

March '99

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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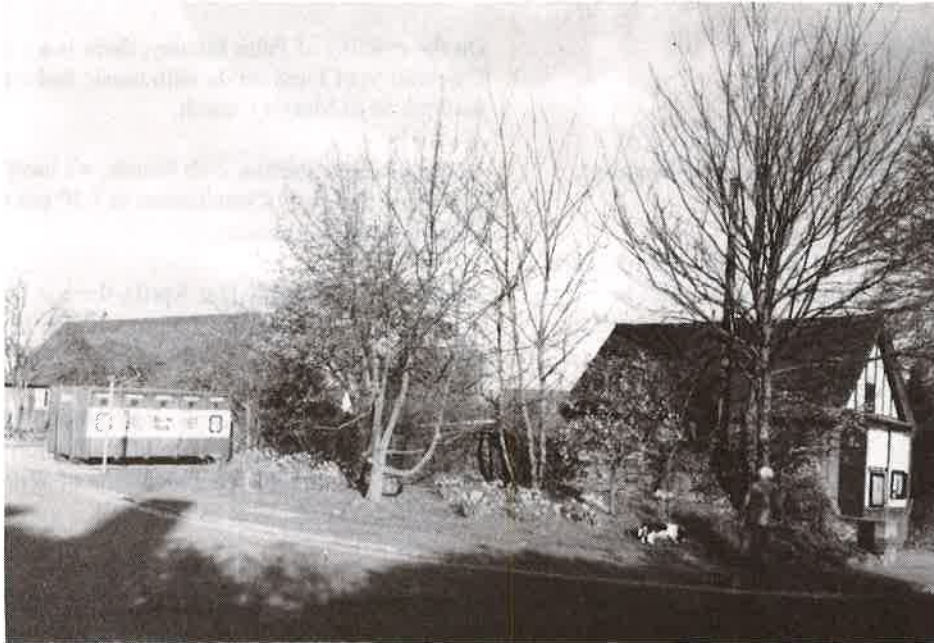


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Fair daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon

Robert Herrick



BEAUTY and UTILITY

Photograph by Ted Pretty

The old fire station was built by public subscription and opened with a golden key by Lady Blyth in 1928. It remained in use until the present fire station was opened in 1960. Since then it has been used by the Parish Council as a store.

The Library, effectively masked in this photograph, was built as the Stansted Telephone Exchange in 1935. The cheerful daffodils, more recently joined by a seat, complement the pleasing lines of two buildings which have successfully adapted to change. Pity about the Bottle Bank!

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15th April for publication on 2nd May

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

Lent - a personal view

Many Christians try to make Lent a special season of preparation for Easter - time for penitence and discipline, for self-examination and denial.

When I was a child I once gave up sweets and chocolates "for Lent". Every time I was offered a sweet I still took it, but I did not eat it. Instead, I placed it in a box with all the others I had collected, intending to indulge myself in a huge feast on Easter Day. However, by the time Easter arrived, my box contained a rather sad collection of tired-looking confectionery, all covered in a light coating of fluff and I threw it away. My "Lenten penance" certainly gave me a sense of having resisted temptation (and probably saved me some tooth decay), but it seems to have had little to do with the true spirit of Lent. There was, I suppose, discipline, but without the penitence. There was self-denial, but little evidence of self-examination.

Some years ago, the vicar of a church I used to attend decided to give up the use of the organ for Lent! I did not relish this idea and disliked the unaccompanied unison singing - it really was a Lenten penance (one which I am NOT recommending). However, the absolute JOY of singing with the organ on Easter Day will always be remembered (unlike my box of sticky sweets, which I prefer to forget!).

So, what is the true spirit of Lent? As always, Jesus shows us the way. During his 40 days in the wilderness he resolved his inner conflicts by being alone with his Father. Perhaps we could take one step in that same direction by allowing ourselves time and space for quiet prayer and open ourselves to God's voice. Who knows what we might hear.

O God, who art truth, make me one with Thee in everlasting love. I am oftentimes weary of hearing many things. In Thee is all that I will and desire. Let the learned hold their peace, and all creatures keep silent in Thy sight; do Thou speak to me alone.

(Thomas a Kempis)

Kathryn West

Services for March, Holy Week and Easter

Sundays

8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am Parish Communion
11 am Mothering Sunday Family Service
(March 14)
6.30 pm Evening Service (not March 21)
CTS Agape URC Hall (March 21)

Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Prayers, except in Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, the 9.30 am Parish Communion starts with a procession into church from the church hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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



REGISTERS

Baptism

STEVENS, Madeleine Olivia Dicker, on 17th January 1999

Funerals

KEMPTON, Charles William, aged 86. Died 28th December 1998

WEDLOCK, Joan, aged 78. Died 31st December 1998
GRAVES, Harold William, aged 67. Died 9th January 1999

ROBINSON, Michael William, aged 62. Died 28th January 1999

CUNDALL, Florence Pamela, aged 88. Died 31st January 1999

Society of Friends

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

February is an unpredictable month, sometimes cold and snowy often grey and wet with perhaps a little sun. Always a beckoning month, the snowdrops cheer us and other bulbs show new shoots. Daffodils, this year, are well into bud. March can be a disappointment, promise not yet fulfilled, harsh winds and daffodils blown flat. However, lighter days and warmer times ahead. I like the following poem written by an Attender at our Meeting who died at the end of 1997. It captures a moment of this time of the year.

