

May 99

# The LINK



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THE DARLING EVENTS OF MAY

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

Door to Door  
Envelope Collection  
9th - 15th May  
Please give generously



Market Stall  
10am - 12noon  
Sat 15th May  
Quaker Meeting House

**BENTFIELD SCHOOL  
MAY FAIR**

**Saturday 15th 2 - 5 pm**

Irish Dancing Bungy Run  
Fairground Organ  
Cream Teas  
Games  
Stalls

**NATIONAL MILLS DAY  
Sunday 9th**

Special  
Events  
at  
Stansted  
Windmill



Watch  
for posters

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

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill by  
13th May for publication on 30th May  
10th June for publication on 27th June**

# 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 May

2nd	11 am	Rev J Benfield
9th	11 am	Mr M Fyfe
	6.30 pm	CTS Service for Christian Aid Week in Quaker Meeting House
16th	11 am	Rev J Benfield - Communion
23rd	11 am	Mr J Banks
30th	11 am	Mr M Fyfe

Some thoughts on Psalms 10, 30 and 16, from the 'Revised English Bible' translation.

'I will never be shaken'. This statement, one of confidence and assurance, is repeated in three early Psalms in the Bible. The meaning of the words, however, in the context in which they are set, bear a very different interpretation in each case.

In Psalm 10 we see the psalmist pondering why it is that evil men seem to flourish in spite of their wickedness. Because they escape misfortune, in an arrogant fashion, they state that they will never be shaken. They think that God has failed to notice their actions, the pain and suffering they inflict on millions. Why should they worry, everything's alright with them?

But God has noticed. He has taken account of their wicked deeds. He listens as the psalmist pleads with him to look to the plight of the downtrodden, to break the power of the wicked, and not let them succeed in the pain they cause.

The psalmist comes to realise the ever comforting and secure truth that God is not indifferent to the victims of oppression. He has heard their cry and will give heed to them and those who boast that God has not noticed their wickedness will reap the punishment they deserve.

Psalm 30 uses the words 'I cannot be shaken' in a very different context.

The psalmist praises God for the security of his life. Things are going well and the world looks good. I felt secure and said 'I can never be shaken'. But then disaster struck. Probably a severe illness. Life suddenly changed and from living on the heights the psalmist plunged to the depths of despair. He'd failed to realise that life cannot always be lived on the heights. Circumstances change and trouble comes. The psalmist in his distress did the sensible thing, he cried to the Lord 'I cried to you and you healed me. You saved my life as I was sinking into the abyss'. He had come to see that in all of life he would never be shaken if he had God at its centre.

There's a story told of a man climbing a mountain with a guide. As he reached the summit he made to throw his arms up in awe and wonder at the beauty around him. The guide shouted at him 'Down sir'. The wind at the top could so easily have catapulted him over the edge and his moment of awe and wonder could so easily have become one of dreadful tragedy.

Psalm 16 is one of thanksgiving and praise to God, in whom the psalmist has placed his absolute and complete trust. Verse after verse speaks of the happiness of his lot. He is well content with his life in God. He knows the joys and sorrows that come to everyone in time, but he says 'I have set the Lord before me at all times. With him at my right hand I cannot be shaken'.

He can confidently say 'I will never be shaken', not in a boastful way, trusting in his own strength, but rather in the love of the one he knows is constantly involved in his life and will never leave him, but be his friend and companion for all that the future holds.

Lydia Rapkin

# 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 May

2nd	Christine Heyhoe
9th	Don McGregor
16th	Rev Harry Wood
23rd	Louise Dean
30th	Rev John Graham - Holy Communion

9th 6.30 pm Joint Service to celebrate the start of Christian Aid Week

14th Fellowship Meeting

# 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)

### Visit to Lourdes, 1999

Arriving at Tarbes Airport in bright spring sunshine we were soon on board our coach and heading for Lourdes situated in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

For some of us it was a first visit, for others a promised return.

We all had different hopes and expectations; to find healing, inner peace, a spiritual awakening or spiritual refreshment.

Lourdes has become a place of Pilgrimage ever since a peasant girl called Bernadette Soubirous saw a vision of a beautiful young lady on 18 occasions. After the fourth time, the lady spoke using the local dialect of Bernadette and said "I am the Immaculate Conception".

On arrival we were handed the 'Lourdes Pilgrim Prayerbook and Guide' which was to become a well thumbed friend over the course of the three days we were there.

On dipping into its depths we were encouraged to ask 'What is the true message of Lourdes?' It is a simple one, the same as we find in the Gospel if we take the time to look. It was summed up for us in four simple ideas; poverty, prayer, penance, participation.

Poverty calls us back to the simple life where true wealth lies, in the care of the sick and the disabled, and those on the margins of society.

Prayer is what is in our hearts; prayer can be pushing a wheelchair, singing, listening and socialising with other Pilgrims. Our lives can be an act of prayer, our daily actions offered to God.

Penance involves a change of heart, acknowledging that I am less than what God wants me to be.

