friends and have a talk. On Wednesday I'll go for a ride on my bike, Or maybe swimming is what I'll like. On Thursday I'll go to the bridge to watch trains, Or stay in and play with my toys if it rains. On Friday it is my Cub Scout night, Must practice that knot 'till I get it right. On Saturday when I get my pocket money, I'll go to the shop and buy crisps and sweets - yummy. On Sunday I'll rest and drink lemonade fizzy. A boy's life these days is so terribly busy.



STANSTED'S NEW J.P.s



We are delighted to congratulate two Stansted residents on becoming magistrates. Janice McDonald and Bill Fegan have recently been notified that they have been appointed; Janice on the Harlow Bench and Bill on the Saffron Walden and Dunmow Bench of the Essex Commission.

eenfield 813226

However, these arrangements are likely to change as the local courts enter a process of amalgamation. Their selection process took over 15 months and involved numerous interviews and written communications. The interviews involved far-reaching discussions, which sought out the candidate's observations and personal opinions. There now follows a period of induction which will take over three months.

Both Janice and Bill speak of themselves and their new role.

"I have lived in Stansted since 1984 and greatly appreciate the village atmosphere. I belong to Stansted Millers and am librarian to the Local History Society. Until recently I was vice-chairman of the Crime Prevention Panel.

For the last 26 years I have worked in London and Harlow as a civil servant.

Together with my husband Ken I enjoy various activities which include cycling, genealogy and travel.

I feel honoured to be made a Justice of the Peace and look forward to the training period".

Janice McDonald





"I find the prospect of being a magistrate exciting a challenging. I sought the appointment as I had spei of my life involved in the communities where I lived

I spent 32 years as a teacher and was Headteacher schools for 23 of them. It was the appointment as i read of a Harlow school that brought me and my family to Stansted in 1975. The most significant local involvements have been on the carnival committee for 10 years (7 as chairman) and the local adult football league for 21 years (13 as chairman).

I chose to take early retirement from teaching in 1997 as I wanted greater satisfaction from my work than I was getting with current situations and directions. I now work part-time organising Book Fairs for Primary Schools, so using my previous professional knowledge. Both work and leisure have brought me into a wide spectrum of life, the experiences being valuable in this new vocation".

Bill Fegan

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Our autumn course will begin on Monday September 28th, ten weeks on 'Looking at Antique Furniture'. The lecturer, Ms Noel Riley, writes in her introduction to the syllabus - "The history of furniture design is related to architecture, geography and world events as well as to social factors and artistic fashions. The course traces the stylistic changes in English furniture in the context of these influences, looking at cabinet-making techniques and forms of decoration as well as some of the important figures along the way'. We shall begin with medieval times, with evidence from manuscript illumination and inventories as to how furniture was used in houses at that time: through the centuries using oak and walnut, to mahogany; through Rococo and Gothic and Chinese and Egyptian, studying some of the important cabinet makers and designers along the way; Victorian craftsmanship to mass produced gimcrack production; Pugin, William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement; all this and the development of regional characteristics. Members will be invited to bring along small pieces of furniture/collectables for class discussion. The lectures will be illustrated by slides and there is the possibility of an outing relevant to the course.

As usual we meet at the Day Centre, our first evening doors open at 7.30 pm for enrolment before lecture at 8 pm. We have a ten minute break during the evening for refreshments and to talk to each other and the lecturer. We are a friendly group and new members are most welcome.

If you would like further details, please ring Jean McBride on 812214.



ERRATUM

Page Three of the July 'Link' - The Palestinian name for the 'Catastrophe', the founding of the State of Israel, should read 'Nakba' - apologies to all our Palestinian friends.

Aisle Attire

Designer bridalwear by Catherine Rayner, Ritva Westenius, Tracey Connop, Sassi Holford and many others.

Worn once. Immaculate and Affordable.

