

Feb 2000

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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**817243**

EXHIBITIONS/DISPLAYS

WEB DESIGN

DESK TOP PUBLISHING

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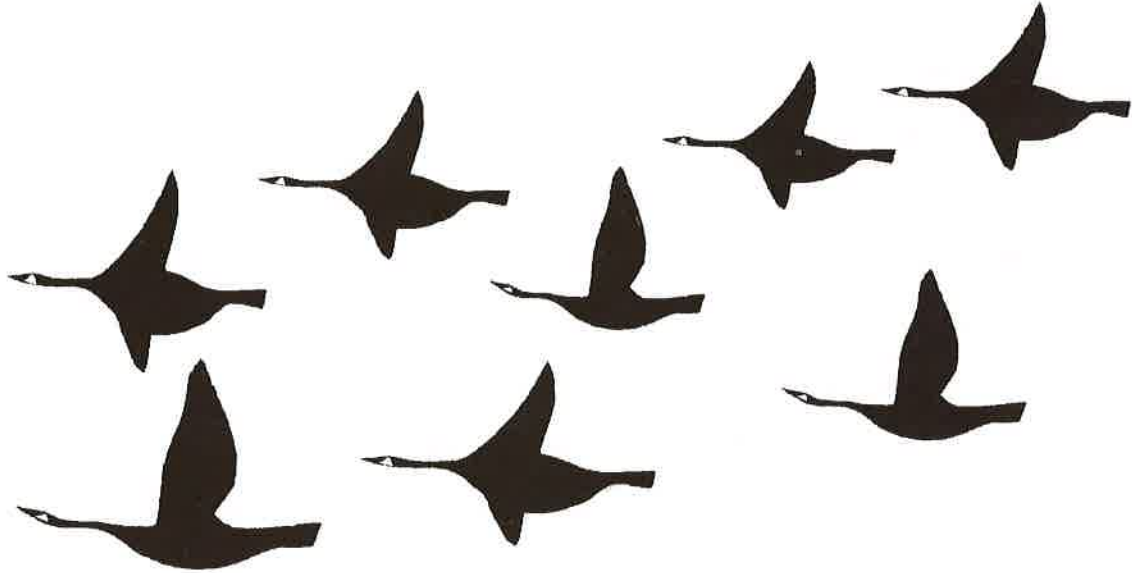


38 Hockerill Street  
Bishop's Stortford Tel: 461215

The Stow (Outer Road)  
Harlow Tel: 427362



# WILD GOOSE WEEKEND



## AN IONA COMMUNITY GROUP COMES TO STANSTED

Friday to Sunday March 3rd to 5th

For details see St John's Church and Village Events pages



**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

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers. Printed by 'The Print Shop' Bishop's Stortford.

**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to  
editor.thelink@stansted.net**

10th February for publication on 27th February

16th March for publication on 2nd April



**All enquiries**  
are welcome at  
**The Benefice 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  
<benefice.office@stansted.net>

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**Mrs Elizabeth Jennings**

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**Mrs Joy Lambe**  
(01279) 817937  
<joy@stansted.net>

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**Revd Andrew Spurr**  
The Rectory  
5 St. John's Road  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
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phone/fax (01279) 812203  
<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate  
From July 2nd 2000  
43 Gilbey Crescent  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
Essex, CM24 8DT  
<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  
<benefice.music@stansted.net>

## The tide is running out

*The Tide is Running Out* is the title of a book which arrived on my desk not long after New Year. When I say that the book is an analysis of churchgoing patterns from a 1998 survey, then the title paints quite a bleak picture. However it is only depressing if you think that being a follower of Jesus Christ can only happen by meeting in listed buildings and maintaining a national organisation with all of its complicated administrative and legal structures.

In fact, all you need to be church is a Bible a plate, a chalice, and people meeting regularly to pray, break bread together and tell the stories in which the Spirit of God is to be found moving so powerfully. These stories, when told, can motivate ordinary people to all kinds of heroic and world-changing deeds.