Participation is easy in Lourdes, but we must also participate in building up our own churches at home.

The Church does not ask that we believe the events of Lourdes as part of our faith, but that the message of Lourdes is yet another echo and restatement of the Gospel precepts. The true spirit of Lourdes calls us back for a deeper appreciation of the Word of God.

We were also encouraged to enjoy the holiday aspects of the Pilgrimage; they are not meant to be dismal affairs but are about refreshment and regeneration.

Lourdes is set in beautiful countryside, the River Garue winds through the town and it is surrounded by snow-capped mountains.

There are many places of interest to visit. Some of us took the 'funiculaire' to the summit of the Pic du Jer, 1000m for an unimpeded view of the Pyrenees and valleys; some went to Gavanie, a village high in the Pyrenees where glaciers had formed deep gorges and valleys and we had spectacular view of peaks and waterfalls.

But the sights and sounds I will treasure most must be the excited groups of youngsters we encountered wherever we went, often very badly physically and mentally handicapped, but being given the opportunity to enjoy life and celebrate it as much as possible. On the buses there was the sound of singing and laughter and in the streets and cafes they were attended to like kings.

Our Sunday Mass at the Grotto, which was concelebrated by Father Joe, was prepared by a group from HCPT - Pilgrimage Trust - (no longer called Handicapped Childrens' Pilgrimage Trust) full of life and joy, our entrance hymn was:

'Come and Go with me to my Father's House, where there is joy, joy, joy.'

There is room for all in my Father's house  
Where there's joy, joy, joy.'

and there, the atmosphere was such that it was easy to accept the message we were given - 'God loves us all, with an unbelievable love'.

Eileen Quinn



RAP

Thank you to all who support RAP (Regular Aid for the Poor). I am pleased to report that so far this year we have been able to support our three charities by donations of £200 each.

Your continued support is much valued. If you have any friends who would also like to contribute to RAP, either by envelope donation or direct debit, please contact me on 850 109.

David Morson

## Millennium Candles

Bring and Buy/Coffee Morning, June 12th, 10-12, at the Meeting House, Chapel Hill (to raise funds for the distribution of candles).

More details in the June Link, but please make a note of the date now.

## CHEVETOGNE VISIT

**28th - 31st May**

Our Belgium visitors will be coming again at the end of May.

We are hoping to take them to Windsor on Saturday for the whole day and Sunday will be spent with the host families.

If anyone would like any further information about the visit or would like to host any of our visitors we would love to hear from you.

Tel: Eileen Quinn, 812109 or Francis Mercer, 813230.

## Postscript to the Lent Course

This year's Lent Course was based on the Millennium Resolution, and the title of one session was "Let there be Respect for the Earth". One of the many issues discussed was the proliferation of paper and members decided to find out how to cancel junk mail. So for those who wish to do the same, this is the phone number: 0345 0345 99, or you can write to:

MPS (Mailing Preference Service)  
Freepost 22  
London W1E 7EZ

Include your name, address and postcode.

It could take up to three months to stop some mail and cannot guarantee 100% success but I am certainly looking forward to saving a forest or two.

Catherine Dean

## CHRISTIAN AID MARKET

**Saturday 15th May**

**10 am - Noon**

**Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

### A Prayer for Christian Aid Week

*May our hands be your hands,  
O God,  
gathering in the harvest.  
May our feet be your feet,  
bringing good news for the poor.  
May our hearts be full of your  
compassion,  
inviting all whom we meet  
to open their heart too,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

Christian Aid Service. Sunday 9th May at 6.30 p.m.  
Friends Meeting House.

This united service launches Christian Aid Week in Stansted and all collectors are invited to attend.

This year's campaign logo - a large snail shell - is used by women in Mozambique to cut rice. The women used to have carry 8 stone bags of rice to market 15 miles away on their heads, but now thanks to Christian Aid supporting a local organisation, the women have joined an association of women farmers, who hire a tractor to transport the crop. The association also bags the rice from its members and sells it when the market is favourable thus ensuring a fair price and a fair reward for the women. It is this kind of project that Christian Aid supports all over the developing world, so that people may have LIFE BEFORE DEATH.



Come out of your shell for Christian Aid - volunteers are still needed for the envelope collection in Stansted - so if you have a few spare hours in May you could make a difference to somebody's life - come and join us. One volunteer enjoys it so much she is coming all the way from France to take part and is bringing a French friend to help as well!

**WALK THE CITY** - Sunday May 16th. Energy and shoe leather permitting, round off Christian Aid Week with a sponsored walk around the City of London churches. Go at your own pace and enjoy the 40+ fascinating churches in the square mile. Ask me for details.