Approximately 50% off new prices

Tel 01279 814073 (By appointment only) Designer bridalwear always wanted



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our programme of meetings for September to May has been arranged and we hope that it includes something of interest for everyone. On 3rd September Wally Wright will tell us about the Sawbridgeworth Town Trail and on 1st October "our own" Peter Brown will give the second part of his talk on Stansted Fire Service. Both meetings are at 8 pm in the Day Centre, Chapel Hill.

For further information on the Society please contact Marion Pretty on 814433 or Peggy Honour on 813160.



Headed by a walking, talking, life-size Minnie and Mickey Mouse, the Rainbow Pre-School's float proceeded along Stansted roads on Carnival Day. The children were dressed as Minnie and Mickey Mouse characters and they waved their American flags with their black ears bobbing and their big smiles gleaming. The float was flanked by Minnie Mouse mums with short spotty skirts and matching bows on their shoes and hairbands, all shaking their collecting buckets. This year's carnival theme was the 4th July remembering America's independence. Up on the field at Mountfitchet School the Rainbow Pre-School had a stall selling American muffins, a savoury selection and goodies for all the children. It was a wonderful day for us all. At the end of June on a fine summer's day the children visited Hobb's Cross Farm, near Theydon Bois. The group I was with looked around the farm seeing all the animals and were lucky enough to watch the eggs being collected in the hen house

Two weeks later a trip to Harlow Town Park followed. The children travelled on the train to Harlow. At the park they played in the younger children's play area and on the wooden adventure play equipment and they were treated to lollies on the way back.

This term's theme of transport was finished off with an ambulance and police car being brought down to the preschool. The children all had the opportunity to talk to crew members and look around the emergency vehicles.

Other activities have included making air balloons by the older group and marbling.

We are looking forward to the end of term Teddy Bear's Picnic, the Sports Day and the Summer Fayre Lorna Williams

Messy Play and Rainbow Tots Co-ordinator For the pre-school contact Ann Conroy, 812457

Have a lovely holiday.



The Rose and Crown Pub's car full of American presidents - JFK, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton riding in an open-top Pontiac GTO - was rewarded with the prize for 'best other organisation'...

The cup for the best youth organisation went to St Mary's C of E Primary School with the Brownies being highly commended. Chloe Hamby was the well deserved winner of the under 7 years Fancy Dress. An excellent turnout by Natalie Shrivers won the over 7 years competition.

The carnival procession set off from Bentfield Green headed by the Brentwood Drum Corps Marching Band and wound its way through the village to the Mountfitchet High School where the Carnival Fete was held on the school fields.

A fireworks display marked the official opening of the carnival fete and the beginning of a whole host of fun and games that included excellent performances by the Newport Free Grammar School Concert Band and the Brentwood Drum Corps. Dick Pollard, as Carnival Jester and MC, again made a brilliant job of entertaining the visitors and keeping them informed of proceedings.

Lucky with the weather, the carnival proved one of the most successful, raising a sizeable sum for the Stansted Needy Children's Trust. However, the many charitable organisations that provided side shows and stalls will have also raised substantial sums of money for themselves making the grand total considerably more.

Villagers are invited for a glass of wine with the committee at the AGM on Monday 7th September, 8 pm at the Day Centre. Input as to how the carnival should function in the future will be welcomed, as will new members to the committee. Please come.

The Carnival Music Quiz will be held on 26th Se tember at the Mountfitchet High School - please book your tickets early for this popular event by telephoning Margaret on 812743.

Star spangled banners and rousing yankee music set the scene for the Stansted Carnival Procession on July 4th - American Independence Day.

About 15 colourful floats and walking groups depicted various themes with an American flavour. Bentfield County Primary School was awarded the prize of overall winner with their float portraying the Pilgrim Fathers setting sail on the Mayflower.



