

Dec 199

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

STANSTED CARPETS

EST. 1969

42 CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED, ESSEX

CARPETS & VINYL

CARPET TILES - SAFETY FLOORING
DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

CURTAINS

AND FABRICS
RAILS AND POLES
HAND MADE CURTAINS

FREE LOAN
OF SAMPLES
HUGE
SELECTION
FREE
QUOTATIONS

WALLPAPER

BORROW THE BOOK -
CHOOSE AT HOME

01279 812019

KINGS FAMILY BUTCHERS

Lower Street, Stansted

PRIME SCOTCH BEEF
DAIRY FED PORK
ENGLISH & WELSH LAMB
HOME MADE SAUSAGES
HOME COOKED HAM
ADDITIVE-FREE COOKED MEATS
HORMONE-FREE FRESH MEATS
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Tel 01279 812219

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

A METHOD of mind & body
AWARENESS which RELEASES TENSION
both MENTALLY and physically.
This CAN HELP with STRESS RELATED
problems AND pain

Private lessons
Introductory Lesson
Introductory Workshops
Talks

Pippa Bondy M.S.T.A.T.
59 St John's Road Stansted
Tel 01279 813886

J DAY & SON

MONUMENTAL MASONS

Stone Works, Station Road,
Bishop's Stortford

Tel 01279 654555 or 653450

The Cottage Guest House



AA Selected 4Qs
E.T.B. Highly Commended 2 Crowns

71 Birchanger Lane
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 5QA

Tel 01279 812349 Mr & Mrs J.P. Hodge

PHOTOGRAPHY

GRAPHIC DESIGN

PC/MAC INSTALLATION

NETWORKING

CELAUDINE DESIGN

TEL/FAX/FRAX

817243

EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS

WEB DESIGN

DESK TOP PUBLISHING

FUNERAL DIRECTORS GOODCHILD

**"Independent, Owned By
Stansted Family."**

- Over 30 Standard Funeral Arrangements
- Large range of Memorial and Cremation options
 - Pre-Arrangement specialists
 - 4 Different Pre-Need Schemes
 - Arranging at home or office
- Large Range of After Care Services
 - New Daimler fleet of vehicles

38 Hockerill Street
Bishop's Stortford Tel: 461215

The Stow (Outer Road)
Harlow Tel: 427362



*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old
from angels bending near the earth...*



...Beneath the Angel strain have rolled 2000 years of wrong...

A



Ω

*For lo! the days are hastening on
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling*

Edmund Hamilton Sears



Let Christmas be our new beginning

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

Advertising enquiries to Angela Wall Tel 01279 817978

All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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 or email to
editor.thelink@stansted.net**

9th December for publication on 2nd January

13th January for publication on 30th January

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd John Graham
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford
Tel 01279 654475

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Reception Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Services and Preachers for December

- 5th Miss Jean Hay
12th Michael Dyer
19th Rev John Graham - United service with Friends
26th Rev. Harry Wood - Holy Communion

Sunday 12th December 6.30pm is our Church Christmas party at the home of Marion and Michael Dyer.

From the Rev'd John Graham

Dear Friends,

Have you received the season's greetings yet? No! Well, it is a little early still. Through the pages of THE LINK let me be one of the first to wish you a HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

The month of December brings us to, what is seen by many as, the most exciting part of the year.

The children are wide-eyed on Christmas Day as they open their presents from Father Christmas. All the excitement of the previous days culminates in the joy of super gifts to play with and value. Who has not at the end of Christmas Day taken their most precious gift to bed with them?

After all the preparation for Christmas by parents there is the reward of feeling that another Christmas has provided much joy and pleasure for everyone.

In the life of the Church and the community there is a spirit of joy and well-being as we greet one another and join in the singing of Christmas Carols and songs.

At the same time let us remember that for many people this Christmas will not be touched with the same kind of joy that has been there in the past. Someone who has been very close, a mum or dad, brother or sister, husband or wife, grandparent or grandchild, friend or neighbour, has been 'promoted to glory' as our Salvation Army friends express it. Hold before you that for those who have died, for their celebrations will be terrific as they share in the Heavenly

Banquet. Remember also that our God is a feeling, sharing God, and that he is with us in our loneliness and sorrow. In fact, He shares with us all the experiences and feelings of our lives, This is the message that we hear again this Christmas ; "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us".
THE LIVING GOD HAS MADE HIS HOME WITH YOU..

May this be the deep peace that you feel this Christmas and may all our celebrations of the Birth of Jesus be filled with a joy that surpasses all our merry-making ?

A very Happy Christmas.

John G Graham
Methodist Minister

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Ministers

Rev'd David Simpson
28 Linton Close
Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 526618

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

Contact

Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 01279 812593

Preachers for December

- 5th 11 am Rev D Pines
12th 10.30am Rev D Simpson - Rev L Rapkin
Group Gift Service followed by Coffee
and Mince Pies in the Lecture Hall
19th 11 am Rev D Simpson Communion
25th 10.30am Mrs C Bonner
26th 11 am Mrs C Bonner

We invite you all to our Gift Service on December 12th when we will be collecting sweets for the Huw Johnson Club's pantomime trip and toiletries, socks, hats and gloves for the street people at Whitechapel Mission.

Our Christmas Day offerings this year are for the Christian Aid "Let there be Light" Christmas appeal which all United Reformed Churches in the Eastern Province are being urged to support.

We wish all customers of our monthly cake stall a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and remind them that there will be no stall 1st January but we are looking forward to serving them again on 5th February.



Calling Time

Time is the one thing we don't have. Life seems to get away from us. Life in the fast lane is no longer an option if you want to get on, it's the only way to go. 'Keep your eyes on the horizon', 'be on the cutting edge' we are told, 'the truth is out there' puts Mystery just beyond reach. As we focus on the distance we lose what's close up, 'we must get together' gets pushed out of ever busier schedules. Time with the young is yielded to the TV which tutors them to grow up always looking for meaning in the next thing.

If the millennium has taught us anything it must be that we are incapable of constructing anything meaningful with our busy lives by our own efforts. New Years Eve has resisted all our attempts to find significance in it. The millennium has held up a mirror to us, asked us where we are, what do we have to show for

all our busyness?

The hard truth is that our time is not an empty space for us to frantically cram with meaning. Time was made with rhythms and opposites, light/dark, heaven/earth, work/rest, memory/future, life/death, each one makes us grateful for the other and prepares us for it. Darkness awakes a yearning for new light, times celebrating the past help us to live a fuller present, death quickens our sense of life.

But this depth of life can only happen when time is taken to gather to tell stories, not stories designed to get us to acquire or compete, but stories which meet us where we are deep inside, stories which help us find meaning and Mystery in the life we have in this very moment. Stories which show us we are more alike than we are different, stories that bring us home.

All enquiries

are welcome at

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

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

(01279) 815243

<benefice.office@stansted.net>

Administrator

Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Rector

Rerd Andrew Spurr

The Rectory

5 St. John's Road

Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex, CM24 8JP

phone/fax (01279) 812203

<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate

From July 2nd 2000

43 Gilbey Crescent

Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex, CM24 8DT

<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest

Canon Derek Jackson

88 Stansted Road

Bishop's Stortford

Herts, CM23 2DZ

phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music

Mrs Glyndis Morris

Wakesley

Leetles Lane

Eversden

Cambs, CB3 7HH

phone/fax (01223) 263640

<benefice.music@stansted.net>

St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B
9:30am Parish Communion *sung* Rite A
6:30pm Evening Prayer *said*
11:00am Family Service
on the third Sunday of the month

Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B
followed by coffee
7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

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

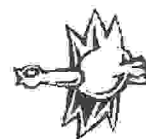
Laser Group is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. Contact Mrs Katy Dockerill 812997.