Catherine Dean  
01279 813579





# 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

### Children in the Church

The other day when looking through some old papers I came across an old Parish Magazine dated December 1970. As I turned the pages I found an article written by my son, Huw, when he was eleven years old describing his visit to St Paul's Cathedral for the Centenary Service of the "National Society". He writes:

*"We arrived in London at 2.30 and we went in a taxi to St Paul's Cathedral. We went in but as it was very early we took the opportunity to look around. I noticed how high the building was and I looked down a circular hole at the crypt.*

*Then we were taken to our seats by a lady. We all sat near the front and I sat in my wheelchair in the aisle. Even though we sat there for an hour the time passed quickly. I spent the time looking at the dome and I realised that there was one dome on top of another. Then I saw the Archbishop of Canterbury walking in.*

*Then Evensong started with very beautiful music and singing, but we could not join in so I began to feel bored. The other children began to fidget and talk. When we sang "He who would valiant be" everybody sang very loudly.*

*The man who preached the sermon told us that we could either look at the paintings or count to 1997 twice by which time the sermon would be over, or eavesdrop on the sermon.*

*Then the Archbishop went to the altar to take the collection from the Sidesmen. Some of the money did not get to the altar as the men were still collecting. I thought it was funny because one bag was passed down the same row two or three times.*

*After the blessing the procession led out and the service as over. Mrs Ramsey walked out first with the Dean. She stopped and asked me if I had enjoyed the service. I said "Yes thank you" and she said "It was beautiful".*

*I thought the service was interesting and the music beautiful but there were about 400 children in the Cathedral and I think it would have been better if we had sung some more hymns. We could have had a talk for the children as well as a sermon for grown ups.*

Huw Johnson"

Reading about the service I began to think how things had changed since then. The number of children attending Church has dropped considerably, sport and TV proving a much more interesting way of spending Sunday morning. Yet, over the past 29 years great effort has been put into Family Services, with much child participation, the use of modern hymns and exciting new material written for Sunday School (now called more appropriately Children's Church); but these have done little to draw young people into the fold of the Church.

As we approach the year 2000 we should be praying for today's children who have so much to contend with; broken marriages and the availability of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. We should be praying for groups like the "Stort Valley Schools Trust" who are taking Christianity into the schools and who are finding a great thirst amongst the children for something spiritual to fill their lives. We should be encouraging everyone who is giving time to teach the children about the love of Jesus, which is offered to everyone who turns to 'Him'.

The Church has survived many storms over the past 2000 years and I believe the Church will go on surviving until God decides that the Church on earth has fulfilled its task. Until then, remember this: "Today's children are the 'Church of Today' and will be the Church of the Future" Pray for them.

Marion G Johnson

### Services for May:

#### Sundays:

8 am Holy Communion  
9.30 am Parish Communion  
11 am Family Service (16th May only)  
6.30 pm Evening Service

#### Wednesdays:

10 am Holy Communion  
7.30 pm Prayers

#### Ascension Day (Thursday, 13th May)

8 pm Parish Communion

#### Sunday May 30 Trinity

6.30 pm Choral Baptism and Confirmation  
by the Bishop of Colchester

### From the Registers:

#### Weddings

27th March John Philip Gibbs Eddy to  
Rebecca Louise Warner

#### Deaths

10th March Ena Goodes, aged 95  
15th March Les Rand  
31st March Stephanie Tupman, aged 28  
3rd April Doris Reed, aged 85

# Society of Friends

## Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday 11 am

### Memories of Stansted Quaker Meeting by Nancy Tennant

Now that the Quaker Meeting House is so much part of Stansted life used by many organisations for many different activities, I thought it might be of interest to Link readers to know a little about its past.

The earliest headstone is dated 1702 but we know that there were Quakers here before that as two of their descendants, whose forbears had gone to America in about 1640, came to see us not long ago.

When I joined the Society of Friends in 1947, the Meeting had moved to Elsenham, due, I believe, to the initiative of a splendid, if formidable, Miss Hill. We met in a dilapidated Nissan hut, almost asphyxiated in winter by the vagaries of a recalcitrant boiler. Besides Miss Hill, the pillars of the Meeting were the Strachan family from Bishop's Stortford and a Mr Kohn, who was then Manager of the London & Stansted Furniture Company. James Strachan spoke and looked like an Old Testament prophet. His wife, Laura, pedalled away on a squeaky harmonium when we sang hymns to keep the Strachan children happy. It was all very simple, but through its simplicity shone the essence of what a Quaker Meeting is about.

Gradually our numbers grew and in the last 50's it was decided to go back to the old Chapel in Stansted. This was not much more comfortable than the hut but we had good Meetings there. There was a splendid old lady who remembered driving from Saffron Walden every Sunday in a pony cart. After the Meeting she was taken over the road to the Greens' (of Greens Stores) family garden for a picnic under the beautiful old cedar tree, now alas cut down.

By the 60's, however, our increasing membership made it clear that we must have a new building. It was largely due to the courage of Dick and Ursula Clarke from Bishop's Stortford and Quarter Smith from Bardfield that the Meeting House, now so much in demand, became a reality.

The membership grew steadily, changes in society brought changes in the backgrounds of our members and in the ministry they gave, but though some of the simplicity had gone the fundamentals remained.

Our numbers now are very small, perhaps because silence has become so alien and even frightening for some, but to

those of us who are privileged to go to Meetings we find in the silence a sense of the presence of God, and strength for the living of our lives.