This year's event was highly successful with nearly 330 registered participants and we were pleased that the weather was decidedly more favourable than last year. We have already raised over £2,300 for our nominated charities and hope this will reach £2,500 by the time we receive the remaining sponsorship money and other income. This sum has been greatly enhanced by the money received from

toner cartridges, which have been sent back for recycling. I think it is appropriate here to thank a number of local businesses which have regularly donated cartridges - Liz Lake Associates, Herts and Essex High School, Foort Mercer and Davison Oakley Accountants. We have raised over £200 since last September - please keep them coming!!

We were pleased that some of our Stansted youngsters took away prizes this year including Juliette Sherwood of Millside (1st under 16 girls), Gemma Barrett of Meadowcroft (2nd under 16 girls), Emma Coates of Alderbury Road (3rd under 16 girls) and Adam Lunn of Brook Road (1st under 12 boys).

We look forward to next year's event - as usual, the date will be the day after the Carnival.

Marion Dyer

Jayne Shepherd, 1st lady home, passing the final water point in Hassobury Park.



Photo Michael Dyer



STANSTED CARNIVAL

Top: Bentfield School Float Left: Disney comes to town Below: Jester extraordinary Dick Pollard





Photo Revel: Andrew Spurr

A Picture of Health

Each year at the beginning of July, Wisbech in North Cambridgeshire holds its Annual Rose Festival – a flower show with a difference in which all the prominent institutions in the town participate. Thus, it was to the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, the focal point of the show that some forty people from Stansted travelled expectantly on the first day of the show.

Our expectations were soon realised ! With the fiftieth anniversary of the National Health Service in mind, the organisers had adopted the theme of Healing Hands. Obviously appropriate to the NHS but also interpreted on the wider fronts of spiritual healing, belief, forgiveness and reconciliation. The displays were both numerous and excellent in the way they portrayed their message.

Many of the other churches and buildings in the town featured supplementary floral displays, in particular the URC theme of Wedding Anniversaries was to be commended for its simplicity and directness.

The day ended with many of us attending the splendid choral evensong just before we boarded the coach for home

And why is this article entitled a picture of health That's simple "A Picture of Health" is the name of the scented parchment coloured rose especially bred for and exhibited in Wisbech Parish Church to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the NHS. We may malign the NHS at times but without it many of us would be in a sorry state. We all have much to be grateful for.

Our thanks to Audrey Rodgers for organising such a successful trip.

Tony Butcher



The Emmaus Movement has a very ambitious Millennium Project. They want to celebrate the year 2000 by opening 20 more Emmaus Communities for the Homeless in the UK one for each century. They can only do this if they can get enough groups of 20 people who are willing to contribute £1 a week throughout 1999. They will provide newsletters and appeal packs and plenty of information.

Is this a challenge that LINK readers could take up? If you would like to be involved would you let me know - either by phone (654945) or put a note to me through the Friends Meeting House door on Chapel Hill.

Katharine Hurford

A Recipe for Friendship

Take a handful of smiles to light up a winter's day, Serve a boiling hot heart glowing with warmth, Add a dash of jealousy to spice it all up

Pour in a drop of concern to get through the hard times, Mix in a whole ocean of fun to have lots of good times, Drop in two pretty faces itching to play.

Sprinkle in hundreds of hobbies all bursting with fun, Now we're nearly finished and your friend is nearly done, Becareful not to spoil her and smother with praise, But as she is your greatest friend that matter we won't raise.

> by Lisa Powell age 11 Bentfield County Primary School



THE VILLAGE DIARY

In the fover of the Library there hangs the Village Diary. The prime reason for having the Diary is to enable organisations to give advance notice of their events.

For a while the Diary was kept in the Parish Council offices where evening and week-end access was limited but now that it has returned to its traditional home in the Library we have greater opportunity to avoid the problems caused by different events competing for support on the same day

So, if you are responsible for fixing events please make a visit to the Diary one of the first calls As many hard-pressed secretaries are aware it will amply repay the few minutes that it takes

STANSTED PROFILE

No. 4 Sally and Jessica Cuthbert by Lucy Crofts

Stansted's Olympic hopefuls could be washed up unless they succeed in getting the financial backing they need to "fulfil their dreams".

