

April '99

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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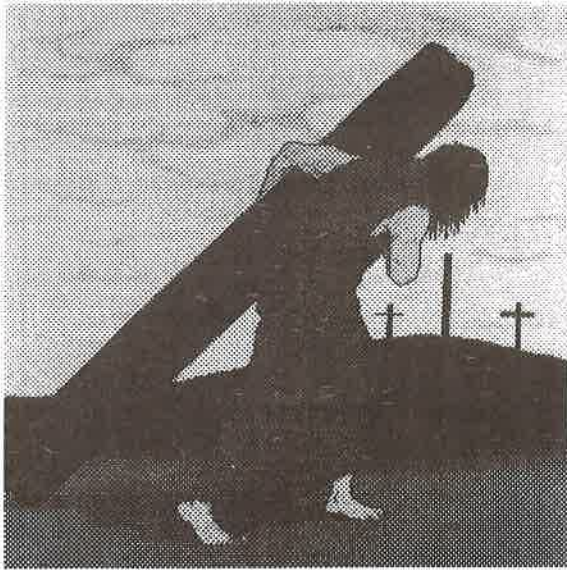
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Volume XIX No 6



April 1999



GOOD FRIDAY

2nd April

ANNUAL
PROCESSION
of WITNESS

Leaving Lower Street at 6 pm and
arriving at St Theresa's Church in time
for Stations of the Cross at 6.30 pm

EASTER DAY

4th April

JOIN IN THANKS
AND PRAISE WITH
ALL CHRISTIANS



HE DIED FOR OUR SINS AND ROSE FOR OUR REDEMPTION

**The Link (price £3 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
Advertising and all other enquiries to Sheila Parry 16 Bentfield Causeway Tel 814788**

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches,
village organisations or advertisers. Printed by 'The Print Shop' Bishop's Stortford

**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by
15th April for publication on 2nd May
13th May for publication on 30th May**

Roman Catholic

St Theresa's Church, Millside

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

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

St Anthony's Chapel, Henham 1933-1999

In 1933, a little prefabricated Chapel dedicated to St Anthony of Padua was opened in Henham to serve the Catholic community in the area. It was blessed by the then Bishop of Brentwood, Bishop Arthur Doubleday and it was erected on land donated by the De Steene family from Belgium.

During the war it was damaged by the bomb that fell on Henham causing considerable damage in the area. Some years ago refurbishment and remedial works were carried out. In February 1999, following a structural engineer's report we were forced to close the Chapel permanently. It is no longer safe for public worship especially in adverse weather conditions. Repair work would be too costly and, anyway, it could only be of a temporary nature.

So, after sixty-six years, the Chapel is closed and worshippers there have now transferred to St Theresa's at Millside, Stansted. Everyone is sad at losing our place of worship. It is like parting with a dear friend. All items of value and sentiment have been transferred to St Theresa's. The Henham community still retains its identity in the parish; it is just that their place of worship has changed.

When St Anthony's Chapel was built in 1933, it was then served from Saffron Walden parish. That situation continued until Stansted and Henham became a separate parish in 1970. Like human beings, buildings like St Anthony's have a limited life span. As we continue the season of Lent, we remember again the ashes put on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday reminding us of our mortality. The mortality of St Anthony's Chapel has now been realised.

With fond memories and remembrances and with gratitude for the many blessings over sixty-six years, we conclude with a very sincere: Deo Gratias.

Fr Joe White
Parish Priest

Baptisms

31st January Natalie Wilson
28th February Althea Harrison
21st March Luke Smith

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

Establishing pacifist credentials has taken us collectively a long time and entailed quite some suffering. How can a group without hierarchy or creed demonstrate that it will not participate in war and 'fighting with outward weapons'? Only when individuals, one after another, across time and space, live out their convictions, so that choices made in different situations still seem to come together as a pattern. Amazingly, we are not widely known as people who will not fight in wars. Not only this, we are almost as widely known for having intervened in wars to try to alleviate suffering on all sides ...

Beyond the general notion of pacifism, the situation has lent a special urgency to our reputation for harmlessness. By this I mean that, as a Friend, I am not only unwilling to serve as a soldier, but unwilling to take up arms in my private capacity. This may not sound like much, but it puts me in a special relationship to political leaders here: they believe that I will not kill them. And they don't believe that of everyone they meet. More to the point, they accept that I don't want them dead, even when I disagree with them. And this too is something they cannot take for granted. It is surprisingly freeing for all of us. I'm sure they don't want to kill me, either. So I feel free to agree with them sometimes, disagree sometimes, without worrying about who else I agree or disagree with in the process, and taking for granted that neither of us wishes to kill the other.

S & S W

Sue Williams and her husband, Steve, were Quaker Peace and Service Representatives in Belfast, where they worked for reconciliation in a divided community.

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 April

- 1st Maundy Thursday
7.30 pm Communion Service with
Methodists led by Rev. L. Rapkin and
Rev R Rawlinson
- 2nd Good Friday
11 am Group Service at Clavering
Mr R Friday
- 4th Easter Day
10.30 am Group Service at Stansted
Rev L Rapkin, followed by coffee and hot cross
buns
- 11th 11 am Rev J Benfield
18th 11 am Rev L Agnue
25th 11 am Rev L Rapkin Communion

The monthly cake stall on the church steps has been running now for 3 years and is still very successful with takings of at least £100 per month going to the Repair and Redevelopment Fund. Thank you to everyone who has supported them.

Next one Easter Saturday April 3rd,
followed by May 1st.



SHALOM

April 12th Prayer and Praise
Chantry Hall
Crow Street, Henham

April 26th Shalom Evening
4 Greenfields, Stansted

Our annual weekend Retreat at Hengrave Hall was held over the weekend of 21/23 February.

Through apt words and inspirational music, the themes for our many discussions were skilfully unfolded by the Spiritual Director, the Rector of Seaforth, Leeds, much better known to Link readers as Rev'd Tony Bundock, formerly a curate at St John's, Stansted.

