

July 1999

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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

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**15th July for publication on 1st August**  
**16th September for publication on 3rd October**  
**NOTE : next edition covers August & September**

# Society of Friends

## Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

### That of God

Recently I went to Saffron Walden Friend's School to renew my acquaintance with The Quaker Tapestry. This Tapestry was begun in 1981 and consists of over 70 panels. It celebrates the ideas and experiences of Quakers since the movement started in 1652. Over 4000 people in 15 countries have helped make the tapestry. It is on permanent exhibition in Kendal Friends Meeting House. What I saw was one actual panel and a series of photographic panels of the same size as the originals.

I bought two bookmarks with details of two panels. One of these I thought amusing as it depicted George Fox's booted feet standing on Furbank Fell, which is near Sedbergh, whilst he preached for some three hours to some 1000 people. Embroidered are the words "Keep your feet upon the top of the mountain and sound deep to that of God in everyone".

George Fox was apparently using the phrase "That of God" as an abbreviation of a longer phrase which says what can be experienced. It was as if he were saying "There is something or other in you which, if you pay attention to it and act on it, will lead you into an experience of what you will have to describe to God. So this is something or other, whatever it is, has something to do with God, but precisely what I can't say, it's beyond my ken". George Fox also used the phrase "the principle of God" in a similar and equivalent way.

A little later on, in fact in 1656, George Fox wrote a letter to 'friends in the ministry' and in this he wrote what has become a famous Quaker text: 'be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone, whereby in them ye may be a blessing and make the witness of God in them to bless you'.

Peter Burgess



# 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 July

4th	11am	Dr D Thompson
11th	11am	Rev J Benfield Ecumenical Communion
18th	11am	Mr M Dyer
25th	11am	Rev K Anderson

### Death

Robert (Bob) Bunting, May 26th, Aged 75 years.  
(A tribute to Bob will appear in the next issue of The Link)

### Forthcoming Event

September 3rd will be a special day in the life of Stansted U.R.C. as we will be welcoming and inducting Rev David Simpson to be Minister of the Stansted Group and Saffron Walden at a service here in Stansted at 7.30pm. David is coming to the end of a year of study for a M.A. in Pastoral Theology at Westminster College Cambridge following two years as a non-stipendiary Associate Minister at Amersham Free Church in Buckinghamshire. David and his wife, Sylvia, will be living at Saffron Walden but he will be dividing his time equally between the Church at Saffron Walden and the Stansted Group.

# 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 July

4th	No morning service 6.30pm Don McGregor	
11th	11am	United Service at U.R.C.
18th	9.30am	Rev Harry Wood
25th	9.30am	Rev John Graham Holy Communion
9th	Friday Fellowship Meeting, 8 pm	

# 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 )

During the afternoon of Sunday 13th June - the feast day of St Anthony of Padua, an inspirational spiritual farewell and thanksgiving service was held in the grounds of St Anthony's, Henham.

Many came in thanksgiving for the long years of devotion and worship enjoyed there. The last Mass was celebrated on Sunday 6th February 1999. Alas the Sword of Damocles was fast descending. The end at St Anthony's Chapel, as a place of prayer and worship and meeting place of Catholics in the area came so swiftly and numbingly. A structural engineer's report expressed the gravest concerns for the overall stability of the building. It had vastly exceeded its design life and was vulnerable to possible collapse in periods of adverse weather. Amid great consternation and regret it closed permanently on February 9th, so concluding its long and faithful 66 years service to the Parish community.

As in any bereavement, many have grieved its sudden demise. This homely chapel was for so many years the setting in which the vibrant local Catholic community visibly lived the Gospel values and Message of Christ in deep and meaningful ways. As a church it functioned at two levels, (a) as containing all that is necessary for a dynamic group of people at a material level, (b) at a spiritual level where a certain aesthetic of construction raised the mind and heart towards spiritual things or realities.

## St. Anthony's Catholic Church Henham, Essex

1933 - 1999

### STOP PRESS

The Link expresses the sadness of many Stansted people on the death of Cardinal Basil Hume, and gives thanks for his life and example.