Twins Sally and Jessica Cuthbert of Water Lane, started sailing at the age of seven and have grown to be an inspiration to all those connected with the sport. Their parents have watched as the girls, 20, competed in national and international events, picking up medals and praise in dozens of countries. The sisters first sailed together when their original partners moved out of the youth class and despite the usual sibling rivalry, the pair quickly progressed to become the best in the world for their age group.

When the girls are not sailing, they can be found in the gym at The Southampton Institute where they are studying a BA Honours in Leisure Management and an HND in Leisure Studies

Both Jessica and Sally have complete confidence in their abilities and their determination to succeed is awe inspiring. It is therefore incredible to learn that unless the twins can find sponsorship they will not be representing Britain in the Olympic Games. Since the sisters have reached international standard, travelling abroad to compete has become commonplace. As well as the flights, accommodation and living expenses, the girls have to ensure they have the best equipment in order to stand a chance against the other entrants. They are currently in a three year old boat which has been fixed for holes because they cannot afford a new yacht, which would cost them around £12,000.

Sally said: "Our parents have funded us all the way through but it is now getting too expensive. We need around £15,000 a year but so far we haven't found a sponsor. We were promised the earth when we were youth standard, but we haven't heard anything since. Without sponsorship, we simply would not be able to fulfil our dream. Our dream is the Olympics, if not in 2000 then we definitely want to be at the 2004 games because we really feel we could get a medal. The Olympics are what we have always worked towards. Sponsorship would allow us to go full time but if we don't get the money, we would have to just sail for clubs. If only 12 or 13 companies could give us £1,000 each it would enable us to continue,"

Their mother Hilary explained. "Sailing is not seen as a popular sport. Trying to get money is so frustrating, they have worked so hard but we just cannot continue financing them." She added that without the money from Barclaycard and the National Lottery, the twins would not be competing at all. "People think you have to be rich to do sailing in the first place and so getting sponsorship is even more difficult" said Sally.

On Monday, July 20, the girls flew to Turkey to take part in the European Championships. This would pit them against the best female sailors from across Europe and with the notoriously windy weather, allow them to practice in difficult conditions. However, when they arrived they had to mend their 470 dinghy which had been damaged on its journey from England.

They are the youngest international competitors and amazingly train without a coach which they cannot affort at this time. Without this invaluable one-on-one training, the twins are concerned they will not be at their peak for the 2004 Olympic event. However, with such dogged determination, it is clear they will not give up without a fight and it would certainly be a tragedy for them and the village if they were stopped in their tracks.

Lucy Crofts (Stansted Reporter)





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

We had already celebrated Mrs Vera Levey's 50 years as our Treasurer at our March 1997 meeting, but at our last branch meeting our President, Mrs Margaret Gabb, had the second pleasant task of presenting Vera with official recognition from National Headquarters. This was a Golden Award in the form of a very attractive badge. Such an award is very special since there can be few Treasurers of any association or club who have completed an unbroken period of 50 years in the post - now 51 years!

As we had no speaker for the evening we played Bingo ably organised by Mrs Jean Fuller - and then enjoyed some social time.

Our Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 12th August at 10.30 am in the Day Centre - cakes, tombola, raffle, bric-abrac. Please come and support us.

No meeting in August but at our meeting on Thursday 17th September at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre we shall have our annual harvest sale.

On Wednesday 16th September the Group Annual General Meeting will be held at Birchanger



We were impressed by how well attended the Stansted Carnival was this year. The Millers bouncy castle was also well attended and bounced on by nearly 200 children. This raised £50 and made the day a great success. Many thanks to the bouncers and their families for coming along.

The next event on the calendar is the August Bank Holiday Fete on the 31st. This traditional village fete held around the mill and on the mill field is usually a great attraction with a variety of stalls, side shows and famous Millers Teas. Offers of help with this event are welcome, as are donations for the raffle and bottle stall, offers of cakes, etc. and goods for the bric-a-brac stall. We hope you can come to the fete, we're sure you'll enjoy it!

