

Dec 2000

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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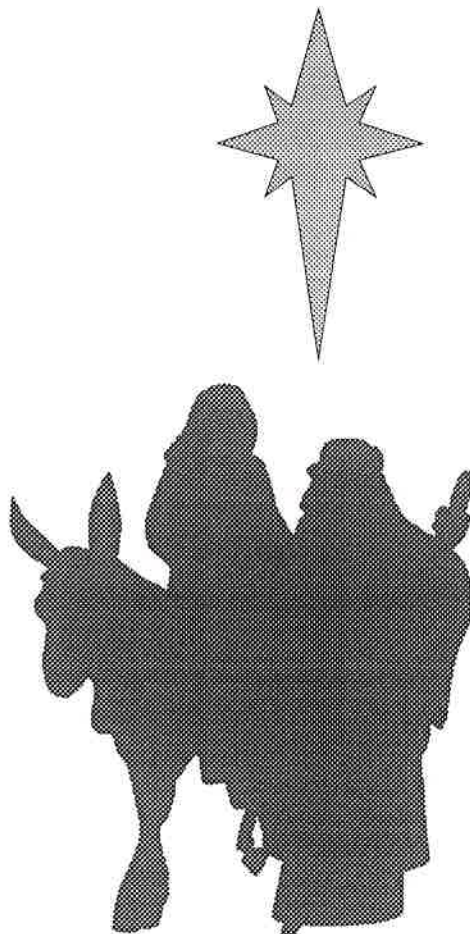
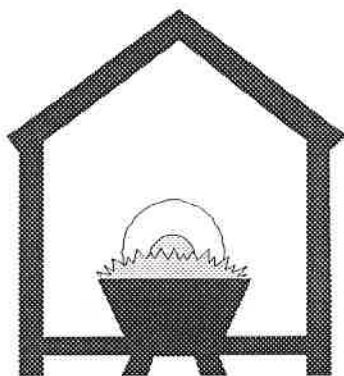
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Christmas 2000

Jesus Christ
the same
yesterday,
today and
for ever



A leaflet giving details of Christmas services is being distributed to all homes in Stansted

The Link (price £3.50 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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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to
editor.thelink@stansted.net**

7th December for publication on 31st December

11th January for publication on 28th January

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

From St Theresa's Registers

Baptisms

15th October	Joseph Lewis
29th October	Matthew John Wilson
5th November	Benjamin Michael Baxter

Funeral

5th October	Jeff Wardell, aged 56 years
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THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS

The Christian church calls the four weeks before Christmas 'ADVENT' and the word means 'coming'. It is the time of year we look forward with great joy and anticipation to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent reminds us of the 'coming' of Jesus, God's son, who made our world, came to live in it as a tiny baby, then as a boy and lastly as a man who gave his life to bring us close to God. Jesus is waiting to 'come' into the heart of every person who invites him in; and he is still waiting to 'come' again in the future, known to Christians as the 'Second Coming', as one day Jesus will come back into our world, not as a helpless baby, but as King of us all.

Advent is therefore the season for getting ready - ready to understand the true meaning of Christmas, ready to ask Jesus into our lives and ready for the day when he will come again.

"At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time!"

Prayer by a New Guinea Christian.

Mary Warnett

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

Lord Jesus, at your birth the angels sang:
Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

These are the opening lines of the Millennium Prayer that we say together at CTS Meetings. What do we mean by peace? I think usually we mean freedom from war, but there will be no freedom from war unless peace is regarded as a positive force. As many writers have said, and the prayer goes on to imply, we have to start with ourselves and try to find peace within each individual which can then spread out to families, communities, countries. Jesus called us to be Peace-makers, and that requires action. As Bishop John Taylor said "Peace is the harmony of a caring community informed at every point by its awareness of God".

In the famous prayer of St Francis "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace" there is nothing easy in what we are urged to do. "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is despair, hope". All of these require considerable strength and the control of very human emotions. It is not at all easy to believe that 'there is that of God in every man' when you hear of ruthless massacres; and very difficult to pardon when you have been the innocent victim of violence or injustice; and keeping hope alive where there is a very genuine and understandable despair would be impossible without a strong faith.

At Christmas we celebrate once again the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the humblest and simplest circumstances. And we need to hold in our hearts the realisation that the basic tenets of our faith are humble and simple too, but they require great courage and effort to uphold them. We all have our different forms of prayer and celebration but we have the same core: as a Quaker I like to reflect on the words of a Catholic saint - Teresa of Avila - "O Jesus, solace of the pilgrim soul, my silence speaks to thee".

In our silence or our singing may we ask for the strength to work for peace.