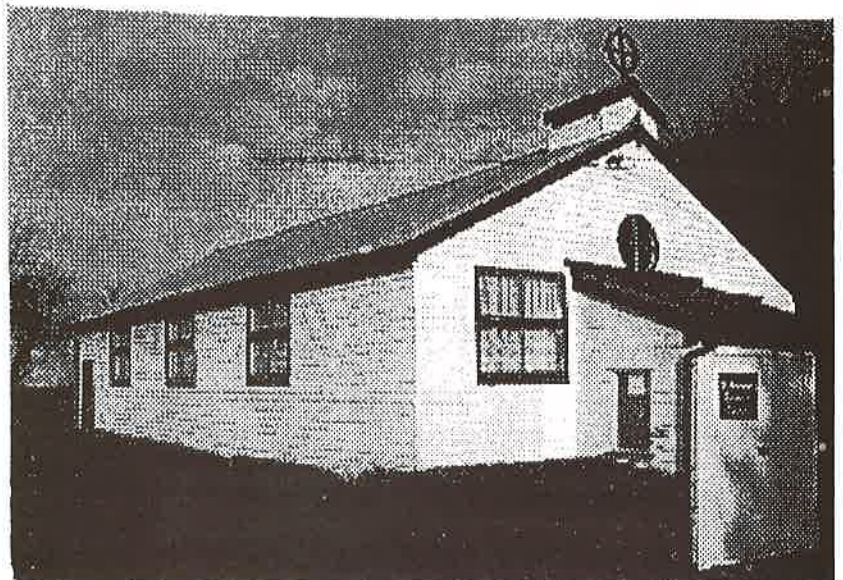
Through the years it had won a special place in our hearts and in our devotions we speak about "the spirit of a place". In religious terms too we speak of "the spirit inhabiting a place. So a church becomes sacred and special by the worship and prayers of the people who use it. Eventually the spirits of those who have inhabited the church still inhabit the place. The intuition of this relies in the community of faith and similar worship. The lives of people with simple yet robust faith still imbue the building with wonder and mystery even after they are gone. The sensitive heart discerns the fugitive traces and atmosphere they have bequeathed. "Hallowed by Thy Name" is also related to "Hallowed by Thy place of Abode" whether that dwelling is the human heart or a building we call a church or chapel.

As the mortality of St Anthony's little church has become the painful reality of our parish life, we reflect and give thanks for the fond memories and joys of St Anthony's and are filled with gratitude for the graces and blessings received over 66 years. We now pray that God's will pervade our mission, diminishing the sorrow of the parting and enabling the challenges of the parish's future.

Currently plans are evolving for the building of a new church on the site along the Cambridge Road. An exciting phase and new chapter in the development of the parish gathers momentum. The small booklet on the History of St Anthony's 1933-1999, that was compiled for the Thanksgiving service, has already been designated as a key feature within the commemorative book planned for the dedication of the new church, whenever that may occur. New beginnings, fresh hopes and aspirations we commend to St Anthony and St Theresa.

As a recent biographer of St Anthony observed "- the life of Anthony was what every Christian's life is meant to be", but writ large -" The call to forgive and love, to care for the needs of others and of all creation, to have our feet solidly on the ground of total trust and dependence on God". May it become the hallmark of our parish community and so joyfully honour the rich heritage and ever cherished legacy from St Anthony's, Henham, 1933-1999.

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

### Services for July

#### Sundays

8 am Holy Communion  
9.30 am Parish Communion  
11 am Family Service (18th July only)  
6.30 pm Evening Service

#### Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Prayers



### From the Registers

#### Baptism

6th June Hamish Andrew Nicol Arnold

#### Deaths

28th May Edith Rose Rogers, aged 93  
29th May Lily Julia Agate, aged 94  
2nd June Wilhelmina Clark, aged 89



### Varia

The Bishop of Chelmsford's Visitation to the Benefice takes place on 6th July

We wish bon voyage to Ellen Brooks who is shortly to spend a few weeks in India where, among other activities, she and her companions will assist in two orphanages.



### How my mind has changed ...

Five days from the end of my first year at theological college - halfway through my formal training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. A good time to take stock, though it's difficult to hold together all the strands of what has happened and of what is still going on.

Much of my time is taken up with study for a theology degree from the University at Birmingham. That, and the courses which I take within the college here at Queen's, determine that my daily work is made up of speaking, thinking, reading about God; what I believe, and why, is constantly under scrutiny (my own, if no-one else's). For me, this is privilege, obligation, and liberation rolled into one. As I explore understandings of God which come from my formal studies, I come, inevitably, to draw the connections between the way I live my life, the way other lives are lived, and the exercise of ordained ministry to which I am called.

In Queen's I live and work in a community which has a common purpose; the preparation of women and men for ministry, whether Anglican, Methodist, or URC. Like any Christian community we are very good at fighting with each other; we come from very different traditions, even within our own churches, let alone the denominational variety. Recognising the pain which can arise from such difference - recognising the extent to which I cling to my own identity in church and tradition - has been an important part of what I have learned this year. But I also value immensely being part of a community which worships and prays together, day by day, and which derives great strength from that experience.

Recognising and valuing difference is perhaps the strongest theme which I shall carry forward from this year. Difference in ways of worship and belief, in personal circumstances and in the points of struggle, which we all have in adapting to this strange, transitional state of training. Difference, too, in the city around me, with its mix of races, cultures, and religions, its contrast of poverty and wealth. Difference, therefore, in the ways in which we all come to God, and hear the stories of our faith.

Jane Freeman  
Queen's College  
Birmingham



# SHALOM

### Shalom Dates

- July 5 Prayer and Praise  
Venue Gt Bardfield with Father Timmins  
(Meet Crafton Green 7.30 with picnic)
- July 19 Shalom Walk  
Meet Crafton Green at 7.30 pm
- July 25 Sunday 3.00 pm  
Cream Tea and Auction  
Quaker Meeting Hall



### Chevetogne 1999

The beds were made, meals prepared, activities planned and we waited quietly in the sunshine for the coach to arrive. At 7 o'clock they came - the largest party yet to come from Chevetogne.