By his eloquence and insights many relevant questions were posed to challenge us to find a better personal understanding and a variety of ways of expressing proactively the Christian witness. Through our daily lives what do we do and what can we do to help create the sort of community and neighbourhood that cares for each and every person.

When only 5% of the people are regular churchgoers how can we make any significant impacts on the moral standards and values of society generally? As the Millennium, which gives further opportunities to celebrate 2000 years of Christian heritage, fast draws nigh, will the Christian Church find and foster "New Beginnings" or will it fade as a historical marginalised institution that no longer has relevance to life in the 21st Century?

People give many expressions to life and we are continually challenged each and every day to carry on the same tasks that Jesus initiated. By His new radical approach to religion and beliefs wherein the person - that's you, me, him, her, is the living temple of the Holy Spirit; the living stones which build up the family of God. Every human being, through life, belongs - every person has a part to play, some task, some role, some work not allocated to anyone else. The human personality makes God present to those around us - those we mix and mingle with in the course of our daily lives. God is there not confined in any one place or thing but through the person seeking expression and influence on events. Perhaps in the course of your life already some happening, some event, some person has indicated ways that the Spirit of God has been at work in your own personal spiritual journey. As you go about, caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday existence have you considered what essential message of the Christian Faith you would most of all wish to communicate to others?

Admittedly the most profound discussions will not yield quick simple answers to the most intricate and complex issues; hence, I find both great consolation and inspiration in a simple prayer -

*Lord, make me a better person
More considerate towards others
More honest with myself
More faithful to you
Make me generous enough to want
sincerely to do your will whatever it may be.*

*Help me to find my true purposes in life
and grant that through them I may find happiness
and fulfilment myself
and bring joy, happiness and your love to others.*

Amen.

Brian Quinn

Church of England

St John the Evangelist, St John's Road

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory, St John's Road
Stansted
Tel: 812203
Email: andrew.spurr@zetnet.co.uk

Benefice Office: Tel: 815243
Email: benefice.office@zetnet.co.uk

Easter - a time to rejoice in our belief

As you read this, we will be nearing the end of the season of Lent. Holy Week that leads us to Good Friday will be upon us. That first Good Friday, the day before the Jewish Feast of the Passover, was a time of utter despair for Jesus' closest friends and followers who became the first Christians. Here was Jesus, crucified, dead and buried; the ultimate miracle had not yet happened. Later, on the third day, which we call Easter Day, Jesus was found to have risen from the dead. This was joy indeed; the prophecies had come true - the despair was gone - it was a time to rejoice in the Risen Lord !

That was some 2000 years ago; but it is as true today as it was then.

Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour was crucified on the Cross at Calvary for the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world and the promise of everlasting life with Him and his Father, God, in Heaven for those who turn and follow him.

To guide the early Christians along their difficult path, God provided the Holy Spirit at the first Whitsuntide. That Holy Spirit is with us today to comfort and guide us through life's tribulations.

As we approach the end of the 20th century, Christians continue to rejoice in their belief in the Trinity of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But as an Anglican, can I claim to be a better Christian than members of any of the other Christian church; certainly not !

It was Jesus who said "In my house there are many rooms".

This is literally interpreted today as signifying that some diversity among Christians is acceptable subject to the principal tenet of the faith being followed.

Let us, therefore, this Easter, and for evermore, rejoice with all Christians in the rich diversity of our faith and beliefs, remembering that Christ was crucified on the Cross for the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world; and the promise of everlasting life with Him and his Father, God, in Heaven for those who turn and follow him.

Tony Butcher

Services for Holy Week, Easter and the rest of April

Holy Week and Easter:

On the morning of **Palm Sunday** (28th March), the 9.30 am Parish Communion starts with a procession into church from the church hall.

On the evening of **Palm Sunday**, there is a Choral Celebration of Passiontide with music and readings at 6.30 pm in St Mary's Church.

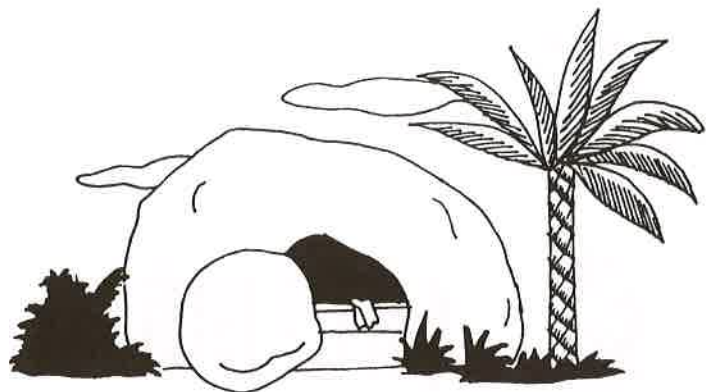
In **Holy Week**, starting 29th March, we have Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion at 7.30 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

On **Maundy Thursday** (1st April), there is Parish Communion in St John's at 8 pm with the ceremony of Stripping of the Altars followed by the Vigil until 11 pm.

On **Good Friday** (2nd April), from Noon until 3 pm the Vigil continues with a service of meditation in St John's. At 6 pm we join the CTS Procession of Witness and Stations of the Cross at St Theresa's.

On **Easter Eve** (Saturday, 3rd April), the First Communion of Easter is celebrated with Parish Communion at 8 pm in St John's.

On **Easter Day** (Sunday, 4th April) in St John's, there is Holy Communion at 8 am and Parish Communion at 9.30 am



Services for the rest of April:

Sundays:

8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11 am Family Service and Baptism (18th April)
6.30 pm Evening Service

Wednesdays:

10 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Prayers

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Please note that the Stansted APCM will take place in St John's Church Hall at 8pm on Friday, 16th April. All worshippers at St John's are urged to attend this annual business meeting of the church. The purpose of the meeting will be to review our activities and finances over the past year and to present a prospective for the future. The meeting will also elect the new PCC and appoint sidespersons for the year. The separate Annual Vestry meeting, immediately preceding the APCM, will elect the Wardens for the coming year..