If there is anyone who would like to visit us on a Sunday morning at 11 a.m. they would be very welcome.

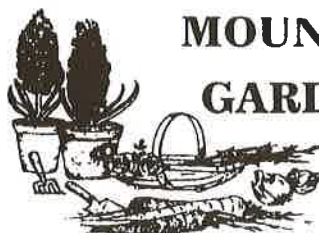


# SHALOM

May 10th Group discussion  
Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham  
led by David Morson

May 24th Discussion  
Quaker Meeting House  
led by Margaret Whitelaw

May 28th Chevetogne visitors arrive



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The club held their annual Spring Flower Show on Saturday March 27th. It was a very successful show especially for Janet and Brian Townsend, taking the Committee Shield for the most points in the show with Cyril Stoneham second and Gordon Fuller third. Brian also won the Oldfield Shield for the highest points in flowers, the Prentice Cup for the best daffodil exhibit, the Daffodil Society medal for the most points in the daffodil classes and a Daffodil Society Diploma. Janet won the Humphrey Vase for the best floral art exhibit. Gordon won the Maud Banks Tankard for the most points in the vegetable section and the Daffodil Society's Best Bloom Certificate. Cyril also won a Daffodil Society Diploma. One of the encouraging things about the show was that everybody who took part won something.

On Wednesday April 7th we held our monthly meeting at the Day Centre. The speaker was Mr Morris May talking about Violas of the World. Mr May, who has a nursery at Chertsey, currently holds one of the national collections of violas.

Following the talk we held our AGM, where it was announced that David Williams felt that the time had come when he would have to stand down as Chairman of the club. It was decided that we should make him President of the club and Janet Townsend would be Chairperson.

Our May meeting will be held on Wednesday May 5th when the speaker will be Mr Colin Horner who lives in Stansted and is one of our well known rose breeders. The competition is for one herbaceous flower.



**Stansted Windmill  
Open Days**



2 - 6 pm  
 Sunday 2nd May  
 Monday 3rd May  
 Sunday 9th May  
 Sunday 6th June



**St Mary's  
Church Open**

St Mary's (opposite the  
 Mountfitchet High School)  
 will be open to visitors  
**2 - 6pm Sunday 2nd May**  
 Everyone Welcome

**Christian Aid**  
 We believe in life before death

**MARKET**

10.00 am - 12 noon  
**Saturday 15th May**  
**Quaker Meeting House**

Toys, books, bric-à-brac, Traidcraft,  
 plants, cakes, refreshments

**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**May**

2	Sun	St Mary's Church Open	2 - 6 pm
2	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
3	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	District and Parish Council Elections Local History Society	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
9	Sun	National Mills day Christian Aid Week begins	Windmill open 2 - 6 pm
10	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall Henham 8 pm
10	Mon		
		to	
13	Thu	Skip at Railway Sidings	
13	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 for 7.45 pm
15	Sat	Christian Aid Market Bedding Plant Sale May Fair	Meeting House 10 am - noon Fire Station 10 am - noon Bentfield School 2 pm
16	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet Sch 8 am - noon
19	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
20	Thu	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
22	Sat	NCT Table Top Sale Green Waste Skip	St John's Hall 2 - 4 pm Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
24	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
30	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
31	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm

**June**

2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5	Sat	Cake Stall Jnr Football Club Evening	Outside URC 10 am Mountfitchet School 7 - 11 pm
6	Sun	St Mary's Church open Windmill open	2 - 6 pm 2 - 6 pm
5	Sat		
		to	
6	Sun	Skip at Railway Sidings	10 am - 3.30 pm
10	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
12	Sat	CTS Coffee Morning	Meeting House 10 am - noon

Mountfitchet High School  
**Car Boot Sale**

Sunday 16th May

8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments



Tel 01279 813384



**STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL**

**GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**

(for composting)

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

**Sat 22nd May & Sun 20th June**



**Stansted Junior  
Football Club**

**PRESENTATION NIGHT**

7 - 11 pm Sat 5th June

Mountfitchet High School

Bar ~ Disco ~ Raffle

Programmes - Tel 813769

**COFFEE MORNING  
BRING & BUY**

in aid of Millennium candle fund

**10am - noon Sat 12th June**



Quaker Meeting House

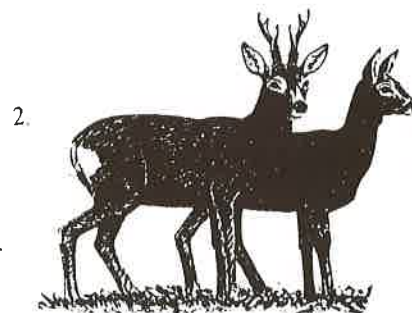
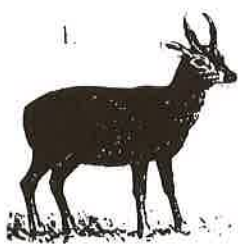
CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

All are  
welcome

## LOOK OUT - THERE ARE DEER ABOUT!

It was interesting to hear that a white deer had been seen in Stansted earlier this year. White ones are not very common but it is not unusual for deer to come into Stansted. There are four kinds of deer in Essex that are all increasing in numbers.