There was great joy, meeting old friends, enquiring after those unable to come (Sr. Manuella was in Romania). They had paid their customary visit to Canterbury Cathedral and had a short service there - in the Crypt at the Cathedral there are icons made at the Chevetogne Monastery (have you seen them?).

Saturday morning we assembled in the car park at 8.30 for a day at Windsor. Arriving before 11 o'clock we looked for 'The Guards' but there was no ceremony as they were in London rehearsing for the Queen's Birthday celebrations, so we spent the morning exploring the old, cobbled back streets and newer shopping precincts and tourist attractions.

After lunch we met up again to visit the castle. We began with the Queen's Dolls' House and followed on with a comprehensive display of the devastation caused by the fire and on to the magnificent State Apartments, beautifully restored and a wonderful tribute to the craftsmanship that was employed. After a quick tour of St George's Chapel most of us went in search of a cup of tea -

it was day of 'truly' summer sunshine! At 5.30 we returned to the Chapel and sat in the choir stalls of the Nights of the Garter. Banners overhead, behind us the insignia of Kings and Emperors, we quietly read Evensong and touched that 'peace which passeth all understanding'.

Outside the thunder rolled, crashed, drummed at the roof, low flying aircraft seemed about to come and join us and the rain cascaded down. When we emerged the sun was shining, we walked back to the coach through a different world, every leaf sparkled, every bird sang. We drove home past a brilliant rainbow.

Sunday was cold and dull and after Mass at St Theresa's plans were adjusted and most people had a quiet afternoon, meeting later at the Day Centre for the annual 'do'. It was, as every, a wonderful party, food and wine in abundance, entertainment (Elvis Presley, no less!), Irish dancing, laughter and singing. It finally ended when Rita Morson accepted, on behalf of CTS, two beautiful glass vases. We left with a blessing.

Monday morning we were again up early and by 8.30 we were all at St John's for Morning Prayers in English and French, led by Fr. Andrew Spurr, the Baron Goffinet and Rev Margaret Booker. The hymn was accompanied by Geoff Booker, playing the church piano. Afterwards there were photographs, messages, farewells, and 'au revoirs' over and over again.

We are very grateful to those who organised, prepared, worked hard and joined in and made the weekend such a joyful event. Your efforts were greatly appreciated, thank you.

Joan Mercer

Photo Revd Andrew Spurr



# Stansted Profile no 14

**Mary Ecclestone**  
(In her own words)

My title is "The Hat" and a lesser one is "A Walking Milestone". My name is Mary Ecclestone. I originally lived on the premises built by my father as a pharmaceutical residence on the corner of St John's Road and Chapel Hill which is now the carpet shop. I now live in the fairytale house of St Stephen.

One year, on 1 May, I became the only May Queen Stansted has ever had. My subjects came from two Stansted schools and they all had to do me homage. This was a weird experience as both my brothers were included. After the homage they did several maypole dances perfectly. The ceremony took place in the Blythwood estate.

My brothers and I started school life at the Stansted private school of Miss Haynes who was the sole teacher. We all had dancing and music lessons and I had a speaking part in a few plays. Throughout my school life I had dancing lessons, stage parts and piano music exams which I thoroughly enjoyed.

The school room of Miss Haynes was immediately behind the Central Hall. This hall was well equipped for public performances and belonged to the village. Its clock struck the hours and could be easily heard for quite a distance. It was looked after by Mr Vercoe, a watch and clock maker, who had premises opposite the United Reformed Church and lived opposite the carpet shop. We frequently encountered him on our daily walks. Every time he asked how we were and shook hands with each of us. Needless to say, his hat was always raised twice and he was very careful to shake hands with all of us every time.

"The Black Nag" was the first English Folk Dance I learnt. I still like this kind of dancing best and do it as often as possible. I am still enjoying Scottish dancing which is my second preference and is done as often as possible. Another kind I particularly liked was Old Time with its original tunes. I was not particularly interested in Ballroom though I was always willing to do it.

Choral singing was another thing I was able to do. I joined the Church choirs for Good Friday and Christmas. I belonged to the choirs of the Stansted Musical Society and the WI choirs of Stansted and Ugley afternoons. I did choral singing in the Stansted Operatic Society. This society consisted entirely of Stansted residents and could produce eight soloists, two for each type of voice.

Mary Ecclestone and David Morson



**STANSTED  
FUN RUN**

**STANSTED FUN RUN/WALK  
10K (6 miles approx)**

**Sunday 4th July**

Serious runners interested in a challenging course; fun runners interested in improving their time or even getting around!; walkers, whether in families or groups of friends, are all invited to participate in the Stansted Fun Run/Walk. In so doing they will raise money for three charities:

International: Water Aid  
National: National Alzheimer's Disease  
Local: HEAL Cancer Charity

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

Registration forms in advance can be obtained either from Marion Dyer, 01279 814059, or the Fun/Run Stall at Stansted Carnival on Saturday 3rd July, or *individual* entries only on the day itself from 10.00 am to 11.45 am.