Katharine Hurford



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

Services for December

3rd 10.30am Rev'd Martin Cressey
10th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson, Group Gift Service
with Communion followed by Coffee and Mince Pies
17th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson
24th 10.30am Mrs Janet Townsend, Lessons and Carols
25th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson, Christmas Morning Worship
31st 11.00am Group Service at NEWPORT

As you can see from our services above, we are changing the time of our Sunday Morning Worship from the 1st Sunday in December from 1 am to 10.30 am. This is to enable us all to worship together (adults and children) in the Lecture Hall while our Church is being redeveloped. Our adult service will begin at 10.30 am, the children will come and join us at 11.15 am. For 15 minutes we will worship together and at approximately 11.30 am the adults will leave and the children continue with Junior Church or Pilots until 12 o'clock.

We are also changing our Communion Service to the 2nd Sunday each month.

The changes will continue until at least the end of April.

At our Gift Service on 10th December we will be collecting gifts of sweets for the Huw Johnson Club and hats, gloves and scarves as well as toiletries for the Whitechapel Mission.

Our monetary giving this Christmas is for R.A.P. (Regular Aid for the Poor) the Stansted Charity.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Shoe Box Appeal. 26 boxes were packed and collected on 2nd November for distribution in Kosovo.

A reminder to our Cake Stall customers that there will not be a stall on 6th January. We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you again on Saturday 3rd February.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Reception Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Email methodists@stansted.net

Services and Preachers for December

3rd 9.30am Christine Heyhoe
10th 9.30am Margaret Richardson
17th 9.30am Rev. Harry Wood – Holy Communion
24th Joint Service with Friends
31st 9.30am Julie Finbow

Christmas Party

Saturday, 16th December 6-9pm at the Day Centre.

CELEBRATE CHRISTINGLE 2000

"Christingle Services are an attractive and simple way of spreading the message of Christ and supporting the important work of The Children's Society."

Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

Join us in celebrating the Christingle Service and experience the joy in children's faces lit up in the candlelit glow of this popular and powerful symbol of the Light of Christ. We invite you to celebrate with us.

All proceeds go towards the work of The Children's Society.



Date **Sunday, 17th December**

Time **3pm**

Venue **St John's Church**

Light up a child's life

THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm
St Mary's Church, Birchanger

A service of music and readings for the season of Advent, led by the choir of the Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Glynis D Morris (01223 263640)
Director of Music,
Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet
with Birchanger and Farnham



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

St John's, Stansted

Guests of God

By the time this goes to press, most of us will have forgotten William Hague's address to a policy forum with Britain's faith communities back at the beginning of November. I read about it in the papers and it bothered me so much that I went to the text of the speech:

http://www.conservatives.com/newspeeches.cfm?article_id-304

In this address Mr. Hague praises the work of religious charities of a number of faith groups which are working hard to be signs of the love of God. This is timely in a culture where soft sentiment has replaced the more robust compassion which leads people to care in meaningful ways. Predictably, he is critical of the welfare state, he wants to 'denationalise compassion'. 'I want to roll back the frontiers of the state so that more work of faith and secular community-based initiatives can flourish.' Mr. Hague wants to privatise charity, putting the care of our fellow human beings into the voluntary sector.

Now it has to be said that this may be no more haphazard a proposal than the current regime of underfunded government-based social services. It's no joke if you live in Stansted, are dependent on social services, and have to use public transport to go across the county to renegotiate your state benefit.

But there is a deeper issue at stake.

Mr Hague, in the same speech, expresses a great deal of confidence in the 'Christian character of our country' so that he feels that faith groups can carry the responsibility of care. But if national government relinquishes a sense of obligation to the poor, then we lose one of the last vestiges of national Christianity we have left.

Christian faith is rooted in an ancient principle that we do not own the land we live on, God does. Likewise, that we should regard our prosperity as a gift from God which carries with it certain obligations. The occupation of the Promised Land by the Israelites had as its condition that they remember that 'the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants.' (Leviticus 25:23) and there was included a range of obligations which the people of Israel had to fulfil with respect to the poor and those in debt.

Jesus was most probably executed because the religious authorities of his day were benefiting from the land acquisition boom which was going on under Roman occupation. Clearly the clergy of the day had forgotten God's directions about care of the poor, and Jesus' preaching was too close to home for those whose lives had become centred on acquisition of wealth.

Mr. Hague is right to identify and praise the work of religious charities, but the reason they exist is not to let the state off the hook, but to lead the way, to live in a way that we should all be living. Any government which does not look after the poor of the nation cannot be called Christian.