Confirmation Classes will be beginning in January meeting on Tuesday evenings fortnightly at 8:00pm. Contact The Rector on 812203 or the office 815243 for more details.

Additional Services at St. John's in December

December 12th 3:00pm Christingle Service,
Christmas Eve Crib Service 3:00pm; First Communion of Christmas 11:30pm; **Christmas Day** Holy Communion (*said* Rite A) 8:00am; Family Eucharist (*sung* Rite A) 9:30am; **Boxing Day** Holy Communion (*said* Rite A); **New Millennium Eve**, December 31st Hymns and Prayers for a New Millennium 7:30pm.

Andrew Spurr



Wild Goose landing at Stansted

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

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

To register call the Benefice Office 815243 or email

<wildgoose@stansted.net>

Or book on the website

www.stansted.net/churches

From the Registers

October
1999

Baptism

October 3rd
Daniel David George North
Son of Mark & Julia North
of Spencer Close

Marriage

October 17th
Sophie Wilde to
James Michael Burns

Funeral

Cecil L. Smith, of Coltsfield, 5th October
Alexander Gibson of Maitland Road,
19th October
Mae Maddox of Cambridge Road

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's Church, Millside

Priest Fr Joe White
The Presbytery
12 Millside
Stansted
Tel 01279 814349

Masses Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holydays of Obligation
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am
- Saturday

Confessions
Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

Baptism
17th October Alice Dyer

A Time to Celebrate

Everyone has a birthday. The 25th of December was chosen for Jesus' birthday but no one knew the actual day or date of his birth. Luke in his Gospel tells us it happened when the Roman Emperor Augustus ruled the world, but he does not give us the day or the month. That may be because people did not bother as much about birthdays as we do now.

It all goes back to the days of the Roman Empire - because the Romans already celebrated the festival of Saturnalia in December. The general holiday gave Christians time for their own celebrations. Then, when St. Augustine came to England to preach the gospel about two hundred years later, Pope Gregory advised him to keep the dates of the pagan feasts but give them new meaning by using them for Christian festivals. Therefore, the old Scandinavian mid-winter Yuletide festival was transformed into the birthday of Jesus Christ.

Many of the Christmas customs we enjoy today are left over from long ago, from the days before December was taken over as Jesus' festival. Giving presents, eating special foods, decorating homes, lighting candles, all began in the long distant past. Because these customs were so deeply rooted in the minds of the people, the Christian leaders often had to let them stay, but they were given new meanings. For example, the holly once a pagan symbol of luck and new life, became instead, with its prickles and red berries, a picture of Christ's crown of thorns and of his blood given for us.

It may seem a strange coincidence that so many countries in Europe had holidays and festivals in December, but that is because this was the darkest and most dead time of the year and people needed some kind of celebration to cheer themselves up. In the old pagan days they also hoped to bring back the light and life of springtime by performing special ceremonies.

The joyful celebration of Jesus birth when everything is at it's darkest reminds us all that God's own light has come into our world, lifting darkness and conquering evil for ever.

Our Christmas customs may be mixed with old superstitions and forgotten beliefs, but with Jesus' coming they have been given new life. Jesus is at the heart of Christmas.

Mary Warnett

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel 01279 656707

Meeting Sundays 11 am

Christians at Christmas

Some weeks ago I took part in an Any Questions session at our General Meeting which was held at Colchester Meeting House. One of the questions was "IF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN GENERAL, OR YOUR MEETING IN PARTICULAR, WAS ON TRIAL FOR BEING CHRISTIAN, WOULD THERE BE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT?". A question that perhaps all denominations might face. Several of the panellists were keen to define the word 'Christian' - whether certain creeds and forms of Service had to be accepted - and saw the question in this light. I, and another panellist took a much simpler (some would probably say simplistic!) view of what being a Christian means - really believing in the teachings of Christ and trying to live as He would wish. On that basis I reckoned that the prosecution would have a tough job getting a conviction. We do not seem able to use adequately the power of God's love which is within us all.

The Christian community throughout the world - of all denominations - is small; has always been comparatively small; some of its views are very extreme and do harm, but its potential influence for good is immeasurable; if only we tried harder to tap into that power source the answer to the question posed could be a resounding 'Yes'. Christ, whose birth we will all be celebrating this month, was and is a light in the darkness.

Katharine Hurford



A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

A concert of congregational carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry will be held in St Mary's Church, Stansted on Saturday 18 December at 4pm. Admission will be free.

Car parking at St Mary's is limited, additional car parking will be available at the Mountfitchet High School.

CAROL SINGING

The village carol singing will take place as usual on the four evenings before Christmas. The dates and venues are set out on the village events page. Carol sheets are provided and we have the opportunity to end each evening at a kind host's house for warming refreshments.

The collection this year will be for the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society. They need funds for a special project to set up drop-in centres in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. This will enable carers to shop or have their hair done etc. while leaving their loved ones in safe hands. This will be called the Yellow Ribbon Club.

Do come and join us to help raise funds for this worthy cause.

MILLENNIUM NEWS

Booklets for schools

The churches in Stansted are to present all the primary school children with an illustrated St Mark's gospel with an easy-to-read text, and will also give the children of Stansted and Birchanger who attend Mountfitchet High School, a special edition of St Mark's gospel for young people. The school will raise the money to buy gospels for the other pupils. These gospels will be presented to the children in January.

Bookmarks for the Millennium

We had hoped to give every household in Stansted a candle for the Millennium. However we encountered practical problems (one being that the boxes do not fit through letter boxes!), and so have had to abandon this idea. Instead, every house will receive a bookmark with the Millennium resolution on one side and a Millennium prayer on the other. These will be delivered with the Christmas card from the churches, which will also give a brief explanation of the significance of the Millennium logo on the bookmark

Churches' Millennium display

From early January there will be a display in Swords window on Cambridge Road. This will feature the individual churches in one half of the window and in the other will show the various activities that the churches do together. There will also be the information about Millennium events planned for 2000.



SHALOM

Date for December:

13th Music, Carols and Poetry at our Christmas Party
Bring and share supper at Rita & David Morson's house
Chantry Hall, Crow Street
Henham

The topic for one of our November meetings was Genetically Modified Food. This took the form of a discussion between the Man from Monsanto (Alan Wheeler) and the Lady from Christian Aid (Catherine Dean).

Monsanto-man argued the advantages of GM food:

- Cheaper, tastier food with a longer shelf life
- Less reliance on insecticide, fertiliser and herbicide,
- The advantage of biotechnology over crossbreeding is that only one desired gene is transferred.

Christian Aid Lady was concerned about:

- The dangers to health of eating GM food
- The possibility of producing herbicide resistant super weeds
- The breaching of the species barrier by introducing animal genes into plants
- The monopoly of a few biotechnology companies and insufficient monitoring of their activities.

A large part of the discussion related to the impact of GM crops in the developing world. Monsanto-man argued that this new technology can help feed the hungry by developing higher yield, pest resistant, better growing, more nutritious crops.

CA-lady maintained that hunger is not caused by lack of food, but by poverty' and that planting GM crops would discourage bio-diversity and inter-cropping and may harm wild food, which is a large part of the diet of poor people. She was also greatly concerned about the patenting of seeds by agro-chemical companies. This could mean that although seeds were kept, farmers would have to pay to plant them.

This is only a brief resume of the arguments for and against GM crops. Some readers may have more knowledge on the subject than we do, and may like to share their thoughts in future issues of Link.

Catherine Dean



St Clare Hospice

SOARING



INTO THE FUTURE

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

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

Marion G Johnson

CAN YOU HELP ?

Re Dorothy Mabel Terry, born in 1923

Is there anyone who can tell us about Dorothy Terry?

She was brought up in Silver Street by Roy Carruthers and his wife. Dorothy died in Australia when her son was only 2 years old and his father died not long afterwards.

The son's wife has written asking for information so that she can give her husband a Christmas present of anything we know about his mother.

