

Aug/Sep 2000

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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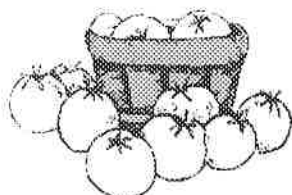
# HARVEST FESTIVAL



**Sunday 1st October**  
**Service at St. John's Church**

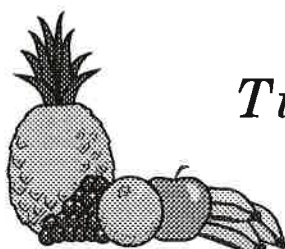
**6.30 pm**

**followed by**  
**Hot Supper**  
**with**



**Music & Entertainment**

*Tickets from the churches*  
*or telephone 647213*



*“Make it a Merrie end to Summer”*

**The Link (price £3 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted**  
Advertising enquiries to Angela Wall Tel 01279 817978  
All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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**editor.thelink@stansted.net**  
14th September for publication on 1st October  
12th October for publication on 29th October

# UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

## Minister

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

## Contact

Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
Tel 01279 812593

## Preachers for August

6th 11 am Mr M Dyer  
13th 11 am Rev D Simpson  
20th 11 am Rev D Simpson: Communion  
27th 11 am Rev L Rapkin

## Preachers for September

3rd 11 am Mrs Carol Perl  
10th 11 am Mr John Thorne  
17th 11 am Revd Lydia Rapkin: Communion  
24th 11 am Mr Paul Preston

## Monday Club

21st August 2.30 pm Janet & Brian Townsend  
"Oberammergau"  
18th Sept 2.30 pm Members Afternoon

## Pilots

Pilots resume again after their summer break on Sunday  
24th September at 10.45am.

## FROM THE REV'D LYDIA RAPKIN

Fifteen years is a long time - that's how long I've been a non-stipendiary minister in the Stansted group of churches of the URC.

Looking back over the years I see how much has happened in the Stansted URC. and also how much the happenings in the churches of our fellow Christians in the village have been interwoven with our Christian witness in the URC.

I came to Stansted very largely ignorant as to how in 1985 the Stansted Association of Christian Churches linked each denomination with the other, but soon came to realise the very close links there were between us.

I preached my first ecumenical sermon the day after I was ordained, in St John's Church, and experienced then the warmth of the welcome of the vicar, the Rev. Barry Rose, and fellow clergy and friends from the other churches in the association.

These friendships have continued throughout the years as SACC, and more recently CTS, link the churches to make a very decided Christian impact upon the village.

One has only to look around and note how, in so very many ways, the ecumenical life of the churches has resulted in benefits for the local community, to thank God and pray that an ever closer fellowship will be part of the churches witness in Stansted in the future.

The church is ever looking forward and this is certainly true of the URC in Stansted. It has been a privilege to be part of its ministry and share in the exciting plans it has for the future.

As we look back we can echo the words in 1 Samuel Ch 7, v 12, "The Lord has helped us all the way", and as we look forward, the words of St Paul to the church at Colossi seem very relevant to Christians today. "Let every word and action, everything you do, be in the name of the Lord Jesus, and give thanks through him to God the Father". Colossians, Ch 3, v 17.

My love and prayers will always be with you all.

Lydia Rapkin

## Davidic Dance

### Vera Chierico and the New Jerusalem Dancers

Those who visited the Provincial Day Out on June 24th had the opportunity to meet Vera Chierico who demonstrated the Jewish Davidic dancing that is so much a part of the worship within the Jewish faith.

This type of dancing is also a very wonderful way of expressing your own feelings together with others who enjoy dance as a part of their worship, or as a way of relaxation.

The video shows a number of dances each with an introduction by Mrs Chierico who demonstrates the foot movements that are required for each item. Vera Chierico has been performing and teaching Davidic Dance since 1985. Following fourteen years of RAD classical training, she toured for nine years in Europe, the Near and Middle East and the West Indies.

In 1973 Vera became a believer in messiah Yeshua and "gave up" her career.

In 1977 she was married to Paul Chierico in New Jersey and for the next eight years concentrated on raising their three children. She considered dance to be a thing of the past until 1985 when she joined the Dancers of New Jerusalem, a New York based Davidic Dance group. Four years later, having returned to England, Vera formed with others the New Jerusalem Dancers.

In 1991 Vera qualified as an Advanced Fitness and Dance instructor but after two years this career was put aside to concentrate on the New Jerusalem Dancers, whose British and International bookings were escalating.

Peter Trundle

# CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with  
Birchanger and Farnham  
St John the Evangelist, St John's Road, Stansted

## Rector

Rev'd Andrew Spurr  
The Rectory  
5 St John's Road  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
Essex CM24 8JP  
Tel:  
Email:

## Assistant Curate

Rev'd Rhys Martin  
43 Gilbey Crescent  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
Essex  
CM24 8DT  
Tel: 817513  
Email: curate@stansted.net

## Hon. Assistant Priest

Canon Derek Jackson  
88 Stansted Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts  
CM23 2DZ  
Tel: 01279 652664

## Director of Music

Mrs Glynis Morris  
Wakeley  
Leetes Lane  
Eversden  
Cams CB3 7HH  
Tel/Fax: 01223 263640  
Email: benefice.music@  
stansted.net

## Benefice Office

Upper Room,  
St John's Church Hall,  
Stansted, CM24 8JP.

For all routine enquiries  
contact the administrator,  
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday, 9am-noon

Tel: 01279 815243  
Email: benefice.office@  
stansted.net

## Church Hall Bookings

Tel: 01279 817937

Mrs Joy Lambe  
Email: joy@stansted.net

## Services for August and September

### Sundays

8 am Holy Communion - *said* Rite B  
9.30 am Parish Communion - *sung* Rite A  
11 am Family Service (17th Sept-no Children's Church)  
6.30 pm Evening Prayer - *said*

### Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion - *said* Rite B, followed by coffee  
7.30 pm Intercessions & Night Prayer

**Tiny Tots** - Mother and Toddler group, meets fortnightly at  
2 pm in church. Co-ordinator Mrs Margaret Duly (816053).