Entry fee: Adults £6.00 in advance (£7.00 on the day), Children £2.50 on the day. This includes free drink.

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



## HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am

Sat 3rd July

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

SUMMER SOIRÉE

Young Musicians

6 pm Saturday 3rd July

St John's Church

Entry by ticket only tel 815282 or 813182

Adults £10, concessions £7, children £3.50

(includes interval jazz picnic supper)

## STANSTED CARNIVAL

Saturday 3rd July

### CARNIVAL PROCESSION

leaves Bentfield Green at 1 pm

### CARNIVAL FETE

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Mountfitchet High School

Admission free - Car Park £1

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### July

3 Sat	Cake Stall Carnival Floral Celebration Music Club Soirée Music Cabaret	Outside URC 10 am Mountfitchet Sch 1.30 - 5.30 pm St Mary's Church 2 - 6 pm St John's Church 6 pm Orford House 7 pm Bentfield Green 11 am
4 Sun	Fun Run & Walk Floral Celebration Windmill open Jazz & Picnic	St Mary's Church 10 am - 6 pm 2 - 6 pm Orford House 3.15 - 7 pm Meet Crafton Green 7.30 pm
5 Mon	Shalom Group	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
8 Thu	W I	Day Centre 7.30 pm
15 Thu	RBL Women's Section	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm Mountfitchet Sch 8 am - noon Meet Crafton Green 7.30 pm
17 Sat	Green Waste Skip	7.30 am - 3 pm
18 Sun	Car Boot Sale	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19 Mon	Shalom Group	W. Men's Club Field 1 - 5 pm
19 Mon		Quaker Meeting House 3 pm Youth & Adult Centre
22 Thu	Skip at Railway Sidings	2 - 6 pm
21 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
25 Sun	Birchanger Village Fête Shalom Tea & Auction	10.30 am
26 Mon	Playscheme starts	

### August

1 Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
11 Wed	RBL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am



## 10K CHARITY FUN RUN & WALK

Bentfield Green 11am Sun 4th July

**SERIOUS RUNNER** - needs a challenge

**FUN RUNNER** - improve your time

**WALKER** - enjoy a pleasant stroll

**THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!**

Register at the Fun Run stall at the Carnival  
or on the day between 10 and 10.45 am



## Flowers in a Country Church

In Celebration of Marriage

St Mary's Church will be open

2 - 6 pm Sat 3rd July

10 am - 6 pm Sun 4th July

All proceeds to support St Mary's Church  
through the Churches' Conservation Trust

## Stansted Friends of the HOME FARM TRUST Orford House, Ugley

### THE NATURALS

7 pm Sat 3rd July

Disco ~ Bar ~ Line Dancing

Tickets £10 tel 813840

plus

## John Petters' Jazz 'n' Swing Band

3.15 pm Sun 4th July

Bring your own picnic baskets  
& drinks

Tickets £8 tel 813840



## Birchanger Village Fête

1 - 5 pm Sunday 25th July

Working Men's Club Field

Live Music ~ Raffle ~ Bric-à-brac

Bottle Stall ~ Plants ~ Cakes

Bouncy Castle ~ Children's Rides

Pig Roast ~ Cream teas ~ Tombola

Fun for all the family!

Mountfitchet High School

## Car Boot Sale

Sunday 18th July

8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments



Tel 01279 813384

## THE BOUNCERS AGAIN

It is quite a while since you have heard about the Bouncer family who live under the old railway station. Have you wondered how they have been getting on? The school next to their home has been doing very well and most of the pupils pay attention to what the Schoolmaster, Mr. Rolly, tells them, and enjoy their lessons.



One day after school Bertie Bouncer went home looking rather sad. He did not want any tea, which was most unusual, but sat in a corner by himself. When Mr. Bouncer came in he was surprised to see Bertie was not sitting at the table with the others. Then a tear trickled down Bertie's cheek and he said, "Oh, Dad, after all your hard work making the desks and everything, why do we have to break up the school?"

His big brother Billy put down his cup of elderberry juice, the twins Bluebell and Bunty stopped eating their bread and blackberry jam, Baby stopped banging her spoon and Mrs. Bouncer stopped pouring out mint tea, and they all stared at Bertie. "Teacher said we were going to break up," explained Bertie. "Oh, Bertie," said his Dad, "he didn't mean things are going to be broken up, he meant that you are taking a break from school for the summer holidays." Bertie looked so relieved to hear that and soon found his appetite and had his tea.

