



Volume XVIII No 8



June 1998

SUMMER IS CRICKET



The Stansted Cricket Team circa 1958

Photograph Peter Brown

F.Wells P.Brown J.Murray T.Dellow Miles Routledge M.Rose P.Doyle F.Turner(umpire) W.Morton J.Pape(scorer) J.Power F.Minter J.Day P.Heal R.Farmer C. Horner

THE LINK WISHES STANSTED AND STANSTED HALL CRICKET TEAMS A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL SEASON

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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 JUNE

ll am	Mrs C Bonner
11 am	Rev Martin Cressey
11 am	Rev Mary Irish
11 am	Rev Julia Stone Communion
	11 am 11 am

Death

April 13th Eric James Allin, aged 70 years

Lydia Rapkin is now recovering from her back operation. Usually she leads our Wednesday morning Prayer Group, but during her absence we have been using the URC Prayer Handbook to help us choose Bible passages and as a guide for our thoughts. These extracts came from the meditations for Pentecost and Trinity Sundays.

Eternal God, you build and sustain our lives with your love.

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ for all people ... drawing people and nations together, healing divisions. Holy Spirit,

you are the one who enables us to listen, you still our minds, our hearts, our will. you grant us the knowledge of your continuing presence, uplifting, encouraging and leading us forward.

Teach us how to stand fast in your love, teach us to listen with eager expectation and live our lives through Christ who lives in us.

And they seem especially relevant to us as we face up to the challenge of this time of change when we are about to begin our building work; as we are getting to knew our new interim-moderator; as in our Sunday by Sunday worship we study God's work; as we continually seek new ways to Walk Together with Christ in this our community of Stansted.

> Lord, give us visions to lift our souls and experiences that keep our feet on the ground.

Give us courage to take on new possibilities. Teach us to listen with eager expectation, and live our lives through Christ who lives in us. Amen.

From Dr Pamela Cressey

I am delighted and honoured to be appointed by the District Council of the United Reformed Church as Interim Moderator for the Stansted URC. My job is temporary! It is to care for the churches of the Stansted group while there is no minister, following the departure of Rev Margaret McKay in March and to take back to the Cambridge District Council the concerns of these churches.

I have learned a good deal about Stansted Mountfitchet from reading Link and look forward to joining in some of the activities as well as exploring the area. As I live in Cambridge I am a little distance away but I will keep in close touch through the Rev Lydia Rapkin and Janet Townsend.

I am very pleased to help in any way I can until a new minister is found.

Greetings!

Dr Pamela Cressey



This photo was taken at the lunch following the farewell service of Margaret McKay on April 18th. She is wearing one of her leaving gifts from the Group - a Celtic scarf. The others were a 1680 map of Essex and a Celtic gold brooch.

Also in the picture is Dr Pamela Cressey our Interim Moderator.

Thank you Stansted

It has been quite a wrench to leave the village and above all of course the United Reformed Church congregation. I feel that over the last nearly seven years I have made many friends in Stansted and it is hard to sever yourself completely from a community like yours.

As you know, I appreciate very much the ecumenical opportunities that were given to me over the years and the warmth of your welcome and support. It was always a regret that because of my responsibilities elsewhere I could not really take part in village life in the way I wanted to.

But enough of regrets. Above all I want to thank you for your gathering to say goodbye to me and for your gift - the painting of Stansted URC. I shall treasure it always and it will be a reminder of my time with you for all time. With best wishes and God bless.

Margaret McKay



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

The coming of the Holy Spirit

At the turn of the month, May 31st, and on the first Sunday in June, we celebrate the Christian festivals of Pentecost (or Whitsuntide) and the Trinity. Of all the Christian festivals these two are, I believe, the most difficult to understand, probably because there is little tangible with which to associate. At Christmas we have a natural birth, in Holy Week we have a painful death, and at Easter we have the wonderful news of the resurrection and the promise of Eternal Life.

Pentecost and the Trinity are, on the other hand, concerned with the Holy Spirit, which is less easy to comprehend. Or is it?

In the weeks following Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples, I think quite understandably, had not been the close-knit group they had been when Jesus had been with them. They had had their doubts and their fears. Then, we are told in Acts, Chapter 2, that on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover, they were all sitting together. Suddenly, they heard something amazing. They saw something amazing. What they heard was like the sound of a mighty wind which filled the whole house. What they saw were what appeared to them to be tongues like flames of fire which rested on each one of them. Afterwards they felt completely different. They had been filled with the Holy Spirit. They weren't frightened any more. They had been given the confidence to go out and proclaim the Gospel. Most importantly, they knew that Jesus was still with them and in them and still alive.

If there is a message here for Christians today in Stansted it must surely be that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are given the confidence to be outward looking and outward reaching, to spread the Christian message, to speak of Jesus, to worship God, and to care for others; in other words, to let Jesus really shine out of our lives.

"Almighty God, you gave the Holy Spirit to the first Christians, send us, too, out with joy and boldness to witness to your truth and to draw all people to the fire of your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen".

Looking back over the last month we had a wonderful service of Confirmation presided over by Bishop Edward on Sunday 3rd May, the traditional service for rogationtide at Wickam Hall, Farnham on Sunday 17th May, a special service to commemorate the Ascension on Thursday the 21st and, right at the end of the month, a Choral Evensong for Pentecost for the whole Benefice at St Mary's, Stansted.

The new Junior Section of the Church Choir has now started to sing at the 9.30 service on Sunday mornings and remains open for more young people to come and join. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6.00 pm. Please ring Glynis Morris on 01223 263640 or Alan Corbishley on 813040 if you would like more details before making a commitment.

At the recent Annual Parochial Church Meeting the Rector gave us an insight into his future plans for the Church here and for its mission in the medium term. At the meeting the Parochial Church Council was elected and we are pleased to welcome back Stuart Ayres and Alastair Richardson and also to have some new faces -Clare Arnold, Lyn Inston and Penny Marriot.