**Laser Group** - 12 to 16 youth group, meets fortnightly on  
Sunday evenings at 8 pm for activities in the church hall.  
The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the  
chapel in church. Contact Mrs Katie Dockerill (812997).

**Children's Church** - is currently on its summer break but  
will recommence on Sunday, 3rd September. All children  
are welcome to join us in St John's Hall at 9.30 am. Next  
term we are planning to keep the children in the hall for the  
whole of the 9.30 am Service on the first Sunday of the  
month (this does not apply to members of the choir). This  
will enable us to make the time spent together more inter-  
esting and we can complete art work, etc which has been  
neglected in the past because of lack of time.

It would be useful to hear what you feel about this proposal  
so please talk to one of the teachers if you have any views  
about this change. We will carry out this idea during next  
term and will review the situation in December.

Marion Johnson

## From the registers

### Baptisms

18th June Georgina Grace Carter

### Marriages

10th June Patrick Anthony Francis Delargy to  
Shani Lisa Fry

### Funerals

7th June Lilian Rand  
22nd June Albert Frederick Walker

## RHYS AND CAROLINE MARTIN HAVE ARRIVED

Rhys Jonathan Martin was one of twelve ordained Deacon  
by the Bishops of Chelmsford, Bradwell and Colchester at  
St Mary's, Great Waltham on July 2nd. Rhys' ordination  
marks the end of a long journey for him and for his wife,  
Caroline.

In their four years of marriage, both of them have been en-  
gaged in full-time study and training, Caroline at York  
University studying English, then teacher training in  
Cambridge and her first post at school in Sible Hedingham.  
Rhys' studies have taken him from Derbyshire to Heythrop  
College, London, The Cambridge Theological Federation,  
and placements in Cambridge and Bocking.

Also at the service were Rhys' family and friends, including  
his father, Rev'd Glanville Martin, resplendent in a black  
Methodist Geneva gown amidst the Anglican white  
surplices in the procession and the Rev'd Andrew Spurr, our  
Benefice Rector for whom Rhys will be working.

On the evening of Rhys' ordination, a service was held in  
St John's Church to welcome Rhys and Caroline. During  
the service, Rhys was formally licensed to serve in the  
Benefice by the Rural Dean, Rev'd Chris Bishop and the  
Dean of Divinity, New College, Oxford, Rev'd Dr Rob  
Harnish preached. Many people from the Benefice, the other  
churches in Stansted and the community at large attended.

Rhys will serve as Assistant Curate at St John's in Stansted  
and Curate in Charge of St Mary's, Farnham, while Caroline  
joins the staff of the Mountfitchet High School next  
September to teach English and Drama. The couple will  
make their home at 43 Gilbey Crescent, Stansted.

The Rector said of Rhys that he clearly has considerable  
pastoral and intellectual gifts. "Those who have met him  
have warmed to his easy presence and ready humour.  
Caroline has a delightfully precocious intelligence, they will  
make a very good team."

Rhys will be ordained priest next July after serving the year  
in deacon's orders which all clergy undertake at the  
beginning of their public ministry.

Tony Butcher

# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** 11am every Sunday

## Looking Back

Recently, my wife and I went to a reunion called "The Class of '75". It was a get together of a year group that left Fyfield School in 1975, all aged 16. Back in 1975, I was teaching them Biology and Chemistry. The turn-out for the reunion was very good, and a wonderful time was had by all. The air was full of nostalgia. There were photographs, and videos from former pupils now residing abroad, and even an old school uniform. Fyfield School was a small State Co-educational Boarding School and we had all lived together for some five years, sharing triumphs and disasters, work and leisure, term-time and, occasionally, holiday-time. We had been a close knit group, and it showed during our reunion. I found it difficult to remember their names, as their physical appearance had changed; they found it difficult to come to terms with the elderly couple now before them, who used to play games with them, coach them at cricket, and take them abroad on Ski holidays. They remembered us in a time-warp; we were married with three young children then, but, here, in front of them, were these grandparents. All their memories were shattered, as were ours; we, and they, had all been on a journey through life with varying degrees of success and opportunity since those far off days of 1975.

Our Quaker Book "Faith and Practice" has a chapter on our "Personal Journey", and within that there is a small passage on Getting Older.

"If we are getting older it will be harder to acknowledge that we have not been called to spectacular service, that we are unlikely now to make a stir in the world, that our former dreams of doing some great healing work had a great deal of personal ambition in them.

A great many men and women have had to learn this unpalatable lesson ---and then discovered that magnificent opportunities lay all around them. We need not go to the ends of the earth to find them; we need not be young, clever, fit, beautiful, talented, trained, eloquent or very wise. We shall find them among our neighbours as well as among strangers, in our own families as well as in unfamiliar circles ---magnificent opportunities to be kind and patient and understanding."

We had the feeling that most of the people at the reunion had learnt the lesson, there was an atmosphere of content, amongst the rekindled camaraderie, and pure nostalgia.

Peter Burgess

# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's, Stansted with St Anthony's

**Priest** Father Joe White  
The Presbytery  
12 Millside  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 814349

**Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

**Holy Days of Obligation**  
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am  
- Saturday

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10 am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms**  
By appointment

## Be still ...

"Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here". These are the opening lines of a Hymn, which many of you will know. Over the last few months, I have been to a number of services in different locations away from Stansted, mainly, I must say, Evensong. The theme of the address at these services has been 'Be still and listen with your heart and mind and the Lord will make his presence known to you'.

In our present day hurried lives we all find it hard to find a space in which to be quiet. We all need to make ourselves a cave into which we can go and reflect on where we are going and what we have done with life so far.