If you can help please contact Marion Johnson on 812284.

RINGING FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Led by Edmund Wilkinson, Captain of the Tower, St Mary's Bellringers will celebrate the New Millenium at St Mary's Church at noon on New Year's Day by ringing the Millennium Peal.

Light Up A Life in aid of St Clare Hospice

Christmas is often a particularly difficult time for people coping with bereavement. The absence of loved ones can seem all the more painful at a time when families and friends traditionally get together. A gift of £5 or more will sponsor a symbolic light on a Christmas tree in either Dunmow, Harlow, Hastingwood or Saffron Walden. You will be commemorating someone special in your life or showing support to a friend by remembering their loss. All the proceeds will help to brighten the lives of people in need of our Hospice Care Services.

Every sponsor will receive a personal dedication card to keep. The name of your loved one will be printed in a Book of Remembrance made available for viewing at the Hospice Centre in late spring. Everyone is welcome to attend the lighting ceremonies which will take place at each Christmas tree on the following days:

Broad Walk,
The High,
Harlow
Monday 29th November 5pm

St Clare Hospice,
Hastingwood
Tuesday 30th November 7pm

High Street,
Saffron Walden
Friday 3rd December 5pm

High Street,
Dunmow
Friday 10th December 7pm

The lights will be symbolic - sadly it would be impossible for us to add a specific bulb for each dedication, but when you look at your chosen tree, you will know that the lights sparkle as symbols of light and hope at a time of personal sadness. The trees will remain illuminated until 6th January (Twelfth Night) when the last dedication forms will be accepted.

If you would like to 'light up the life' of someone special to you this Christmas and support the work of St Clare Hospice, please complete a dedication form.

Forms are available from:

Hospice shops in Epping and Saffron Walden

Hospice Centre at Hastingwood.

For further details, telephone the fundraising team on 01279 413590.



THE THREE VALLEYS SINGERS

EVENING OF SONG

8 pm Tue 30th Nov

St Clare Hospice, Harlow

Adults £3 Under 12's £1.50

Proceeds to St Clare Trust



CHRISTMAS FAIR

6 - 8.30 pm Fri 3rd December
Admission 50 pence



STANSTED MILLERS Mill Goods Stall

Savages, Lower Street

9.30 am Sat 4th Dec

Buy Christmas presents &
support Stansted Windmill

VILLAGE EVENTS

December

- | | | |
|-----|---------|--|
| 1 | Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors
Garden Club |
| 2 | Thu | Local History Society |
| 3 | Fri | Christmas Fair |
| 4 | Sat | Windmill Goods Stall
Cake Stall
Christmas Fayre
HEAL Dance
Rainbow Pre-school Quiz |
| 5 | Sun | Music Club Menagerie |
| 6-9 | Mon-Thu | Skip at Railway Sidings |
| 9 | Thu | Carers' Support Group
W1 |
| 13 | Mon | Shalom Party |
| 15 | Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors |
| 18 | Sat | Celebration of Christmas |
| 31 | Fri | Eve of the new Millennium
Follow the Pied Piper
Firework Display
Hymns & Prayers
Hands Around the Village |

January

- | | | |
|---|-----|---------------------|
| 1 | Sat | The Millennium Peal |
|---|-----|---------------------|

- | |
|------------------------------|
| Day Centre 2 - 4 pm |
| Day Centre 8 pm |
| Day Centre 8 pm |
| St Mary's School 6 - 8.30 pm |
| Savages, Lower St 9.30 am |
| outside UR Church 10 am |
| Bentfield School 2 - 4.30 pm |
| Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm |

- | |
|---------------------------|
| St John's Church 3 pm |
| 7.30 am - 3 pm |
| Quaker Mtg Hse 2 - 4 pm |
| St John's Hall 7.30 pm |
| Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm |
| Day Centre 2 - 4 pm |
| St Mary's Church 4 pm |

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| finishing at St John's Hall 1 pm |
| Recreation Ground 6 pm |
| St John's Church 7.30 pm |
| when the bell tolls at 11.30 pm |

St Mary's Church noon

Bentfield School PTA

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Christmas Trees ~ Gifts

Cakes ~ Raffle ~ and

SANTA'S GROTTO

2 - 4.30 pm

Saturday 4th December

Everyone welcome

Admission 25 pence



The Jim Freeman Sound

7.30 pm - Midnight

Sat 4th December

Mountfitchet High School

£12 incl Supper Tel 813871

Raffle ~ Bar ~ Smoking Areas



A Celebration of Christmas

Congregational Carols,
Christmas Music,
Readings and Poetry



4 pm Sat 18 December

St Mary's Church

(parking at the Church and in
Mountfitchet School)

Everyone Welcome

Admission Free

retiring collection for charity



Carol Singing

You are warmly invited to join
in singing round the village
Meet at 7.30 pm

Tue 21 corner Bentfield Gdns/Road

Wed 22 corner Cambridge Rd/Croasdaile

Thu 23 corner Church Rd/Mountfitchet

Fri 24 outside St John's Church

Followed by refreshments

All are welcome

Hope to see you there!

Recorder, flute & clarinet players
also welcome

Please tel 814059 to arrange music



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

MENAGERIE

A seasonal concert to
appeal to all

Ann Mackay (soprano)

Julius Drake (piano)

Nicholas Daniel (oboe)

3 pm Sun 5th December

St John's Church

Tickets from

Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019

Nockolds Bishop's Stortford

Sonja Levy 815282 and at the door

£7.50 adults £5 concessions

£3 school children



Uttlesford Topics

Development Pressures - A green and pleasant land or an urban sprawl?

The regional planning guidance for the South East of England has caused huge controversy. Its recommendations include

- i) 1.1 million new homes for the South East by the year 2016
- ii) The annual average for Essex would be 7,500
- iii) The area around Stansted Airport has been singled out as one which would be an area of Plan Led Expansion.'

The Uttlesford District is vulnerable to development pressures, for it possesses good communications, a motorway, a railway line and an international airport. It is also the most rural of all the districts in Essex with the lowest population density. However, it contains high quality agricultural land and much attractive countryside.

Uttlesford has not adopted a NIMBY (not in my backyard) approach to development. It has set aside four areas for airport related housing. These are Rochford Nurseries in Stansted, the Felsted sugar beet works and two sites in Takeley. These will provide several thousand houses with a proportion being reserved for affordable social housing. In Stansted, the district planners have not been inflexible. We have seen developments such as Hermitage House in Cambridge Road, Castle Walk flats, Old Bell Close and Rochford Close all being approved and built. There are additional developments such as St Theresa's Church and the old telephone exchange on Stoney Common Road in the pipeline. Some of us believe that the planners have been too accommodating and that the infrastructure such as the roads can't support all this development.

The government is in danger of creating two nations: one (the south) that is overbuilt and overcrowded; another (the north) that is underdeveloped or under-regenerated. In other words, a fat south and a thin north. There is a real regional problem in the UK, which has a knock on effect in our area. For the past three decades alone, about 30,000 people annually have been leaving the north for the apparent prosperity of the south-east. Now the region, with a jobless rate of 3% is approaching breaking point. Who wants growth on the scale proposed apart from developers in one overcrowded, overheating corner of the country while other regions languish close to recession?

As someone whose family has lived in the Uttlesford area for over 400 years and who enjoys exploring its countryside with my dog, I believe that we have a duty to ensure that the regional planners' advice is vetoed. As a new parent, I am very aware of the need to protect our environment for future

generations. These are some of the reasons why I and my colleague, Cllr. Alan Dean have launched a petition 'Save our Countryside'. We have linked up with pressure groups such as CAUSE (Campaign against unsustainable Stortford expansion), Friends of the Earth and Local Agenda 21 to promote our campaign. If you wish to support us please contact myself at 4 Spencer Close, Stansted, Essex CM24 8AN, tel. 815925 or Cllr Alan Dean at 49. Recreation Ground, Stansted, Essex CM24 8BD, tel. 813579.