Services in June will be at the usual times:-

8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.30 am	Parish Communion
9.30 am	Sunday School (except 3rd Sunday)
11.00 am	Family Service (3rd Sunday)
6.30 pm	Evensong

We also have a Holy Communion service each Wednesday at 10,00 am

Alan Corbishley

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest:	Rev'd Joe V The Presby Tel 814349	lery, 12 Millsid	le, Stansted
Masses:	Saturday	Stansted	6.00 pm
	Sunday	Stansted	10.30 am
		Henham	9.00 am
	Holy Days	Stansted	8,00 pm
		Henham	7.00 pm
	Weekdays (Tues-Sat)	Stansted	9:30 am

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 mass

Recently I attended an open evening at Archbishop's House, Westminster Cathedral, for the Cardinal Hume Centre which has been working for 12 years primarily helping young homeless people.

For the vast majority of their residents they provide a lifelong solution to their homelessness problems, not just short term help. As well as accommodation, they provide education, practical skills and emotional support so that the young people grow in confidence and learn to look after themselves. The careers advice assists young people to join training courses which leads to jobs and enables them to find homes and support themselves.

Cardinal Hume says that in a society which seems preoccupied with economic success, homeless people can often be seen as a burden and of lesser value than others, the young in particular can quickly be excluded from society and feel they are without hope of employment or escape from poverty. Sadly due to the increasing rates of family breakdown, youth homelessness is still on the increase.

The Centre provides not only accommodation and training but provides a listening ear, an understanding heart and a compassionate response to the difficulties and hardships that many have experienced through the lack of a secure home and family.

With a strong emphasis on education, help is given to these young people to lay down the past and to look towards the future with courage, confidence and hope.

A home is one of the most important human requirements, without which a person can feel devalued, alienated and rejected. It is in promoting the good of the human person that our society can recover its moral health and in doing so work to ensure the welfare of future generations.

I was attending the evening as a representative of a local charity, but it was heart warming to hear of the very many efforts made by individuals and small groups to help fund the centre. One young man from Pinner is walking 7000 miles across the entire length of Europe to raise money. He set off from Italy in May last year and hopes to reach the top of Norway in autumn this year. He also hopes to raise $\pounds100,000!$

Another group of friends organised a concert at Douai Abbey and raised $\pounds 12,000$.

The charity shop is entirely staffed by volunteers and is a major contributor to their funds. So many people moved to help in so many ways.

I wish you could have heard and seen the two 16 and 17 year old girls who were brave enough to stand up in front of an audience and given their reasons for leaving home, their aspirations for the future and their gratefulness for being taken off the streets and given a welcome home at the centre. 60% of the young people have left home because of abuse. At the end of the evening I saw the same two girls, one black, one white, sitting with their arms entwined around one another, giggling and looking so happy and relaxed, how different they must have felt six months earlier when they felt desperate enough to leave their homes and schools and take to the city streets.

One child who attends the Family Centre wrote the following poem:-

Money Talks

Homeless people, restless nights They sleep in the street all through the night. Cold as ice, hot as flames, If only this was fun and games.

They say money talks, I guess I'll never know. The streets and towns that I have had to walk Through summer's sun and winter's snow.

On their knees they have to beg For some food, sometimes a bed. Listen people, they're not alone If only someone would give them a home.

E Quinn

Tel information line: 10-5 Mon-Fri 0171 227 1665





Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk:

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

It can seem strange to those who are more used to a church service with hymns, sermon, set readings, etc. that there is no singing in a Quaker meeting. In fact, Quaker meetings did at one time include singing. Nowadays, although it doesn't often happen, there is no reason not to include singing or music as part of the ministry in a meeting. I have often heard Friends in meeting quote from a hymn, as hymns are a powerful, memorable way of expressing a prayer or an idea. Writing in Christian Aid week it seems appropriate to quote a hymn by Fred Pratt Green, a Methodist hymn and ballad writer who was asked by Christian Aid to write a hymn or song for a Christian Aid Youth Event in Norwich Cathedral in 1978. Even Quakers will find themselves humming the tune of "Good King Wenceslas" as they read it!

Once upon a time they went King and page together. On a deed of kindness bent. In the winter weather. Every legend has its truth. May this one remind us Where a neighbour is in need Christ expects to find us.

> Victims of injustice cry: On your own confession Charity is not enough, We must end oppression. Yet, in such a world as this, Daily we are proving There are evils none can cure Without deeds of loving.

We must follow in his steps Who was found in fashion As a man, yet never lost His divine compassion. Lord, release such love in us We shall be more ready To reach out with speedy aid To your poor and needy.

> C. Burch Stansted Friends Meeting

Methodist

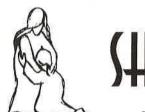
Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

- 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 JUNE

- 7th Church Anniversary Service at 4.00 pm led by the Revd M Hayman (no morning worship)
- 14th 9.30am Holy Communion led by the Revd Harry Wood
- 21st 9.30am Preacher: Miss Jean Hay of Saffron Walden
- 28th 9.30am Preacher: Mr Michael Dyer

Come and join us for our Church Anniversary and celebrate the Methodist witness in our village!



SHALOM DATES

Monday June 1st 'New Wine Skins' - Revd Andrew Spurr Venue: Eileen and Brian Quinn, 4 Greenfields

Sunday 14th C.T.S. Visit of Church of Cherubim and Seraphim from Birmingham, St John's Church, 3.00 pm.

Monday 15th John Powell Tape and Discussion (Part 1) led by Rita Morson and Alan Wheeler Venue: Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham

Monday 29th John Powell Tape and Discussion (Part 2) led by Rita Morson and Alan Wheeler Venue: Mike and Marion Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens

Shalom is an ecumenical fellowship group. You will be made most welcome.