Anyone wanting more information, interested in helping or becoming a Windmill member (free admission), please call Steve Clements on 816514. See Village Events for other open days.

STANSTED & DISTRICT LUNCH CLUB

The Stansted & District I unch Club was started in November 1997 with the intention of providing for local traders/business people

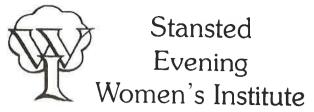
- a lobbying group to raise issues with the Parish Council
- a local network for developing trade/business
- a relaxed and pleasant change of scene

The Club has attracted considerable interest and support, principally from Stansted, and has met the objective of providing a pleasant and stimulating interlude every couple of months:

But, so far, we have not seen enough local traders and shopkeepers for whom it was hoped that the Club would be particularly useful. Indeed, Wednesday lunches were chosen because it was early closing day. From July the lunch is being held at 1.00 pm for 1.30 pm, which I hope will be more convenient for local traders and shopkeepers. The next two lunches will be held on Wednesday 23rd September and Wednesday 25th November.

The Club meets at 1.00 pm for a pre-lunch drink and sits down to a two course meal during which there is a speaker on issues of local interest.

The Club is here to stay and those interested in joining us or simply coming along to see whether it is something they would enjoy and value should please ring me, 01279 815959, for details and an invitation. Alastair Richardson Chairman



At our July meeting Joyce O'Connor told us of her life in the WAAF's during the war. She was thanked by Mrs Olive Smith, herself a Land Army girl. During business members agreed to donate our raffle to the British Red Cross Appeal for the Sudan. A total of £30 was raised.

Our cake stall at the Carnival raised a total of £66.20. Of this we gave the Carnival Committee £16.20.

Four of our ladies entered the Fun Walk on the Sunday, Judy Colliver, Ann King, Sue and Lindsey Holland completed the walk and raised over £50 in aid of the event. We are also selling cards in aid of Romania and will be giving a tea in August for a group of elderly people from London. All this goes to show our W.L isn't all Jam and Jerusalem.

September is promotional time for all W.L.s and we will be using "Sworders" window to display all the events, etc. that our W.I. has taken part in over the years, and craft items that have been made at various classes. So look out for 'our display and our thanks to Sworders without who's help we wouldn't be able to stage it.

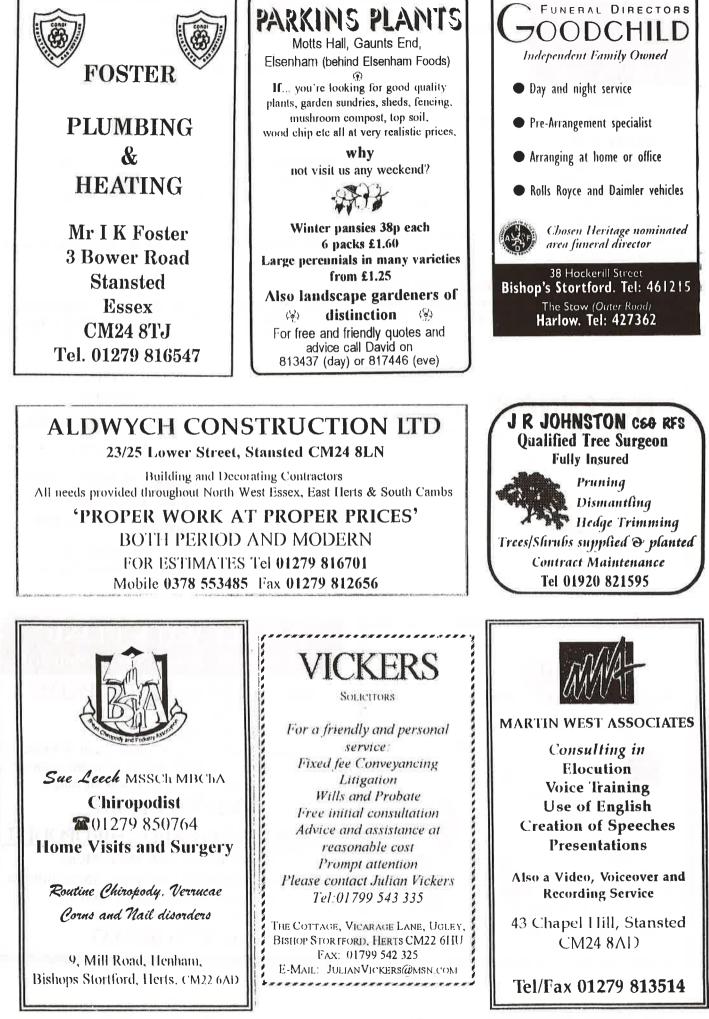
Our August meeting in St John's Hall, 7.30 for 7.45 pm, is John West talking on the "Craft of a Potter". Visitors are very welcome. Brenda Ryan 812725