Geoffrey Sell



Essex County Council

Affairs at County Hall are coming to life after the Summer Break and the Party Conferences, with members returning rejuvenated and perhaps inspired for the coming meetings. The Budget for 2000/2001 will be the main subject for discussion in the near future and what this will be must remain undisclosed for the present and until the final figures have been agreed. Readers can be assured that any decisions this year will be hard especially because, as has been already mentioned in past reports, the political divisions of the Council are unlikely to lead to an amicable solution. As a result of the indecisions of the past nine months, the current financial position of the County is not good, balances are at an all-time low and expenditure, especially in Social Services, is rising. There is no doubt that the rate for Council Tax this coming year will be increased.

In this regard, the recent decision to increase the collection of segregated household waste would appear to be premature. There is no hope that disposals of recycled and segregated materials will earn a reasonable return to cover the costs of collection. Thus the costs will have to be paid for from local taxation.

Should anyone wish to know more on these subjects, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812471.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



Royal British Legion Women's Section

Here we are in the second half of the term; warning the children of the dangers of firework night and having talked about Halloween and Trick or Treat. Where has this year gone?!

The junior disco raised lots of money and was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Gary and his dad for their generosity.

The children have been looking at "people who help us", posting letters, visit to the fire station and talking about the shops and people in our village.

Jaswinder's mummy cooked special food for Diwali and the children heard the story of Rama and Sita, important people in the Sikh religion. They decorated hands and looked at Indian saris and hairstyles. At break time, they tasted the food, dipped in ketchup and most thought it delicious!

This term is especially busy with all the activities for Christmas; making cards, calendars, crackers and a giant advent calendar. The excitement is infectious! A visit from Father Christmas, a Christmas Party with Uncle Andy there to entertain us, all things to look forward to.

Auntie Sally brought her two huge rabbits, called Speckle and Spot, into Sideways. The children had great fun feeding them carrots, apple cores and cabbage.

Auntie Carol, unfortunately, is leaving us for "pastures new". We will miss her but wish her well. A Chinese meal has been arranged as a farewell.

We are running a Craft Stall at the Street Fair in Widdington on 4th December. So please, come and support us if you can.

Sideways is open every morning from 9am to 12.15pm. Come and see us. You are very welcome.

STAY AND PLAY!

For more information please phone Auntie Helen on Tel: 813828.

Opening our AGM our President, Mrs Gabb, said that our branch had had an extremely successful year with two very enjoyable and profitable coffee mornings and a very lucrative harvest sale. She thanked the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee for their hard work and dedication but regretted the fact that we still lacked younger members.

Our Chairman, Mrs Hollis, thanked our President, all officers and committee and all members for their co-operation and support. She singled out several members for especial thanks, particularly our Secretary, Mrs Whall, for her untiring work in getting speakers and being our County Representative.

The Secretary detailed the events over the past year and the Treasurer reported an especially good year for fund-raising for Legion charities.

Officers and Committee returned to serve for another year are:-

President -	Mrs Gabb
Chairman -	Mrs Hollis
Secretary -	Mrs Whall
Treasurer -	Mrs Levey
Committee -	Mesdames: Blyth, Clower, Patmore, Rowley and Thistle

On 6th November we had the pleasant task of remembering and marking the 70th Wedding Anniversary of one of our most loyal and long-standing members, Mrs Queenie Sweet and her husband Len.

We have no meeting in December or January so we do not meet again until Thursday 17th February 2000 at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. We wish all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy year 2000.

Pat Clower





THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB



NATURE NOTES

Another coup for the Village Music Club! Hailed as “technically breathtaking” “superlative” “hauntingly beautiful” by our national press, Nicholas Daniel is undoubtedly the UK’s most distinguished and charismatic oboist at the forefront of music in Britain today.

On Sunday, 5th December, he is teaming up with Ann Mackay (soprano) and Julius Drake (piano) for “**THE MENAGERIE**”, a concert entertainment to include the music and the words of amongst others, ARNE, BRITTEN, SCHUBERT, VIVALDI AND CANTELOUBE. Ann will be making a return visit; she gave a highly acclaimed recital in our first season with Sonia Levy. Julius is internationally renowned as a chamber music player and accompanist and we are very much looking forward to his appearing with Ann and Nicholas.

On Sunday, 23rd January, 2000 the Village Music Club presents **FOURTH DIMENSION**. Featuring Jamie Walton (‘cello) and Daniel Grimwood (piano) in a programme of music to include works by Chopin, Schumann, Rachmaninov and Mendelssohn.

Both concerts take place in St. Johns Church, Stansted at 3 pm.

The undoubted highlight of the Village Music Club’s fourth season will be the Millennium Concert on Saturday, 11th March 2000 in St John’s Church, Stansted featuring the world famous **ALBERNI QUARTET** (Leader - Howard Davis), playing works by Borodin, Puccini and Mozart. This concert is part of the Stansted Millennium celebrations. The Parish Council invites all subscribers and ticket holders to a reception in the hall from 7 pm

Tickets for each concert are £7.50; £5.00 concessions; £3.00 children; £1.00 for children of members and are available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill Nockolds, Solicitors, Market Square, Bishops Stortford. Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill (telephone 815282).

As mentioned in last month’s LINK magazine, the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve in Alsa Street. owned by Essex Wildlife Trust, has received Heritage Lottery money. Priority work includes repairing the old boathouse, the main gate and the boundary fencing. The entrance gate will be moved further into the reserve to provide more parking and over a 5 year period it is hoped to replace all the fencing and provide three kissing-gate style entrances.

One of the stipulations of the granting of lottery money is that 25% of the total works should come from the Essex Wildlife Trust but fortunately this can be translated as volunteer labour. After Christmas, practical conservation work will begin in earnest on the reserve. Tree planting, scrub clearance and habitat recreation are all planned. Regular working parties are held on Thursday mornings and on 23rd January there will be a Sunday working party. Volunteers should wear protective gloves and footwear but all tools are supplied by the Trust. This is an ideal opportunity for people in Stansted, interested in the conservation of our natural environment, to offer some practical help.

At this dormant season of the year the reserve is obviously not so interesting from a botanical point of view but it is important that scrub is cut back or removed so that the spring and summer wild flowers may thrive and the butterflies have food plants. Despite the season there are always things of interest and no doubt those who regularly walk the area could provide their own list of sightings.

The Warden is Michael Rowley from the Uttlesford Group of the E.W.T and he may be contacted on 01799 550378 for confirmation of dates and times of working parties. He is also interested in any observations from members of the public. Conservation helpers include members of The Bishop’s Stortford and District Natural History Society. This Society hold regularly fortnightly evening meetings in Bishop’s Stortford with speakers on a great variety of natural history subjects. Details from 815140.

Judith Coombes





Stansted Junior Football Club

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

Welcome once again to the Junior's page. We are heading towards our Christmas break and all the teams have been playing well. I would like to mention one team, the Spartan Blacks. They have had some particularly tough fixtures and I know that Ken Makepeace has been putting in a lot of extra training sessions for his boys. I am sure that things will turn around soon and all that extra work will pay off.

Well done to the Scorpions. They are now sitting very close to the top of their division in the Royston & Crow league. Also a massive well done to the Swifts Blues. They have at last picked up their first win of the season away to Stortford Jets. The Jets were unbeaten until they had played the Swifts, so all the boys can be really proud of themselves. Santos too have had some encouraging results as have the Swifts Blacks and Spartans Blues. Dave Roach is doing a great job with the Comets, and the club would like to thank Urbanhurst for renewing their sponsorship for the Comets. It really is a great help to clubs such as ours when companies are prepared to help out financially.