A church also needs focus and leadership, and training leaders has become such a specialised business that it has meant that many very able people, who feel called to lead worship, do not do so because they have not had the right training. As there

will be fewer college-trained leaders in this part of the world, we are in danger of losing the congregations we have through lack of direction and purpose. While there is still time, we can do something about it, by widening the range of people we can use to minister in Jesus' name.

On March 4th, St. John's will be hosting a conference designed to demystify music, worship leadership and Bible Study. We are lucky enough to have secured the services of the world famous Wild Goose group from Scotland's Iona Community (Wild Goose is a Celtic symbol for the Holy Spirit). They will be engaging us in seminars and workshops in order to discover the gifts we have and how we can use them to build a church community. It may not be a church community identified by buildings or ecclesiastical laws, but it may well be in danger of connecting with the life of ordinary folk. And who knows where that may lead?

AS

### St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B  
9:30am Parish Communion  
*sung* Rite A  
6:30pm Evening Prayer *said*  
11:00am Family Service on the  
third Sunday of the month

Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion *said* Rite B  
followed by coffee  
7:30pm Intercessions and  
Night Prayer

*(Except the last Wednesday of this month when there will be an ecumenical service at the United Reformed Church at 8:00pm)*

**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.



## Wild Goose landing at Stansted

March 4th, 2000 10:00am-5:00pm  
The Wild Goose Worship Group from the Iona Community in Glasgow will be coming to Stansted and leading seminars on Bible study, small group liturgy, preaching and music for the non-specialist. All this and a 'Big Sing' at the end of the day.

Anyone who is interested in Christian gatherings for worship, teaching or Bible study are invited to attend what promises to be a lively and instructive time. The cost will be £10 for the day, please bring a packed lunch. Soup and drinks will be provided.

To register call the Benefice Office 815243 or email <wildgoose@stansted.net>  
Or book on the website  
[www.stansted.net/churches/events](http://www.stansted.net/churches/events)

### From the Registers

December  
1999

7th December Alice Eliza Scott  
of Broome End Nursing Home  
29th December Amanda J Miles of Bentfield Road

### Funerals

30th December Eileen Leach of Burnell's Way

## METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Stansted

**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

### Services and Preachers for February

6th Don McGregor  
13th Joan Kennett  
20th Rev'd Harry Wood  
27th Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion

Our monthly Fellowship Meeting will be held on Friday  
11th February.

## UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill, Stansted

### Ministers

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

Rev'd Lydia Rapkin  
23a St John's Close  
Saffron Walden  
Tel 01799 523296

### Contact

Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
Tel 01279 812593

### Preachers for February

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

### Dates for your Diary

February 5th 10 am Cake Stall on the steps  
February 10th 8 pm Coffee - Table Tennis -  
Lecture Hall  
February 21st 2.30 pm Monday Club - Lecture Hall  
February 23rd 8 pm Millennium Service in the  
Church

## 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

### Funeral

22nd December 99 John Glynn, aged 54

It is now February, the start of the Millennium celebrations are now a month behind us, we are also a month into the Jubilee year. The word "Jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word "Jobel" for a ram's horn trumpet that sounded to proclaim celebration. It is a sound of rejoicing.

The word evolved through the use of the Latin word "Jubilo", meaning to shout; it is also a time for reconciliation and renewal, times when we are reminded of the generosity and goodness of God.

In facing the early years of the new millennium many of us may be looking to make a fresh start in a "New World", each generation tries to make a fresh start. We have a helpful chronological illustration for what we are trying to do; the year now feels like something different, year 2000; it is a new page in history.

The millennium is all about opportunities for the future of all of us. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the purpose of life, remembering that in being a Christian and having faith gives us no easy promises, no glib assurance or quick fixes, just that we have the presence of Jesus in whatever we do and whoever we are.

Ash Wednesday and Lent will soon be with us. Let us use it as a time of reconciliation and renewal. God Bless you in this Jubilee Year.