THE VISIT OF FRIENDS FROM THE CHURCH OF CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM BIRMINGHAM

On Sunday 14th June we welcome the Church of the Cherubim and Seraphim to St John's for worship at 3.00 pm. Their minister, Pastor John Adedego will preach for us. The service will be followed by refreshments.

BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE, JULY 4TH 1998

This year's Bradwell Pilgrimage unfortunately clashes with the Stansted Carnival so a coach has not been laid on. We do hope that a number of car loads will go. It is now a truly ecumenical event, a very enjoyable day out, with an excellent speaker, Dr Bell from the lona Community, and lots of different activities.

If anyone is going that can offer transport or would like to go and needs transport, or wants further information, perhaps they would contact me (tel. 654945) or Marion Johnson (812284) and we will try and make the necessary arrangements.

Katherine Hurford

Important Meeting for RAP Contributors and other interested parties on Monday 20th July at 8.00 pm at Crafton Green Day Centre, Stansted

Representatives from the three charities: The Red Cross, Oxfam and Save the Children Fund will give a talk on how funds raised so far have been used. Christopher Hall, who has worked extensively in the Ethiopia famine, will also be speaking. In view of the terrible scenes in South Sudan, this is an opportunity not only for those who kindly donate to RAP (Regular Aid for the Poor), but also for any potential contributors to find out about the scheme and where and how the money is used. We look forward to seeing you there.

> David Morson Chairman of RAP

MODERN MARTYRDOM

In a recent television commercial for the teaching profession, some well known people, including Tony Blair and Richard Branson, named the teacher who had inspired them most at school. If anyone asked me the same question I would unhesitatingly answer "John Moulsdale". It was he who, when I unexpectedly came top of a pre-A level history test, presented me with a copy of Evelyn Waugh's little biography of Edmund Campion. I re-read it last year and at once remembered what an astonishing tale of courage it is. It can be read as the simple story of a man who lived through that terrifying period of religious persecution in the late 16th century when to be a Catholic in Protestant England was to risk the rack and the gallows. It also reminded me of the history of that time. The break with Rome under Henry VIII was part of the Reformation but it was a very English affair driven mainly by Henry's concern for a son and heir; he remained at heart a Catholic. Then followed the brief reigns of Edward VI and Mary Tudor when in a single decade the English people were marched up the hill of Protestantism (by Edward) only to be marched down again by Mary. When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, religious life became less confrontational but no more comfortable for a devout Catholic like Edmund Campion.

In 1566 when the young queen Elizabeth visited Oxford, Campion was a brilliant scholar there and won the patronage of the Court with a dazzling speech. But the laxity of religious observance, when a priest could say Mass in his own house before reading Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer in the local parish church, was changing as the Queen's Secretary, Cecil, began tightening the noose. Cranmer fled first to Ireland and then to the English college at Douai in France which supplied priests for the Catholic population of England. Waugh says "martyrdom was in the air at Douai. It was spoken of, and in secret prayed for, as the supreme privilege of which only divine grace could make them worthy".

In 1580 Campion returned to England in secret having become a Jesuit in Rome. The saying of the Mass was by now prohibited, although priests were secreted in and out of Catholic houses and hid in priest's holes. It was only a matter of time before Campion was found by one of Walsingham's priest hunters. He was imprisoned and tortured most horribly but never betrayed his faith. He was hanged at Tyburn in December 1581.

Does Campion's story have any relevance for us today? Sadly, the world has always had to live with religious persecution: Jew against Muslim, Muslim against Hindu and, perhaps most heinous of all, Christian against Christian, which has often aroused a special ferocity.

And what about martyrdom in its opposite, apostasy? In Campion's day, the poet, John Donne, by renouncing his Catholic faith, became an apostate. We live in an age of weak moral leadership and example, regrettably on occasions even from the churches. Is it fair to equate the moral "opting out" of today with the apostasy of the 16th century? And equally, are those who take a moral or Christian stand and suffer the consequences, perhaps in terms of lost position or job, for example the "whistleblowers" who courageously expose wrongdoing in public or business life, the minor martyrs of today?

Jeremy Wagener

LAST DELIVERY

May 2nd was the end of an era for Postwoman June Law when she retired from Royal Mail after 32 years of getting up at 4 a.m. to start work at 5, sorting and delivering letters in and around Stansted. During the last few years in the Cambridge Road/St John's Road/Brewery Lane area June was a very familiar sight pushing her bicycle well loaded with mail, winter and summer. She will be greatly missed by all her customers, including the dogs. Some of her customers and colleagues gave her a good send off after her last delivery and presented her with gifts, including a watch, sewing machine, Royal Doulton elephant, cut glass vase and a cheque.

A long, healthy and happy retirement June.



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Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerin Mrs Rath Cliffor Office Hours: Monday to Priday 1800 s.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Council Offices Crafton Green House 12 Chapel Hill Hansted Mountlitchet Issex CM24 &AQ felephone: (0279) #13214

Advance Notice

The summer Playschemes will again run from the Youth and Adult Centre, Lower Street, for four weeks starting Monday 3rd August - Friday 28th August inclusive. Watch noticeboards for details of times, cost and activities planned.

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on 6th May and Cllr Ray Clifford was re-elected Chairman. Cllr John Salmon was re-elected Vice Chairman, Cllr Peter Jones was re-elected Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr Catherine Dean was reelected Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

Skip Dates

Saturday/Sunday, 8/9th August Monday 31st August - Thursday 3rd September.



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

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 13th June Ploughman's Lunch 12 noon - 2 pm at the Day Centre. Crafton Green

This popular event takes place on the second Saturday of each month. Anyone is very welcome to join us there.

Aisle Attire

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

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STANSTED PROFILE NO. 2 DAVID WILLIAMS

by Lucy Crofts, Stansted Reporter

Born in Stamford, Lincolnshire, to Mary and George Williams in 1945, David Williams grew up to excel in science, particularly biology, which he studied at Culham College, Oxford.

Teaching was a career his parents actively encouraged and it was largely due to them that he moved into education. With the education of thousands of youngsters behind him, David Williams has witnessed many changes in the 32 years he has been teaching.