There is one other subject the club would like to mention. It is the matter of finding a new venue for all our teams to play together. Currently we are playing at Bentfield End and at Mountfitchet High School. Although they are both serving the club well, we really would like to have a place we could call home. If anybody out there knows of a local land owner who would be prepared to lease us a decent size area, please contact the club as soon as possible. We visit other clubs that are smaller than S.J.F.C. and see they have facilities such as changing rooms and clubhouse. We feel to do the boys and their club justice, we really need to be looking for similar facilities ourselves. Although we will obviously be using our current pitches for a good while yet, and we are enormously grateful to those who have helped us, we are looking towards the future and the boys who will play for the club. Football is growing and more and more people are attending matches and showing a real interest in the game. This is good for the game at all levels, but youth football needs more encouragement from those higher above.

As for our club, we now have the policy of a new team starting each Easter at the under 6 age group. This is run by Mike Moralee with the help of a couple of parents. This not only encourages youngsters to play football but gives them an interest as well. If the club wants to carry on growing itself, then we must look to having our own home pitches and facilities.

We are having talks with several clubs at present, concerning our 'End of season trip'. I hope to be able to give you more details in the next edition of The Link; likewise with our fund-raiser which will be held in February. Until then the club would like to wish everyone at The Link and in the village a very *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*.

Chairman	Secretary	Social Secretary
Tony Matthews	Mike Moralee	Luke Pearman
814668	814603	813769



Trophy winner Simon Hendricks with club chairman Tony Matthews on Presentation Night.



Huw Johnson Club

Just when everyone thought that Firework Night was over the Huw Johnson Club celebrated on November 11th.

Fortunately for the people of Stansted we held our party at Great Easton at the kind invitation of Chris and Hannah Ropkins. Brian, Ron and Chris set off the fireworks and we all joined in with the ooh's and aah's. The sparklers were waved with great vigour and everyone remembered to pop them into a pail of water as soon as they stopped sparkling. Hannah's hot dogs followed by creamy profiteroles and meringues were delicious and everyone declared the evening a great success.

Many thanks to all our drivers who transported us to Great Easton and, of course, to all our drivers who make it possible for our members to come to Club. We are always pleased to welcome new drivers so please give it some thought.

December 3rd we celebrate our 25th birthday and we will also welcome in the new millennium at the same time.

Marion G Johnson



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

November saw us continuing with autumn activities whilst starting to think about Christmas! We kicked off after Halloween with a creepy songs and stories session, we played at the Playbarn in Sawbridgeworth and Rascals in Stortford, swam at the pool in Stortford and met for a flask of coffee or two at the maze in Saffron Walden.

For the shoppers amongst us we were able to spend some money on books (Christmas presents obviously) at a Dorling Kindersley and Usborne coffee morning and an Ottakars book evening. We also had an Open House coffee morning with toys and books on sale for Christmas.

We also hosted a special Cakes and Coffee for a Bumps and Babes get together to introduce new mums and mums-to-be to each other and to see what the NCT gets up to!

December sees us with more 'Christmassy' events - the children's party on Monday 6th December, various Christmas coffee mornings with mince pies and possibly mulled wine (if we're lucky!) and not forgetting that now popular annual event- the Santa Express Train Ride at Audley End (definitely with mince pies and a wee alcoholic beverage).

And all this is just for the children, us grown ups have our own Christmas Dinner to look forward to as well as the 'Curry Night' at the beginning of the month.

Our usual coffee mornings take place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

All details are on the village noticeboards:

Monday	10.00-11.30 am Bumps and Babes
Wednesday	10.00-11.30 am Toddlers
Friday	1.30- 2.45 pm Pre- Schoolers.

All parents/carers are most welcome, please come and see/meet new people and children. If you want to know more or are interested in joining the NCT please ' phone Wendy on 813387.



Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute

Dr Peter Brandham took us through a year at Kew, accompanied by slides at our November meeting. The first slide - January, showed the statue of the Hercules fountain in the middle of the lake, with icicles hanging from it giving it a special type of beauty. The spring slide showing a huge carpet of crocuses was really beautiful. Apparently when the Readers' Digest celebrated its 50th anniversary it donated a crocus corm for every one of its readers, which amounted to over a million. We saw beautiful magnolias and rhododendrons. Some alpinas in the alpine house had flowers only a quarter of an inch high, but were equally attractive. Snow and fog brought their own beauty to Kew, as did the robins and Canada geese. The last slide was of the Christmas Tree lit up outside the main gate.

Following this we had our AGM when Mrs Marion Pretty was elected our new President. Our commemorative tea cloths and notelets were on sale. These celebrate forty years of the Evening W.I. 1960-2000.

A fund-raising evening of musical entertainment has been arranged for February 18th 2000 in St John's Hall at 8 pm.

The next meeting is on December 9th, 8 pm in St John's Hall when the speaker will be Mr Steve Tombs giving a talk on the work of a comedy writer. Come along and join us as visitors and you then might be inspired to become a member of our very active institute.

Kath Johnson
813225

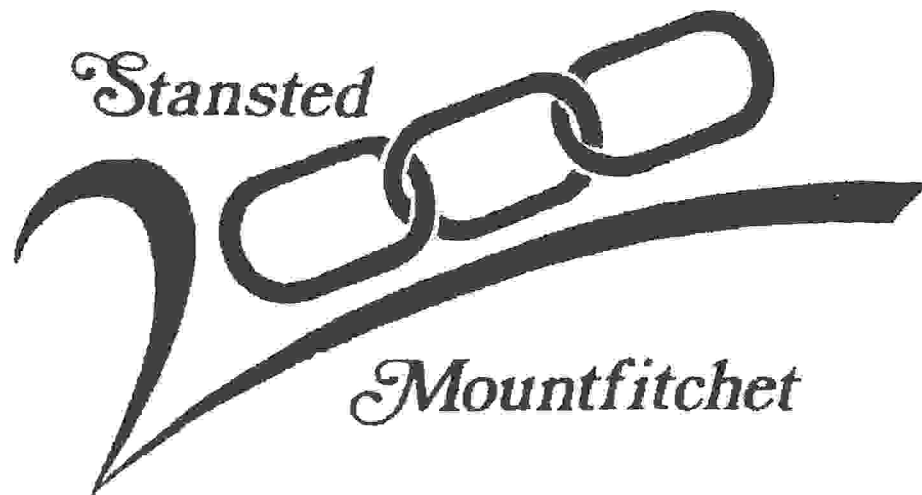


STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On 4th November, Keith Lovell spoke to us on Village Signs and on 2nd December, Peter Brown will bring us up to date with the third part of The Stansted Fire Service.

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

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



Plans are well underway for the village 2000 Millennium events on New Years Eve

Follow the Pied Piper!

Kids of all ages welcome. Bring a recorder (or any instrument) to follow the Piper. Refreshments at St. John's Church Hall. Prizes given for colourful fancy dress.

Pipers starting at 1:00pm from the Greens at:

Bentfield
Mountfitchet
Recreation Ground

Early Evening Firework Display

Fireworks from 6:00pm-6:30pm in the village on the Recreation Ground.

Prayers for the New Millennium

In St. John's Church 7:30pm followed by 11:30 tolling of the bell inviting you to join hands with your neighbours around the village to celebrate the New Millennium together.

All donations welcome. Payable to The Treasurer, Stansted 2000
c/o Sonia Levy 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted



Follow the Pied Piper !



Come and join the procession
through Stansted
to meet for refreshments
at St. John's Hall

If you want to play along,
bring a recorder
or any other instrument
and wear your colourful outfits.

The last day of 1999
Friday at 1:00pm

Pipers leaving the greens at: Bentfield
Mountfitchet
Recreation Ground

Contact Gary King – King's Family Butchers Lower Street 812219

Don't miss it – be there

Stansted Profile No 18

Marjory Cowan



As she welcomed me into her house, I knew at once by the huge number of birthday cards decorating her sitting room that Marjory had recently had a birthday, but I would never have guessed that it was her 85th !