Andrew Spurr

All enquiries are welcome at **The Church Office** located in the Upper Room, St. John's Church Hall, Stansted CM24 8JP

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

(01279) 815243
<church.office@stansted.net>

Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings
Secretary
Mrs Joy Lambe
(01279) 817937
<joy@stansted.net>

Rector
Revd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
5 St. John's Road
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax (01279) 812203
<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate
Revd Rhys Martin
43 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8DT
phone (01279) 817513
<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest
Canon Derek Jackson
88 Stansted Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts, CM23 2DZ
phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music
Mrs Glynis Morris
Wakeley
Leetes Lane
Eversden
Cambs, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<church.music@stansted.net>

St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B 9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i> Rite A 6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i> 11:00am Family Service on the third Sunday of the month
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B followed by coffee 7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

Services for the Christmas Season are listed with those of our sister churches. **Please note that there will not be a 9:30am service on Christmas Eve.**

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

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

From the Registers

Baptisms on 15th October
Michael Richard Sollers
Charlotte Emma Lydia Reavell
Catherine Bartlett Valerie Heasman
Kieran Francis Barker

Marriage


21st October Adam David Mallord to
Claire Louise Yeoman

Burials

27th September Christine Wright, aged 46
11th October Florence Rose Vince, aged 88
13th October Douglas George Clark, aged 78
29th October Ivy Charlotte Hill

HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am Sat 2nd Dec
(No cake stall in January)

outside the
United Reformed Church
 Chapel Hill
(in church if wet)



STANSTED MILLERS

Mill Goods Stall

'Savages' Lower Street

9.30 am - noon

Sat 2nd December

Buy Christmas presents &
support Stansted Windmill



MUSIC QUIZ

7 pm Sat 2nd Dec

St John's Hall

Details from Helen on 813828

VILLAGE EVENTS

December

2	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
		Windmill Goods Sale	Lower Street 9.30 am - noon
		Christmas Fair	Bentfield School 2 - 4.30 pm
		Sideways Music Quiz	St John's Hall 7 pm
3	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
4	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
11	Mon - 14	Thu Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16	Sat	Celebration of Christmas	St Mary's Church 4 pm
18	Mon	Shalom Party	'Jim's', Bentfield Causeway 8 pm
20	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
22	Fri	Village Carol Singing	St John's Church 7.30 pm
23	Sat	Village Carol Singing	Croasdaile/Cambridge Rd 7.30 pm

January

3	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Mon - 11	Thu Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
11	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
28	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm

Special event for January? Please submit details by 7TH DECEMBER
to 58 Chapel Hill or by email to editor.thelink@stansted.net
Please note, all items are subject to the editor's approval.



Carol Singing around the Village

Meet at 7.30 pm

Fri 22 outside St John's Church
Sat 23 corner Cambridge Rd/Croasdaile

All are warmly invited ~ collection for Uttlesford Homestart
Followed by refreshments ~ hope to see you there!

Recorder & flute players also welcome ~ please tel 814059 to arrange music



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

QUODLIBET

Angela Henckel (soprano)
Rachel Latham (baroque flute)
Matthew Truscott
(baroque violin)
Francisco del Amo
(viola da gamba)
Philippa Estall (harpsichord)

3 pm Sunday 3rd Dec
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets,
Nockolds or Sonia Levy 815282
£7.50 adults, £5 concessions
£3 children, £1 Members' Children
Mince Pies & Mulled Wine will be
served during the Interval



A Celebration of Christmas

Congregational Carols,
Christmas Music, Readings,
Choirs, Instrumentalists



4 pm Sat 16 December
St Mary's Church
(parking at Church & Mountfitchet School)

Everyone Welcome

Admission Free

Retiring collection for Uttlesford Homestart

IN MEMORIAM

Suzanne Spencer-Smith

Suzanne was a lifelong resident of Stansted and died in early August at the age of 79. For much of her life her home was Hole Farm where, upon the death of her father, she took on the management and most of the work. Many Stansted residents, some of them children at the time, will recall her at the controls (no cabs then) of the combine harvester. She was the last of Stansted's yeoman farmers and her retirement concluded an epoch in our village history which went back to the Middle Ages. Suzanne farmed her land with the diligence that she brought to all of her activities, which included, among others, St. Mary's Church flowers. She was a staunch member of the Conservative Party, the Puckeridge Hunt and of St. Mary's and St. John's Churches. She was an unobtrusive helper to many people and could be forthright but considerate in her views.

She spent her latter years in Stansted's oldest house on Bentfield Green where she maintained a delightful cottage garden. Perhaps her greatest memorial lies in the good soil and the crops, which thankfully still thrive on the Hole Farm land.

Jennie Kimberley

Many readers will remember Jennie who with her husband Alan and children Jane, Bob, Jim and Sukie lived in the Old Vicarage in St. John's Road for some 15 years. Jennie died early in November. The following appeared in Alan Corbishley's tribute in the Benefice Bulletin.

"For many years she ran a very successful Ladies Keep-fit Club in the village. She and Alan were members of the choir and, as the children became "of (choir) age" they all were too! With Alan she entered enthusiastically into all facets of church life, organising many social events. They both had a particular interest in amateur dramatics and the 70's saw many short plays and sketches written by Alan performed to full houses in the Church Hall. A very musical family, anyone passing the house could be forgiven for thinking they were outside a recording studio, so good were their renditions. Jennie loved her garden, both in Stansted and for the last 17 years in Wimbish.

The last few years have seen Jennie increasingly immobilised by arthritis but, though clearly in much pain, Jennie has been cheerful throughout, always preferring to deflect conversation from herself to others or to her garden. She remained cheerful to the end and will be sadly missed."