Now perhaps is a good time to stop, enter our own quiet space and listen. We are approaching autumn and winter; the plants and the earth take a rest and are still; we are coming to the end of what has been known as the Millennium year. So why not find some quiet corner, shut out the world for a few minutes each day and reflect and feel the presence of the Lord, speaking to us in the quiet of our hearts and minds.

May I finish by quoting the first lines of the next two verses of the hymn:-

"Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place."

God Bless and be with you.

Francis Mercer

# METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill



# SHALOM

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

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Recreation Ground  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** methodists@stansted.net

## Services and preachers for August

6th Kenneth Mark  
13th Margaret Richardson  
20th Rev. Harry Wood – Holy Communion  
27th Rev. John Graham

There will be no Friday Fellowship meeting in August

## Services and preachers for September

3rd Michael Render  
10th Bettie Kime  
17th Rev. John Graham – Holy Communion  
24th Julie Finbow

Fellowship meeting on Friday 8th September at 8pm.



CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

REGULAR AID TO THE POOR

I am pleased to be able to report that a further £300 has been sent to July to our three charities - this makes £500 to each of them so far this year.

We were very pleased to have received £237 from the 'Songs of Praise' collection, thank you.

May I thank our contributors for continuing generously in their support for RAP.

We are always pleased to welcome new contributors, either by envelope or direct debit, please contact me, Dave Morson, on 850209, for further information.

Dave Morson, Chair RAP

There are no fortnightly Monday meetings in August

**Annual Auction and Cream Tea** – this popular event will be held on Sunday 13 August at 3p.m. at the Friends Meeting House. Please bring along anything saleable and remember that one person's tat is another person's treasure! Scones, jam and cream will be served.

**Whitechapel Mission** – several members of Shalom regularly give their time to help at the Mission. They are **urgently** appealing for men's clothing, donations of food and money. If any person or organisation can help please contact David Morson on 820509

**Autumn Programme** – We have an interesting and varied programme arranged for our Autumn term. If you would like to join us, do not be shy, come along and give it a go.

## September Meetings

11th.. September - Prayer and Praise led by David Law from Saffron Walden.

Venue: At the home of Marion and Michael Dyer - 7 Blythwood Gardens

25th. September – A tape of John Bell followed by discussion.

Venue: At the home of Rita and David Morson – Henham.

## BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

**Saffron Walden/Bishop's Stortford:**

**Route 301** From 31st July, a much revised timetable will operate. New printed timetables should be available - refer to published lists at bus stops and on the buses.

**Route 302 - Sundays and Holiday Mondays.** For details of these services and all other bus travel in Essex, telephone Essex Traveline on 08457 000 333. This line is open from 7 am until 11 pm and for the cost of a local call, a friendly operator will supply any details you may need for bus travel throughout the county.

Audrey Rodgers



## STANSTED FUN RUN

This year's *Fun Run* was again highly successful, with a record 419 participants (60 more than last year!). We will not know the final amount raised until we receive all the individual runners' sponsorship money, but we are expecting that it will be in excess of £3000. It was fortunate that the weather kept dry, after the torrential rain of the night before! We were also pleased that a number of local runners featured amongst the winners, namely: Ranjith Jayasinhge (Henham) 2nd Man, Kim Webb (Bishop's Stortford) 1st Lady, Arron Clarke (Elsenham), Iain Daley (Stansted) & David Honour (Henham) 1st, 2nd & 3rd Boys Under 16, Louisanne Francis (Stansted) 3rd Girl Under 16, William Manley & Scott Reynolds (Henham) 1st & 2nd Boys Under 12, and Sophie Grant, Joanna Sutherland & Holly Elson (Henham) 1st, 2nd & 3rd Girls Under 12. Out of the winning teams, all the children's teams were from Henham, and the Ladies' Team was from the Livingwell Health Club, Stansted.

Again our grateful thanks go to all those who helped before the event and on the day – there are about 70 people involved in one way or another, and we could not manage without them.

Marion Dyer  
814059  
email:funrun@stansted.net



STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

### STANSTED WINS BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Stansted has come up with an outright win in this county-wide competition. The accolade is made in the Class 1 (small town or large village) category which by its nature is not the easiest in which to shine. Stansted has also been Highly Commended in the contest for the 'Village of the Year' in Essex. The village will receive a plaque, together with a sign that will be displayed for a year, and a sum of £150.

More importantly though, it will serve to encourage all who made an effort to improve their 'patch', those who joined in the clean-up days, and to the members of our many organizations who showed what a well-motivated community can do. Obviously the Stansted-in-Bloom campaign and the newly installed hanging baskets contributed, but the real credit goes to the village as a whole.

Perhaps particular praise should go to Steve Sutton and Peter Clauson who in fine weather or foul collect the litter, remove eyesores, and attend to the many uncongenial tasks which most of us shy away from.

This award should inspire all of us to carry on making Stansted a place to be proud of, and to back the Parish Council's organizational efforts when next year's contest comes round.

THE LINK says 'WELL DONE'





## HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am Sat 5th Aug  
& 2nd Sept  
outside the  
United Reformed Church  
(in church if wet)



Stansted Mountfitchet  
Windmill

## ANNUAL FÊTE

2 - 5 pm 28th August  
(Bank Holiday Monday)

Plant Stall ~ Cakes ~ Bric-à-brac  
New Sideshows ~ Millers Teas  
plus Windmill Open 2 - 6 pm  
All proceeds to Windmill Funds



## TUESDAY KEEP-FIT CLASSES

resume

Tuesday 5th September  
8.15 to 9.15 pm

St. John's Church Hall

**Everyone Welcome**

Tel 812816 for further details

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### August

2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
5	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
6	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
10	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
12 Sat - 13	Sun	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
13	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		Shalom Auction & Cream Tea	Quaker Meeting House 3 pm
16	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
17	Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
20	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
21	Mon	Monday Club	URC Hall 2.30 pm
23	Wed	RBL (Women) Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am
27	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
28	Mon	Windmill Fête	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm

### September

2	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
3	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
4 Mon - 7	Thu	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
5	Tue	Keep Fit resumes	St John's Hall 8.15 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
		Green Waste Skip	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
10	Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
12	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13	Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am
14	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16	Sat	Quiz & Auction of Promises	St John's Hall 8 pm
17	Sun	Boot Sale	Mountfitchet Sch 8 am - noon
18	Mon	Monday Club	URC Hall 2.30 pm
		WEA commences	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
21	Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
		RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
26	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
30	Sat	HEAL Quiz & Auction	St John's Hall 7.30 pm

### October

1	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm



## COFFEE MORNING

10 am Wed 13th Sept  
Day Centre  
Cakes ~ Bric-à-Brac  
Bring & Buy ~ Raffle  
All welcome

## A Light Hearted

Quiz Night  
and  
Auction of Promises

*In aid of the Hall refurbishment*

8 pm

**Saturday 16th September**

**St John's Church Hall**

**Grand Draw ~ Cash Bar**

**or bring your own drinks**

**Tickets £5 - includes supper**

**Tel 813182 / 817937 / 814369**



## QUIZ NIGHT & AUCTION OF PROMISES

7.30 pm Sat 30th Sept  
St John's Hall

Bar ~ Refreshments

Admission £3

**Many attractive lots!!**



# STANSTED CARNIVAL

## STANSTED'S MILLENNIUM FAYRE

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP opened the new-look, new-venue Carnival. It started well at 12 noon on Saturday 8 July in the Lower Street car park. There were over 50 stalls and sideshows.

Duncan Swallow displayed his recently acquired skill at fire eating and breathing, and the Knights of Chivalry, led by aptly-named Paul Battleday (yes, really!) provided a demonstration of the danger and difficulty of combat in mediaeval times. Dick Pollard continued in his role as Jester and MC - a role (and an outfit) which fits him perfectly!

Instead of the usual procession of floats, there was a fancy dress parade along Lower Street, which attracted 45 participants in various categories. The winner of the Under 5's was Frederik Kihlbom dressed as Tigger. The 5-10 age group was won by Laura Kelly as a Dalmatian. The over 10's was won by the "Hippie Chicks" - Jay Bryan, Louise Watts and Laura Poulter. The adult category was won by fair maiden Alison Thompson. The entrants were judged by Samantha of Inter County Estate Agents (who also donated the prizes) and Dick Pollard.

Derek Bayford brought a tender from the fire station, which contrasted with the Victorian horse-drawn tender, which was also on display. Derek and his colleagues managed to get the old tender to pump water to tree height - no mean feat considering that it has been stored in a barn unused for some 12 years.

Pony rides were organised by James Gemmill from Elms Farm and proved to be very popular until the heavens opened at about 2 pm. In true British fashion, the Newport Free Grammar School Band played on until it was impossible for them to continue for fear of the brass section drowning as their instruments filled with water! Whilst the rain dampened the proceedings for a while, people did return and the festivities continued until 5.30 pm.

The Committee wishes to thank all those businesses and individuals that donated and assisted on the day, helping to make it an enjoyable event for everyone. Anyone wishing to be involved next year, in any capacity (i.e. committee member, stallholder, sponsorship of the event) can contact Richard Simmons on 815075 or Simon Clifford on 815904).





## FIFTH SEASON

Our ears are still ringing with the praise from so many people who enjoyed our last season of concerts, which culminated with the wonderful and unforgettable Stansted Millennium concert by The Alberni String Quartet; we quote again the Chairman of the Parish Council who said at the end - "quality, quality, quality". Of course we hope that can be said of all our concerts and we have four more excellent ones lined up for the 2000/01 Season!

The first is on Saturday, 14th October at 8pm with a recital by The Tagore String Trio (Frances Mason - violin, Brian Schiele - viola and James Halsey - cello) and the locally well known Sonia Levy - piano, when the programme will include the very popular Dvorak piano quartet.

Future dates for your diary are as follows:-

Sunday, 3rd December at 3pm, when the Club presents 'Quodlibet', a group consisting of a soprano and four instrumentalists playing Baroque Violin, Baroque Flute, Harpsichord and the Viola de Gamba.

Sunday, 28th January 2001 at 3pm, when the Club welcomes back 'The Cantate Youth Choir' directed by Michael Kibblewhite.

Saturday, 10th March at 8pm with a recital by Damian Girven - piano, who in 1997 won first prize in the prestigious European Beethoven Competition.

All concerts are held in St John's Church, Stansted.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for The Village Music Club or wish become a member and subscribe to the 2000-2001 season of concerts, please contact Elizabeth Wager at 'Fairfield', Silver Street, Stansted, Essex CM24 8HE (01279 813182)

Ticket prices for individual concerts (unchanged from last season) are £7-50, Concessions £5, Children and students £3, and they can be purchased from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford or from Sonia Levy (01279 815282)

We look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming season's concerts.



## Nature Notes

All our garden flowers have come from the wild somewhere in the world but have been modified to produce the size, colour, brilliance and variety that we expect today. Whereas many of our gardens also have the smaller varieties of our native wild flowers, there are also those known as garden escapes. A walk up Chapel Hill will show examples of plants that have naturalised on the walls. One is the delightful trailing Ivy-leaved Toadflax with its tiny purple and yellow snapdragon flowers. If you look carefully you will notice that the flower stalks bend towards the light but the seed heads bend the other way. This means that on a vertical wall the seeds are more likely to be shed into the cracks and the plant continues to colonise. The other plant is the Yellow Corydalis of the Fumitory family, which was introduced from the Southern Alps. It will continue to show its yellow drooping flowers from May through to September.