Marjory Cowan was born and brought up in Stansted and the village has always been home to her. As a child she attended the Council School on Chapel Hill and remembers vividly the rivalry between her school and the Church School in Lower Street. She won a scholarship to the Herts and Essex High School and left with exam results which enabled her to enter the teaching profession at 17 as a student teacher at Birchanger C. of E. School where she was trained by the headmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Lightwood.

At the age of 18 she was appointed Infant Teacher at the Church School (the first St. Mary's). She taught here throughout the war years and has many stories to tell of how they coped with the children during the air raids; the primitive heating arrangements; trying to dry the children's wet clothes; heating milk on her stove for hot drinks of cocoa and the awful toilets. The school took children from the ages of 5 to 14. There were only 5 teaching staff and often 40 children in a class. Once, for over a term, due to staff shortages, Marjory found herself going between two classrooms teaching 80 children.

As a result of the 1944 Education Act, Marjory was selected as one of only 8 teachers from Essex and offered a place on a year's teacher training course at Exhall Training College near Coventry. During her time there, she found time to help in a Sunday School which was held in an underground crypt, under the ruins of the bombed Cathedral.

On her return to Stansted, she resumed her post as Infant Teacher, but due to overcrowding she was asked to take her

class, as a temporary measure, to a small building at the back of the Central Hall, next to the Post Office. Here she remained for 9 years until the Mountfitchet School was built and the primary schools of Stansted amalgamated to become St. Mary's Primary School, using the premises of the former Council School on Chapel Hill. After the move, to her joy, she found herself allocated to the very same classroom that she went to as a 5 year-old on her first day at school.

Marjory married, in 1964, Maurice Cowan, a man well-known and much respected in the village as a Parish Councillor and a keen sportsman. Sadly he died only 5 years later and, in Marjory's words, the children became her salvation. Without knowing it, they helped her through this terrible time.

When the Stansted County Infants School (the present St. Mary's) was built in 1971, Marjory became Deputy Headmistress and taught there until her retirement in 1974.

After her retirement she did some supply teaching and invigilating duties at Bishop's Stortford College prep school, and was appointed co-ordinator of the Adult Literacy Scheme in this area. She joined the St. Mary's Church Choir and also the St. Mary's Singers and has very happy memories of singing both here in Stansted and also in many of the cathedrals in the area. She also continued her association with the Girl Guide Movement in Stansted. In her younger years she had been Guide Captain of the 1st Stansted Company.

Her memories are of the great happiness and fun of all these interests, shared with some very worthy and splendid people and of all the many generations of children she has taught.

Elizabeth Wagener

What's in a Name? No 4

An occasional series explaining some name derivations.

Alsa Street, to the north of Stansted, leading to Alsa Wood, is possibly of Danish origin. Shortly after Uttlesford District Council came into being, a street plate was erected at the junction with Cambridge Road reading "Norman House Lane". This provoked much indignation and protest among the older established residents of Stansted and the name was duly changed back to Alsa Street.

But why **Uttlesford**? The District Council area takes its name from the old Hundred of Uttlesford, an administrative district, which in turn probably came from a ford near Audley End. However, although Stansted Mountfitchet was within, only about a third of the present Uttlesford was the ancient Hundred and when the new District was created there was strong feeling about the use of the name from areas, such as Clavering and Dunmow, which were outside the old Uttlesford and had had their own Hundreds.

A WINTERS TALE

William began the homeward trudge up High Lane. He should have been cheerful; after all it was Christmas Eve and the office was closed for nigh on a fortnight. But the memory of Matthews still hung over him, imparting a gloom which even the holiday failed to lift. The man was impossible. At 2.30 he had been summoned to the inner sanctum and told - not asked - told to have the February projections on his desk by 5. The February figures were notoriously difficult to compile and needed a roomful of crystal balls before any credence could be given to them. No one had ever asked for them before Christmas and what the hell was he going to do with them anyway. Office gossip said he papered his loo with the spreadsheets and studied them for long hours at the week-ends. Knowing Matthews, it was believable; but at Christmas..... By dint of sweat and imagination he had got them there in time, only to be greeted with a grunt; no thanks, no "have a good Christmas".. no nothing. Smithers had been difficult but he was positively radiant compared with Matthews and always had a Madeira cake and glass of something in his desk for times like Christmas or birthdays.

As William approached the corner of Brewery Lane he saw a horse and cart turning left into High Lane. He was vaguely aware that there was a single rider on the cart and what appeared to be a load under a canvas cover. Such was his lingering depression that he was barely conscious that the only light was a small lantern although the absence of rear lights did momentarily register. The Police would have a field day on this. But the thought vanished as quickly as it came and the effort of the hill claimed his attention. He was sure it was becoming steeper every week. It was the distant sight of his porch light that brought the first glimmer of relief from the events of the day followed by the realisation that Christmas was just hours away.

The holiday passed with less incident than usual. The mother-in-law stayed for only four days this time and the young terrorists next door had departed to Tenerife. Even his daughter had at last remembered to close her bedroom door before playing the discs for which an insensitive but adoring aunt had given tokens. New Year with the Harris's had actually been a pleasure. They were a younger couple and seemed to know all the idiosyncrasies of the neighbours in every direction. Better than any soap. Moreover their generosity with American wines and French cheeses was a revelation. Pity about their fence by the front gate but it was a wet night and his repair was pretty good. It was a wonder that the milkman hadn't fallen over it before. Anyway, the Harris's thought it was hilarious.

On the last day of the holiday William suggested to Marge that they might have lunch at the old pub near the market square in Saffron Walden. It had become almost a tradition since the children had entered their teens and it did finish off the New Year celebrations. It was another wet day as they drove through Quendon. His attention was caught by a horse and cart outside the long building that had once been a pub. There seemed to be something familiar about it; he glanced again but it had disappeared. Gosh he must be hallucinating

or going senile. Or maybe it was his eyesight; a visit to the optician was overdue. Perhaps Californian wine didn't agree with him. Oh well.....

The pub was cosy and unchanged since his last visit in the summer. They ordered their meal and drinks. He sipped his beer and allowed the warmth of the bar to do its work. By George, the beer was good. It was only the ordinary draught but it was so much better than that muck in London. The landlord, having announced to the few within earshot about his near miss on the lottery, glanced benevolently at William. "You've got a good pint here, Len." said William. He prided himself on remembering names and knowing when to use them. "Yes," Len replied, "we had a good barrel or two last Christmas; don't know what they do to it, maybe it's the cold weather. The only trouble is the locals moan when the next delivery comes in. Can't win in this job." The conversation languished. Another customer had arrived - a rubicund man with a glowing nose, what looked like leather gaiters and an ancient cap. "Afternoon," greeted the uncharacteristically sociable William "is this your local?" "One of them," came the reply, given in the dialect which William called Old Essex. "Well, you know a good beer," said William. "Aye, one of the best", came the laconic response. Marge started talking about summer holidays and by the time he had found a good reason not to go to Cyprus the man had gone, leaving a lingering aroma redolent of stables.

On the way back there were some emergency road works at the approach to Stansted, so he diverted through High Lane. As he turned into Brewery Lane he unexpectedly lost control of the car for all of two seconds and struck the grass verge. Marge was the first to leap out. "You've skidded on a whole lot of horse manure," she cried. He inspected the car; there was no damage and the verge would soon get over it. "You'd think those people would shovel it up for their roses," said the ever practical Marge, "could have been a nasty accident". She paused as she got back into the car. "Funny smell," she said, "sort of hops or something." William shrugged. Just like a woman, worrying about someone else's smell. She didn't have to face Matthews in the morning.