A duteous gardener
tending so small a plot
Would have found autumn-time
to clear the dross,
to face the new year clean -
But I did not!

Now February's come
Close by my window, still
this evening primrose wreck,
Spiked seed pods brown and dead,
and on them suddenly
a linnet feeding,
sunlit his rosy head.

The gross unfairness!
If I'd done as I ought,
that linnet would have sought
a different ploy
lunched at some other place.
And I'd have lost
an instant of pure joy.

(Amy Taylor)

Mary Rice



SHALOM

March 8th Lenten Meditation
led by Edna Goreing
Venue: 4 Greenfields

March 22nd Agape
Venue: 7 Blythwood Gardens

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 March

7th Mr John Banks
14th Miss Jean Hay
21st Rev John Graham - Holy Communion
6.30 pm United Agape at United Reformed
Church Hall
28th Mr Jerry Heyhoe

Church Council meeting Friday 19th March at 8 pm

Diary

21st at 6.30 pm - United Agape at United Reform Church
Hall.

Christian Aid

What have the Dalai Lama, Lenny Henry, Robbie Williams and Dame Judi Dench got in common? They and thousands of others have signed the Jubilee 2000 petition for debt cancellation for about 50 of the poorest countries. If you have not yet signed please do so before June, when the petitions will be handed to the world leaders at the G8 summit in Cologne. I have petitions if you wish to sign.

We did it! Thousands of Christian Aid campaigners, including Stansted church members, have been collecting and handing in till receipts to supermarkets. Fifteen million pounds worth of till receipts have persuaded three major supermarkets - Coop, Sainsbury and Somerfield - to sign the *Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)*, and Tesco is expected to join soon. The ETI ensures that all own branded lines are guaranteed to come from suppliers who give their workers a fair deal. If you would like to send a congratulatory postcard to your local supermarket, please let me know. If you shop at the supermarkets that have not yet joined - Asda, Iceland, Marks and Spencer, Safeway and Waitrose - perhaps you would like to hand in a postcard, accompanied by a till receipt, saying "Don't get left behind".

Fairtrade Fortnight 1-14 March. If you have not yet tried Fairly Traded tea, coffee and chocolate, watch out for the promotions in these two weeks.

Catherine Dean
Tel. 813579

Christian Aid Week is 9-15 May. Watch this space for more details.

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 March

7th 11 am Mrs Rosemary Scarrow
14th 11 am Rev Joyce Benfield
21st 11 am Mr Malcolm Fyfe
6.30 pm Agape arranged by C.T.S.
in the Lecture Hall
28th 11 am Rev Lydia Rapkin: Communion

I found the following poem in a book given to me at Christmas. It was a book of Favourite Prayers chosen by people from all walks of life. This particular one was a favourite of an Innkeeper. Maybe the first two lines have an extra meaning for him but I'm sure it applies to us all.

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord,
With a sense to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, Good Lord,
To keep the pure and good in sight
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled,
But finds a way to set it right.
Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine, or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called "I".
Give me a sense of humour, Lord.
Give me the grace to see a joke.
To get some happiness in life,
And pass it on to other folk.

(Sir Thomas Moore)

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)

Confessions on Saturday after 9.30 in ass

In Memorium

Michael William Robinson 1936 - 1999

Michael eldest son of Mr & Mrs William Robinson, was a lifelong resident of Stansted Mountfitchet. St. Mary's C of E Primary and Newport Grammar Schools laid well the foundation for his education. Michael joined Wm Robinson & Son, the well known family firm of Builders and Contractors, working out of the workshops and yard in Woodfield Terrace. Many varied projects involving noted and prominent buildings received their direct attention, which afforded Michael great local understanding and knowledge.

Apart from his time given to National Service, he remained with the firm until the eventual closure, whereupon he started his own business thus being able to continue his loyal service to both old and new customers.

Michael's early interests were varied and included the Boy Scouts, church and choir and later bell ringing where he met his future wife Jean. They were blessed with daughters Jane and Joanne and later became devoted grandparents.

Michael was an avid philatelist, keen gardener, football supporter, often attending professional matches, or perhaps could be found listening to the radio broadcast Saturday match whilst gardening.

Michael's other great love was the fire service and he became a fireman with Essex County Fire Brigade at Stansted in 1959, again extending a long family tradition whose service totalled beyond 120 years. Promoted to Sub Officer in 1967 Michael was to give great devotion, dedication and attention to detail towards all fire brigade matters, responding to fire and other emergency calls from both the old 1928 station and from 1960 the new fire station. He remained Officer in Charge until his brigade retirement in 1991.