The 54 year-old head of Mountfitchet High School began his career in Berkshire and in the early 70s moved to Elsenham with his first wife Pat. The couple had two children. Chaire now 25 and Michael aged 21.

His first job was at Rymish Green, the comprehensive school where he taught general science, rural science and biology. However, he soon began looking for promotion and 18 months later secured a position at the Mountfitchet High School. Having worked his way through the ranks, becoming head of science in 1971, head of the lower school in 1975 and deputy head in 1984, he was the obvious choice when the position of head teacher came up six years ago.

David explained: "I had started looking around for head positions elsewhere and had a couple of interviews. I wanted to move on because I enjoy new challenges but then I was offered the job here".

Although he loves working and managing people he admits that sometimes being in the driving seat can be a lonely profession. "At times you feel very much on your own, there is a lot of responsibility and ultimately the buck stops with you".

The school currently has 420 pupils, many of them the children of former students, perhaps the best advertisement for the small school which has always strived to provide its youngsters with a solid and caring environment.

The birth of the dyslexia unit in 1993 is an example of David's commitment to the education of his pupils. With several dyslexic children in school at a time when the disorder was not recognised by the education authority. Mr Williams had to persuade them that there was a need for the extra help.

"We felt that we should be able to cater for all our youngsters and we weren't catering for those with dyslexia as we should have been. Eventually the local authority said we could set up a small unit with about five pupils just to see whether or not it would work".

The project was a resounding success which has now grown and become an established part of school life. It helps in two ways, as well as individual attention, support

teachers are ever present in lessons, on hand to assist those what need help.

Mr Williams remarried in 1992 to Sue, after Pat died of cancer aged just 40. The couple now live in Berden with Sue's son Sebastian, aged 13. With so much of his energy taken up with school work he relishes the time he spends with his family and tries to keep Fridays and weekends free so they can pursue their own interests. A keen sportsman, David, once the secretary for the Stansted Hall Cricket Club, can often be seen playing tennis with Sebastian, enjoying games of badminton and watching rugby matches. Currently a lot of his time is taken up with the proposed sports and leisure complex to be sited on the school grounds. "It is a very exciting project and something we have wanted for many years. Everyone I have spoken to

has been in favour of it and I see it as something very much for the benefit of the community as well as the school".

After a day nurturing the needs of his staff and pupils he can indulge in his other passion - gardening. Following in the footsteps of his father, a gardener on the organising committee of the Royal Horticultural Society, David has served as chairman of the village's Mountfitchet Garden Club for the past 12 years. "Gardening provides great relaxation and exercise as well as giving tremendous satisfaction when you see the results of your work and planning" he said.

The church is very important to David and he regularly attends services at Elsenham's St Mary's Church while Sue and Seb currently attend the Community Church in Bishop's Stortford. A member of the Parochial Church Council he sometimes leads family services in the village hall after an earlier service has been held in the church. "My faith is important because it provides the framework for what I do and how I think. The church is somewhere you can meet other Christians and together learn more of God's word".

School holidays, he said, are not always a time when he can relax. With six weeks off in the summer work has to continue to keep the running of the school ticking over. However, half term holidays are calmer and the family tries to get abroad at least once a year. In February he spent one week in southern Spain which, after the busy school schedule, was certainly "a much needed break".





Uttlesford Carers and Alzheimers Disease Society

CARERS HELP AND INFORMATION DAY

Tuesday 2nd June 9.45 am to 4 pm Saffron Walden Town Hall

To be opened by Sir Alan Haselhurst at 10 am followed by talks at hourly intervals on a wide variety of topics of major interest to carers Information – Advice – Lunchtime Videos on Caring related issues For further information please telephone 01371 872519 or 875810

VILLAGE EVENTS

June

JJL	ле		
1	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
2	Tue	Carers Information Day	Walden Town Hall 9.45 am
3	Wed	Coffee Morning	Hargrave Nursing Home 10 am
		Mountfichet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Gardening Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside UR Church 10 am
		Sideways' 'Dad's Morning'	
7	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
11	Thu	WI .	St John's hall 7.30 pm
13	Sat	Lib Democrat Ploughmans	Day centre 12 - 2 pm
		RBL Social Evening	Day Centre 7.30 pm
		Sideways Quiz	
14	Sun	PTFA Summer Fayre	St Mary's School
15	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
18		RBL Ladies	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Sat	Rainbow Summer Fair	
		Green Waste Collection	Crafton Green 9 am - noon
22	Mon		
to			¥
25		Skip at Crafton Green	
26	Fri		
28		Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
29	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
	.h.,		
	ly	Manual Field at One fam.	
1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Gardening Club Day centre 8 pm Sat Cake Stall Outside UR Church 10 am **Bradwell Pilgrimage** Stansted Carnival 1 - 5.30 pm St Mary's Church open 2 - 5 pm 5 Sun Fun Run Bentfield Green 11 am St Mary's Church open 2 - 5 pm Windmill Open 2 - 6 pm

Stansted Parish Council

Mon - Thurs 22 - 25 June



Weekends

5 - 8 October

8 - 9 August 14 - 15 November 20 - 23 July 31 Aug - 3 Sept 7 - 10 December

Mon - Thurs

Skip Dates

PLUS Green Waste Collection (for composting) Crafton Green 9 am - 12 noon on 20th June, 18th July, 15th August









BOUNCING INTO TROUBLE

A new family had moved in under the old railway station platform. The little field mice ran home excitedly, but at first Mrs. Mouse did not believe her ears when they told her about creatures like two furry balls, one on top of the other, with little arms and legs and wearing clothes like humans. "There's no such things," she declared. "You are imagining it."