Mr. Rolly thought hard about what could be done to celebrate the end of term. Earlier in the year he had peeped through the fence at the humans' school and had seen the children holding ribbons and dancing round a Maypole. It looked fun. So he managed to find a piece of ground where no-one ever went at the side of the railway station. The ground was cleared of weeds and long grass and other rubbish, and the Bouncer children all helped Mr. Bouncer to put up a pole.

Mrs. Bouncer produced some colourful ribbons which were fixed to the top. When Mr. Rolly started to explain what they were to do there was a rush to hold the ends of the ribbons and Bertie Bouncer, of course, could not wait to hear any more. He began bouncing round the pole, faster and faster, higher and higher, until he was all tangled up and fell with a bump! Mr. Rolly picked him up, dusted him down and said, "I think Bouncers are made for bouncing, not dancing. Your father has made some musical instruments so you play the big drum and keep us all in time."

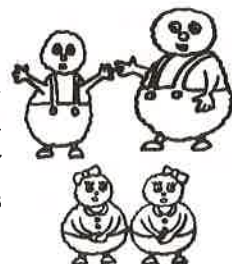


Baby banged on the small drum with her spoon, although not always quite in time, and the twins played on wooden whistles. Mr. Rolly played a sort of guitar that Mr. Bouncer had made out of bits and of wood and wire, which made a very strange twangy noise.

After lots of practice they were ready to invite all the parents, friends and relatives to come and see the show. Even Grandma Bouncer came and as her home was a long way away she stayed for a holiday with them. The event was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves.



So there we will leave the Bouncer family and all their friends. Perhaps we will hear from them again one day but I am sure you can imagine for yourselves some of the things they do and particularly the trouble Bertie gets himself into - although he does mean well!





### PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

Our theme for the last half term was based around the Natural World. The first activity was for the children to plant runner beans to grow at home - sponsored of course. We're looking forward to seeing the giant specimens in the next week!

Rainbows and the rain were also a topic for discussion. Fortunately we had a rainbow appear one evening in the week but our attempts at rain collecting were foiled by choosing one of the driest weeks of the half term. Producing welly painting patterns, however, was great fun and enjoyed by all.

We also had a go at making home made music with improvised instruments - ear splitting! Of course we also worked towards our end of term concert learning new songs and rhymes with a "weather" theme to sing to the appreciative parents! The raffle and cake stall at the concert helped raised about £95 for funds too.

Our major fundraiser however has been the very popular Music Quiz. All the tables were sold out and the evening went with a swing. Many thanks are due to all those who made the evening such a success from the question master to the mums who helped with the food and the clearers-up afterwards.

This next terms will see the Pre-School venture out into the community with trips to the fire station, a picnic and a train ride. Please come and visit us at any time, stay and play for a morning and meet everyone.

Call Aunty Helen for more information on 01279 816600 from 9.00 - 12.00.

Sandra Wood



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

A regular part of the windmill calendar now is the open day in July with sail turning and barbecue. Having had some work done to the brake during the close season it is easier to get the sails turning, but unless the wind is very strong on the day most of the work will have to be done by hand!. The sails will be turned every hour on the hour from 2-5 pm on Sunday 11th July.

The Family Barbecue starts at 4.00 where, in addition to sausages and a variety of burgers, tea and soft drinks will be available but please bring anything else you want to have for your own picnic round the mill.

While you are there you could also enter the drawing competition with entries shown in the mill until judging at the August Bank Holiday Fete. And don't forget to come and look at the growing postcard collection!

For those interested in helping on open days, getting involved with work on the mill, or anyone who would like further information, please contact Steve Clements, 01279 816514

### Opening Dates for July/August

Sunday 4th July  
Sunday 11th July (Windmill Open Day)  
Sunday 1st August  
Sunday 8th August  
Sunday 15th August  
Sunday 22nd August  
Sunday 29th August  
Monday 30th August (Windmill Fete)

### Windmills of the World

Our appeal for postcards of windmills has caught the attention of many outside our own membership and the project has really taken off. We have postcards of some 40 different mills already.

When you are travelling about or going on holiday please look out for mills. We would prefer the cards to be posted, especially those from abroad, so that we have the stamp and postmark. A written-on date would also be of interest to those in the future who want to compare the state of the mills then and now.

If you do not know the address of any Millers Committee members our helpful postman will see that they get to the right place if addressed to Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill, Stansted, Essex, England. Do come to the mill and look at the postcard album(s).



## Recipe of the Month

### Fruit Crumble

4oz / 100gm wholemeal flour  
3oz / 75gm soft dark brown sugar  
4oz / 100gm jumbo porridge oats  
4oz / 100gm margerine  
1lb / 450gm stewed mixed fruit

- (a) mix flour, oats and sugar together
- (b) rub in margarine until mix is in large crumbles
- (c) place fruit in casserole dish
- (d) place a thick covering of crumble over the fruit
- (e) cook for 20 mins gas mark 6 / 200°C / 400°F

*Any unused crumble can be kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator, or frozen*



This term the children at the Tuesday Rainbow Messy Play have been thinking about animals. They have been making a big splash painting red squirrels and getting in a sticky mess whilst gluing feathers on to paper birds. They also stuck straws into dollops of playdough so to make their own hedgehogs.