Throughout his many local interests and activities and by whichever address Michael was known, he always remained a gentleman and will forever be remembered as much to those privileged to have known him.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fr. Joe White was welcomed to the January meeting. The present Roman Catholic Church building in Stansted was opened about 40 years ago and we heard of the events in the area leading to this. With the aid of colourful maps, he supplied much interesting background information on the historic development of the Church in the British Isles.

In March we will hear about the work of the Essex County Record Office and in April a visit has been arranged to the Rhodes Museum in Bishop's Stortford. For further details please contact Peggy Honour, 813160.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'God's Tender Touch'

2 pm Friday 5th March
St John's Church

Speaker Mrs Janet Hollis

Everyone Welcome
(ladies & men)

HOMEMADE CAKES

10.00 am

Sat 6th March

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



THE VILLAGE
MUSIC CLUB

UTTLESFORDE ORCHESTRA

Rossini, Beethoven & Mendelssohn

8 pm Sat 6th March

St John's Church

Pre-concert suppers at 'The Cock' 10% discount
- advance booking essential, tel 812964

Tickets - Sonia Levy 815282 and on door
£7 adults £5 concessions £3 children

VILLAGE EVENTS

March

1	Mon	Fair Trade fortnight begins	
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Fri	World Day of Prayer	St John's Church 2 pm
6	Sat	Cake Stall Uttlesforde Orchestra	Outside URC 10 am St John's Church 8 pm
8	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
10	Wed	W I Coffee Morning Stort Valley Schools Trust	Day Centre 10.30 am - noon St John's Church Hall 8p.m.
11	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Fri	MP's Interview Time	Council Offices 5.45 - 6.30 pm
15	Mon - 18 Thu		Skip at Crafton Green
16	Tue	Millers AGM	Day Centre 7.45 pm
17	Wed	RBL Women Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 10.30 am - noon Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Sat	NCT Nearly New Sale Rainbow Trivia Night	St John's Hall 2 pm St John's Hall 8 pm
22	Mon	Shalom Agape	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
24	Wed	Tennis Club AGM Annual Parish Meeting	105 Cambridge Road 8 pm Day Centre 8 pm
25	Thu	Fashion Show	Bentfield School 8 pm
29	Mon	NCT Easter Party	St John's Hall 2.30 pm

April

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
5	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
18	Sun	Parish Clean Up	Meet Council Offices 2 pm

Stansted Parish Council Skip Dates

Mon - Thurs	Weekends	Mon - Thurs
15 - 18 March	10 am - 3.30 pm only	19 - 22 April
10 - 13 May	29 - 30 May	21 - 24 June
19 - 22 July	7 - 8 August	6 - 9 Sept

Stansted Evening WI 

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of the Meningitis Trust

10.30 am Wed 10th March

Day Centre, Crafton Green

Raffle ~ Cakes ~ Bring & Buy

Admission 50p incl refreshments

Uttlesford Carers &
Alzheimer's Disease Society

CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

A discussion of carers' issues
over a cup of tea & biscuits

2 - 4 pm Thursday 11th March

Quaker Meeting House

Everyone welcome

Tel 01371 875810 / 872519



Royal British Legion
Women's Section

Coffee Morning

10.30 am Wed 17th March

Stansted Day Centre

Raffle - Bric-a-brac - Cakes - Tombola

Please come and support us!



QUIZ NIGHT

CHURCHES TOGETHER
in aid of
Chevetogne
Exchange Visit

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

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



Royal British
Legion

Afternoon Tea

3pm Wednesday 14th April
Stansted Day Centre

Tickets £2.50

(see RBL entry for ticket sellers)

EVERYONE WELCOME

Bentfield School PTA Ladies Fashion Show

Leading High St brands for sale
up to 50% off ~ not seconds

8 pm Thurs 25th March

Tickets £2.50 incl glass wine

Advance booking desirable ~ please
tel Michaela 815796 or Mandy 816895

Licensed Bar ~ All Welcome

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

Any Questions??

A reminder that our annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th March 1999** in the Day Centre at 8 pm. We have decided against a formal speaker this year and would rather hear from members of our community with their complaints, suggestions and general queries! We hope to have representatives of the Highways and Planning Departments present, along with representatives of the local Police and Stansted Airport.

As an added attraction, and along with the usual tea and buns, UNWINS have very kindly agreed to undertake a wine-tasting session at the end of the meeting. We are grateful to them for their community spirit.

Spring Clean

Despite a poor turn out for the autumn event, we have decided to have one last attempt at encouraging people to turn out and clean up the village. Whilst we do employ a litter collector there are many parts of the village which are not on Peter's rota and require more pairs of hands. Please come along and support us on **Sunday 18th April**, meeting at 2 pm at the Council Offices - tea and buns in the Day Centre at 4 pm for those who last the course!!

Rubbish Skip

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the confusion over the February skip. We have to book this facility months in advance but were told on the Friday previously that the car park would be resurfaced during the week when the skip was due. We made arrangements to have the skip removed on the Tuesday for resurfacing to start on Wednesday but it snowed and the work was postponed, so we were left with no skip and no resurfacing. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Next skip dates:

Monday 19 - Thursday 22 April
Monday 10 - Thursday 13 May.