Francis Mercer

# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Stansted

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

**Meeting** 11 am

The Millennium Resolution was read out at a Quaker Meeting recently and, whilst thinking about the challenge it places before each one of us, I resolved to try to take its spirit more consistently to the workplace.

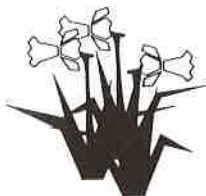
The difficulty is "How best to go about it?". As an accountant my job revolves around measuring the financial profit of the company, of my employer. Like most companies, my employer's raison d'être is to deliver a stream of ever increasing profits to its owners by providing services of a type and quality which are in demand. For survival, the battle cry has to be: "Do it better for less, achieve more with less resource".

So how do I bring "something of God" to this competitive environment? A belief that there is something of God in each and every one of us demands straightforward honesty and integrity, the treating of all colleagues as equals in all situations. I think it is more than that. It can be to do with "lowering the temperature" by injecting trust and good faith so that "do it better for less" need not cost anxiety, conflict and loss of self esteem among whole groups of colleagues. This cost can be a temporary phenomenon but it can chip away in the background.

Sara Wheeler, who spent a year in Antarctica learning about not only Antarctica but also the "normal" world which she had left behind, has put it more vividly in her book "Terra Incognita" which is a wonderful read. In a short passage talking about her faith in God and what it should mean to her daily life she says: "I had seen that it was possible to do anything in two ways, whether a five-week dance with death or an hour-long business meeting. You could do it with dignity and loving kindness, keeping your temper with God, or with ambition, self-interest and greed, allowing the world to sweep you away like an Antarctic wind. What mattered was the 'response of the spirit'".

I hope that I can bring a little more of the "response of the spirit" to my working and every day life this year and avoid some of the Antarctic winds.

Richard Raggett



# GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

**SOARING**



**INTO THE  
FUTURE**

APRIL 21st 2000 AD

**Calling all children.**

**Please book your place on "The Great Millennium Good Friday Project" and zoom into the future.**

**Booking forms will be delivered to all the schools during March.**

**Your passports for this spectacular event will be circulated in April.**

**Don't miss this exciting day.**

**To all Adults** Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help with our "Millennium Good Friday Project". There will be **two meetings** to begin organising this event. Both are at 62 Chapel Hill. The first is on Monday February 7th and the second on Tuesday February 8th. Please attend the one that is most convenient for you. If you cannot make these dates contact Marion for a chat - Tel. No. 812284.

There are two kinds of helpers required. "Activity Leaders" organise one of many activities that the children attend. No expertise is required and you will work with several other adults. "Escorts" have a group of about ten children and they escort these children to the different activities. Again you will have the support of other adults. Please pass news of these meetings to your friends if you feel they would enjoy helping at this important event.

Attending these meetings will not commit you to taking part but will be a good opportunity to discover more about the Good Friday Project.

Marion G. Johnson

## A THANK YOU

To all our friends in Stansted who sent messages of love and congratulations on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. These were very much appreciated and contributed to a truly memorable celebration.

Claude & Win Mitchley



### A BELATED THANK YOU ...

The organisers of last year's carol singing around the village would like to thank all those who sang, played an instrument, collected, listened, made donations or provided hospitality. In spite of two out of the four evenings being rather wet, we were able to raise over £200 for the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

### IN PRAISE OF OUR CHURCHES

Last year my family and I visited nearly one hundred churches throughout England and Wales. These ranged in size and splendour from Cirencester's magnificent wool church to the smallest parish church in England at Culbone, Somerset, hidden deep in a wooded combe and accessed only on foot.

We finally succeeded in visiting two churches we had planned to visit for years, Broxted with the unique "hostage" windows and Westerham, Kent, which stands proudly above the village where we purchased books at the book corner, an increasing feature of many parish churches. At the ornate medieval church of St John, Thaxted, we met a fourteen year old schoolboy following in the footsteps of Gustav Holst merrily playing the organ and at Amberley, West Sussex, we met a dedicated group of flower arrangers preparing for the following day's wedding. In Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, we stood mesmerised as we listened to a large touring party of American choral singers who were en-route for York Minster via Salisbury and Canterbury Cathedrals and at the gates of the tiny church of Great Chalfield, Wiltshire, we were greeted by a little owl.