We are now compiling a waiting list for next term. We have found that children over 18 months benefit the most from this group. We make their brothers and sisters welcome too.

The Rainbow Tots group still meets on a Wednesday afternoon. This family group has emphasis on social interaction and physical play for all children under school age. We don't forget the babies either and we have a secluded play area for them.

Both groups are held at the Stansted Youth Centre. We welcome all.

Lorna Williams  
01279 817197



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

A reminder that The Village Music Club will be holding its Summer Soiree on the evening of Saturday 3rd July at 6 pm in St John's Church, Stansted, featuring up and coming young musicians with a range of music to be performed to satisfy all tastes. There will be a long jazz picnic supper interval in the church grounds. If the weather is inclement, supper will be served in the Church Hall. Tickets, inclusive of supper are £10 adult, £7 concessions and £3-50 for children, and are available from Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282), Elizabeth Wagener, 'Fairfield' Silver Street, Stansted (01279 813182) and Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill (01279 812019)

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 (01279 813182).



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

We had no speaker at our last meeting, so after normal business had been completed Mrs Doris Thistle entertained us with a fascinating Quiz. Nineteen of us split into four tables and enjoyed some brain-teasing trying to sort out interesting places in London from their initial letters. This kept us quiet for over an hour, and members were so involved that they were in no hurry to start their refreshments! The winning table did brilliantly, scoring 45 points out of a possible 50 and were rewarded with bars of chocolate. A generous raffle was then drawn.

The Group Meeting on 3rd June was at Felsted when members from Clavering, Felsted and Stansted met to hear reports of branch activities, exchange ideas and enjoy entertainment by a pianist and singer.

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday 15th July at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre when our speaker will be Miss Jean Reay.

### Advance Notice

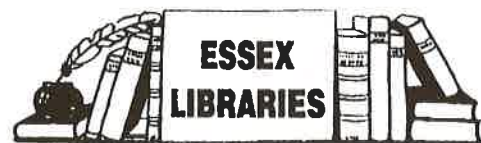
Coffee Morning, 11th August, 10.30 am in the Day Centre.

Pat Clower

### STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK MAY 1999

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village who gave so generously to the British Red Cross collection. We raised the marvellous sum of £1224.15, the most we have ever raised! May I also thank all those people who kindly gave their time once again to collect for this very worthwhile cause.

Diana Pelly



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



# Stansted Junior Football Club

What with the season well and truly finished the club had only one more event to overcome and that was our traditional *Presentation Night*, which happens to be the biggest day on our footballing calendar! This year the club decided to hold the event up at Mountfitchet High School and hope that the night would be more enjoyable for both the boys and their families. It also gave the club a chance to try and make a modest profit. We are still waiting for our treasurer to finalise the outcome.

The evening started with all the club's officers/managers setting out the hall and decorating the stage and walls with the club's colours and sponsors boards. We had been told that Ian Walker, Spurs and England keeper, was going to try and make an appearance. Unfortunately due to his commitments with the England squad that day he was unable to come, although our thanks go to Mrs Appleton for not only speaking to him but persuading him to come to a future fund-raising event.

The night seemed to be a great success with an estimated 350 people turning out. All the boys received their appearance medals and of course the lucky few were given trophies for individual play. The Herts & Essex Observer kindly came to take pictures of the boys. (They have also said they may well be able to do a feature on the club in the near future. Any press coverage can only be good for the boys and their club).

The evening had the added bonus of an auction, again Mrs Appleton was kind enough to get her hands on a pair of England gloves signed by Ian Walker and David Seaman and an England baseball cap signed by David Beckham. Along with those items, D.C. Poulton donated a signed Bristol Rovers ball and a season ticket for Bishop's Stortford for next season. These items raised nearly £500, which really is a staggering amount especially for a club such as ours. The evening finished off with a superb disco run by Gary King.

Finally, I can now reveal that the retiring officers, Dick Moore, Greg Wood, Daniel Haylett, received a signed Leyton Orient shirt, signed Leeds United shirt and a £40 book voucher respectively. They also received long serving medals/plaques. This was just a small gesture from the club for all their hard work.

Other club news includes the Scorpions winning the Fairplay/Sportsman trophy from the Harlow Rec. league. This turned out to be some achievement. They beat all the other teams in two divisions for this trophy and it worked out that they had been awarded virtually 100% ratings for fair play in every league game they played last year!

The club also welcomes Martin Taplin who will be standing for the position of club Treasurer at the forthcoming AGM. Should any parent/player be interested in attending this meeting they are of course more than welcome. If they could contact Tony Matthews on 01279

814668, he will be able to give more information about the time and venue. We do hope to have some photos which may appear in next month's Link but until then we would like to thank the Link for giving our club a regular page in their magazine.