The common red Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) is easily recognised and has been described as the world's most common weed. Providing the verges have not been sprayed, the poppy will appear where the ground has been disturbed so they are often seen at field entrances. Look for the Greater Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) with its lobed leaves. This is a member of the Poppy family although its custard yellow flowers are only buttercup size. Not to be confused with the small yellow Lesser Celandine which appears early in Spring and is a member of the Buttercup family. If the stem of the Greater Celandine is broken or cut, an orange-coloured sap oozes out. It is said that this latex is a highly effective cure for warts and the plant was once common in cottage Physick gardens.

The creeping Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus Arvensis*) with its arrow shaped leaves and white, pink or sometimes striped flowers can be seen at the roadside. This may be a pest in our gardens but it is a delight on the verges. It twines anticlockwise. The grassy edges along High Lane show the common wayside perennial, Agrimony. At the moment the small yellow flowers are visible on the spikes but later in August the rust coloured fruits can be seen each with a small hook at its apex. Another plant that was once important in herbal medicine - as a 'mild astringent for unsettled digestive systems'!

Judith Combes



Celandine, Greater  
12-30 in. May-August

## Essex County Council

### Privatisation of Old People's Homes

One of the most controversial decisions taken by the present administration at County Hall has been to privatise the Old People's Homes, which have been run by the County for many years.

Many people have objected to this decision because they are unable to accept that the Homes can be run more efficiently and more cheaply by the private sector. They fear that the staff will be cut by the new owners.

These points were noted and taken into account before the decision was taken.

In the case of the staff currently employed, their jobs are guaranteed and no-one will be discharged on change of ownership. Moreover the new owners will be subject to current regulations on space and facilities which must be observed, matters to which the County, currently, are not subject.

Finally the County will retain responsibility for the inspection and supervision of the Homes, which will mean better performance than is perhaps presently the case since publicly owned Homes are not subject to inspection by law.

Whilst in this short piece more and fuller details of privatisation cannot be outlined, readers can be assured that Essex is now the last County administration to privatise its Homes; to date there appears to be no problems or complaints from other Counties.

### Car Parking

Another subject very much under discussion at County Hall and also in Districts at this time is the question of the rights and wrongs of decriminalisation of car parking. This is a matter which few understand but which if wrong decision is taken will lead to problems in the long term.

To enter the discussion, it is first necessary to know what decriminalisation means. Briefly, parking at present is an offence under Traffic Law and as such is dealt with by the police as a crime, tried in the civil courts. If decriminalisation is agreed and introduced, police will then be no longer concerned and the County Council and local authorities will take responsibility for enforcing parking regulations, made under the Local Government Acts.

As everyone knows, the police presently are under great pressure; as a result parking offences take a very low priority in their programme of law enforcement. In consequence random parking of cars to the inconvenience of householders now is commonplace, especially in towns and villages where passengers transfer from road to rail or air. In country villages, in particular, where parking places are limited or expensive the road traveller takes advantage of police policy to avoid any expense. It is for these reasons that many argue for decriminalisation

Were the County to take over the control of parking, naturally there would have to be an increase in expense because traffic wardens would have to be appointed and paid, parking areas properly designated and marked and patrol arrangements put in place so the areas are properly controlled.

It can be argued that the income generated from these activities could pay the costs, yet in most rural areas will the income be sufficient? Further, will householders without garage parking be prepared to pay the cost of residents' parking which will not be cheap should it be decided that such areas are necessary.

As this subject is under discussion at present no solution to the matter is suggested. It is for the reader to make up his or her own mind and thereafter and when a full debate has taken place let their local representatives know their view.

Should any reader wish to know more on these issues, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812471/812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

### Editor's Note:

Richard Wallace's report on parking may give rise to readers' comments on this increasingly controversial issue. Please address any views directly to Richard at County Hall or telephone the numbers above.



## Huw Johnson Club

We are still looking for two more drivers to bring our members to Club from Saffron Walden. The evening means so much to our members and you would really be giving someone a chance to enjoy our activities.

Next term we will be rehearsing for our Christmas concert which will take place at St Mary's School on December 14th. We hope that you will put the date in your diary and come along.

I would like to say a big thank you to all our members and especially to Sandra, Paul, Hannah, Rene, Vi, Tom and Julie for the lovely barbecue and disco to celebrate my 70th birthday. Thank you too to Gary King for once again entertaining our members with his disco.

Marion Johnson

# Profile No. 26

## Brenda Ryan

Not many couples meet their future partner on a bicycle, but Pat and Brenda Ryan did and retained their love of cycling for many years. In fact Pat, at one time, was one of the fastest amateur racing cyclists in England. Brenda still retains the interest and skill and for 20 years has used them to take Cycling Proficiency Courses in local Primary Schools. At one time she trained in 8 schools in and around Stansted and now regularly does courses in 4 schools. The traffic, the children and the cycles have all changed considerably over the years!

Brenda and Pat now do long-distance walking, being active members of the Essex and Herts branch of the national Long Distance Walkers Association.

They are both North Londoners, Brenda from Edmonton and Pat from Enfield, and when they first married they lived in a caravan at Waltham Abbey - which became a meeting place for members of their cycling club. On one occasion Brenda provided lunch for 14 of them. Pat regularly cycled to his job as an accountant with an engineering firm in Enfield and even continued for a time after their move to Stansted. This took place in 1965 after three years at Waltham Abbey. They lived first in Mount Drive and then in 1969 moved to their present home in Wetherfield.

Shortly before her first son, David, was born, Brenda left her full-time job - then with Millars Machinery in Bishop's Stortford - having been cycling to work until then. After that she became an Avon representative, which she still is. This brings her into contact with a wide variety of people in the village and she very much enjoys the contact with her many clients. Their second son, Patrick, was born 5 years after David. Both sons now live in Bishop's Stortford so the family keep in close contact.