If you are a regular worshipper at St John's, are over 16 years of age and a member of the Church of England, you are entitled to be on the Electoral Roll which then enables you to vote at these meetings. For those not already on the Electoral Roll, application forms are available at the back of St John's church. Please return completed forms to Carole Crosby at 58 Rainsford Road or put them in the pigeon hole marked C at the back of church.

From the Registers:

Baptisms

21st February Chloe Rose Horton
Amelia Darcy Hobbs
Oliver Stephen George Boyson

Deaths

11th February Rose Allen, aged 93
14th February Ida Rose Jordan, aged 86
26th February Constance Mary (Molly) Gold, aged 89
27th February Alice Hampton, aged 86
27th February Alfred James Hyde, aged 88

Methodist

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister: Rev'd John Graham
2 South Road, Bishop's Stortford
Tel 654475

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

Services and preachers for April

Sundays at 9.30 a.m.

4th Mike Valentine
11th Doug Coulton
18th Rev John Graham - Holy Communion
25th Kenneth Mark

Fellowship meeting will be on Friday 16th April at 8 p.m.

Good Friday - 2nd April we shall be joining the CTS Procession of Witness at 6 p.m. from Lower Street, followed by Stations of the Cross at St Theresa's Church.

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Every year, about the first Friday in March, the Christian women of the world unite in prayer. Race, language, colour and doctrine are abandoned in a universal prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

This year, the service was prepared by the women of Venezuela and the local service took place in St John's Church on Friday 5th March. Led by Anne Wilkinson, we greeted each other 'Bendicion' (a blessing please) to which the response was 'Dios te benigna' (God bless you). This was followed by a short prayer, an affirmation of our faith and offering our sacrifice of praise -

"Dear loving, heavenly Father, how wonderful it is to be in Your presence. We worship and adore You for who You are and what You mean to us. We thank You for Your steadfast love, mercy and faithfulness. You are the giver of life and our sovereign Lord and we offer You our sacrifice of praise".

The theme this year was 'God's tender touch' and this was expressed in a litany of thanksgiving for all that we have received.

Prayers of intercession followed, for all the evils of this world which are of particular concern to women - teenage pregnancies, violence, unemployment and homelessness, malnutrition - and a prayer for our own community.

While these problems are prevalent in Venezuela, Janet Hollis in her address was careful to remind us that we cannot be complacent in affluent Stansted, not entirely carefree, for these things can happen here too.

We sang our final hymn, repeated our opening greeting and retired for a welcome cup of tea (prepared by the menfolk - thankyou).

Next year's service will come from Indonesia, 'Talitha Kumi: Young Woman, stand up'.

Dioa te bendiga
Joan Mercer

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E-MAIL: JULIANVICKERS@MSN.COM

CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHRISTIAN AID

We need your legs! If you could be a collector in **Christian Aid Week, 9th - 15th May** please let me or your local church Christian Aid representative know. The more collectors we have the less for everybody to do and although nobody says it's easy it is certainly worthwhile.

Walk with the poor - the following thought for Christian Aid week was spoken by Bishop Simon Chiwanga of Mpwapwa, Tanzania, in Lichfield Cathedral.

"Jesus became more aware of his identity with God and his divine mission when he engaged himself with the poor, entering into their situation. When we walk with the poor we become more Christ-like. It is a holy moment".

On the subject of walking, once again there is to be a **Walk the City** event on **Sunday 16th May, 2-5 p.m.**

This is a sponsored walk at your own pace, around the historic churches in the city of London. It is an ideal opportunity to visit some of the forty plus interesting and varied churches, some of which are no longer regularly open to the public. I shall have details and sponsorship forms if you wish to take part.

Calling all surfers of the Web! If you wish to find out more about Christian Aid's work, visit the website at www.christian-aid.org.uk.

Catherine Dean
813579



CELEBRATION OF THE MILLENNIUM

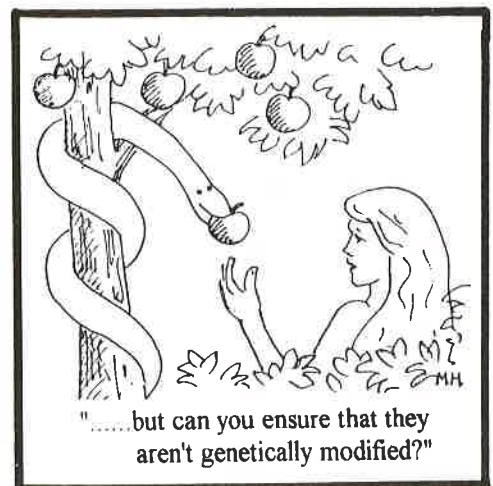
In common with a nationwide initiative, all church denominations in Stansted plan to deliver a candle and holder to every house with the idea that the candles be lit at midnight, wherever people may be. We hope that as many as possible in our village may be able to meet at St John's for a Millennium service.

We are hoping to make regular village events more special in the year 2000 - for example, the Good Friday Procession of Witness - to give greater support to the Bradwell Pilgrimage - to make our visit to Chevetogne that year a special celebratory one. We are delighted that Marion Johnson has plans for reviving her Good Friday project for that year, which will be good news for all who have missed this so much.

A concert featuring our own village talent - on the lines of the Christmas one - is another well supported idea and a Songs of Praise on the Recreation Ground at Pentecost with a brass band - if we are successful in finding one!

We also feel that it is important to have a long-term aim. A Drop-in Centre has been suggested, serving tea and coffee, etc, which could be a focus for all ages to meet in a Christian setting and which could have books and cards for sale and give information about local ecumenical events and ideas. It is hoped that it would be open weekly to begin with but, if the venture is successful and well supported, it could be expanded to meet whatever needs arise.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss any other ideas from our readers for ways in which Stansted can further celebrate the Christian Millennium.





QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 10th April
Day Centre
Bring your own drinks. Raffle
£6 (incl fish & chip supper)
Please tel 813871



Coffee Morning

10 am
Wed 14th April
62 Chapel Hill
Raffle ~ Cakes ~ Groceries
All Welcome



Royal British Legion

Afternoon Tea

3pm Wednesday 14th April
Stansted Day Centre
Tickets £2.50
(see RBL entry for ticket sellers)
EVERYONE WELCOME

VILLAGE EVENTS

April

| | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | Thu | NCT at Hatfield Forest Local History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 3 | Sat | Cake Stall | Outside URC 10 am |
| 4/5 | Sun/Mon | Windmill Open | 2 - 6 pm |
| 7 | Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm |
| 8 | Thu | NCT Toy afternoon Carers' Support Group W I | Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm |
| 10 | Sat | Liberal Democrat Ploughmans HEAL Quiz | Day Centre 12 - 2 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm |
| 12 | Mon | Shalom Prayer & Praise | Chantry Hall Henham 8 pm |
| 14 | Wed | Huw Johnson Coffee Morning RBL Afternoon Tea | 62 Chapel Hill 10 am Day Centre 3 pm |
| 15 | Thu | RBL Women's Section | Day Centre 7.30 pm |
| 17 | Sat | CTS Quiz | St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm |
| 18 | Sun | Car Boot Sale Village Spring Clean | Mountfitchet School 8am - noon Council Offices 2 pm |
| 19 | Mon - 22 Thu | Skip | Railway Sidings |
| 21 | Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm |
| 22 | Thu | W I Spring Group Meeting | St John's Hall 7.30 pm |
| 24 | Sat | Jumble & Table Top Sale Quiz | Mountfitchet School 2 - 4 pm Bentfield School |
| 25 | Sun | Green Waste Skip | Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm |
| 26 | Mon | Shalom Group | 4 Greenfields 8 pm |

May

| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Sat | Cake Stall | Outside URC 10 am |
| | | Arthur Findlay College open week begins | |
| 2 | Sun | St Mary's Church Open | 2 - 6 pm |
| 2/3 | Sun/Mon | Windmill open | 2 - 6 pm |
| 9 | Sun | National Mills day | Windmill open 2 - 6pm |
| 15 | Sat | Bentfield School May Fair | 2 pm |

Stansted Windmill Open Days



2 - 6 pm

Sunday 4th April
Monday 5th April
Sunday 2nd May
Monday 3rd May
Sunday 9th May



STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

(for composting)

Bring along your green waste
to the Railway Sidings
between 1 & 4 pm

Sun 25th April & Sat 22nd May



QUIZ NIGHT

CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

in aid of
Chevetogne
Exchange Visit

7 for 7.30 pm
Saturday 17th April
St John's Hall

Refreshments provided - Prizes - Raffle
Bring your own drink and glass
Tickets £5 from Eileen Quinn 812109



Moundfitchet High School

Jumble Sale

Admission Free

Table Top Sale

£4 pre-booked, £5 on the day

2-4 pm Sat 24th April

Please tel 814685

Moundfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 18th April

8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments

Tel 01279 813384



Stansted Moundfitchet Parish Council

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Sunday 18th April

Lend a hand and have a laugh whilst
cleaning up a few of our local eyesores.
Old clothes. Free tea & buns afterwards!

Meet Council Offices 2 pm
Refreshments at 4 pm

EASTER TIME

Things were going very well at the new school under the disused railway station, next to the Bouncers' home. Mr. Rolly (Uncle Robert to the Bouncer children) had taught all the pupils to write their names. He used the back of several old railway posters that Bertie had found to write out "1, 2, 3, 4, 5" and "A a B b C c D d....." etc and pinned them on the classroom wall together with some of the interesting pictures from the front of other posters. Pointing to a picture of the seaside, Mr. Rolly talked to the class about the sea and the fish and other creatures that lived in it. Another day they heard about what it was like to live in a town and when they got to the picture of countryside, of course, they could tell their teacher all about that!

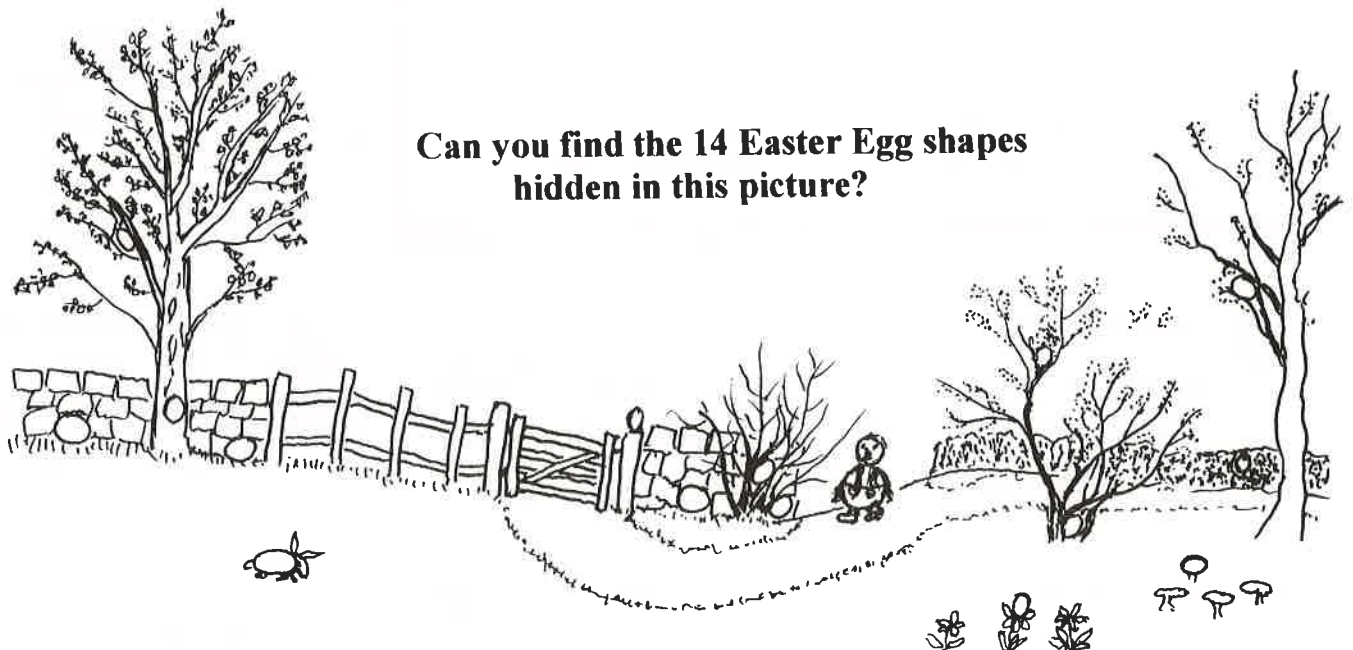
As well as the posters, lots of useful pieces of paper and some bits of pencils were discovered in the cupboard in what had been the railway ticket booking office. Sometimes at night Mr. Bouncer and Mr. Rolly went down to the village and came back with magazines and books that humans had put out to be collected with their waste paper, so there were plenty of things to do and see in the classroom.