St Clare Hospice

SAINT CLARE HOSPICE TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

St Clare Hospice are pleased to announce a very successful "Light up a Life" held during December 1998 in four locations within our area (Harlow, Hastingwood, Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow). The event raised a grand total of £5524.00 and St Clare Hospice would like to thank everybody concerned for their help and support in making this event so memorable.

We would also like to thank everybody who supported the St Clare Hospice Christmas Bell Collection, by either making a donation for a Bell or by giving their time to help with the street collections. We raised a total of £4384.41 from seven collections.

Once again we held very successful Christmas Craft Fayres in Epping and Great Dunmow and both of these events were well supported.

Finally, building work on the 8-bedded in-patient unit is well under way, despite the bad weather, and should be completed by late 1999. The Capital Appeal to date has raised £1.3m.

St Clare Hospice would like to say a very big thank you to everybody who so kindly gave their help and support during 1998 and best wishes to all for 1999.

Emma James
Publicity and Promotions



The children have been studying the weather and they have made wind chimes and bird food for their gardens. Edible projects included making bread pudding and growing cress. The last week of the half term was spent on a Chinese theme making Chinese lanterns and hats, eating noodles with chopsticks and making a dragon.

Preparations are not under way for Easter, with concerts for parents and carers to be held on 25 and 26 March. The committee is organising a Trivia Night on Saturday 20 March at 8 pm. This is a ticket only event so please make enquiries to Ann Conroy (812457).





BUSY MR BOUNCER

It was very mysterious. Mr. Bouncer had been away for 2 days and nights. Then when he came back the children hardly ever saw him, he was so busy. The Bouncer family lived under part of the old railway station but as they were quite small they did not need all the space and one end was left empty. That was where Mr. Benjamin Bouncer was working; and sawing and hammering noises could be heard for much of the day. Billy and Bertie saw him going in one morning with some pieces of polished wood. He was humming to himself and looked very pleased. "The builder was going to burn these," he called, "but they are just what I want." The children were not allowed in the builder's yard; it was too dangerous, as Bertie had found out when he fell into a hole one day. They were most certainly not allowed to turn over the pieces of wood the builder had put out for a bonfire, as some were jagged and had splinters, and others had old nails sticking out.



One day Mr. Bouncer said, "You can come now and see what I have been doing." Another door had been put in under the platform, leading to a small hallway. One big and two small rooms led from this. In the large room were rows of little tables and chairs and a blackboard on the wall. "It's a school!" shouted Billy, "Are you going to be teacher, Dad?" "No," said Mr. Bouncer, "Uncle Robert is coming to live here. He will have a bedroom and sitting room of his own and have his meals with us."

Then Mr. Bouncer went off in the truck for another two days and nights and returned with Uncle Robert and all his furniture and things. Mrs. Bouncer was pleased to see her brother. "He is not good at making things like your father," she told the children, "but he is very clever and knows such a lot that he will be a good schoolmaster." Mr. Bouncer was tired after such hard work so he had a few days off to help Uncle Robert settle in and discuss how the school was going to be run. "When you are in the classroom, you must call your Uncle Robert 'Mr. Rolly' like the other children," the young Bouncers were told.



Word soon spread that a school was to be opened and the first to join were the little field mice. "I did so wish for a school," said Matilda Mouse, "and now it is coming true."

... X Y Z

Neil is nice

Olga is ordinary

Peter is perfect

Queenie is quiet

Robert is restless

Susan is sensible

Terry is terrible

Una is unhappy

Victor is violent

Wendy is wise

Xeres is xenophobic

(that one is hard!)

Yolanda is yearning

Zena is zany



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

The Village Music Club presents the last concert of its 1998-99 season on Saturday 6th March at 8 pm in St John's Church, Stansted. The concert features the Uttlesforde Orchestra conducted by Harry Curtis in a programme consisting of Rossini's Tancredi Overture, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with soloist Sally Jackson, and Beethoven's Symphony No 7 in A major. Ticket prices are £7 adult, £3 children, £5 concessions and member's children at £1. Tickets are available in advance from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 812019), Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282) and at the door.

For concert goers wishing to have a meal beforehand, The Cock in Silver Street, Stansted, is offering a Village Music Club Special of pre-concert suppers from 6.30 pm at a discount of 10% of normal prices. However, it is essential that these suppers are booked in advance (01279 812964) as Jean and Trevor will be opening especially early for concert goers.

Finally, The Village Music Club will this year be repeating the summer event of its first season by holding a Summer Soiree of music with supper on the evening of Saturday 3rd July at 6 pm in St John's Church, Stansted. Details will be available at the concert on 6th March. Details will also be given in future issues of this publication.