Derek Honour



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

Opening our AGM, our President, Mrs Gabb, thanked the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee for their hard work and dedication, so making another very successful year for our branch to take us into the 21st Century. She listed several highlights during the year and hoped that younger people might come forward to join the branch to help raise the money which is still so urgently needed to help ex-servicemen and their families.

Our Chairman, Mrs Hollis, thanked our President for her long and unflinching service; officers, committee and all members for their untiring support and co-operation. She singled out several members for especial thanks, particularly Miss Blyth who ably takes responsibility for so many aspects of our branch. The Secretary detailed events over the past year and the Treasurer reported that £650 had been given to Legion Charities. Mrs Levey then dropped the bombshell that, after 48 years as Treasurer, she felt that she must retire because of her own health and that of her husband. Mrs Hollis expressed her regret and thanked Mrs Levey for her sterling service over so many years. Mrs Saunders bravely accepted nomination as our new Treasurer.

Officers and Committee elected to service for another year are:-

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

We have no meeting in December or January so we do not meet again until Thursday, 15th February, 2001, in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm when we hope to have Mr and Mrs Alan Wright as our speakers.

Pat Clower



Shalom

4th December An Advent meditation by Father Jim Brand at 7 Blythwood Gardens

18th December Christmas Party and bring and share supper at Jim Collin's house in Bentfield Causeway.



Nature Notes



Stansted residents have probably noticed the profusion of berries this autumn. Look for the flowers and fruits of the Ivy (*Hedera helix*); both are present at the same time. The flowers have been a source of nectar for late-flying butterflies and bees this autumn and now the small clusters of yellow berries are turning green then black and will provide food for the birds through to the Spring. More conspicuous are the small red fruits of the Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), the oval-shaped hips of the Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*) as well as Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) berries, all to be found on a short walk up Church Road. Black Elder berries will probably be finished by December but in shady areas you may see a few of the round red hips of the Field Rose (*Rosa arvensis*). Harder berries tend to last through the winter whereas the softer ones are affected by frost.

The Club's next event on Sunday 3rd December will be of baroque music on original instruments by QUODLIBET with the soprano, Angela Henckel. The programme will include works by Telemann, Bach, Scarlatti and Rameau. The instrumentalists are Rachel Latham, baroque flute; Matthew Truscott, baroque violin; Francisco del Amo, viola da gamba; and Philippa Estall, harpsichord. There will be a seasonal flavour in their programme and also during the interval when mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

Besides the native hedgerow plants providing food, there are many berry-laden garden hedges doing the same. Look especially for the Firethorn or *Pyracantha*, the red variety being particularly striking in Norman's Way and the orange one in Spencer Close. A very tall Cotoneaster is laden with red berries at the entrance to the library; most of these plants are covered with fruit. No one will say if this presages a hard winter.

We open the year 2001 with a welcome return visit by the senior members of the CANTATE YOUTH CHOIR under their music director, Michael Kibblewhite on Sunday 28th January. This choir is fast gaining national recognition, having reached the semi-finals of Sainsbury's Choir of the Year, which will be televised for showing on BBC2 during the Christmas period. They were the winners of the Outstanding Performance Award - Music for Youth National Choral Festival at London's South Bank in July 1999.

Both concerts are at St John's Church, Stansted and will start at 3pm.

For a really dramatic berry it may be necessary to go to Bishop's Stortford although it would be interesting to know if anyone has a Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) in their garden in Stansted. There is a fine example near the museum entrance in the Cemetery. The flowers resemble lilies of the valley and are present at the same time as the round red 'strawberry' fruit. The tree has naturalised in Ireland but is not common in England.

Tickets are £7-50, (Concessions £5-00), Children £3-00, and children of members £1-00, available from:
Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill,
Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford,
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)

Alan Corbishley

The picture below shows several of the above species. The central illustration is of the Guelder Rose (*Viburnum lantana*) which besides having waxy red berries has scarlet leaves in the autumn. Copies of the drawing in full colour in the form of greetings cards are available from the artist Maureen Davies, Tel. 814631.



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED**

presents

A Celebration of Christmas



Judith Combes

A concert of congregational carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry will be held in St Mary's Church, Stansted on Saturday 16th December at 4pm. Admission will be free.

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



A NOTE TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Another year in the history of The LINK has passed with inputs from even more contributors for which we are most grateful. Your inputs allow us to keep the village informed on what is happening and to provide articles of general interest. We hope we have been able to maintain and even improve on our previous standard.

During the year, the editorial and production team has become much more computer oriented and this has allowed us to process your contributions more efficiently. We are grateful to those contributors who are able to send us their copy by Email as this makes our task of editing and compiling easier. In the absence of Email facilities, we are also happy to accept your contributions on floppy disk, which we would return to you. Nevertheless we are, as ever, quite happy to accept your hand-written contributions, although, if instead, these could be clearly typed in 12pt font, we could scan them directly into our computer, which would also be a help to us.