Just then she heard a noise approaching the mousehole, boi-ing, boi-ing. Mrs. Mouse peeped out and saw the strangest thing bouncing across the meadow, just as her children had described. It stopped when it saw her and said "Hello, I'm Bertie Bouncer. I've moved in near here with Mum and Dad and



my brothers and sisters. It got a bit crowded where we used to live so we loaded up the truck and came here."

The Bouncer family soon settled in and became friendly with their new neighbours but Bertie was always getting into trouble.

A builder kept piles of bricks and heaps of wood in one part of the old goods yard behind the disused station but there was also lots of rubbish which looked interesting to Bertie. One day a little bird flying overhead heard a voice calling, "Help! If I get out of here safely I shall always remember what my Dad says and not play in places he says are dangerous." The bird flew down and saw Bertie at the bottom of a deep hole. "However did you get down there?" it asked. "I just sort of rolled in," said Bertie, "You can see how round we are, it's quite easy to roll or bounce where we do not mean to." "Well, why don't you bounce out again?" asked the bird. "I can't it's too high," cried Bertie. The bird flew off and soon came back again with some other birds. They stood in a ring peering down the hole at Bertie. "When I say go," said the first bird, "All take hold of a piece of Bertie's clothes in your beaks and fly upwards." But try as they might, Bertie was too heavy for them.



Just then Mr. and Mrs. Bouncer came looking for their son. They found a piece of old rope but it was too short to reach down to him. Mrs. Bouncer looking over the edge of the hole would have fallen in if her husband had not caught her by her feet.

Their eldest son, Billy, came bouncing along. "Oooo-er, Dad, whatever are you holding Mum's feet like that for?" he asked in great surprise. "Don't ask silly questions," puffed Mr. Bouncer, "Just pass her down that piece of rope, then hang on to me."



With Billy holding onto his Dad, who was hanging onto Mum, who was holding the piece of rope, they just managed to reach Bertie. The birds swooped down and they all tugged together. It was hard work but before long Bertie was safely out of the hole again. Dad was rather cross with Bertie, who promised not to play there again, and he really did try to be good but somehow things always happened to him and perhaps we will hear about some more of them another time.



The Pre-School had a very successful Spring Fayre. The lucky dip and the toy tombola proved extremely popular with the children. Details of the Summer Fayre will be given at a later date.

We are holding a sponsored bike ride to raise funds for the Pre-School. The course is made even more exciting by the positioning of activities along the route. The children are encouraged to cycle from activity to activity and so compete the course. For every lap of the course completed they are given a sticker. The event is open to the younger members too, the messy play children and the Rainbow Tots children are welcome to participate. The bike ride is followed by a much needed and refreshing lunch.

The Pre-School committee members are busy making plans for this year's carnival float and also for the Rainbow carnival stall.

We have visited Stansted Fire Station and once again the firemen showed great hospitality, allowing the children to have a close look at the fire engine and allowing them the opportunity to use the hose. The fireman's car must have been the cleanest in Stansted!

Lorna Williams Messy Play and Rainbow Tots Co-ordinator 817197 Rainbow Pre-School Leader, Ann Conroy, 812457 Pre-School Mobile Number 0966 506997



Hello again.

The photographs taken of the children with the representatives of the White Chapel Mission were excellent and several copies have been bought by parents. We have sent one to the Mission where it will be enlarged and displayed on the premises. (They all enjoyed the chocolate cream eggs I hear).

Money from the sponsored "I Spy Boards" has reached over £100 with lots more to come. This will be used to buy more equipment for the children.

Wednesday 20th May is our MAYTIME CONCERT, 11 am for 11.15 start. Everyone welcome. We are having a DAD'S MORNING on Saturday 6th June. All dads and grandparents are invited to come and play.

QUIZ NIGHT to be held on 13th June (Saturday) again to raise money for the end of term entertainment. We hope to have a barbecue on SPORTS DAY (like last year) and Thursday 16th July an entertainer "Uncle Andy's Magic Show" followed by a special lunch.

Our social services inspection was very good, praising the warmth and friendliness of staff and children. "A very happy atmosphere".

There are still a few places left for new children, please call in any time - STAY AND PLAY.

SIDEWAYS PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY c/o ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL.

We are open every morning 9-12 - come any day you wish as often as suits.

Auntie Helen

KYCKYCKYCKYCKYCKYCK

STANSTED FUN RUN/WALK 10K (6 MILES APPROX) SUNDAY 5TH JULY 1998

Serious runners interested in a challenging course, fun runners interested in improving their time or even getting around! Walkers, whether in families or groups of friends, are all invited to participate in Stansted Fun Run/Walk. In so doing, they will raise money for three charities: Amnesty International (which campaigns against political injustice), Emmaus Community (providing accommodation and work for the homeless in Cambridge), Uttlesford Carers (providing respite for those caring for housebound relatives or friends).

The event begins at 11.00 am on Bentfield Green adjacent to the Rose & Crown Public House.

Registration forms in advance can be obtained either from Marion Dyer, 01279 814049) or the Fun/Run Stall at Stansted Carnival on Saturday 4th July or individual entries only on the day itself from 10.00 am to 11.45 am.

Entry fee: Adults £5.50 in advance (£6.00 on the day): Children £2.50 on the day. This includes free drink.

Please make this a fund day out - barbecue and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Look forward to seeing you there!

David Morson



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

With two successful seasons now under our belt it is time to tell you about our 3rd season:-

Saturday 10th October at 8 pm - Colin Stone - Piano (With a Masterclass in the afternoon)

Sunday 6th December at 3 pm Cantate Youth Orchestra conducted by Michael Kibblewhite

Sunday 24th January at 3 pm Fourth Dimension String Quartet

Saturday 6th March at 8 pm Uttlesford Orchestra conducted by Harry Curtis

Membership for the season is now available and we have set the prices so that you will enjoy one concert "free" if you become a member. And we are offering a further reduction if you join by 30th June.

	Special Offer Price
Individuals £22	£20
Couples £40	£36
Concessions £15	£13
(Over 60s and students)	

Tickets prices for individual concerts will be $\pounds 7$, concessions $\pounds 5$.