Our travels included repeat visits to many of the finest and least altered small churches of the Welsh border country. Perhaps the most rewarding were Bredwardine and Dorstone, deep in Herefordshire's Golden valley and the nearby churches of Pembridge and Yarpole with their magnificent separate bell towers. In Somerset, arguably the county with England's finest collection of churches, we re-visited Oare where Lorna Doone was reputedly shot dead at the altar steps and the tiny, lonely and isolated church at Stoke Pero, the highest on Exmoor.

In the tiny cathedral of St Asaph in Denbighshire, North Wales, we completed an extensive and informative

children's quiz and at Painswick, Gloucestershire, we enjoyed counting the 99 yews which adorn the churchyard. At John Betjeman's St Enedoc, on the wild north Cornish coast, we crossed the sand dunes and golf course to discover for the first time the tiny church which was itself once covered by sand. We took shelter in two churches; at the Loughwood Meeting House near Axminster, Devon, during a summer cloudburst and in the eight hundred year old church at Elmley Castle, Worcestershire, which nestles beneath the slopes of Bredon Hill, when a fierce storm suddenly developed.

We particularly enjoyed the fresh Easter gardens and the flower festivals of high summer of which Stansted's St Mary's Festival of Marriage was a very original concept. The variety of themes of these festivals never ceases to amaze. Among those discovered last year included themes representing village organisations, books of the Bible, nursery rhymes and the musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber. At Dinton in Wiltshire and Warmington, Warwickshire, the parish churches formed the centrepiece to the village's open gardens spectacle.

Each Christian place of worship we were fortunate to visit in 1999 stood as a reminder of the hard work and commitment of the few for the benefit of the many. It is usually thanks to a very small group of dedicated locals that each was clean and well cared for and often full of the flowers of the season. At the start of the new millennium, let us all thank God for our rich and varied heritage of churches and cathedrals and work hard to preserve this endowment for future generations.

Philip Duly  
816053



### ESSEX DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

#### OPENING THE DOOR TO THE WORLD

#### THE TRAVEL VOUCHER SCHEME

The Essex Disabled People's Association are opening the door to the world for full-time wheelchair users across the County of Essex

A National Lottery Charities Board grant of £560,000 will enable the *edpa* to give away £25 worth of free travel vouchers to all scheme members every month.

The scheme launched on last November is on offer to a limited number of people, fulfilling a tight criteria in order to give maximum benefit to those in most need.

For an application form please telephone 01245 253400 or write to the Essex Disabled People's Association at 90 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 1SS.

Email Bedding@edpass.org

If you meet the following criteria DON'T DELAY - APPLY TODAY

- (1) Rely entirely on a wheelchair for your mobility,
- (2) Receiving income support
- (3) Over 18 years of age,
- (4) Not an orange badge holder (or willing to surrender),
- (5) Living at home (or in a residential/care home - with no access to transport).

We have a network of wheelchair accessible vehicles waiting to take you wherever YOU want to go. (44 transport providers Countywide)

MAKE TODAY DIFFERENT - OPEN THE DOOR.

Denise Bedding  
Administrator



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

The climax to our current season will be on Saturday 11th March in St John's Church, Stansted when, at 8pm, the internationally famous Albemi String Quartet will be performing Mozart's Hunt Quartet, Borodin's Second Quartet, and also works by Dvorak and Puccini.

Their concert will be preceded by a reception in St John's Hall at 7pm, hosted by Stansted Parish Council as part of the village's programme of Millennium events, to which all concert-goers are invited.

The Albemi was formed more than 30 years' ago at the Royal Academy of Music and their interpretations of the great classics have attracted praise and respect around the world. They have toured the USA, South America, the Caribbean, Australia, China, and Europe as representatives of Britain under the auspices of the British Council.