1. Muntjac. These are small brown deer, about the size of a large dog. They like to nibble trees and shrubs, nuts and mushrooms, and flowers as well. The first ones were brought here from China and there are now many of them in this area.

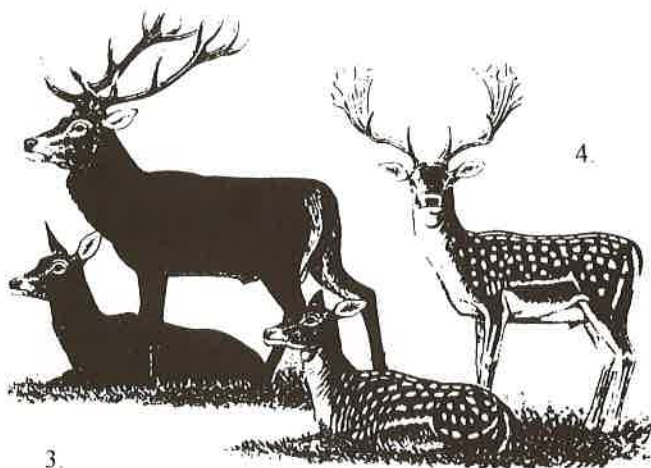


2. Roe. Another brown animal with a white or buff colour patch around the tail which shows up as they bound away when disturbed.

All baby deer have spots on them and if Mum goes away to feed they curl up in a sheltered place and lie quietly until she comes back. Their spots camouflage them, which means they do not show up easily, but if you do see a baby deer, do not go near or do anything to frighten it as Mum is probably not far away and will return soon.

3. Red. They are the biggest of our land animals and are reddish-brown in summer and a dull brown in winter. They eat grass and young shoots of trees and bushes and also like mushrooms and nuts.

4. Fallow. These are usually brown with a varying number of white spots but can be black or white. They eat grass and also leaves and fruit from bushes and enjoy acorns.



Muntjac deer have often been seen in Stansted gardens and Fallow deer in nearby fields, so do look out for them.



# Stansted Junior Football Club

The club is now heading towards the end of a long season, which has been hard hit by poor weather. It has been a great year for the Juniors, particularly as our most senior side have finished champions of the Under 16's League. **Stansted Crusaders**, who are managed by Greg Wood, not only won their respective league but are hoping to finish off in great style with a cup final at Harlow Sport Centre and the possibility of a double. As I write there are still some fixtures to be played for the rest of the teams but all the boys have done themselves proud and our thanks go to the parents for their continued support.

And so on to our presentation night. As always we are looking for local companies to help us with sponsoring or advertising in our programme. Please call any number below if you are interested or are able to donate a raffle prize. We have also got to say farewell, sadly, to two long standing club managers/committee members - Dick Moore and Greg Wood. Between them they have served nearly 17 years for the club.

Dick has lived in Stansted all his life and became manager of Stansted Continentals some 8 years ago. The team, who were sponsored by the local Saab garage, who share the same name, always finished in a healthy position, best being runners up. They also got to the last 8 of the East Anglian cup, which was no mean feat as the competition starts with over 300 competing teams. Along with his wife, Lorraine, they both have raised thousands of pounds for the benefit of all the boys at the club, with many fund-raising events. Three years ago Dick was elected Chairman, a role he has fulfilled with great enthusiasm and he ensured the club ran smoothly. We would like to wish them both all the very best for the future and hope they enjoy next year following their favourite club, Leyton Orient.

Greg, similar to Dick, has spent his life in the Stansted/Stortford area. A very keen all round sportsman, Greg is involved with the local cricket club too. Greg was asked to run the Crusaders 8 years ago and has continued ever since. Along the way he has picked up several championships and made it to 3 Cup Finals, a record of which the club is very proud. Greg was elected club Secretary 3 years ago and only retired late last season. The job of club secretary involves endless amounts of paperwork and phone calls to make sure each team has it's fixtures lists as soon as possible. Add that to attending meetings and course, it certainly takes dedication. A keen follower of Leeds United, Greg will be missed for everything he has given to the club and once again we all would like to wish him the very best for the future. The club is starting a new Under 6 team (must be 6 by August 31) to encourage all the local boys to play football and enjoy it. All welcome, call Mike on 01279 814603.

**STANSTED JUNIORS' PRESENTATION NIGHT IS ON JUNE 5TH AT THE MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL.**

**7 pm - 11 pm. Licensed bar - disco - raffle - Entrance via programme, call below or see managers for details.**

If your son is interested in playing football then don't miss out, call the club on any of the following numbers:

Glyn Warwick: Spartans U7s + Comets U11s, tel. 01279 815851

Mike Moralee: Swifts U9s + new under 6s training, tel. 01279 814603

Tony Matthews: Scorpions U10s, tel. 01279 814668

Daniel Haylett: Santos U12s, tel. 01279 815103

Dick Moore, tel. 01279 816975

Greg Wood, tel. 01279 813743

Advertising/donations, Luke Pearman, tel. 01279 813769

In this issue of The Link, we would like to cover the Crusaders and their manager, Greg Wood - sponsored by Temple Garage, Harlow.