LAW SOCIETY'S MAKE A WILL WEEK 22nd-27th MARCH 1999

Your WILL to give to those you hold dear
and your favourite charities

POTHECARY & BARRATT SOLICITORS

Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 506421

will give **£5.00** for each Will
made during Will Week to

St Clare Hospice/Isabel Hospice

A member of staff from Pothecarary & Barratt
will also be available in Pearsons Department Store
during Will Week 10am-3pm



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

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

This has been arranged by the Local Services Committee (Benevolent Fund), which is a joint venture with the Women's Section and other interested parties. Everyone will be most welcome and we hope many people in the village will support this event. The cost will be £2.50 to cover all refreshments. tickets will be available from:

Mrs C Whall, 59 Mountfitchet Road, 813880
Mrs B Scarr, 63 Lower Street, 813080
Mrs D Thistle, 15 Burnells Way, 813250
Mr Bob Stoddart, 38 Sunnyside, 814015
Mr E T Laird, 1 Water Lane, 813458

Branch Standard Bearer

We are seeking a person to fill this position. it is not onerous, turning out, say, 4 to 5 times a year, but every year on Remembrance Sunday. Any ex-serviceman or woman or any fit person would be most welcome to accept this task. Training in the ritual would be given; it is not difficult.

Membership

We know that there are many ex-serviceman and women in the district, most of who are not members of the Legion. Please consider joining us. If we had more members we would have more functions.

In all cases please contact either Bob Stoddart, 814015 or John Segar, 813289, for more details.



Royal British Legion Women's Section

On Wednesday 17th March we are holding a Coffee Morning from 10.30 am in the Day Centre - Raffle, Cakes, Tombola, Bric-a-Brac - please come and support us.

On Thursday 18th March at our normal branch meeting in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm, our speaker will be Mr Ketteridge from "Crossroads". We warmly welcome visitors at 50p.

Pat Clower

Stansted Profile no 10

Sonia Levy

By some standards, Sonia is a relative newcomer to Stansted having lived in the village for a mere twelve years. However, in this time she has made a large circle of friends and plays a very active part in village life.

Sonia was born in East London, one of a pair of non-identical twins and has a brother sixteen months older. Her father, a taxi driver, died when she was only seven. He was an immensely popular man and when he died his colleagues collected £1000 to give to his family. With great foresight, Sonia's mother spent £350 of this money on a Steinway grand piano, the very same piano that Sonia still has in her house on Chapel Hill. Sonia and her sister Sophie had started piano lessons at the age of six and the twins were popular performers of piano duets at local festivals and concerts - a bit of a circus act, in Sonia's words!

At the age of ten, both girls gained exhibitions to the Royal College of Music where they attended classes in violin, 'cello and piano on Saturdays. They then went on to study at Ilford High School where Sonia stayed on until the first year of the 6th Form when she won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music. Here she was able to pursue her love of accompanying and chamber music. She studied at the Guildhall for six years, four full time and two part time, winning during this time all the prizes for accompanying and chamber music, as well as many solo prizes. In addition, she acted as an official accompanist for the Guildhall for five years and held a part-time teaching post at Trent Park College (later Middlesex Polytechnic).

Sonia was married at twenty one to Jim Parker, then an oboe player for the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra but who is now well known as a writer for television for such programmes as "Soldier Soldier" and more recently "A Very English Marriage". They had a daughter, Louise, who is married with two daughters and lives in Dunmow. Danielle, Sonia's younger daughter, was born during her second marriage to an academic, but by the age of twenty-seven Sonia found herself bringing up her family alone. During this time music did not play a large part in her life but to help make both ends meet she did office work and directors' lunches having as a girl taught herself to cook. Apparently her mother was hopeless at cooking and Sonia was always hungry!

In 1987 Sonia left her flat in Maida Vale and made what she feels was the best decision of her life by buying a house on Chapel Hill. When she first arrived in the village she took a part-time job as cook at Orford House, working there for six years until she decided to resume piano teaching.

For quite a number of years Sonia had dreamed of starting a music club with a regular series of subscription concerts. She is particularly excited, therefore, by the progress of the Village Music Club which she helped to form three years ago and which is going from strength to strength since its inauguration. It is now very much part of the village calendar and with around one hundred members, the concerts attract enthusiastic audiences from Stansted and the surrounding villages.

Sonia is on the Helpline committee, plays the violin in the Uttlesforde Orchestra and regularly gives concerts with fellow musicians. She has become a well-loved friend to so many people; she has taught numerous youngsters the piano and given pleasure to many with her concerts. She also continues to use her talent for cooking, not only by catering for many village events, including weddings and anniversaries, but also in her entertaining at home. Her New Year's Eve Party in mid-summer is legendary. The sun always shines and her friends from the village and from further afield pack the house and garden to enjoy her food and wine. In her twelve years in Stansted Sonia has surely become one of the true residents of the village!

Sonia only discovered her talent for gardening when she came to the village and created her now beautiful garden, which regularly wins a prize in the annual Parish Council "Stansted in Bloom" competition. She also has a conservatory always bright with flowers, no matter what the time of year.

Sonia, who is the most hospitable of people, always enjoys having her house full of friends. Her home is the centre of social life on The Hill - she frequently has "Hag Nights" - no "Stags", for her neighbours and each year now holds a Worst Christmas Present Competition! "You should see them!"