Ethereal

A seasonal note from our former proof-reader,

Lyn Everitt :

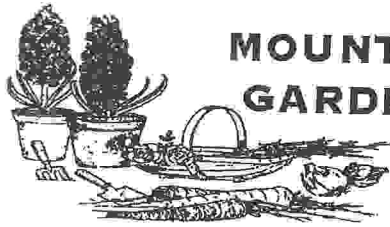
The ospreys hve flown off in search of warmer climes, the tourists too have all gone. East Midlands in bloom has been judged, and won for the second year in succession. For me this season is one for reflections, looking back upon the year, to those things we really meant to do this summer but never quite found the time for. It is also a period of calm before the storm that inevitably accompanies Christmastime these days. So much shopping to be found for Grandad and Aunty, and lofts to be ransacked for the tree and lights. Will they work this year?

As my mind was full of these and a hundred other logistical problems today I saw a favourite view; Burley Woods with a fabulous array of autumnal colours on the right hand side and Rutland Water in the sunshine on the left.

To quote the well known lines by W.H. Davies:

"What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?"

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At our October meeting our speaker was Mr Gillingwater from Chingford. His subject was Dahlias, How to Grow and Show. He explained how the Dahlia year really began in November as after the frosts have blackened the foliage the tubers should be lifted, dried and stored in a frost free place for the following year. He then went on to explain how to propagate and plant out cuttings in May ready for flowering from late July. After questions he showed slides of exhibition Dahlias from his own garden.

Our next meeting is December 1st at 8 pm. This will be a gardening related quiz and a Christmas Party. Everyone would be welcome.

There will be no meeting in January. Mrs Chadley will be the speaker on February 2nd when she will talk about the Walled Garden at Cressing Temple.

THE SAMPLER

Go bring me a thread gossamery white,
Bring in the baubles, the tall orphaned candles
Whimpering light.
Let the red holly boughs
Entwine the rafters,
The shy Christmas tree and mistletoe's laughter,
Open the windows, the sweet carolling sir
Bid enter the room wood scented,
Row barren and bare.
Strands of gold and fire light reflected
I weave in the pattern
Of days, silver memoried.
Crisp crunch of candy the choristers eating,
Swift flow of wine and song of goodwill,
Go bring me a thread gossamer fine
Of life's span told in the evenings
With weft of lights golden, warp of red wine.

Nora Turner



JOSEPH'S STORY

I shall not go to Bethlehem
Afar, alone and afraid,
(Who whispered in the asses ear
Before the glorious star was made?)

I shall not need a golden key
to unlock the stable door,
(The whisper, soft as lilies
The four-footed creature bore)

As silently, as silently
Lest our footsteps should betray,
We turned toward the glorious star
A brightened dawn, celestial day.



I shall need the voice so gentle
For my pulsing heart, yet sombre mind
Sorrowing in the path of angels
The deafened creature walks undefiled.

(Who whispered in the asses ear
Long before the star was made?)
I shall go into Bethlehem
Walking with this creature, humbly, unafraid.

Nora Turner



Recipe of the Month

Cheesecake (Suitable for Diabetics)

6 large digestive biscuits
2oz / 50gm half fat butter/margarine
¼pt / 150ml low fat double cream
8oz / 225gm low fat cream cheese
1 sugar-free jelly

- (a) crush biscuits
- (b) melt margarine/butter & mix in biscuits
- (c) place in greased 7inch flan dish
- (d) press well down and chill
- (e) make jelly with ¼pt / 150ml boiling water
- (f) leave to cool
- (g) whip cream until thickened
- (h) beat cheese until smooth & fold into cream
- (i) pour in jelly, mix well & pour into flan case
- (j) leave to set, then decorate with fresh fruit

Serves 6



Town & Country CUISINE

with that personal touch

offering a quality catering
service at competitive prices

Buffets ~ Functions ~ Parties
Business Entertainment

Tel 01279 777539
07977 324092



ANTIQUES RESTORATION

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Repairs ~ Polishing ~ Cabinet Making

Fully Insured ~ Free Estimates

PETER WORBY Tel 01920 821973

CORBETT ELECTRICAL

Electrical Contractor

Rewires ~ Extra Sockets & Lights
Portable Appliance Testing ~ Repairs

31 Rainsford Road, Stansted Tel: 01279 816577

A.C.FYNAN C&G. A.C.C.

HOME MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT

29 GILBEY CRESCENT
STANSTED
ESSEX

CARPENTRY
SPECIALIST

01279 814623

J R JOHNSTON C&O RFS

Qualified Tree Surgeon

Fully Insured



Pruning

Dismantling

Hedge Trimming

Trees/Shrubs supplied & planted

Contract Maintenance

Tel 01920 821595

Reflexology
Accupressure Massage
Magnetic Therapy

can help you to relieve
stress, insomnia, snoring,
pain & debility

Put your body in harmony
through Reflexology,
Massage & Magnetic Therapy

For consultations or advice

Gillian Smith MHAR MCMA

16 Wetherfield, Stansted
Tel/fax 01279 815606

Nutritional Advice

Magnetic Health Products Stockist

HEARING HELP UTTLESFORD

Registered Charity No 289280
(Formerly CamTAD)

IF YOU HAVE A HEARING
PROBLEM

RING HELPLINE
0941 104093 (9 - 4)

OR

01799 522915 or 01371 873310

FREE HEARING HELP
SESSIONS AT STANSTED
DAY CENTRE BETWEEN
10AM AND NOON ON
THE LAST TUESDAY OF
EACH MONTH



working for

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

Commercial & Domestic Conveyancing

Corporate & Commercial Matters

Charities & Ecclesiastical Law

Litigation & Matrimonial Law

Wills, Probate & Trusts

POTHECARY & BARRATT

SOLICITORS

White Horse Court, North Street

Bishop's Stortford CM23 2LD

Tel 01279 506421

Fax 01279 657626

Parking & access for disabled

Also in the City of London

Tel 0171 623 7580 Fax 0171 623 9815

Fabrications

We can supply most well known makes of fabrics at competitive prices. We can make up your curtains and soft furnishings from our fabrics or your own.

Contact us for our free measuring service.

Sue 777465

Carol 777480

Kate 777452

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE SOCIETY UTTLESFORD BRANCH

OUTREACH WORKER: VALERIE REAVELL
12 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM6 1DE



Telephone Nos. 01371 872519 / 873870

We are here to help carers of people suffering from dementia.
For information or help, please contact the above.
Charity No. 296645

D HONOUR & SON (LANDSCAPE)

GARDEN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- Paving • Brickwork
- Fencing • Planting
- Lawns • Ground Preparation

British Association of
Landscape Institute



PHONE OR FAX

01279 813160

59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

S.O.S. SECRETARIAL SERVICES

Laser Printing at affordable prices

Correspondence ~ C.V.s
Reports ~ Manuscripts ~ Wills

Desktop Publishing
Mailshots & Advertisements

No job too small or too large
Tel 815660

Ray Morton

PAINTER & DECORATOR
GENERAL HANDYMAN

No Job Too Small!
Free Estimates

Tel 01279 812792

8 Mill Close, Elsenham

T J PEACHEY M.B.H.I.

Watch and Clock Repairs

Antique clock repairs a speciality

Tel 01279 813400

37 Crossdaile Road, Stansted

CASTLE WALK CLINIC

3 Castle Walk, Lower Street, Stansted.

REGISTERED OSTEOPATHS

Jacolin Sheaf DO, MRO

Kim Tanner BScOst, MRO

Specialists in treatment of spinal, joint & muscle pain, headaches, trapped nerves & sports injuries.