Derek Honour
Editor



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members and guests attending the Society's November meeting were treated to a most fascinating evening when Steve Welch told of "The Welch Family in Stansted". Their family tree was displayed, and, as it unfolded, gave so many interesting details relating to the Stansted family lines and, in addition, many instances of their highly respected professions being recalled. These were to be of great service and benefit to inhabitants within and around the village and certainly hold their place in our village history.

Mr & Mrs McDonald gave voice to extracts taken from various family correspondence assisted Mr Welch.

Programmed for 7th December "Toy Museum - Dolls" speaker Valerie Jevans.

Peter Brown

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Now the winter months are with us, junior tennis coaching with Chris Hollis is taking place on Saturday mornings only, from 9am onwards. If you would like more information about coaching at the Club, please telephone Chris on 01279 466973.

Over the summer and autumn months, 22 candidates were successful in passing the LTA/Yoplait sponsored Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. It was the first time that any juniors at the Club had taken the Gold award and 3 pupils were successful at this level after a lot of very hard work.

Junior Tennis Tournament

The Autumn Doubles tournament attracted 11 junior players and after the round robin and semi-final stages, the final was won by the brother and sister team of George and Ellie Luther, who defeated Will Pacey and Rory Jamieson, 3-2.

Used Tennis Balls

These are still available at the very reasonable price of £1 for a tube of 4 (very popular with dog owners!). Please contact Janet Hollis on 01279 812073 if you would like to buy some.

Tennis Club Garden

ATTENTION ALL GARDEN LOVERS - Please bring your own bags and help yourself to as much leaf mould (excellent quality) as you like from the huge pile in the corner outside the tennis courts adjacent to the football pitch

The Pearce Trophy

The Pearce Trophy took place on Sunday November 5th. There were 12 entrants and the trophy this year was won by Richard Mott and Sandra Ayres who beat Martin and Sue Sebley, 6-4 in the final.

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



STORMY WEATHER

“A great while ago the world began,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain ...”

If Shakespeare were alive today he may have been tempted to add another verse or two to the song from Twelfth Night. However two very contrasting contributors have been provoked into print so if the recent weather makes you wonder whether to laugh or cry, read on

Editor

Uttlesford District Council Matters

I would like to be able to write this month to say that the District Council will prevent future flooding in Lower Street and some other parts of Stansted. But it would be a foolish politician who claimed to be able to control the climate.

It has been no joking matter for people in Lower Street, Station Road and Forest Hall Road, to name just three places, who have had to face flood water inside or around their properties on at least three occasions in recent months.

Uttlesford has made sandbags available. The County Council has checked and cleared the drains. I understand that the main source of the water has been the stream that runs under Lower Street from Gall End in a culvert that flows into Stansted Brook near the new car park.

I am told that people were known to canoe in Lower Street in the 1950's, but what seems different now is the frequency with which the torrents are occurring. A solution needs to be sought if one exists. The problem is finding out which authority is responsible for what. The Environment Agency is involved. There are the county and district councils, the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and goodness knows who else.

I fear that no one organisation is going to say, “I know what needs to be done, and here is the money”. However, the district council is going to organise a meeting soon at which those agencies who have a role will be invited to explain to local people what the problem is and what might be done to alleviate the flooding.

I hope that they have some answers, because we can't just sit back and wait for the next deluge.

P.S. I feel for the people who live on or regularly use St. John's Road. They are a community divided by a near permanent lake. I do hope that the primary school will help to solve that problem soon.

Councillor Alan Dean
Uttlesford District Council
Tel: 01279 813 579

Our Changing Climate - Implications for Stansted

We were told in 1987 that great storms only occur once in 200 years; since then we have had three in thirteen years. The weather, it is a-changing and the waters are a-rising. However, this is no time to bemoan our lot. Our great nation through its smaller communities must show that it can rise above these afflictions.

For a start we can restore our legacy of village ponds. An obvious candidate is St. John's Road where it meets the school playing field. Our Parish Council could win acclaim by widening and deepening this natural catchment, build fishing platforms and sponsor a junior angling club. Part of St. Johns Road would then become a cul-de-sac so that it could return to Edwardian tranquillity to the relief of the residents.

On a similar theme the culvert below Lower Street could be broken into, so giving Garry King a break from mopping out his cellar, and a water-mill constructed at the underground stream's confluence with the mighty Stansted Brook. The mill could be state-of-the-art internally but have a traditional exterior. This could lead to a generously-proportioned viewing platform being built, courtesy of Railtrack, so that villagers could spend happy hours watching the gently turning wheel and listening to the musical cadences of falling water. The therapeutic benefits would be incalculable and certainly give respite to our hard-pressed surgery. Below the mill the raging waters could become a regional centre for white water rafting. Here again the Parish Council could gain kudos by making spectator and refreshment facilities on the former gas-holder site. Transport may also undergo a change. On the calmer waters below Pesterford Bridge, a hydrofoil shuttle could revolutionise journeys to Bishops Stortford and Harlow. Vendors of hot-dogs and bacon sarnies accompanied by buskers would carry on a brisk business with commuters at the lock-sides so that travel may again become a pleasure.