Elizabeth Wagener



STORT VALLEY SCHOOLS TRUST

We'll be meeting to PRAY for SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

8 p.m. **Wednesday 10th March**

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

We'll pray for local and national issues and for all involved in education today

Coffee & biscuits, chat & prayer ... please join us if you share our concerns

If you would like more information please telephone Vicki on 01279 461367

Supported by Churches Together in Stansted

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Eight Steps of Charity

- 1 One who gives to the poor, but with bad grace
- 2 One who gives with a good grace, but not enough
- 3 One who gives enough, but only after being asked
- 4 One who gives without being asked
- 5 One who gives without knowing who will benefit from the gift
- 6 One who gives without the beneficiary of the gift knowing who is helping
- 7 One who gives without knowing the beneficiary, *and* without the beneficiary knowing the donor
- 8 One who fights poverty by giving the poor the means to escape from their condition

E.F.T.



Lent Housegroups 1999

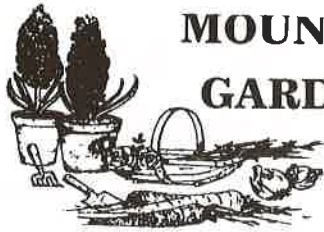
'Catching the Dream'

You are warmly invited to join one of the discussion groups meeting each week from 23rd Feb - 19th March

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| 8 pm Tue | 49 Recreation Ground led by Catherine Dean |
| 2 pm Wed | 5 St John's Lane led by Revd Andrew Spurr |
| 8 pm Fri | 4 Greenfields led by Dave Morson |

The Lenten Series ends with a joint Agape in the URC Hall on Sunday 21st March at 6.30 pm - everyone welcome

For further details see under Churches Together in Stansted



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At our meeting on February 3rd at the Day Centre, the speaker was Mr Philip James from the Vernon Geranium Nursery talking on Geraniums and Pelargoniums with advice on the different types and their care. It was a very instructive talk and with his asides, at times, an amusing one. The competition for a potted geranium was won by Bob Adamson.

The speaker for the meeting on March 3rd is Mr Steve Cannon on "Climbing and Unusual Plants". The competition is for a double polyanthus in a pot.

Cyril Stoneham



STANSTED FUN RUN



STANSTED

**PRINTER
CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING
PROJECT**



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

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

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

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



Thank you for your help

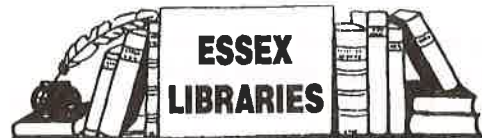


Huw Johnson Club

Plans are already in hand for our 25th birthday party on December 3rd 1999. It seems impossible that we have been up and running so long. We still have members who have been with us since day one and with 26 disabled members, who knows, we may even reach our Golden Jubilee.

By the time this goes to press we will have enjoyed another disco with Gary as we celebrate Joanne's birthday and we will be looking forward to Andrew's disco in March. A big thank you to Joanne's and Andrew's families for funding these events. Everyone at the Club (well almost everyone) enjoys a disco with Gary King.

We have welcomed three new teenagers into the Club. Two of them are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the third is following in the footsteps of his older brother and sister who also helped in the Club. Usually our teenagers are girls but we are delighted to have three boys. Welcome to the Club Philip, Jonathan and James.



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

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

Telephone No. 01279 815149

COMMENDATION

The Link was Highly Commended in the 1998 Essex Rural Community Council's Village Magazine Competition. This is the second consecutive year in which the award was given to our magazine, Some 52 magazines took part, many for the first time. The Link Committee is grateful to all the helpers, over 70 of you, who contribute each month to its production. We also thank the advertisers whose financial input is appreciated.



Hello again.

Well here we are already in February and nearly half term week. Since our last newsletter two members of staff have successfully completed a Diploma course in Pre-school Practice which means we now have four qualified staff members.

We have been busy doing "Hand Print" table mats for parents to keep as a reminder of their child's time at Sideways and to raise money for new equipment.

This term the topic has been Toys. We have looked at Grandparents' toys, modern toys, favourite toys and have made a life-size Jack in a Box and some wooden spoon puppets.

Next half term we will be learning all about Baby Animals, eggs, chicks, bunnies and lambing time; all of which will link in with Easter.

With the fund raising money from the Smartie tubes we bought a huge colourful Abacus to help the children with counting and recognising colours.

As always we welcome all children from 2½ - rising 5 to come and play any day, Monday to Friday, from 9 o'clock till 12 noon. Parents/carers are also welcome to come in for a look around and a chat.

We look forward to seeing you.