One day Mr. Rolly said that they would be having a holiday from school because it would soon be Easter, but before that they would have a "fun" day. In the morning Easter cards were made to take home and in the afternoon there was a hunt for the sweets and biscuits that Mrs. Bouncer had made.

Everybody rushed around excitedly, laughing and shouting and searching in corners and on and under things until nearly all of them had found a parcel. Then a squeaky cry was heard. Tiny Tilly Mouse had been rather frightened by all the noise and thought she might be knocked over by the bigger boys as they dashed about, so she had hidden under a desk and had not got a present.

While her big sister, Matilda, comforted her the others had another search and found a parcel for Tilly, whose tears were soon dried. Matilda Mouse loved school so much she would not have minded if they did not have an Easter holiday, but when Mr. Rolly gave her some paper and a pencil so that she could practice writing, she and Tilly both went home happily.





STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Millennium Project

As a Local History Society we feel that we should do something to record Stansted at the turn of the century. This could be such a vast undertaking that we have decided to concentrate on certain aspects, taking photographs backed up with some written material. There are a good number of clubs and societies in Stansted and we will be writing shortly to all those we know of asking if they could supply, or our members take, 2 or 3 photographs to illustrate their activities and the people involved. If you belong to a group that does not hear from us in the next month or so, please forgive us for missing you and if you are interested in the project, please get in touch.

The Mountfitchet School and Bentfield and St Mary's Primary Schools have all expressed interest in principle in the project so we hope we can involve the children in some way.

Photographs of local public houses, shops and shopkeepers and public buildings would be interesting to compare with those which were taken in past years.

All the above would, we hope, form the basis of an exhibition perhaps some time at the end of 2000. Copies of the photographs would be kept in Stansted for future reference but the negatives would be deposited at the Essex County Record Office, in the Photographic Section of their new building to be opened in Chelmsford in the next year or so and be available for research by historians in years to come. The History Society would retain the copyright of all photographs commissioned by us and taken by our members.

We also intend to assemble photographs and written descriptions of about 10 homes of different styles, ages and inhabitants. These would not be for exhibition and publication at present in the interests of privacy and security but would be kept by the County Record Office with an embargo of 30 years, or whatever time the residents prefer, and would be intended for historical research only. Victorian and other early photographs exist showing details of interiors which are of great interest in the present day and we would not want "tidying up" done so that people will be able to see how we really live now!

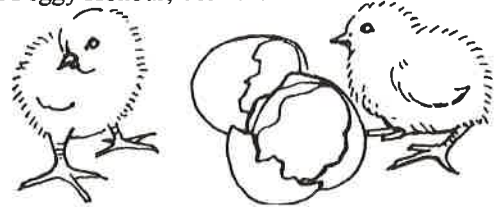
The time scale for this exercise would be six months from 1st December 1999 as this will concentrate our volunteer's efforts - there would, of course, have to be some latitude to this if we particularly wanted to record an event outside this time.

The Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council have promised funding and support and we have other ideas if we can find the time and enthusiastic helpers. Let us hope that at the turn of the next century, although we will not be here to see it, Stanstedians then will, in their turn, record events, compare their findings with ours, and say how wonderful it was that we had the foresight to realise that they would find what we were doing so fascinating!

Meetings

In April we will be visiting the Rhodes Museum, Bishop's Stortford. On **May 6th** due to elections, we cannot have our usual venue, so please note that the meeting is at **The Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill**, at 8 pm. We will not prolong the business of the Annual General Meeting as this will be followed by a talk by Tim Turner on the History of Sworders, a long established and well-known local business.

In March the work of the Essex County Record Office in Chelmsford was explained to us, with the aid of slides, by Jennifer Butler, Principal Archivist, User Services. If you are thinking of doing some research at the Record Office, you may be interested in the leaflet "Planning Your Visit" and Guides to Sources "No. 1. The History of Your House" and "No. 2. The History of Your Family". A few copies were left for us by the speaker and are available free from Peggy Honour, 813160.



Recipe of the Month

Chocolate and Coconut Slices

6oz / 170gm plain chocolate
3oz / 85gm margarine
4oz / 113gm caster sugar
4oz / 113gm grated coconut
4oz / 113gm sultanas
2oz / 57gm chopped glacé cherries
1 beaten egg

- (a) line Swiss roll tin with foil
- (b) break chocolate into pieces and put in tin
- (c) place in oven on gas mark 1 / 140°C / 275°F until chocolate has melted
- (d) spread melted chocolate over foil and leave to cool
- (e) beat margarine and sugar together
- (f) add egg and all other ingredients
- (g) spread over chocolate
- (h) cook for 30 mins on gas mark 4 / 180°C / 350°F
- (i) cut into slices when cold



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

March has flown by with a variety of functions to suit all tastes. The toddlers worked off plenty of energy at Rascals whilst the mums were able to relax a little with a coffee and time for a chat. Ride on Toys was, as always, a well attended event with the older children able to come after school as a bonus!

The Nearly New Sale was, of course, very popular with plenty of clothes for both the children and expectant mums as well as good second hand nursery equipment and most importantly, for our younger visitors, there were plenty of toys and games all at pocket money prices!

Our Easter Party is set to be a fun event with Mr Rainbow back by popular demand to entertain the children. What Easter party would be complete without an 'eggciting' (sorry!) egg hunt and a huge tea after all the amusements?