The National Childbirth Trust Education for Parenthood

Summer holidays loom, which means all the activities that usually keep children occupied close for at least six weeks. This is the time of year the NCT steps up its already busy diary of events to help ensure you'll never have bored children on your hands. As well as weekly coffee mornings for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers - to which older siblings are always welcome - we have a range of outings and activities. There are several picnics and pub lunches planned, walks and bike rides in Hatfield Forest, paddling pool parties, a cream tea afternoon, "messy" mornings and trips to the Audley End trains and Saffron Walden maze. We don't neglect the adults either - there are several evening get-togethers, with or without partners. So if you'd like to have a busy summer with your young family or just meet some new friends, phone Hayley (850287) for more information

Penelope Christoffel



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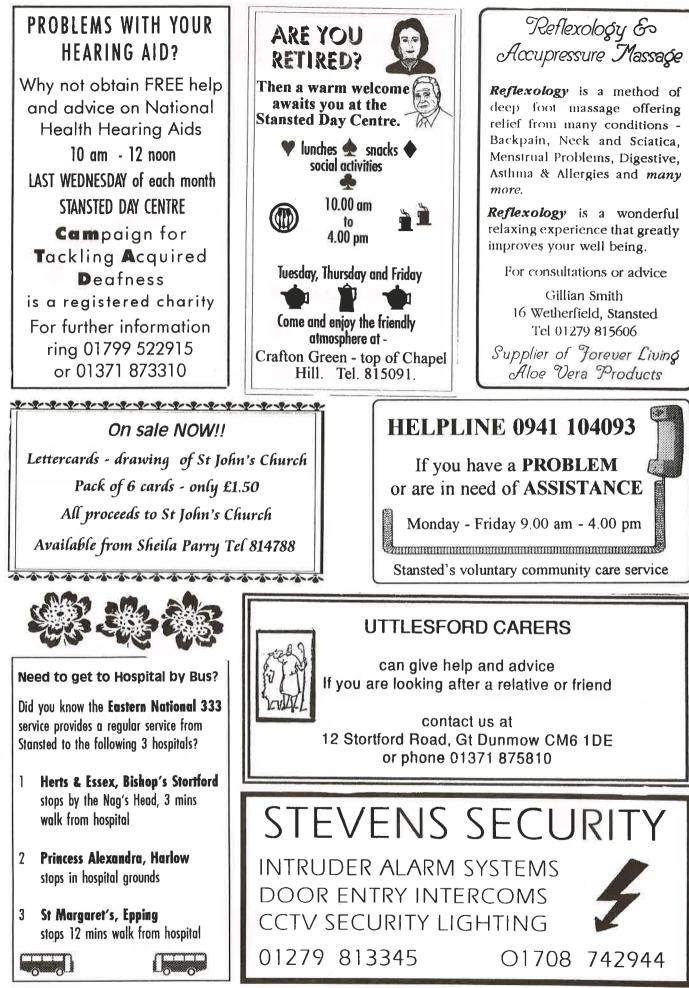
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