To join please either write to the Club, c/o Fairfield, Silver Street, Stansted, CM24 8HE, enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount, or telephone 01279 813182 for a membership form. We hope you will wish to support the club by joining and look forward to seeing you next season.

> Sonia Levy (815282) Alan Corbishley (813040)



After normal business at our April meeting, Peter Wright held our attention when he talked about his childhood in Stansted. The youngest of five, he told many interesting anecdotes about his early life.

Our next meeting will be in the Day Centre on Thursday 18th June, at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome - 50p.

The next Group Meeting will be at Clavering on Thursday 11th June at 7.30 pm.





Congratulations to Tony Pitt, a committee member of the branch, who ran and, of course, finished the London Marathon raising funds for the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to all who sponsored him.

An open social evening is being held at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Stansted, on Saturday 13th June, 7.30 for 8 pm, when retired police inspector, John Emmerick, will speak on the police and the charity 'Medics' - Fact and Fiction, followed by a fish and chip supper. Nonmembers and friends will be very welcome, £4.00 each, including supper.

Please contact:

Bob Stoddart, 38 Sunnyside, 814015 Eddie Laird, 1 Water Lane, 813458 or John Segar, Elsenham, 813289 for tickets.



Some of our older members enjoy a quiet pint or two, so off we all went to visit the Rose and Crown on a warm sunny evening. The more able bodied walked while the rest were driven there in comfort. Many thanks to the staff of the Rose and Crown for making us welcome. Some of us were content to sit in the warm sun and have a natter but the more energetic were soon having a game of football on the green.

Very sadly we shall soon be saying goodbye to our teenage helpers. One is off to sixth form college and the rest to University. We will be sad to see them go, but more about that in the next Link. In the meanwhile we need to recruit some more youngsters to replace them. Most of our teenagers come to us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and like us so much that they stay with us. If you know of any youngster over the age of twelve who would like to help us please ask them to get in touch with me on 812284 or to come along to St John's Church Hall on Thursday evening (not the second Thursday of the month) between 7 pm and 9 pm when we can have a chat labout what it involves. I can assure you that you will be doing something very worthwhile and that you will also have a lot of fun.

Marion G Johnson

Pat Clower

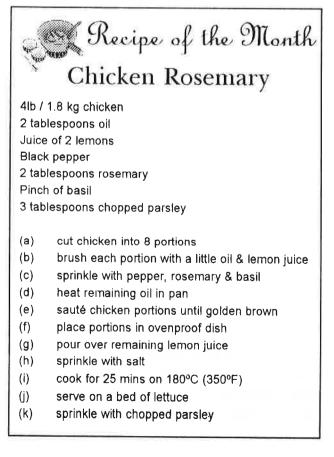


We had fine weather on National Mills Day (May 10th). The ambience at the Mill was very relaxed but, once round the first corner, quiz walk entrants took a more competitive stance! Some of the clues were real eyeopeners. The winners were the Ball family of Chapel Hill. Did you know that National Mills Day in Holland is on the 2nd Saturday of May?

Looking ahead, we will have a stand at the Carnival on July 4th and hope to see you there. The weekend of Sunday July 19th will be a Mill Weekend and there will be sail turning, a BBQ (excellent food, drink and atmosphere) and a teach-in for those interested in the history and mechanics of the Mill. Why don't you try one or more of the activities on offer? Everyone is welcome.

Anyone wanting more information, interested in helping or becoming a member of The Stansted Millers, please call Steve Clements on 816514. See Village Events for other open days.

*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*CC*





On April 30th we held an open evening to try and encourage more people to join the club. To this end it was a reasonably successful evening as 46 people attended the meeting, several of whom joined that night. The guest speaker was Mr Andrew Stewart from Van Hages Garden Centre, who gave a very informative talk on filling hanging baskets, tubs. etc., to keep colour in the garden all summer long.

At our monthly meeting on May 6th the speaker was Sue Buckingham who gave an excellent talk on Flowers of the Countryside.

The monthly competition, one stem of flowering shrub, was won by Mr & Mrs Kelly.



Spring Tournament - A start of season Spring Tournament was held at the club on Sunday 19th April. There was a strong entry of 16 players who all played either with or against each other. The final was won by Steve Aylott and Chris Hollis who defeated John Rutter and Martin Sebley 6-4.

NSPCC Tournament - Stansted hosted a preliminary round for this annual event on Tuesday 12th May. Players then moved to Bishop's Stortford for a lunch and the final rounds. Unfortunately, no Stansted players reached the final rounds.

Wednesday Club Evenings - These are now well under way, starting at about 5.30 pm. All new senior members (and old ones, of course!) are welcome.

Hospital Cup Finals - These will be held on Saturday 25th July at Stansted Tennis Club so if you would like to come along and see the best players in the local area in action please do come along and support this event.

Tennis Coaching - For further details of group or individual lessons please contact either Chris Hollis (466973) or Norman Elson (850 057).

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.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

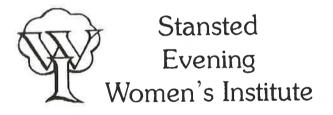
At our AGM in May, Jane Freeman and Jean McBride resigned as Chairman and Treasurer respectively and were replaced by Peggy Honour and Ken McDonald. Marion Pretty continues as Secretary.

The business was followed by Peter Sanders on "Joseph Green's Stansted", Joseph, of the Green Stores family, was a collector from childhood of all manner of things. His material deposited at the Essex Record Office is described as "Notes, transcripts and newspaper cuttings relating to the history of Stansted Mountfitchet and to social activities and trade in the parish from 1850 to 1893".

At the time of writing, there are seats available on the coach for our outing to Castle Hedingham on Sunday 28th June, leaving Stansted at 12.15 and departing from Castle Hedingham at 5.30. The fare is £4.50 and it is suggested that a packed lunch should be taken. As well as the Castle to visit (usual admission charges), a guided tour of the village has been arranged at £1.50 each, payable to the guide. It is also Gardens Day there, so plenty to do and see Anyone interested is welcome to join us. Further details from Jean McBride, 812214.