Recipe of the Month

Russian Cheesecake

8oz / 225gm cream cheese
2oz / 57gm unsalted butter
¼ pint / 150ml sour cream
2oz / 57gm caster sugar
1oz / 28gm flaked/chopped almonds
1oz / 28gm glacé cherries
4oz / 113gm sultanas
4 trifle sponges
2 tablespoons / 30ml orange or lemon juice

- (a) beat cheese and butter together
- (b) add sour cream, almonds, cherries, sultanas & sugar
- (c) line a loaf tin
- (d) press mixture evenly into tin
- (e) cover with sponges, cut to fit
- (f) sprinkle with fruit juice
- (g) put in freezer overnight
- (h) turn out one hour before serving



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our February speaker Leslie Markham told members of his experiences at the age of about 7 in the 1930s when his father took him to Sunday markets in East Lane and Petticoat Lane in London. While his mother stayed at home to cook the Sunday lunch. Before reaching East Lane he would pass houses whose owners had set up their own stalls selling various items including plants wrapped in newspapers which, being wet, would slowly disintegrate. Mr Markham said, you wondered why you hadn't bought them last. Once in the market itself you could buy wood for making a wireless case along with the working parts and the instructions. Also sold were nails removed from packing cases straightened and packaged at 2d (old money) a pack. Crockery, pots and pans, fruit, so many items in a bag, but bananas were always sold separately and came on huge stems from which they were stripped. If mother wanted some new lino or a tin bath this had to be carried home on father's back as it would be too large to take on the bus, and after lunch mother would insist the place was cleared and the new lino put down. Petticoat Lane was the place to buy pets and most people had a caged bird, the cage having been bought in East Lane. To keep you going while in the market you could buy a glass of Sarsaparilla or even get a tip on the horses from Prince Monolulu. It was a most interesting talk.

During business members learnt that a profit of £200 had been made at our Jumble Sale.

Looking to the future we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of "The Meningitis Trust" on March 10th, 10.30 am in the Day Centre, with a home made cake stall - raffle and bring and buy. We hope to raise a good amount for this worthy and currently in the news charity. Entry will be 50p including refreshments.

A number of our members will be attending a pottery course at Castle Hedingham in April. We were encouraged by one of last year's speakers who talked about and demonstrated the pottery he and his wife made.

Two of our members, Rosemary Minshull and Pearl Wellings will be modelling "Hamels" designs at our "Counties" Fashion Show, which is being staged at Grays in April.

Plans are ahead for us to stage a co-operative entry in our County Annual Show at the beginning of July when we also hope to enter some of the individual classes.

Keeping up the theme of 'Markets' we had our own "Spring Sale" trading stall where members were able to sell off unwanted items.

We rounded off the evening with a quiz entitled "Coffee Pots" giving rise to much noise and strange answers. Claire Francis, Julia George and Vera Ansell organised this enjoyable social time for us.

Brenda Ryan
812725

STANSTED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

In this issue of 'The Link' we will be looking at just one of the teams that makes up '*Stansted Junior Football Club*'.

'Stansted Scorpions' Under 10's

The team evolved from a group of boys that originally started training together back in the spring of 1996. At this time it was run jointly by myself and Mike Moralee. There were about 20 boys and they covered the age groups of Under 7's and Under 8's. During the season of 1996/7 we progressed to playing a few friendlies, with some promising performances.

In the summer of 1997 we split away from the younger boys; they became the 'Swifts' and we became the 'Scorpions'. This was done in preparation for the following season when both teams could enter leagues. The 1997/8 season saw us play in Division A of the Under 9's in the Harlow Mini-Soccer League. (This is a seven-a-side, scaled down version of the full game). We had mixed fortunes, finishing just below halfway in the league, but on our day could match the best teams in our division.

This season we have moved up to the full eleven-a-side version at Under 10 level. To date we have played 10 league games, winning 5 and losing 5.

Most of our boys come from within the village and a few from some of the smaller neighbouring villages. However, because of our small catchment area (compared to Harlow and Bishop's Stortford) we do have problems attracting and keeping enough boys. It does require a certain level of commitment from the boys and from the parents. *I mean, who wants to be standing in a muddy field with the rain pouring down on a cold Sunday morning when you could be lying in bed!*

Our squad recently dropped down to just 11 eligible boys, although we have recently attracted 4 new youngsters. We are trying to compete with the 'A' sides of clubs who can have up to 40 boys training with them, in two or three teams. Unfortunately it is a sad fact of junior football that size counts for as much as skill at this age. Obviously with a small squad we average out much smaller than most of our opponents and in the thick mud of winter size can often be the deciding factor.

I believe we have some very gifted and promising young players. We do try to play attractive passing football and I believe that we could go on and win some trophies over the next few years with a little bit of luck.

Whilst I have the opportunity I would like to add just a quick thank you to our kit sponsors, *AMPERSAND*, and the parents who help me with training, 'running the line', collecting money, etc. They know who they are.

If you have a child who would like to play for us or just to train on a Monday night please give me a call.

Tony Matthews
814668

'Appeal for Help

The club is non-profitmaking and is run for the benefit of the boys and therefore indirectly for the benefit of the local community. We are always looking for local companies who are willing to help support the club financially. This could be by sponsoring one of the teams or just by taking out adverts in our regular 'fanzine'.

We are also looking for people who can give up some of their spare time in helping to run the club. (We will need a new Chairman/woman soon).

If you can help in any way please speak to one of us.