We have already entered an age of high masts and towers so it should be possible to quietly drop the proposal for 400 (or, is it 600) houses on the Rochford site and instead build a magnificent wind-farm. This would demonstrate our dedication to sustainable resources and remove another 1000 potential cars from our village roads. What's more the Stansted Power Co. would be delighted to provide overnight charging for the battery-powered run-abouts, which then will be all the rage.

Stansted pioneered the way in the 19th century with street lighting by gas, a modern sewage system, merchandising of wine, and hot air heating of a church(!). . Perhaps our time has returned.

Leonardo da Stansted





Stansted Evening Women's Institute

40th Anniversary, 12th October 2000

When Mrs Marjory Cowan decided the village needed an Evening W.I. in 1960, she could not have imagined that 40 years on, 50 members would be sitting down to a celebratory dinner in St John's Hall. Six of these were founder members and still very active in the W.I. They are Maisie and Olive Bunting, Margaret Chastney, Margaret Meadows, Elsie Stoddart and this year's president, Marion Pretty. Our County Chairman, Anne O'Riordan, Vice-Chairman, Barbara Ball and Linda Scoles were our special guests.

The evening began with the singing of Jerusalem and we must thank Glynis Morris, Director of Music for St John's Church, for playing the piano as we usually have to sing unaccompanied. Whilst she didn't offer us a place in the choir, it sounded quite good to us! Marion Pretty welcomed everybody and in her address said she felt we were holding our own with a membership of 52, when so many new organisations have been formed in the village since our inception.

Judy Colliver, Secretary, then read the minutes of the very first meeting, which was held in the Central Hall (now the Old Courthouse flats), when Mrs Rene Sanders was President. The County Chairman thanked the members for inviting her and said how pleased she was to see such a thriving and enthusiastic Institute.

An excellent four-course meal was cooked and served by 'Sally's Catering' of Elsenham, after which Linda Scoles, our guest speaker, presented her talk entitled 'All I ever wanted to know about sex'! This proved to be a hilarious account of her early teenage years on a ranch in North America and what came after. It seems that it is perfectly possible to grow up on a farm and yet be ignorant of the 'Facts of Life', which may account for the fact that she married young and had four children! She was thanked by the President for bringing much laughter and humour to our evening.

A toast was proposed to the next forty years after which members were able to look around the hall at the photographs on display, depicting some of our activities past and present. The village scrapbook compiled in 1965 by the Afternoon and Evening W.I.'s was on display, as well as a new Scroll of Presidents made by Margaret Chastney. Our W.I. tablecloth, now 30 years old, which you can see in the photograph, was much admired by the County Chairman.

The Stansted Mountfitchet Evening W. I. tablecloth was made to go on the table at meetings and was designed to be decorative and depict some features in Stansted at that time. The Fountain is much as it was then, the United Reformed Church has lost its pinnacle tops from the towers, the old footbridge at the Railway Station has since been replaced and

the Central Hall has now been converted into flats. The prams outside the latter building show that many of the members took their children to the Clinic held there. The other panels, which were all embroidered by members, show St. Mary's Church and the Windmill.

A beautiful pedestal of yellow and white flowers arranged by Rosemary Minshull was afterwards put into St John's Church. The arrangement of flowers in the lobby was afterwards taken to Marjory Cowan, who was delighted to be remembered by the Institute which she helped to start.

A most enjoyable evening ended with everyone looking forward to the coming year and to being a part of our Stansted Village.

November Meeting

Smuggling on the Essex and Suffolk Coast was the subject of Dan Johnson's talk at the November meeting. The first tax on goods is recorded in this country as far back as the eighth century. In 1275 Edward the First started the customs service more or less as we know it today. He put tax on such things as imported playing cards, snuff, coffin nails and hair powder that was in use at that time.

As it was our AGM, Judy Colliver, Secretary, read through the record of the year's activities and Marion Pretty was re-elected President.

A discussion was held about the state of our village signs. A letter was read out from the Parish Council to the effect that there was no budget for the refurbishment of these signs and if they became too bad they would be put away in a shed until funds were available. Our members were concerned about this and this is a subject for further investigation in the future.

Our next meeting is on December 14th when the subject will be Christmas Cake Decorating. St John's Hall, 7.45 pm.

Kath Johnson
813225





Huw Johnson Club

Future Cancer Services

Cancer services in the south-east are among the poorest in the country overall. Recent government guidance is attempting to address this, through a new series of national recommendations, and this means that services for our area will have to change. The North Essex Health Authority has embarked on a round of consultations with local people in an attempt to discover local preferences for cancer treatment.