Stansted Crusaders started out as an Under 9s side playing just friendlies. They then entered the Bishop's Stortford & District League the following year, at the end of the season they finished 4th from bottom in the league but showed progress throughout the season. At Under 11s the progress continued and they finished in the top half of the league. In 1994 Crusaders became the first Stansted side to join the Harlow Rec. League and in that year finally got reward for the hard work on and off the field by finishing runners-up in both League and Cup.

A year later they went one better winning both. At the under 14s level they again finished runners-up in the Cup and a creditable 4th in the League. Last year they bounced back in fantastic style, winning the League by 7 clear points, without losing a game; in fact, only one draw deprived them of a 100% record. They have also reached the Cup Final, which was played on April 18th at Harlow Sport Centre. Finally, as a manager and one-time Secretary of Stansted Youth, I do hope that as a junior club Stansted continue to flourish and with luck enjoy success as well. Greg Wood

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

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

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



# Stansted Profile no 12

## Nurse Florence Patmore

Florence was born in Castleford, Yorkshire in 1912, the youngest of three children. Her mother's family came from Barnsley and her father was a Northerner - a weaver by profession - who volunteered for the army and was killed in action on the Somme in 1916.

At the age of fourteen, Florence went to work in a shirt factory but after her mother remarried she left home to work in Scarborough and Barnsley hospitals, living in accommodation there. Her interest in nursing had started as a child when she used to bandage her Grandpa's feet - he had been crushed in a roof fall in the coal mine. He always told her that she could do the task better than anyone.

She saw an advertisement in the Nursing Mirror asking for young ladies to train in nursing and midwifery. She applied and in June 1936 went to Leytonstone for four and a half years. Shortly after she had left Yorkshire a terrible accident in the mines cost fifty-seven miners their lives, amongst them a number of her friends. Her brother, a miner, was fortunately working on the opposite shift and escaped the disaster but he left the pit after the incident and became a woodworker.

During her training, Florence worked in various hospitals in Essex, travelling by train round the county and going out as far as Harwich to do relief work. While working locally she met Garnet Patmore, a Stansted man whose forebears came to the area with the Normans. They were married in January 1940. Mrs Patmore worked as a first

aider at the airport and at the Herts and Essex Hospital for a while before being appointed District Nurse and Midwife, working for the next nineteen years in and around Stansted and Birchanger.

Her work was sometimes hard, often involving 24 hours on duty. Many patients required a visit at the same time each day so there was no chance of rest if she had been up all night delivering a baby. During her time working in the area she has seen many changes. The villages were smaller when she started and over the years she gradually got busier and busier. By the time of her retirement in 1972, Mrs Patmore estimates that she delivered over a thousand babies, working in hospitals, homes and even gypsy caravans. Home deliveries for normal births were best in her opinion, but she had always to be prepared to send mothers to hospital quickly if necessary. She has never forgotten her first home delivery (not in Stansted) - twins. Complications arose and the doctor was called urgently. But when he arrived he was rather the worse for wear and she had to cope alone. The delivery fortunately ended happily with a healthy boy and girl being born. "A rude awakening" in her words, but one which stood her in good stead for life and earned her the reputation of being an outstanding midwife who saved many lives and gave excellent nursing care to all her patients.

When she retired, aged sixty, she and her husband left the village and went to live in Scarborough. However, after ten years Garnet, a diabetic for many years, longed to return home to Stansted as he felt his health was failing. They bought a house in Mount Drive where Mrs Patmore has continued to live since the death of her husband in 1988.

On my recent visit I found her home full of photographs of the family, her two daughters, her five grand children and five great grand children in whom she takes enormous pride. Her nursing and midwifery records were carefully preserved in a box (apparently she is not allowed to dispose of them in case they should ever be required). She keeps herself busy painting and at the end of this interview she gave me her most recent picture of beautiful spring flowers.

Elizabeth Wagener

Mrs. Patmore at Dr. Platt's retirement party over 30 years ago.





# STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The summer season is nearly here and the windmill is ready for another busy year. As the holiday season has arrived it is a good time to mention the "millennium" postcard album, which has been set up by Julia George. The idea is for anyone to send a postcard/photo of windmills from around the world: cards received will be compiled into a record for future generations. As those of you who attended the AGM will have heard, the windmill is preparing for some more restoration in the millennium. The proposal for the work on the brake mechanism and the sails has been assessed by the architect and the millwright and is in the final discussion stage.

The windmill will be open on the weekend of 8th and 9th of May, which is National Mills Weekend and a list of other opening days during June/July is included below. The 9th May is National Mills Day and to celebrate this the children of the Bentfield Primary will be performing a traditional Maypole dance. This will be followed by a children's picnic (teddy bears are welcome too). It promises to be a good event, come along and bring the family: keep your diary open for other events during the summer season!