THE SCORPIONS TEAM (Under 10's):

Back Row: Daniel Latchford, Mark Reed, Michael Mack, William Pacey, Jamie Matthews, James Ingram, Aaron Rogers

Front Row: Joe Kitchen, Ross Nash, Adam Ball, Luke Gobell, Dan Caton, Charlie Baxter
Not pictured: Richard Davies, Jenny Hayden, Jack Brennan, Huw Davies, Thomas Haggerty, Michael Hancock



STANSTED FUN RUN

This year's run is on Sunday 4th July, the day after the Carnival and we shall be donating the proceeds to **Water Aid, The National Alzheimer's Disease Society and HEAL Cancer Charity**. More details will be appearing in future editions of The Link but meanwhile we hope you will book the date. For those of you who are not so energetic, we are, as usual, looking for people to act as stewards on the day.

Our **Toner Recycling Project** is going very well - another big thank you to those who have already donated. There is a separate advertisement (giving fuller details) elsewhere in The Link.

Marion Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens
Tel. 814059



SITUATION VACANT

If you are good on the telephone and enjoy dealing with people and have a few hours to spare you may be interested to do the Advertising job for THE LINK that I've been doing for the past three years.

I shall be moving away and would like to hand over to someone who could enjoy the task as much as I do. No direct selling needed. Call me - Sheila M Parry, 814788.

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior coaching with Chris Hollis continues through the winter months. The classes are held on Saturday mornings at the following times:

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

In mid April Chris will be adding a Thursday afternoon session for the 7-10 group. If you would like to join in or would like further information please call Chris on 466973.

A very successful Curry Tournament was held in January. Thirteen hardy and enthusiastic players battled during the morning for places in the final. After a Cordon-bleu lunch, Richard Johnson and John Eyre defeated Keith Johnson and Matt Whitbread 6-3 in the final.

Used Tennis Balls

We currently have a huge supply of used tennis balls. We are selling a tube of four balls for the giveaway price of £1, so if you would like some please call Janet Hollis on 812073.

Stansted Tennis Club AGM

This will be held on Wednesday 24th March at 8.00 pm at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

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

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Advance booking essential - please telephone 01279 446556 for details and application form



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Although it is outside the normal opening season, it has been a busy time for the mill. The annual stocktaking, that thrilling event trying to find novel and more efficient ways of counting guide books, postcards and pens, etc., has shown that once more the mill merchandise sales were up on the previous year. More people came through the door too, with over 1600 visitors, so thanks to everyone who brought friends and family along and to everyone who helped contribute to the successful 1998 season!

We have had inspection visits from the architect and millwrights and we have agreed some maintenance work to the main brake mechanism. We are also developing some plans for the next stage of conservation and renovation work on the mill. If you want to know more you can come along to our annual meeting at the **Day Centre on Tuesday March 16th, 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm start.**

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

Opening Dates for April/May:

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

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The National Childbirth Trust Education for Parenthood

With spring just around the corner, the NCT programme is also bursting into life ready to fill those Easter holidays with a wide variety of activities for all age groups. Not to be missed for all age groups is the Easter Party with an entertainer at St John's Hall on Monday 29th March from 2.30 - 4.00 pm.

With the weather due to improve (!) why not come along to some of the outdoor meetings at the local playgrounds and Hatfield Forest and let the children run off some energy? Or maybe bring them along to one of the ride on toy sessions March 3rd at Henham Church Hall or on 8th April in St John's Hall, Stansted.

We don't forget the mums and dads either with both a "boys night out" and a "girls night out" planned at our local hosteleries which will give us all a chance to sit and exercise the grey matter without constant interruption!

Of course, if you are looking for a bargain, the place to be is St John's Hall on Saturday 20th March when we are holding our Nearly New Sale from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Not only for good second hand clothes (including maternity wear) but also nursery equipment, toys and sometimes buggies. Well worth a look whether you have tiny babies or a robust early school age child.

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STANSTED AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

These two photographs from yesteryear were taken in the Central Hall (now the Old Courthouse) and depict members of well-known Stansted families. The theatre aspect of local life has all but disappeared in the intervening years, but perhaps the Millenium should see a revival of a splendid tradition.



"THE ARCADIANs" 1937

D. White, C. Johnson, C. Smith, - Cawston

E Marden, N.Bentley, R Lankester, E.Mumford, B.Mitchell, E Camp, M Little, C.Johns, A Bradford. B Gray, W.Robinson, ?, P.Patmore
F.Millbank, W.E.Robinson, F.Gillam, K.Little, I.Hammond, J.Kitson, H.Seymour
N.Pearson, W.Banks, B.Hickman



"THE QUAKER GIRL" 1938

D.Hanson, R.Kitson, Davis?

-Livings, I.Robinson, T.Johnson, C.Smith, H.Seymour, W.Robinson, E.Mumford, C.Johns, A.Goodey, P.Gray, E.Robinson, P.Patmore,
M.Andrews, K.Little, B.Mitchell, R.Lankester, B.Gray, JKitson, I.Hammond, W.Banks, P.Hudgell W.E.Robinson. D.White
R.Mitchell, V.Shearing, N.Pearson, T.Banks

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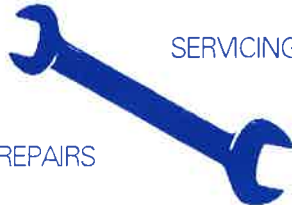
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