April sees the holidays too, so we have plenty of events lined up. A walk/cycle ride in Hatfield Forest on April 1st; a visit to the playground at Newport (April 6th); another indoor ride on toy afternoon at St John's Hall on 8th April (just in case spring has not yet arrived!); and on 22nd April, a morning of Songs and Stories with a spring theme.

We continue to hold our coffee mornings each week as well. The Monday and Wednesday ones are from 10 am - 11.30 am whilst the Friday ones are from 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm. Refreshments 50p per family. New members and visitors are always welcome at our coffee mornings and any other events. Anyone wishing to join or receive any information about the NCT should contact Wendy on 813387.

If you would like to go to any of the coffee mornings listed below please call the host for more information.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mon 29 Mar | Under 1's & Expectant Mums: Cheryl, Elsenham, 812946 |
| Wed 31st Mar | Toddlers: Penelope, Elsenham, 814219 |
| Wed 7th Apr | Toddlers: Elaine, Elsenham, 812363 |
| Fri 9th Apr | Pre-school: Penelope, Elsenham, 814219 |
| Mon 12th Apr | Under 1's ... Anna, Stansted |
| Wed 14th Apr | Toddlers: Sandra, Stansted, 647054 |
| Fri 16th Apr | Pre-school: Brigitte, Stansted, 813133 |
| Mon 19th Apr | Under 1's ... Jane, Henham, 850735 |
| Wed 21st Apr | Toddlers: Danuta, Stansted, 816263 |
| Fri 23rd Apr | Pre-school: Georgina, Elsenham, 812881 |
| Mon 26th Apr | Under 1's ... Sarah, Stansted, 813656 |
| Wed 28th Apr | Toddlers: Isobel, Henham, 850354 |
| Fri 30th Apr | No Pre-school |
| Wed 5th May | Toddlers: Elaine, Elsenham, 812363 |
| Fri 7th May | Pre-school: Danuta, Stansted, 816263 |

Why not come along for a coffee and a chat whilst the children play? We look forward to meeting you!

Sandra Wood 647054



Royal British Legion
Stansted & District
Branch

Afternoon Tea, Wednesday, 14th April 1999
3 pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green

You are cordially invited to support the Benevolent Fund of the Legion by enjoying the afternoon with us on 14th April. The cost is only £2.50p to include all refreshments. There will also be a Raffle and Cake Stall. Please come along - everyone will be made most welcome.

Tickets are available from:

Mrs C Whall, 813880
Mrs B Scarr, 813080
Mrs D Thistle, 813250
Mr Bob Stoddart, 814015
Mr Eddie Laird, 813458

Or even just come and pay at the door.

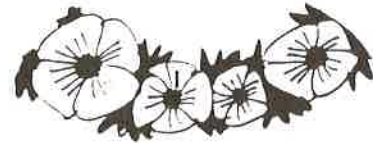
Poppy Appeal

Yes, I am already working on the 1999 Appeal. For the 1998 collection we have reached £6,000 with grateful thanks for your support. An all-time record for the district.

As always we are asking for more volunteers to help with the house-to-house collection. If you can help in early November please let me know.

John L Segar
813289

Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser



The **LINK** Situation Vacant!
Can you help?

The present Advertising Co-ordinator is moving away from the area and we urgently need someone to take over this role. The job involves dealing with advertisers in the Link and answering general queries.

Please telephone Sheila on 814788 if you are able to help or would like more details of what is involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

TIME FOR A LAUGH

Local Elections

The time has flown by and once again we are preparing for local elections in Stansted. If you are interested in helping your local community and have some time to spare, please consider being nominated for election. The Clerk has a supply of nomination forms available in the Council Offices, but you must act quickly as there are deadlines for each stage of the process. Nomination papers must be received at Uttlesford District Council by 12 noon on **Thursday 8th April**.

Stansted in Bloom

An appeal here to all our local businesses who may not yet have returned their forms to order hanging baskets - please hurry as we have to confirm numbers with the nursery. If anyone else is interested in taking part - businesses or domestic - we can supply planted baskets at a cost of £21 each and for an extra £15 per basket, our contractor will water the baskets for the whole season (approx. 5-6 months). Please contact the Clerk for further details.

Recycling Facilities

By the time this edition of The Link is distributed, the new car park at the Railway Sidings should be open. All recycling facilities will be located there from now on, including the large yellow waste skips and the green composting skip. Forthcoming dates are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Saturday 27th March, 1-4 pm | green waste skip |
| Mon 19th - Thurs 22nd April | waste skip |
| Saturday 24th April, 1-4 pm | green waste skip |
| Mon 10th - Thurs 13th May | waste skip |
| Saturday 22nd May, 1-4 pm | green waste skip |
| Sat/Sun 5th & 6th June | waste skip |
| Mon 21st - Thurs 24th June | waste skip |



It is sometimes said (with justification) that The Link is too serious and lacks the light-hearted touch. A subscriber has sent in this item, which we hope will leaven the lump and persuade other readers to send in an item, which will make our dour old Editor smile. Take it as a challenge!

The following is said to be an actual question given on a University of Washington Chemistry midterm:

"Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Support you answer with a proof."

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed), or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities.

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
2. Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it?

If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms Theresa Banyan, during my Freshman year, "That it will be a cold night in Hell before I cuddle up with you"; and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having any relationship with her, then (2) cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic.

The student got the only A.



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

The concert, playing to a full St John's Church on 6th March and featuring the Uttlesforde Orchestra conducted by Harry Curtis with soloist, Sally Jackson, playing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto brought to an end the formal programme of concerts of the highly successful 1998-99 season. Other works performed at this concert were Rossini's Tancredi Overture and Beethoven's Symphony No 7 in A major.

The Village Music Club will be holding a Summer Soiree of Music and Supper on the evening of Saturday, 3rd July at 6 pm in St John's Church and grounds. Planning for this event is now well advanced. Tickets, inclusive of supper are £10 adult, £7 concessions and £3.50 for children and are available from Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (812019) and Elizabeth Wagener, 'Fairfield', Silver Street, Stansted (813182).