Luke Pearman

## ZeLast Vurd

### Fantastik futscher for English

Having chosen English as the preferred language in the European Economic Community, the European Parliament has commissioned a feasibility study into ways of improving efficiency in communications between government departments.

European officials have often pointed out that English spelling is unnecessarily difficult, for example: cough, plough, rough, through and thorough. What is clearly needed is a phased program of changes to iron out these anomalies. The program would, of course, be administered by a committee staffed at top level by participating nations.

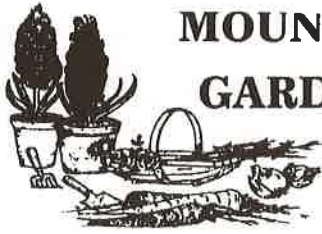
In the first year, for example, the committee would suggest using "s" instead of the soft "c". Certainly, civil servants in all cities would receive this news with joy. Then the hard "c" could be replaced by "k" since both letters are pronounced alike. Not only would this clear up confusion in the minds of clerical workers, but typewriters and keyboards could be made with one letter fewer.

There would be growing enthusiasm when, in the second year, it was announced that the troublesome "ph" would henceforth be written "f". This would make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter in print.

In the third year, publik akseptance of the new spelling could be expected to reach the stage where more complicated changes are possible. Governments would encourage the removal of double letters, which have always been a deterrent to accurate spelling.

We would all agree that the horrible mess of silent "es" in the language is disgraceful. Therefore we could drop the "z" and continue to read and write as though nothing had happened. By this time, it would be four years since the skem began and people would be receptive to steps such as replacing "th" with "z". Perhaps the function of "w" could be taken on by "v", vitsh iz, after all, half a "w". Shortly after this, the unnecessary "o" could be dropped from words containing "ou". Similar arguments would of course be applied to other combinations of letters.

Continuing this process year after year, we would eventually have a really sensible system. After 20 years, there would be no more troublesome difficulties, and everyone would find it easy to understand everything. The dream of Mr Orvel would finally have come true.



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

### June Meeting

The Garden Club welcomed an old friend as our speaker this month. Fred Etheridge came to talk to us for the fourth time in as many years. This time his subject was 'Habitats' - both for animals and plants, in the wild. Fred, a taxi driver by trade, is an ardent natural history lover and spends a lot of time on preservation projects. The activity known as coppicing in woodlands was explained in some detail helping as it does to restore suitable conditions for animals and wild flowers to flourish. In some cases flower species have been dormant for many years just waiting to be released when the conditions are right for them. Mr Etheridge was able to support his talk with his own samples of high standard photography.

This meeting also saw the visit of Linda Varney of *Garden News*. Linda is a representative of this national magazine who is preparing a series of articles on local garden clubs. Miss Varney spent some time with members getting the feel of how the club operates.

### Monthly Competition

Cyril Stoneham won this month's event with his excellent pot plant.

### Stansted Carnival

Please be sure to visit the Garden Club's stand at this year's carnival on July 3rd. Look for our distinctive sign for a quality gardening bargain. We will also be running our popular raffle - remember you have to be in it to win it.

### July Meeting

Peter Morris is visiting us from Great Sailing as our speaker on Deep Bed Gardening. The monthly competition is Dish of New Seasons Fruit or Vegetable (one variety).

Visitors are very welcome to our monthly meetings when we have a visiting speaker. It is always on the first Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre at 8 pm.

Derek Francis

Link has a wide range of contributors but there are some subjects which seldom appear. One which would be of interest but is not well covered by local media is wildlife and what to look for in field and hedgerow. Also, the present writer of the Children's page is retiring and we would be pleased to have a successor. Don't be shy or modest; it is surprising where encouragement comes from once a start is made.  
*Editor*

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Junior Coaching

Junior coaching with Chris Hollis continues at the following times:

Thursday 5.00 - 5.45 pm Ages 7-10  
Thursday 5.45 - 6.30 pm Ages 7-10  
Saturday 9.00 - 9.45 am Ages 10-13  
Saturday 9.45-10.30 am Ages 7-10

There are still a few vacancies, so if you are interested please contact Chris on 01279 466973.

### Used Tennis Balls

These are still available at £1 for a tube of 4. Anybody interested should contact Janet Hollis on 01279 812073.

### Date for your Diary

The annual Wilby Tournament will take place on Sunday 11th July starting at 1 pm. This is a mixed Open Tournament and any members wishing to enter should put their names on the sheet in the clubhouse.

If you would like to join the Tennis Club please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on 01279 813053. If you have any other queries please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 01279 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on 01279 466348.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Francis and Joan Mercer would like to thank all those who sponsored their five mile walk at Wimpole Hall on May 9th. We raised £151 and the total for the day will be over £3,000. Thankyou.

### WARD 69 (GERIATRIC).

Perhaps on a day surprised with sunlight,  
Through the lean green trees memory provides,  
Sways a branch to which you cling  
Amassed with half-scents-beautiful.  
And colours once bright as poppies spread,  
Their hues quietly  
On the blanket snow which sheets your bed.  
So, on a night, the white moon strokes  
The stubble Autumn fields  
While crickets sing, this borrowed time  
To which you cling.  
And who can say which way the branch will swa  
Or to what purpose fades the rose?