If you are new to the village, interested in the windmill, its history, or you would like to help out, please call Steve Clements on 01279 816514.

Opening dates June/July/August:  
Sunday 6th June  
Sunday 4th July  
Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th August  
Monday 30th August.



## "VILLAGE OF A THOUSAND YEARS"

### Elsenham, a Village History

The book "Village of a Thousand Years" comprises 150 pages including 8 pages of photos. Over 300 local people have contributed to the volume, the entire project being produced voluntarily. Produced in two main sections, the first chronicles the early years 1000 to 1900. It was produced with assistance from the Essex Records Office with help from their Archaeological Department and research from local archives, etc.

The second section, which covers the years 1900 to date, relied heavily upon contributions from local people. It relates the history of every social and sporting club and organisation, which is run from within the village. Together with articles on transport, trade, police, buildings, utilities, education, religion, famous local people, medical, the list just goes on and on.

By the time it becomes available (June 20th), this book will have been nearly five years in production. Two sponsors have been found which keeps the cover price at **£4.25p**. **This is the cost to those who can collect the book from Elsenham Fete on Sunday June 20th.** If you require it to be sent to you there will be an addition charge of 75p to cover postage and packing. Price then will be **£5**.

It is most unlikely that there will be the opportunity to repeat the print run. If you would like to order a copy, please contact me at the address below. Please include cheques made payable to "Elsenham Parish Council".

I know that many have moved from Elsenham. Obtain a valuable memento of your stay or you may have an interest in the History of the Village; don't miss the chance to secure your copy.

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## Huw Johnson Club

We have now started back after our Easter break and we look forward to a summer packed with activity. We have a BBQ, a sports day and an outing in the pipeline, culminating in a week's holiday at Burgh Castle, near Great Yarmouth. We have booked six caravans and plans are in hand for various outings. Unfortunately, while we can plan our excursions, we cannot predict the weather.

Many thanks to all who supported our Coffee Morning on April 14th. We can only keep going because of the continuing generosity of all our supporters. We raised £84.10 towards our holiday fund.

We are experimenting this year in using a mini bus once a month to bring in some of our members. This has eased the situation for our drivers who were having to drive over and above the call of duty. In spite of this we now have a new member who needs transport and the possibility of more in the near future. If anyone feels they can offer to drive please contact me on 01279 812284.

Marion G Johnson



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

After normal business at our March meeting we heard a very interesting talk by Mr Jim Ketteridge who is the co-ordinator for Uttlesford Crossroads and also Chairman of Saffron Walden Age Concern.

"Crossroads" gets its name from the TV "soap" shown about 30 years ago; and Granada set up the first branch in Rugby 25 years ago. The local organisation is based at the Community Hospital in Saffron Walden and is funded partly by grants from the Health Authority, Essex County Council, Social Services and Uttlesford District Council. They also rely on donations from other voluntary organisations and individuals. Their Care Attendants are all insured and are carefully trained, and they are paid for the variety of tasks, which they are called upon to perform. At present their eldest "patient" is 103 and their youngest, one year. Help to relieve the stress of relatives and carers is given wherever it is needed; but their biggest caring role is in cases of dementia.

Our Coffee Morning on 17th March raised £266 for our funds and we do thank all those who so generously supported us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 20th May in the Day Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Group Meeting will be at Felsted on 9th June.

Pat Clower



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

'Boat People and Canals' was April's talk given by Duncan Burrett, who has a long boat moored at Hallingbury. Having sold his house he now lives permanently on the boat with his wife. He often travels to London taking about four days to get there.

He told members about the old days of the large families living on the boats and the type of goods which were carried. One carried lumps of chocolate for Cadbury's and stones coming back; other boats carried gunpowder from the works at Waltham Abbey. On one occasion, four of these boats blew up, demolishing a bridge at Macclesfield and damaging a nearby zoo. Most of the boats were pulled along by a horse, whose pace was faster than a man could walk. These boats could carry a lot more than the lorries of the day, many of these being surplus from World War One. He brought with him many items of canal ware depicting flowers and round towers that he had painted himself and which he sells. This was a most interesting talk, which could have gone on all evening.

During our social time members divided into groups and discussed what they would like for their year 2000 programme so hopefully we will have a full and varied programme as many ideas were forthcoming.

Our raffle proceeds of over £28 have been donated to the Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society towards their costs when photos of various events, organisations, etc. will be taken to celebrate the millennium.

Our next meeting in St John's Hall on May 13th, 7.30 for 7.45 pm will be Resolutions, when we will again be discussing topics of national interest. If these are passed at our National AGM, they will then be put to the Government or the relevant organisations.

Our social time is called "Mainly Ourselves" with members entertaining us with reminiscences of their lives, etc. Visitors are always welcome to attend meetings on the second Thursday each month in St John's Hall.

Brenda Ryan  
01279 812725

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Junior Coaching

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

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

Due to extra demand in the 7-10 age group, Chris is taking an extra class on Thursday afternoons (5.00-5.45 pm). There are only a few places remaining so if you would like to join in please contact Chris on 01279 466973.