Our regular monthly meetings start again in September so look out for details in the Link and on posters

Peggy Honour



At our May meeting our Voluntary County Organiser, Barbara Ball, took us through two resolutions that will be voted on at our Triennial Meeting to be held in June at Brighton. The first resolution to be debated is that all levels of Government (national, regional and local) be urged to make the regeneration of "Brown Field Sites" in urban areas a priority in the planning of housing development. Our members voted for this resolution.

The other one is to urge H.M. Government to ensure that full support is available to assist school-age children who are Carers in order that their welfare and education are protected. After discussion this was also voted for.

As we have a number of new members, Mrs Ball then told us how the structure of the W.I. is made up. She is this year's co-ordinator of our County Show at Cressing Temple Barns on 3/4th July and said she hoped some of us would be attending this very exciting event. She was thanked for taking us through the resolutions by Mrs Ryan.

During business members were thanked for their help in making our Spring Group Meeting in April a success. Our speaker Linda Scoles had us rocking with laughter when she told us of her life as the wife of an American Serviceman travelling around the world with him during his twenty three years in his country's service.

Our future events will be a Cake Stall at the Carnival when our members will bake their best to tempt you to buy from us. We will also be entertaining a group of elderly people from London when we will provide afternoon tea for them and hopefully some musical entertainment.

During social time, five members who had recently entered our county's Music and Drama Festival entertained members with readings and poems, some having been brought back from visits to our Denman College. A poetry reading followed which included contributions from Marion Pretty, Margaret Chastney, Judy Colliver, Rosemary Minshull and Brenda Ryan. We are already planning our next year's programme which, if all goes well, should be varied and interesting. So if you are interested in joining us to hear good speakers you are most welcome at St John's Hall, second Thursday in the month at 7.30 pm.

Brenda Ryan 812725



- setting up on the green 8.30 10.00
- general help on the green 10am onwards
- general help on the route 10.30 12.30
- putting out signs on the route 8.30 10.00
- putting out signs in the village 9.00 9.30
- stewards on the route 10.30 12.30
- assisting at water points 10.30 12.30
- assisting with the barbecue 10am onwards
- serving coffee 10am onwards
- clearing up on the green 2 3pm approx
- collecting up signs in the village 2 3pm
- collecting up signs on the route 2 3 pm

If you could help with any of the above, even for a short time, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please tel/fax Marion Dyer on 814059. Thank you.



The National Childbirth Trust ^M_W Education for Parenthood

The last few months have been pretty busy with lots of activities and events for children and parents alike. The Nearly New Sale was both busy and successful. If you missed this opportunity to sell on your children's clothes and toys or to stock up on nearly new items then don't forget our next sale on **Saturday September 26th**. Many for the planned walks and playground visits for over Easter were rather washed out but we are planning to repeat some of the events later in the summer when hopefully the weather will be kinder to us. The Easter party was enjoyed by everyone as we were well entertained by Mr Rainbow and his individual mix of songs, magic and puppet show, followed by an Easter tea complete with little eggs and the children all had a great time.

In June there is an opportunity for the whole family to have their photograph taken. This is a relatively new event and is in addition to the children's photos which are taken in the autumn just in time for Christmas.

Our regular coffee mornings are a good way to meet up with other parents with young children. Or why not come along to our next **Open House** at the Crafton Green Centre on **Wednesday July 15th**.



Coffee Morning Rosta

June

- Mon 1 Under 1s & Expectant Mums
- Wed 3 Toddlers Mary Beth Elsenham 812363
- Fri 5 Pre-school 1.30-3.00pm Sally Stansted 814208
- Mon 8 Under 1s Penelope Elsenham 814219
- Wed 10 Toddlers Georgina Elsenham 812881
- Fri 12 Pre-school Isobel Henham 850354
- Mon 15 Under 1s a Petrina Elsenham 816675
- Wed 17 Messy Morning Henham Church Hall 10 am £1.00 per family
- Fri 19 Pre-school 1.30-3.00 Penelope Elsenham 814219
- Mon 22 Under 1s ... Jane Stansted 813010
- Wed 24 Toddlers Sally Stansted 814208
- Fri 26 Pre-school 1.30-3.00 Penelope Elsenham 814219
- Mon 29 Under Is .. Brigitte Stansted 813133

Wed 1 Toddlers Isobel Henham 850354
Fri 3 Pre-school 1.30-3.00 Brigid Stansted 816514
Mon 6 Under 1s.. Jane Stansted 813010
Wed 8 Toddlers Catherine Henham 850241

If you are interested in the NCT or would like further information please contact our Membership Secretary on 850287.





SOME NEARBY EVENTS

Our local pianist. Sonia Levy, is promoting a Concert in Clavering Parish Church at 7.30 pm on Saturday 6th June. Tickets available from 815282 or at the door.

There will be another weekend of open gardens in Birchanger on 13th and 14th June. Telephone 812794 for details.



The needs help!!

Can you spare a couple of hours a month on a Friday to help us collate and staple the Link?

Could you deliver a few copies of the Link in your area, when your regular deliverer is on holiday or unwell?

Please telephone Janet on 812593 if you are able to help in either way.

July

THE FOUNTAIN

Photographs in April's Link of the road junction have led to interest being shown in its central feature, the Fountain. This photograph taken in 1960 shows the fountain in an earlier livery and illustrates the semi-circular iron seat which is now on the Recreation Ground.