The two voluntary activities, of the many she undertakes, that take pride of place are her membership of the WI and her work as a Parish Councillor. She is a long-standing WI member, having been President of the local branch three times over the years (11 years as President in total). She was present at this year's now famous General Meeting at Wembley when Tony Blair was not well received!

She is one of only two Independent members of the Parish Council and is Vice-Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee. This is time-consuming but very worthwhile and she finds it a most rewarding job, which she undertakes with the conscientiousness and enthusiasm that goes into all she does.

Her other activities include Meals on Wheels, picking up elderly residents to take them to the Day Centre and being on the Art & Craft Market Committee. Those of us who attend the Market in October, or are stallholders or exhibitors will have appreciated the delicious refreshments that she

organises - most of which are provided by her WI contacts.

The enjoyment she gets from her variety of activities is obvious and that, I think, is the source of the energy and enthusiasm with which she undertakes them, and which enables her to do so much without apparent stress and with no hint of self-importance. Many people work very hard for the village and she is certainly one of them.

Katharine Hurford



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# WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Our autumn course will be "The Parsons' Daughters" and will study the lives of Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and Mrs Gaskell, all of whom were the daughters of ministers and whose novels are read, studied and dramatised over one hundred and fifty years after they were first published. The lecturer will be Mrs Pamela Rollason and she writes:- "The Parsons' Daughters' is something of an exploration of the lives of the girls at the parsonage who were also novelists. The course will also look at some of the themes common to their major novels, in particular romance, marriage, status, religion and immorality, and consider them in the context of eighteenth and nineteenth century values and the writers' personal attitudes".

This will be a course of interest to literature enthusiasts and those who study social history and will be illustrated by slides. It will consist of ten lectures and there will be an outing to visit Jane Austen's house at Chawton and to Winchester where her brothers went to school and where she is buried.

As usual we meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre, beginning on **18th September**, first evening enrolment 7.30 pm to 8 pm, for lecture beginning at 8 pm. There is a reduced rate for retired people. If you would like more details please ring Jean McBride, 812214.



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Local History Society will give a welcome on Thursday, 7th September to existing and new members at the commencement of this new millennium season. A full and varied monthly programme (September-May) has been arranged with subjects and speakers that we trust you will find to be of interest, enjoyment and hopefully a little learning.

We are fortunate to be able to hold meetings in the Day Centre, itself, of course, being part of our local history and lends facilities to complement the occasion. For this we are most grateful.

What is history? or What is considered to be history? A question often asked, on this we have our own thoughts, interpretations and replies and in all probability nobody really can be said to be wrong, but that's all part of history.

P. Brown



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

At our last meeting Jean Reay entertained us in her usual delightful style with an account of her holiday on safari. She visited Zimbabwe and Botswana, sailed up the Zambesi, walked through rain forests with their beautiful birds and flowers, flew in a small plane right down into the Victoria Falls, which she found quite magical, and camped alongside lions, elephants, hippos, buffaloes, wild cats, hyenas and cobras.

On Wednesday 23rd August, from 10.30 am in the Day Centre, we are holding a coffee morning - raffle, tombola, cakes, bric-a-brac, bring and buy. Everyone is welcome.

We have no meeting in August and our next meeting will be on Thursday 21st September when we shall have our annual harvest sale.

Pat Clower



Home-start is a voluntary organisation committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under the age of five. Volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to local families who are going through a bad patch due to ill-health, financial problems, family troubles or other stresses and strains connected with modern day living. This support helps to prevent family crisis and breakdown.

Added to this, Home-start have family groups which meet once a week in Saffron Walden and Dunmow. This is an informal gathering where mums can meet each other and take their young children to play with others. It is run by an organiser and a play leader who, with helpers, provide fun for the children and tea and a chat for the mums.

Volunteers are provided with a full training programme in order to prepare them for the many problems that they may encounter in this worthwhile and rewarding situation.

### Next Volunteers Training Course starts beginning October

If you feel you could spare 2 or 3 hours a week to help our local young families, more volunteers are always needed. Also drivers to enable families to get to the Family groups. Please call Linda, Linda or Marion at Home-start Uttlesford on 01799 520728.



The National Childbirth Trust  
Education for Parenthood

July proved to be as active as ever, even with the rain! We had BYO picnic tea on waterproof mats at Stansted Rec' - a paddling pool party in the rain, Face-Painting at Stansted Carnival in between downpours, as well as the usual pub lunches at child friendly pubs, a trip to the playbarn, a swim at Saffron Walden and picnics at Hatfield Forest and Audley End Miniature Railway (with Teddy Bears, of course). We also hosted our bi-monthly drop-in coffee morning at the Crafton Green Day Centre, where all mums/dads/carers are welcome and a 'Cakes and Coffee for Bumps and Babes' morning for our newest recruits (plus mums).

We shall continue with loads of activities through August, especially as most things stop for the school holidays. So let's hope the weather doesn't stop us from enjoying trips to the beach, outdoor messy play sessions, picnics and pub lunches (both with play areas to keep our offspring happy as well as us!), playground and Playbarn visits as well as the odd barbecue, summer drinks party, or cream tea that us grown-ups might enjoy!

Alongside all these events we also host regular coffee mornings as follows:-

Monday 10-11.30 am Expectant mums and under ones  
Wednesday 10-11.30 am Toddlers  
Friday 1.30-3.00 pm Pre-schoolers

All parents/carers are most welcome, please come along and meet new people. For all details of the above venues please see the parish noticeboards.

Of course we're not all about just doing lots of socialising (even though it might look that way!). The NCT offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood and it is run by parents for parents. So if you want to find out more about the NCT ante-natal classes and/or are interested in joining please speak to Wendy on 813387.

Cheryl Salmon



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Unfortunately we find our membership declining yet further. We know there are many ex-service men and women in the District. Please consider joining the Branch and supporting the work of the Legion. The Royal British Legion provides financial, social and emotional support to millions who have served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces and to their dependants. We are the leading Charity safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who have served, and there are nearly 15 million people eligible for support from us should they be in need.