The club's fourth season commences on 30th October at 8 pm with a recital by Bernard Roberts (piano). On 5th December at 3 pm the club presents 'Menagerie' with Ann Mackay (soprano), Julius Drake (piano) and Nicholas Daniel (oboe). The first concert of the new millennium will be on 23rd January and features Jamie Walton ('cello) and Daniel Grimwood (piano). On 11th March, 2000, the club presents the world renowned Albeni Quartet (led by Howard David) as part of the Stansted Millennium celebrations. All concerts are held in St John's Church, Stansted.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for The Village Music Club or wish to become a member and subscribe to the 1999-2000 season of concerts, please contact Elizabeth Wagener at 'Fairfield', Silver Street, Stansted (813182).



Stansted Cricket Club

The new cricket season is nearly upon us, so if you have played cricket in the past and wish to resume your affiliation to bat and ball, or you are a beginner who would like to give it a go, why not join your local cricket club.

This season we have entered a local Saturday league and therefore we would particularly welcome any cricketer with league experience. We run two sides on a Sunday when we play friendlies; therefore anyone interested in a more leisurely game of cricket may find this more to their liking.

Cricket nets are on Tuesday evenings, but, if coaching is required on other nights, this can be arranged.

Our thriving Colts section has been attending indoor nets since January. Any youngster wishing to join will be warmly welcomed when Sunday morning coaching commences in May.

For those who do not wish to participate, why not ramble up to Hargrave Park in the middle of Stansted, one Saturday or Sunday afternoon and enjoy the pleasant surroundings.

Offers of any help, in particular in tea making, would be gratefully received.

For further information please contact:

Keith Ayres (Colts) - 814471

David Cope (Seniors) - 814562.

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our March speaker was Mrs Jane Malyon and she gave us an amusing talk entitled 'Confessions of a Mass Caterer'. She and her husband run a catering business and her talk centred on the amusing incidents and the odd behaviour of some clients at the various functions.

On one occasion the bride's mother had had some drinks on an empty stomach and at the wedding reception this affected her. She had on a beautiful silk suit and the chair she sat on was very shiny and she gradually slipped under the table. She was rescued and apologised to everyone and Jane Malyon had to put a table napkin on the chair to prevent slippage. Catering for medics at a luncheon in London proved tricky when the waitress returned to the kitchen with two plates of food to ask "since the couple were doing unmentionable things on the table should she place the plates on the chairs?" One other tale was about a bride in a horse and carriage stopped at traffic lights when a loud noise startled the horse and it dropped dead in the shafts.

During business, members learnt that the Fashion Show held in February raised £200 for W.I. funds and the coffee morning held on 10th March for the Meningitis Trust raised the grand total of £243.

One of our members has just returned from Denman, the W.I. College near Oxford, after doing a silver smithing course and she showed us a spoon and a medallion she made.

The Spring Group Meeting will be held on 22nd April in St John's Hall at 7.30 pm.

The evening ended with a quiz organised by Margaret Chastney, which was on Essex Villages anagrams.

Kath Johnson
813225

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior coaching with Chris Hollis continues on Saturday mornings at the following times:

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

In mid April, Chris will be adding a Thursday afternoon session for the 7-10 age group (5.00 - 5.45 pm). If you would like to join in, or would like further information please contact Chris on B/S 466973.

Used Tennis Balls

The club currently has a huge supply of used tennis balls. We are selling a tube of four balls for the giveaway price of £1, so if you would like some please contact Janet Hollis on B/S 812073.

News Quiz

The club's next major project will be to resurface the courts. Our first fund-raising event takes the form of a News Quiz (30 questions covering the last 5 years). The winning entry will receive £25 and there will be 3 runners-up prizes of tubes of tennis balls. If you would like to purchase a Quiz entry form (£1 each) please contact Chris Hollis on B/S 466973. Closing date for entries is April 30th 1999.

If you would like to join the tennis club please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on B/S 813053. If you have any other queries please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on B/S 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on B/S 466348.

Spring Tournament

Sunday 18th April at 1 pm, for senior members. Please enter names on the noticeboard in the clubhouse.

Saffron Walden Hospitals Cup Tournament

Finals Day - 24th July at Henham.
Entries please by 3rd May - the draw will take place on 7th May.



Royal British Legion Women's Section

After normal business at our February meeting our speakers were Edna and Alan Wright who treated us to some fascinating slides of their visit to Beijing in 1992. They travelled with the W.I. and were the largest party of tourists to visit China since Tianemen Square. The Chinese have built hotels to western standards with wonderful services and their tour companies are second to none.

The streets are free of traffic - and of litter, as all Chinese collect it. Enormous loads are carried daily into the city on tricycles; everyone cycles. The children are very well educated and taught to think and speak in six or seven languages.

We saw slides of temples, the old Observatory, the golden throne of a former Emperor, a teaching hospital and beautiful roofs, some with gold or jade tiles.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 15th April, in the Day Centre at 7.30 p.m. when our speaker will be Mr Markham on "Cruise-ship holidays".

Pat Clower

Stansted Profile no 11

Lt. Col. Austen Finn

Chapel Hill provides the third resident to feature in this series which must say something for one of Stansted's oldest roads and for those who live there.

Austen Finn is very much a Man of Kent, being born in Canterbury and a product of Kings School where 15 members of the Finn family received their education. His grandfather had established a wholesale and retail business in the city which remained in the family until the second World War. However, in those days Austen's interests lay more on the rugby field and the school's OTC rather than the commercial world. Like so many of us, his school reports could be summarised as "should do better".