It is not possible to provide all the services necessary for cancer care at Princess Alexandra Hospital. It is intended to retain diagnostic, surgical treatment for common cancers, day case non-specialised chemotherapy treatment, surveillance and follow-up care at Princess Alexandra. Patients requiring radiotherapy, specialist surgery and in-patient chemotherapy will have to attend a cancer centre.

There are proposals for Princess Alexandra to enter into a partnership with another hospital to provide the specialist cancer services. Three neighbouring cancer networks have been invited to draw up plans as to how they could incorporate patients from Princess Alexandra into their networks. They are Addenbrookes, North Middlesex, and St Bartholomew's in Whitechapel, or the City of London. At the moment all options are open, and any decision is not expected until the new year.

None of these options are particularly easy for Birchanger and Stansted. It is very difficult for people suffering from a stressful illness, and undergoing debilitating treatment to have to travel for any length of time on public transport, with the possibility of having to change trains or buses several times. It is hoped that there would be some benefit to us from the reorganisation, in the form of possible chemotherapy treatment from doctors' surgeries, or at home, in appropriate cases, better communications, faster diagnosis and treatment, better patient involvement in their own treatment, and easier access to the best cancer centres.

If you have any direct experience of cancer, either yourself or through a friend or relative, and would like to contribute to the consultation process, please call me on 812793, as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Godwin

(This article reproduced with permission from the November 2000 edition of The Birchanger Magazine)

WHAT'S IN A NAME NO. 6 Occasional Series

Dove Close. Lt. Col. W.W. Dove was the first commanding officer of the Hargrave Park military camp established in 1939 and demolished in 1961, after which the Hargrave Estate was built. Col. Dove lived for about 20 years in the Old Manse, Silver Street, and was a member of a well-known building firm.

With the usual "oohs" and "aahs" our firework party went with a swing and we all thoroughly enjoyed the spectacular display organised by Chris, Brian and Tony. The evening turned out dry after a great downpour just minutes before the show was due to begin. Hannah and Chris as usual provided us with delicious sausage rolls and pasties to complete a perfect evening. A big thank you to everyone for all the hard work put into the evening.

We must also say a big thank you to our many benefactors who have made our hopes for purchasing new equipment for our members to use on Club evenings a reality. Thank you especially to the "Stansted Social Club" for a brilliant raffle, the "Kings Arms" and "Bombay Butler Restaurant" for an Indian evening and raffle, the "Stansted Fun Run" for making us their local beneficiary and "Stansted Mountfitchet Lodge of Instruction" who over the years have made regular donations to the Club.

Could I also make it clear that every penny we receive is spent for the benefit of the Club as a whole.

Marion Johnson

DAY CENTRE

Do you have a few hours to spare once every three weeks or even once a month and have a car and drive?

If so, we urgently need drivers once every three weeks to collect people who are unable to get to the Day Centre in Stansted themselves and bring them in the morning before 12.00 am and return them in the afternoon about 3.30 pm. It usually entails collecting two car loads.

Also, we need drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels in Stansted once a month which takes approximately one hour, collecting the meals from the Stansted Day Centre.

If you can help please contact either Mr Wood on 01279 814477 or The Day Centre, 01279 815091.



Profile No. 29

Wilf and Iris Wood

The Day Centre would be a very different place without Wilf and Iris Wood. Wilf masterminds the transport of those attending the Day Centre and Iris is based there for her organisation of the Meals-on-Wheels service. She is not involved in the meals served at the Centre, although she does make them a batch of scones on arrival! and is very appreciative of the happy atmosphere at the Day Centre.

Wilf who, very soon after his retirement in the mid 1980's, got involved in driving those who come to the Centre, now organises the rota as well. For three days a week a team of 8 or 9 drivers brings folk from Stansted and surrounding villages to the Centre for a nice meal and a social get-together. Some go home after their meal and others later; so organising the rota is no easy task but Wilf takes it very much in his stride.

For the last six years Iris has been employed by the Uttlesford District Council as Organiser of the Meals-on-Wheels service for Stansted and eight surrounding villages. Meals are delivered every day, including weekends, Bank Holidays AND Christmas Day. Iris decides on menus and orders the meals from a freezer depot in Chelmsford. She is very careful to bear in mind that alternative meals need to be provided for those with particular diets - non-pork eaters, diabetics, vegetarians, etc. All batches of meals have to be tested on arrival from Chelmsford to see that the correct temperature has been maintained and the same after re-heating at the Day Centre. Iris has 56 volunteer helpers for preparing and delivering meals. She says their reliability, willingness and care cannot be too highly praised and she would like to thank them publicly for all they do so well.

Before undertaking this very responsible job, Iris had helped in the kitchen at St Mary's School and then was a lollipop lady - a job that she thoroughly enjoyed and it enabled her to get to know many Stansted children and their parents. These activities were very different to her previous employment as a cutter in the Rag Trade in London but she is a person well able to be flexible and takes on responsibility with enthusiasm.