Treatment suitable for all ages including children

(01279) 815907

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Cay Dick DPodM, SRCh, MChs

Specialising in Routine Chiropody, Sports Injuries,

Ultrasound, Biomechanics, Orthotics,

Nail Surgery & Verrucae

(01279) 647337

Chartered Accountants Davidson Oakley & Co

We provide a friendly and efficient professional accountancy and taxation service for local businesses and individuals including:

- Self Assessment Tax Returns
- Accountancy and Audit
- Management Accounts
- Business Tax

Free initial consultation

Please Telephone: 01279 813294.

Forge House, 39-41 Cambridge Road, Stansted,
Essex, CM24 8BX.



Sue Leech
MSSCh MBChA

Chiropodist

Surgery & Home Visits

Routine Chiropody
Verrucae
General Footcare
Corns
Nail Disorders

Tel 01459 137550

VICKERS

SOLICITORS

*For a friendly and personal
service:*

*Fixed fee Conveyancing
Litigation*

Wills and Probate

*Free initial consultation
Advice and assistance at*

reasonable cost

Prompt attention

Please contact Julian Vickers

Tel: 01799 543 335

THE COTTAGE, VICARAGE LANE, UGLEY,
BISHOP STORTFORD, HERTS CM22 6HU

FAX: 01799 542 325

E-MAIL: JULIANVICKERS@MSN.COM

PARKINS PLANTS

Commercial & Private
Landscapers

Hard & Soft Specialists

☼ Nurseries ☼

Suppliers of Shrubs,
Perennials, Annuals,

Hanging Baskets etc

to Pubs, Hotels,

Local Councils & the Public

Motts Hall, Gaunts End
Elsenham (behind Elsenham Foods)

Tel/fax 813437 Mobile 0976 908085

M & C FILMING SERVICES

*Conservatory too hot in summer, too cold in winter?
Are your fabrics fading?*

**We can solve the problem with
SOLAR REFLECTIVE FILM**

Safety, security & privacy films also fitted
to offices, factories & shops

For further details call 01279 658708 / 832708
Mobile 07979 765703 or 07979 765704



CD ROMS CREATED TO ORDER

Archive your records to CD ROM
More reliable than tape
We have the technology!!

Ring Dave for a quote on 812564

FIELDINGS ENGINEERS

Old Mill Farm House, Stansted Road, Elsenham CM22 6LL

**GARDEN MACHINERY
REPAIRS & SERVICE**



Mowers, Ride-ons, Tractors
Chainsaws, Strimmers

All makes & models

Cylinder Grinding ~ Spare Parts & Oils
Deliveries & Collections ~ Welding

Free Estimates

From simple adjustments to major overhauls
contact Jeremy Fielding on
01279 813381 or 0850 802093

Winter Computer Courses at HARLOW ITec

Basic Computing for absolute beginners
(starts early November & mid January ~ £50.50)
Friday mornings for 6 weeks or
Thursday evenings for 7 weeks

**Introductory Wordprocessing, Spreadsheets
and Database**

(starts mid January ~ £104.14)
Friday mornings for 12 weeks or
Thursday evenings for 14 weeks

**Other courses starting January & March - see
next issue of The Link for details**

**Advance booking essential - please telephone
01279 446556 for details and application form
or email to office@itecharlow.co.uk**



UTTLESFORD CARERS

can give help and advice if you are looking after a relative or friend

Support groups held monthly in Dunmow, Saffron Walden & Stansted

12 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DA Tel 01371 875810

Registered Charity no. 246329

D. C. POULTON & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Day and Night
Personal Service.

Funerals Arranged in
All Districts.

Established Over 100 Years.

Chapel Hill, Stansted

01279 813219

Clarks Lane, Epping

01992 572609

335 High Street, Ongar

01277 366009

STEVENS SECURITY

INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS

DOOR ENTRY INTERCOMS

CCTV SECURITY LIGHTING



01279 813345

01708 742944

M COLLINS Family News

NEWSAGENT TOBACCONIST
CONFECTIONERS
AGENTS FOR DRY CLEANERS

Chapel Hill
Tel 01279 812049

JAMES BARR

NORTHGATE END
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
TEL. 01279 653366

NISSAN

SALES - SERVICE - PARTS
THINKING OF BUYING A CAR?
GIVE US A CALL

HELPLINE

0941 104093

If you have a **PROBLEM**
or are in need of
ASSISTANCE

Monday - Friday
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Stansted's voluntary community care service

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS LTD

**FUNERAL DIRECTORS
MONUMENTAL MASONS**

*PERSONAL SERVICE FROM A FAMILY
BUSINESS DAY OR NIGHT*

WYCHELM
HARLOW
01279 426990

79/81 SOUTH STREET
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
01279 655477

3 BULLFIELDS
SAWBRIDGECWORTH
01279 722476

11ASLERS LANE
GREAT DUNMOW
01371 874518

24 Hour Family CareLine

OUR TRAINED STAFF WILL BE PLEASED TO GIVE
FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ON ANY MATTERS
GOLDEN CHARTER FUNERAL
PRE-PAYMENT PLANS



Bubbles Bathrooms

Suppliers and Installers of British and Continental
Bathrooms and Showers



Visit our luxury showroom,
displaying bathrooms and
showers, such as...

- Villeroy and Boch
- Hansgrohe
- Pharo
- Premier Showerlux
- Maurice Herbeau
- Jado

Tel 01799 522488
Fax 01799 522477

...and many more

23 full displays, with more still to come

27 - 29 High Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1AT

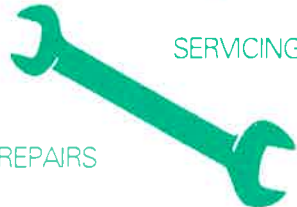


FOSTER
PLUMBING
&
HEATING

Mr I K Foster
3 Bower Road
Stansted
Essex
CM24 8TJ
Tel. 01279 816547

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS

David
Nunn's
Garage



SERVICING

REPAIRS

BENTFIELD ROAD
STANSTED

TEL: 01279 812686

FANCY FINGERS

Nail & Beauty Studio

Nail Extensions
Nail Art
Nail Piercing
Air Brushing

Full range of beauty treatments

Air Brush Body Art
Body Piercing
by appointment

52a Silver Street, Stansted

Tel 01279 647646

Opening times flexible

ALDWYCH CONSTRUCTION LTD

23/25 Lower Street, Stansted CM24 8LN

Building and Decorating Contractors

All needs provided throughout North West Essex. East Herts & South Cams

'PROPER WORK AT PROPER PRICES'

BOTH PERIOD AND MODERN

FOR ESTIMATES Tel 01279 816701

Mobile 0802 548471 Fax 01279 812656

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL

OPEN 2.00 - 6.00 pm

1st Sunday in month - April to October

ALSO

Sunday & Monday of Bank Holidays
and every Sunday in August

ADMISSION

Adults 50p accompanied children 25p

PARTIES by appointment

Tel 01279 813160

**Montessori Day Nursery &
Pre-Preparatory School**

(opposite Airport terminal)
Tel 01279 870898

Accepts children 3 months to 7 years

Excellent Ofsted Report
Holiday Scheme (Infants & Nursery)
Government 4+ vouchers accepted

Full day care available 8am - 6pm

**Meadow Montessori Day
Nursery, Saffron Walden**

Tel 01799 513858

Accepts children from 2-5 years

Traditional values of Montessori
teaching with structured reading,
language and number.

*Children accepted full or part time
Flexible hours*

**ARE YOU
RETIRED?**



Then a warm welcome
awaits you at the
Stansted Day Centre.



♥ lunches ♠ snacks ◆
social activities



10.00 am
to
4.00 pm



Tuesday, Thursday and Friday



Come and enjoy the friendly
atmosphere at -

Crafton Green - top of Chapel
Hill. Tel. 815091.



MARTIN WEST ASSOCIATES

Consulting in
Elocution
Voice Training
Use of English
Creation of Speeches
Presentations

Also a Video, Voiceover and
Recording Service

43 Chapel Hill, Stansted
CM24 8AD

Tel/Fax 01279 813514