Our Branch in Stansted does not have a Club but we do hold Social Functions each year. With more members we could do more!

We also need people to join our committee which meets monthly and desperately need a Standard Bearer whose main duty is on Remembrance Sunday and perhaps on two or three other occasions during the year.

If you are interested please contact Bob Stoddart (814015) or John Segar (813289) for further details.

**I must also emphasise that you do not need to have served in the Forces to become a member of the Legion! We need some 'young blood'.**

### Poppy Appeal 2000

The 1999 Poppy Appeal raised over £18.6 million nationwide but this figure is only half what is needed to carry out our vital welfare and benevolent work.

In our District we collected over £7,840 (£6000 in 1998), an all time record! As always, thanks must go to all the collectors and to those who gave so generously.

House to house collections this year will take place from Saturday 28th October until Saturday 11th November and we desperately **need more collectors** in all areas. Each year many of the faithful collectors increase their rounds to try and cover every road but we do need to 'spread the load' a little more. If you can spare a couple of hours during the Collection Week your help would be most welcome. You must be 18 years old or over. Please contact John Segar (813289) or Bob Stoddart (814015).

John Segar



## STANSTED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1986 Affiliation No. MY00969 Essex F.A.

Welcome to another S.J.F.C. page. Team news this month includes details of the 2 newest age groups at the club. Firstly the new Under 6's, the Spitfires, managed by Ken Makepeace. They have now got a squad of around 18 boys. The other new team are the Under 5's, the **Cyclones**, managed by John Turner. They too have a healthy squad of around 20. Although they are both very young age groups, it is great to see the children enjoying running around each week chasing the ball. Its an important factor of youth football to ensure that the youngsters get enjoyment out of what they are doing, rather than being coached too strictly. I believe that too many sports these days forget that although it may be every child's dream to become a professional, they are taking away the fun side of it.

The **Sharks**, Under 7's, have 2 teams that go into the league for the first time next season. Manager Paul Palmer is looking forward to seeing his players' hard work put into action and enjoying league games after 18 months of training. The **Spartans** (Under 9's) are entering a 5-a-side tournament this month and we will let you know how they get on in the next issue of The Link. The Spartans are in their second season of league football and once again they will be entering 2 teams into the Harlow league. The **Swifts** are looking forward to their first season of 11-a-side football in the Royston & Crow league. They have enjoyed a couple of friendly games lately and have a healthy squad of 18 boys. It is a huge change for the boys to go from 7-a-side to 11-a-side; not only do they have to learn the off-side rule but they must get use to the pitch being considerably bigger.

The **Scorpions** also continue their progress in the R&C league; they reached the quarter finals of the E.A. Cup last season which was an enormous feat when you consider it is reckoned to be the biggest Youth Cup competition in Europe! They too enjoyed a recent tournament in Halstead before finishing for a summer break. The **Comets** have a change of manager for the new season. Dave Roach has decided to call it a day, and David Bright takes over. The club would like to wish Dave all the best for the future. The Comets are looking for a few extra boys to strengthen their squad, so if you are 13 before the end of this August and want to join then please phone David on 01279 812928 for details. Finally **Santos**, Under 14's, also go into the new season with a new management team. Steve Pringle & Mark Webb have taken over from Peter Hawkins. Santos had a good season and hopefully they

will carry that pattern on into next year. Both Mark and Steve plan to do the FA Youth Managers course, which is always an advantage to anyone involved in youth football.

Although all the teams currently have kit sponsors, there are always other items that the boys need. These include raincoats/balls/nets/sweatshirts, etc. If you would like to sponsor a team or even make a donation please give me a ring on 01279 813769. You will get a mention in our club magazine and of course a receipt will be given. At present the **Spitfires** are looking for sweatshirt sponsors. The cost of this would be around £195.00. If anyone would like to have their logo on the tops and help the club then please give me a ring. Until the next issue, all the best and enjoy the summer.

Luke Pearman  
01279 813769



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The July meeting saw us being taken on "A Train Journey Through India" by Pamela King. She dressed in a sari for the occasion and started her talk by giving us a description of her first impressions on stepping from the plane and to be greeted with a garland of marigolds hung round her neck and her senses being assailed by the different aromas that spiced the air. The train she travelled on was pulled by a steam engine. In the cities all life seems to be lived on the street; men can get shaved, your shoes can be repaired, sugar cane is sold. She visited the deserted city some Mogul built for his favourite wife and son but the water table ran out so to this day these magnificent buildings remain deserted except for the tourists. New Delhi was the British Capital and was built between 1914-1929. Mrs King then showed us slides of the Taj Mahal, sunrise over the Ganges, a view across the mountains to Everest in the distance. The Black Hole of Calcutta was a dungeon measuring 20' x 20' in which 156 Englishmen were imprisoned and only 20 were left alive.

The afternoon tea party in aid of the Osteoporosis Society raised £113 and the carnival stall raised £46, a percentage to be donated to the Carnival Committee for local charities.

Suggestions were asked for our annual Christmas shopping destination. Tickets went on sale for our 40th anniversary dinner, which is for paid up members only on the 12th October. The evening ended with a 'Have you got this in your Handbag?' type quiz. It is amazing what some of us manage to carry in our bags. Do come and join us in St John's Hall every second Thursday of the month (except our special celebration as mentioned above).





Sideways has been really humming with activity in the last few weeks. The children have been looking at colours; in the garden, colour of hair and eyes, in nature and all around us every day.

They have also had a chance to play outside, weather permitting! The sand and water activities are always really popular! This term also sees us venturing further afield. We had a trip to the castle in Stansted which the children found fascinating - especially the primitive sanitation facilities where, according to one little boy, "they had to wipe their bottoms with grass mummy!!!"

A trip on the train to the playground at Newport is always popular and, despite a dismal morning, everyone had a good time.