Nora Turner

## The GM Crops Debate

With the high profile afforded to it in the media in recent weeks, the introduction of genetically modified (GM) crops has become highly controversial and emotive subject in the UK and some other parts of the world. The principal objections concern possible harm to human health, damage to the environment (both plant and animal life) from both the crops themselves and the increased use of fertilisers and pesticides and unease about the 'unnatural' status of the technology.

On the positive side there is the promise of improved and more abundant disease resistant crops, which, it is said, will go a great way towards solving the world's food problem in the next millennium, particularly in the drought ridden areas of the world.

In the posturing that has gone on, we have seen the government of the day uphold the rubbishing (as 'unscientific') the research at the Rowett Institute, which suggested that GM potatoes, when fed in large quantities to rats gave rise to digestive problems.

On the other hand, supermarkets and other food retailing groups are trying to assure their customers that at least their own brand products are free from GM material. The objective here being that people have a choice of food products with or with GM material. But do people really have that choice and can it be sustained?

As yet, few GM crops are licensed in the UK for use in foods for human consumption. This is reassuring at the present time. However, many crop trials are in progress or planned and this can lead to an explosion in the availability of GM crops in the market place in the not too distant future. Will these GM crops be fully tested in all respects or will the large producers unload such material (possibly at a knock down price) on an unprepared world?

The world's greatest producer of soya is the USA and, regrettably, neither the US government nor the US producers appear sensitive to consumer concerns. Normal soya and GM soya are mixed prior to being exported to the rest of the world or being incorporated into foodstuffs for domestic consumption.

For the moment, many of the UK supermarkets and other food retailing groups try to ensure that their manufacturing suppliers of their own label products use non-GM material. In the case of soya, a very common foodstuff constituent, it is sourced from outside the USA. It has yet to be seen whether this can be a sustainable situation in the future. Economics will certainly dictate what will eventually happen and this, in turn, can lead to limitation of the non-GM versus GM choice.

But there are other worrying factors.

Soya imported from the USA for use in animal feeds contains at least some of the GM variety. Regrettably, livestock do not have the choice of being fed GM or non-GM material and, bearing in mind the BSE catastrophe,

who is to say that GM material in animal feeds will not find their way into the human food chain via meat, where they may cause untold problems.

Finally, there is the ethical aspect of GM crops.

In nature, plants will develop, there will be mutations (sometimes involving other plant species) and new strains will emerge. For hundreds of years, man has observed this and has engaged in selective plant breeding, which, over a period of time, has enabled new strains to be developed. This is seen and accepted as common sense husbandry; it is happening all the time, but slowly and in a controlled manner.

With some justification, the biotech companies argue that gene transfer from one plant species to another is just a greatly accelerated version of selective plant breeding. They have a point provided the proper control of the processes is maintained and that harmful products do not result.

Where the ethical issue really bites is where genes from a different life form are introduced into the genetic make up of a plant life form. This mutation would not occur in nature. It is un-natural but it has been done. A product containing such a gene transplant from the animal life form to vegetable life form is already available on our supermarket shelves. No doubt, there are proposals to carry out further un-natural mutations in the name of progress.

It is in this un-natural situation, where man may be said to be playing God, that the real dangers may lie. The non-existence of information on the long term effects of such un-natural combinations is, to say the least, very disturbing in view of the heavy lobbying in certain quarters for the rapid introduction of GM foodstuffs.

UK government policy on the GM issue does not appear to be even handed. It seems that they are intent on achieving the acceptance of GM crops within one or two parliaments, eg. within 7 or 8 years. However, by contrast, human life expectancy, even in biblical terms, is three score years and ten. It is in everyone's interest that governments worldwide treat the GM issue seriously and respectfully to ensure that GM products are safe in all respects and that for those people who decide in the 7 or 8 years timeframe, there are still people around 70 years later to say the decisions regarding the use of GM foodstuffs were correct!

Tacitus II

---

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

An occasional series explaining some place name derivations.

### No 1

**Stansted Mountfitchet.** The name is compounded from the Saxon "stan" meaning stone and "sted" a place. The "Mountfitchet" derives from Montfiquet in Normandy whence came Robert Gernon who was given the Manor of Stansted by William the Conqueror.



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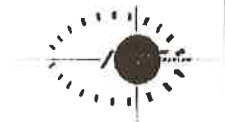
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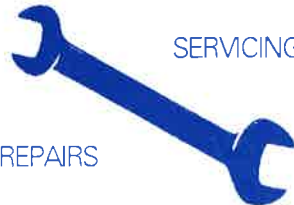
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**Stansted Day Centre.**



♥ lunches ♠ snacks ♦  
social activities



10.00 am  
to  
4.00 pm



Tuesday, Thursday and Friday



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