### Used Tennis Balls

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

### Date for your Diary

Sunday May 30th - Boyd Tournament.

### Club Tournament

Entry sheets for this year's Club Tournament are now on the club notice board. Members have until the end of May to enter.

### News Quiz

Watch this space next month for the results of this Fund Raiser.

If you would like to join the Tennis Club please call 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.





## The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

The Easter holidays flew by for NCT members with a wide range of activities for all age groups. Our party was incredibly well attended by more than 60 children ranging from a few months to six years. Every one (including mums and carers!) enjoyed the talents of Mr Rainbow the entertainer and the children certainly had a feast at teatime followed by eggs from the egg hunt. Fortunately a walk and cycle in Hatfield Forest was planned for later in the week to walk off any excesses which several families took advantage of.

More energetic activities after the Easter weekend saw the children enjoying the facilities at Newport playground and also letting off steam on ride-on toys in St John's Hall. A very lively morning of stories and songs with a spring theme saw everyone enthusiastically joining in with shakers and tambourines - we shook the rafters! Messy Play in Henham Church Hall on Friday 30th April is usually a favourite with all ages. Plenty of gluing, painting, play dough and crayons, and no-one minds about the bits that miss!

The NCT doesn't just cater for the children however. The menfolk had a get-together (in the pub, of course) followed by the "girls" a week later. With the summer season approaching we have several pub lunches planned where the children can use the play equipment whilst the adults can relax with drink and a bite to eat.

The place for a bargain in May will be St John's Hall, Stansted, on Saturday 22nd from 2 - 4 pm when we hold our **Table Top Sale**. Come and have a browse!

In May we will visit the Sworders Field playground in Bishop's Stortford on Thursday 6th May from 10.30 am, let the children race about at Rascals (Thursday 13th from 10.00 am), swim at Grange Paddocks at lunch time on Monday 24th and, finally, have a picnic lunch on the Recreation Ground in Stansted on Wednesday 26th from 12.00.

It doesn't seem possible this will then lead into the next half term holiday where we have an obstacle course planned and of course a walk to feed the ducks and buy an ice cream!

If you would like to come along to any of these events or to our regular coffee mornings please contact our membership secretary, Wendy, on 01279 813387 who has further details.

We will also hold an Open Morning for coffee and a chat in the Day Centre at Stansted on Wednesday 12th May from 10 - 11.30 am. Jumping Jack clothes will be on sale too.

Sandra Wood  
01279 647057

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS' CLUB

### SOCIAL SERVICES BENEFITS MEETING

Wednesday 16th June  
2 pm

The Day Centre, Crafton Green

The Seniors' Club have invited a representative from the Citizen's Advice Bureau to come to talk to us about the many Benefits to which pensioners are entitled. Thousands of pounds in Benefits are unclaimed each year in Uttlesford, largely because of our ignorance of their existence!

We will be very pleased to welcome non-members to this meeting. Please come to hear the speaker - you may learn something to your financial advantage.

Audrey Rodgers,  
Secretary,  
Stansted Mountfitchet Seniors' Club



## St Clare Hospice

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### Help St Clare Hospice to Grow!

This year, St Clare Hospice is once again holding its annual Giant Sunflower and Pumpkin Competitions and we are inviting local people to take part. Since the sunflower is the cheerful symbol of the National Hospice Movement and giant pumpkins draw considerable attention, over the last two years the competitions have been a successful way of raising funds and promoting awareness of our charity.

The sunflower competition is aimed at anyone who can put a seed in the ground, keep it watered and watch it grow to heights that will impress the neighbours! There is also the pleasure of bright, beautiful flowers, which conjure up the sunny days of summer. Last year the competition proved particularly popular with schools who used it as an educational project and with companies where rival colleagues competed to grow the tallest plant. Photographs and pictures of entries will be gratefully received. Seeds, simple growing instructions, registration and sponsorship forms are available from Jo Price on 01279 413590. Applications to take part need to be received by the end of July at the latest.

If you have more space in your garden, then our Giant Pumpkin Growing Competition is for you. Using special seeds, which can be obtained (in return for a donation) from the Hospice Centre, you can tend your own monster vegetable and, hopefully, win a prize at the end of the growing season. For an information sheet on how to grow a giant pumpkin please contact Jo Price on 01279 413590. Please telephone Brian Vernon on 01279 410141 for free expert advice on how to make your pumpkin the biggest and best.



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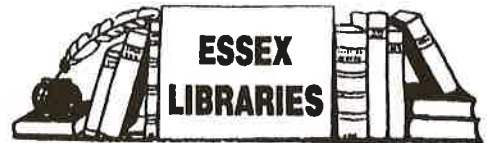
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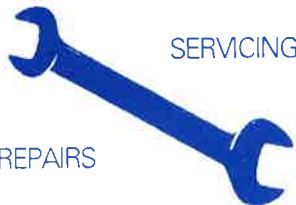
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