We have also held a very successful quiz night that raised a good deal for funds. Thanks must go to one of our clever mums who set all the questions and also to all those who helped provide the sausage and jacket supper that was enjoyed by all. We would also like to send a big thank you to all the local businesses that supported us by their generous donations for the raffle.

We are looking forward to a visit from Sir Alan Haselhurst, our local MP at our Sports Day at the end of term. We were encouraged to approach our local members by the Pre-School Learning Alliance, asking them to come and see what we do and what a vital service pre-schools provide in the community for the younger children before they can go into nursery education. Hopefully the sun will shine for us and the hot dogs will not be accompanied by a warming mug of soup!

Next term we will be looking at Autumn as our topic; the changing colours, the nuts and berries, how our gardens are looking and the difference between light and dark nights as winter draws nearer!

Sideways Pre-School will re-open on Monday September 11th. If you would like any more information about us in the next few weeks, or you would like to bring your child to visit one morning, please call Auntie Helen on 813828.

We look forward to seeing you.

Come and visit, STAY AND PLAY!



## Stansted Art & Craft Market

The first year of the new millennium will see the Stansted Art & Craft Market moving to a new venue this autumn. After many successful years in the Lower Street Youth Centre, we are planning to use the St John's Church Hall and the Church itself for our art exhibition and craft fair. The committee have been tremendously encouraged by the enthusiasm and support shown by the church so far and are excited by the opportunity to make use of St. John's and its surroundings. The Market will take place on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th October. Put the dates in your diary and watch out for more information in the coming months!

Rachel Mortishire-Smith  
(816837)



### Recipe of the Month Raspberry Ice Cream

4 oz / 100 gm caster sugar  
2 eggs  
½ oz / 15 gm cornflour  
1 lb / 450 raspberries, fresh or frozen  
**or**  
13 oz / 375 gm tin raspberries  
¼ pt / 150 ml double cream, lightly whipped  
1 pt / 600 ml milk

- (a) put sugar & eggs in bowl and beat well
- (b) mix cornflour & a little milk to form a paste
- (c) stir into the sugar & eggs
- (d) heat remaining milk in a pan
- (e) stir into the sugar & eggs
- (f) return to the pan & bring to the boil
- (g) simmer for 3 minutes, stirring constantly, until thick
- (h) pour into a bowl & leave to cool, stirring occasionally
- (i) if using fresh or frozen raspberries, bring slowly to boil in a pan with 15 ml / tablespoon water & sugar to taste
- (j) leave to cool, then work through a sieve to form a puree
- (k) if using canned raspberries, work fruit & juice through the sieve
- (l) add puree to custard mixture & stir well
- (m) pour into a freezing tray & freeze until thick & slushy
- (n) place in a chilled bowl & beat thoroughly
- (o) fold in the cream until evenly mixed
- (p) pour into a rigid container & freeze

Stand at room temperature for 10 mins before serving



*Yes! The sun did shine on 200 people who enjoyed the first Open Gardens in Stansted. To date we have raised in excess of £900 and all of us at HEAL would like to thank everybody for making it such a successful day; see you next year!*

*One of the gardens opened was that of a lady in Cannons Mead. Hers is an example of what a garden can mean, as the following account by her daughter clearly shows.*

*Sue Hitchmough*

“It has taken me, Samantha Downes, 20 years to grow to appreciate my Mum’s garden, but now I’m older and maybe a bit wiser, I often retreat from my central London flat to a patch of paradise created by my mother in the middle of a beautifully tended Stansted garden.”



My Mother’s love of gardening has kept her sane; it’s been there through everything: two marriages, the suicide of her second husband, losing a business and everything she had worked for, the passing away of both her elderly parents (she’s an only child) and her two daughters leaving home.

Mum’s been gardening ever since she can remember; as a toddler she used to help my grandfather plant the tomato plants and cabbage beds on which the family nourished themselves long after rationing ended.



She reckons she was at her happiest then, bonding with her Dad as he passed on to her a lifetime’s joy of tending, weeding, growing and nurturing.

Nowadays the state of her garden echoes her emotional state of mind. In winter, she retreats to the relative warmth of the garden shed to take solace from the barren flowerbeds, only to reach full bloom around the last week of May.

Then, at the beginning of June she’s like a Mum with an empty nest. All her babies, the lovingly cared for blooms which have been tended, fed the best food, watered and talked to, have all grown up.

Now they no longer need her she’s left with a void, but come her birthday at the end of June, she’s frantically planning her next season’s planting schedule and once again she is happy.

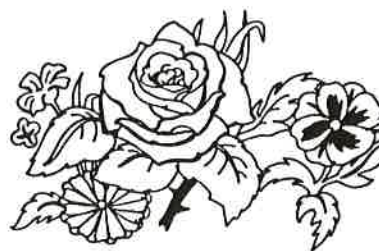


Phoebe, the family tabby cat, probably more than anyone else, appreciates lazing and hunting among the nooks, crannies, water feature and sheer luxuriance of blooms my mother has created. She stretches out her paws and swaps prime carpet space by the guest room radiator for her place in the sun - the top of a Victorian chimneypot my mother has turned into an oasis of colour courtesy of some well planted London Pride. Mind you, they get squashed though.

It’s taken me a tad longer than Phoebe, but it’s happened. All I have to do, even on a sardine tin that passes for a rush hour tube train, is close my eyes, think of the garden and I too am transported.



The tinkling of the water feature and the candles she lights in the balmy summer evenings bring home to me the reasons why she lavishes so much attention on her patch of paradise, whatever the season or the weather; it’s always warm and it’s always safe.”



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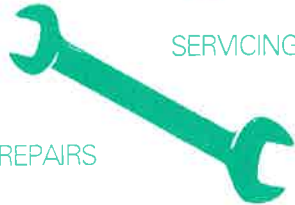
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