When they were first married the Woods lived in Hornchurch and moved to Stansted in 1972 with their two small girls - Jenny and Gillian, and have been very much part of the community ever since. Jenny is now married and living in Bishop's Stortford where she works as a Nursery Nurse. Gillian is also married and lives in Takeley and is an Assistant Manager at Burger King at Stansted Airport, so all the family are within easy reach of each other.

The Woods are both keen cyclists and, in fact, first met at the East End Cycling Club of which Wilf is now the President. The Club had its centenary last year and Wilf has been a member for 54 years. Many weekends the club members come out to North Hall Road, Ugley, to their County Headquarters - which they built themselves - where they hold social events or ride in time trial events at distances of 25, 50 and 100 miles.

Wilf and Iris are also keen walkers - nearly all their holidays are spent walking, particularly in Derbyshire.

Another interest they share is gardening and they are active members of the Gardening Club - of which Wilf was a founder member 20 years ago. He is now the Outings Organiser on the Committee and the photograph of them both was taken at a garden in Oxfordshire on one of the outings. Wilf was helping with the plant stall at the Windmill Fete this year when the Windmill was struck by lightning - a frightening experience.

Iris's relaxation - if that is the right word - is embroidery. She does the most beautiful flower embroidery that I think I have ever seen - so fine it looks like painting. She does all sorts of other needlework and not long ago entered the Bishop's Stortford Embroiderers' Guild Competition and won the Cup for counted thread work. Both their daughters are artistic too: Gillian paints as well as doing embroidery pictures. The Woods' home in Millfields has many examples of their work.

Meeting Wilf and Iris I was struck, once again, by the amount of dedicated community work - both paid and voluntary - that goes on in Stansted, day after day, week after week, almost as a matter of course. I am very glad some of it gets highlighted in the Profile series.

Katharine Hurford





St Clare Hospice

LIGHT UP A LIFE APPEAL 2000

The 'Light up a Life' scheme has brought comfort and pleasure to many people over the last three years, whilst helping to raise essential funds for our charity. Please support St Clare Hospice this Christmas by helping to illuminate our trees in Dunmow, Harlow, Hastingwood, Loughton, Saffron Walden and Waltham Abbey.

A gift of £5 or more will sponsor a symbolic light on the tree of your choice. You will be commemorating someone special in your life or showing support to a friend by remembering their loss. All sponsors receive a personal dedication card to keep. The name of your loved one will be commemorated in a Book of Remembrance which will be available to view at the Hospice in Spring 2001. The trees will remain illuminated until 6th January when the last dedications will be accepted. Everyone is welcome to attend the lighting ceremonies which will take place on the following days:

Broad Walk, The High, Harlow
Saturday 25th November, 5 pm

King's Green, High Road, Loughton
Saturday 25th November 4.15pm

Abbey Church, Waltham Abbey
Tuesday 28th November, 4.30 pm

St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood
Thursday 30th November, 6.30 pm

Tesco Store, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden
Wednesday 6th December, 6 pm

The Starr Restaurant, Market Place, Great Dunmow
Friday, 8th December, 7 pm

For further details please telephone the Hospice fundraising team on 01279 413590.

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Opening times

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9 am - 1 pm
Wednesday	2 pm -6 pm
Thursday	2 pm -6 pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9.30 am-4 pm

Closed on Tuesday, 26th and Wednesday 27th December



Recipe of the Month

Chocolate Courgette Cake

6 oz / 175 gm plain cooking chocolate
 7 oz / 200 gm plain flour
 1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
 4 oz / 100 gm caster sugar
 2 eggs
 6 fl oz / ¼ pt / 150 ml sunflower oil
 8 oz / 225 gm peeled weight courgettes, finely grated

Filling

2 oz / 50 gm softened butter
 4 oz / 100 gm sifted icing sugar
 1 tablespoon cold milk
 ½ teaspoon vanilla essence

- (a) grease & flour two 8 inch / 20 cm sandwich tins or a 2 lb / 900 gm loaf tin
- (b) heat oven to 180° C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4
- (c) beat eggs, add oil & beat again
- (d) add grated courgettes, including juice
- (e) add sifted flour, salt, bicarbonate & sugar
- (f) melt the chocolate & add to mixture
- (g) stir well & put mixture in tins
- (h) cook for 20-25 mins (50 mins if using loaf tin)
- (i) leave to cool for 5 mins before turning out
- (j) beat butter until soft
- (k) gradually beat in icing sugar, alternately with milk & vanilla essence
- (l) spread filling between two halves of cake when cool
- (m) sprinkle top of cake with sifted icing sugar

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 2nd
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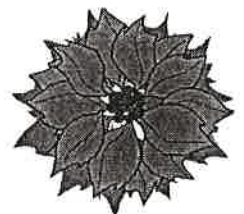
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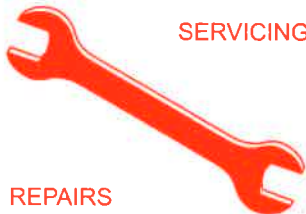
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