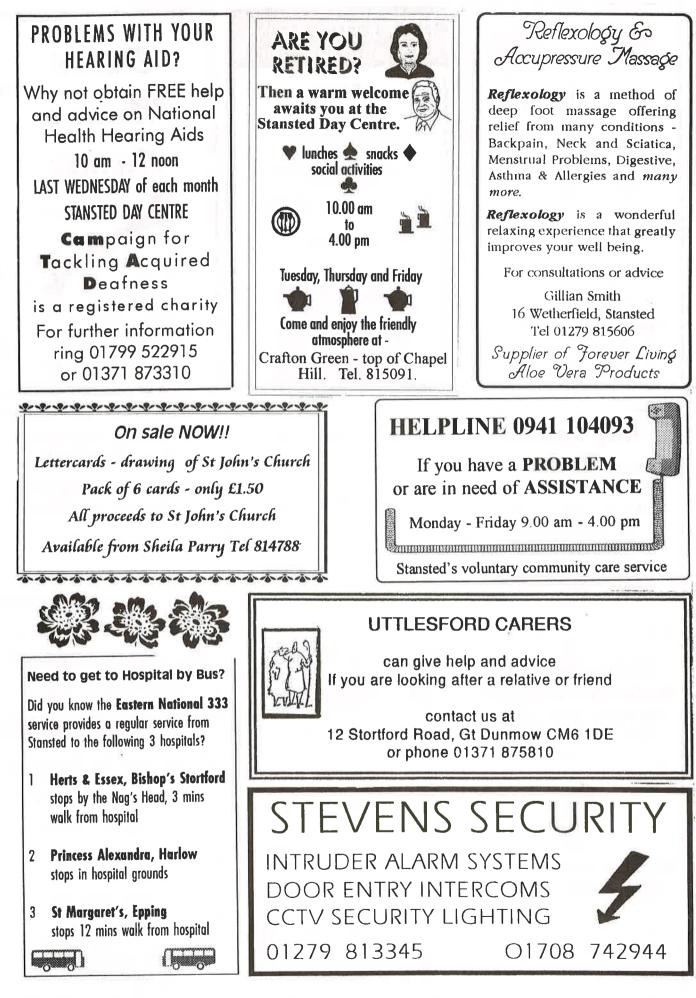


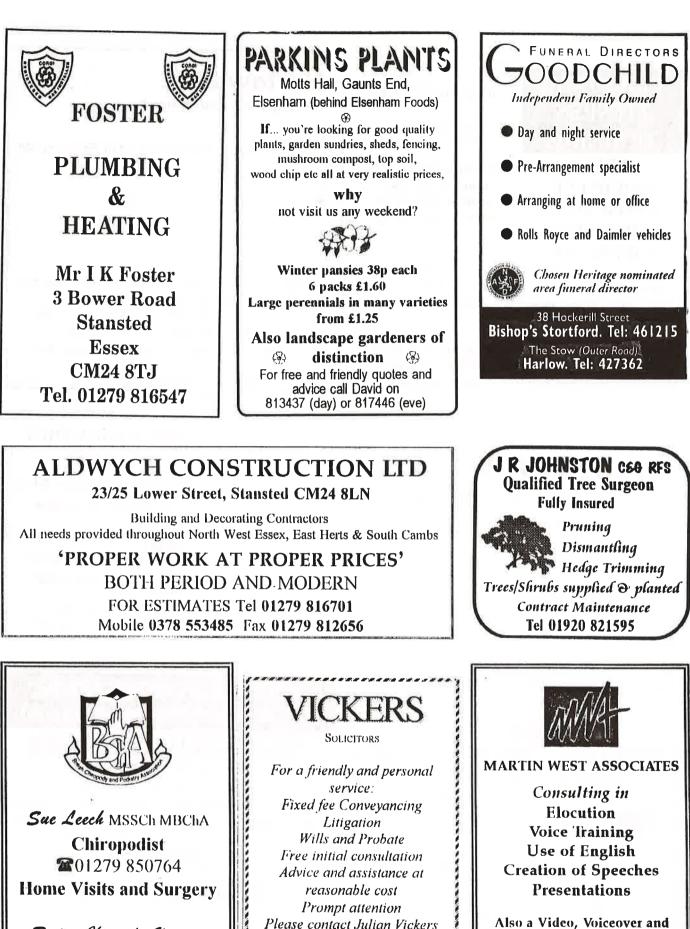
The site of the fountain was formerly occupied by buildings including the old Cock Beer House and a blacksmith's shop. The latters appears to have been the remains of a hermitage or Chapel known to have been there in 1492. Money was raised from the public and the old buildings were purchased for £500 and demolished.

The cast iron fountain was manufactured by Macfarlane & Son of Glasgow, erected by Glasscock's of Bishops Stortford and cost £35. It was presented to the village by Henry Parry Gilbey of the famous wine merchant family. He had a house built which became known as Bentfield Hall and stood in the Bentfield Gardens area. It was firstly "The Cottage", although it had at least 8 bedrooms, and then "Reed Cottage" because it was thatched with Norfolk reeds. It was ruined by fire in 1940 and the remains demolished shortly before development work began.

The opening of the fountain by Henry Gilbey was on the morning of May 1st 1871 and attended by the Vicar, the Rev. T.G. Luard, the Congregational Minister, the Rev. D. Davies, and Mr. Walter Gilbey. Originally the top step was paved with tiles and the water came from a gilded stork under the dome. There were four taps and cups and it was surmounted by a gas light and signpost. The Mountfitchet crest was added to each face of the dome in Coronation Year 1953. Water was supplied from Hick's Steam Flour Mill which was behind Spencer House. An artesian well there had ample supplies and later it was taken over by the Stansted Water Company.







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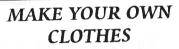
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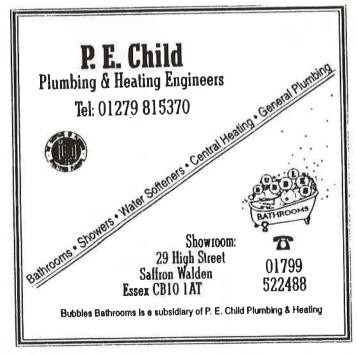


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