Upon leaving Kings School he obtained a post with Nicholsons, the distillers, but having risen in four years as far as he was ever likely to, he left to take up a sales appointment with Shell. As his lifelong interest lay in the Army, it was natural that he should join the Territorial Army and become a Reserve soldier. It was not long before the Second World War engulfed the country, and 1941 saw Austen Finn embarking for India on that most hazardous of transports, an ammunition ship. After a 75 day voyage he landed at Calcutta. His first posting was as an Instructor, followed by a period at the Indian Army Staff College in Quetta. Among various out-postings he spent some time on the notorious North-West Frontier, but with the advance of the Japanese into India in 1942 he was

dispatched to General Bill Slim's headquarters. From there he was sent to Chittagong, which together with Calcutta were the principal ports supplying the 14th Army. Promotion was hard earned but came quickly. His appointment as Port Commandant called for a combination of skill, tact, and above all, determination, to keep men and materials moving. During this time the young Lt. Colonel learned to respect the Indian troops, particularly the Punjabis, and he was impressed with the way in which all races and religions worked and fought together in the now largely forgotten Indian Army.

In 1946 Austen Finn was demobilised and, with his wife whom he had married just before the War, set up home in Woodford. He then started a business supplying Mail Order houses, which thrived until 1984 when he retired and moved to Stansted. With one daughter, Sarah, already in the village he soon slipped into the life of the community. Unfortunately the death of his wife Joan in 1996 was a loss which he keenly feels to this day.

Austen Finn has become well known as chairman, secretary and committee member of our Royal British Legion branch; he also serves on the Gurkha Welfare Trust, is an active member of the Indian Army Association and is a member of St John's Church. To many people his house is the one with the Hermitage in the front garden and it gives Austen pleasure to show visitors round the interior where he has provided a written history.

For Austen Finn, Stansted is a place where he has made more friends than during all his years in Woodford. Many would echo one of his few regrets which is the great increase in noise and traffic in the village. Lt. Col. Finn holds fast to many qualities, including an infectious sense of humour, which although (or perhaps because of) their old world values, makes him one of our respected and liked citizens.

Derek Honour



Lt.Col. Austen Finn with his younger daughter Veronica who lives with her family in Switzerland.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Our March meeting was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 3rd March. The speaker was Mr Steve Cannon from Millway Nursery near Colchester. The subject of his talk was climbing plants, well known ones such as clematis and honeysuckle and other more unusual ones. About thirty-five members attended.

Next month's meeting will be held on April 7th when the speaker will be Mr Morris May talking on "Violas of the World". It will also be our A.G.M.

It was announced that at our meeting in June the "Garden News" magazine is sending a representative to talk to members and take some photos.

Cyril Stoneham



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The season starts in earnest this month after our AGM last month. The work on the Brakewheel, which was mentioned last month, is now complete. The work has made the brake work more effectively, but also, when the brake is released, it allows the freerunning of the wheel, which we need to do regularly to keep the sails in balance and drain water out of the nooks and crannies. We are now thinking through the next stage of work on the mill, consulting with millwrights and experts on a proposal to be able to operate the sails occasionally under wind power without affecting safety when stationary. This would be a significant stage forward on the steady progress towards showing the working of the mill as it would have been when it last operated 89 years ago.

For those interested in helping with the mill, or would like further information, please contact Steve Clements, tel. 816514.

Opening dates for April/May

Sunday 3rd April
Monday 4th April
Sunday 2nd May
Monday 3rd May
Sunday 9th May (National Mills Day)
Sunday 23rd May
Monday 24th May

STANSTED FUN RUN



PRINTER
CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING
PROJECT



A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have donated or promised to donate toner cartridges. During this last year, we have raised the magnificent sum of £200, so please keep them coming - even the little deskjet cartridges are worth something.

If you can manage to salvage the box from your new cartridge to put your old one in, then that would be a great help - but don't worry if you can't, it just makes transportation easier.

Just a reminder - we are collecting empty cartridges from laser or deskjet/inkjet printers for recycling. 20% of the money raised will go to the Link, the remainder towards this year's Fun Run administrative expenses.

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 - collection can be arranged - or leave in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens.



Thank you for your help



Stansted Liberal Democrats

Chairman: Steve Riley, 815455

Forthcoming Events:

On every second Saturday in the month we have a ploughman's lunch at Stansted Day Centre, 12.00 noon to 2.00 p.m. On the 8th May this will be combined with a post local election party. All are welcome.

On Saturday 26th June at 8.00 p.m. we are holding one of our 'Henham Evenings', a supper and informal get-together in the garden of Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham - courtesy of Mr & Mrs David Morson.





Huw Johnson Club

Thank you to Brian for once again inviting the Apton Road Dancers to give us another display of their wonderful dancing routine. Although many of the children taking part were very young they performed beautifully and we were all amazed that they remembered such a complicated range of steps. After the display our members were invited to join in and every one had a lot of fun trying to fit the steps to the music. I must admit they all made a better job of it than I did. Thank you dancers.

Please come along to our next Coffee Morning, which takes place at 62 Chapel Hill on Wednesday April 14th at 10 a.m. Gifts for the raffle, cake stall and good as new stall (not clothes please) will be gratefully accepted.

We would be really pleased if you dropped in one Thursday to meet us all and joined us for a cup of coffee. We are in St John's Hall every week except the second Thursday and we can assure you of a great welcome. Don't be shy, we will not ask you to do any work, just come and have a relaxed evening.

Marion G Johnson



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Our library has changed its opening hours to the following:-

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Monday | CLOSED |
| Tuesday | 9a.m. - 1p.m. |
| Wednesday | 2p.m. - 6p.m. |
| Thursday | 2p.m. - 6p.m. |
| Friday | CLOSED |
| Saturday | 9.30p.m. - 4p.m. |

Telephone No. 01279 815149

The LINK 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.

From a Local Poet

The things I prize of greatest worth
Are just the common things of Earth,
The rain, the sun, the grass, the trees
The flowers, the birds, the glorious breeze.

Clouds that pass, and stars that shine,
Mountains, valleys, all are mine.
Rivers broad, and open sea
Are riches none can take from me.

Our God is here on ev'ry hand
Upon the sea, upon the land
And day by day my thanks I give
That with these common things I live.



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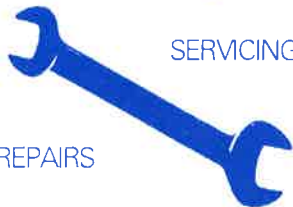
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