"...one of the finest half-dozen quartets in the world today"  
- *New York Times*

"...reflecting some of the finest qualities of the British musical tradition." - *The Washington Post*.

"A performance.... spacious yet tempestuous, powerful yet infinitely flexible.

One of the most exciting performances"  
- *The Daily Telegraph*.

For this event particularly we would like to encourage the early purchase of tickets as we anticipate a high demand. Tickets are £7-50, Concessions £5-00, Children £3-00, and children of members £1 -00.

**Ticket price includes a light buffet and wine at both Reception and Interval**

Tickets available from:

Stansted Parish Council, Grafton Green

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill

Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq.,  
Bishop's Stortford

Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted.  
(01279 815282)



## Nature Notes

Residents in Stansted may be interested to know that rainfall records have been kept in the village for the past 39 years. Until he died in early 1994, Arthur Scholes kept very careful records and this practice has been continued by members of Bishop's Stortford and District Natural History Society. A visit to the weather station at Stansted Airport in 1992 showed that these records bore a remarkable consistency with those taken by more elaborate equipment at the Airport.

In East Anglia we experience dryer weather than in the west. The average annual rainfall for this area is 24.71 inches. In 1998 and 1999 considerably more than the average was recorded - 30.06 & 26.59 inches respectively. In contrast the 2 previous years had totals well below the average with less than 19 inches. Our memories are often at fault with what we have perceived as a 'wet' or 'dry' year. One particular month can stand out and appear to represent the whole year especially if that month has been during the holiday period. Last year one may not have been surprised to have been told that August was the wettest month. However I doubt if many people would have labelled February as the driest month when only 0.71 inches fell and this was even less in the previous year with a mere 0.2 inches. No one particular month has been shown to have similar annual records; they all fluctuate. June has records, which have differed by as much as 5 inches and for those of you planning events in June one needs perhaps to be warned that the highest monthly figure over the last 9 years was in fact in June 1997 with a magnificent 5.85 inches. If we did not have to take the temperature into consideration perhaps we should be planning carnivals in dryer February when the rainfall rarely exceeds 3 inches.

Water is an important natural resource. We should all be prepared to save what we can and make use of it in the garden rather than take the easy option of turning on the tap. Our weather may not be extreme but the annual rainfall is certainly unpredictable.

Judith Combes



## HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am

Sat 5th February

outside the  
United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



Stansted Junior  
Football Club

## FAMILY QUIZ

7 pm Sat 5th February

Youth & Adult Centre

For tickets please tel

813769 or 814603

## VALENTINE DANCE

in aid of Corrymeela

### 'THE INNOCENTS'

8 - 11.15 pm Sat 12 February

Mountfitchet School

Refreshments - Bar - Raffle

**Everyone Welcome**

Tickets £6 (under 12s £3)

Please tel 850209

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### February

2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Sat	Cake Stall Junior Football Family Quiz	Outside URC 10 am Youth & Adult Centre 7 pm
7	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
10	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
12	Sat	Lib Democrat Ploughman's Valentine Dance	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Mountfitchet Sch 8 - 11.15 pm
16	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18	Fri	The Entertainers	St John's Hall 7.45 for 8 pm
19	Sat	HEAL Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
19	Sat to 20 Sun	Skip & Green Waste	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
21	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm

### March

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	World Day of Prayer	United Reformed Church 2 pm
3	Fri	Wild Goose Weekend	St John's Church 7.30 pm
4	Sat	Wild Goose Weekend	St John's Church 9.30 am
5	Sun	Wild Goose Weekend	St John's Church 1 pm
4	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
9	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
11	Sat	Village Music Club	St John's Hall/Church from 7 pm
13	Mon to 16 Thu	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
18	Sat	CTS Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm



Stansted Evening WI

## The Entertainers

(Part of Bishop's Stortford Operatic Society)

Light musical entertainment

7.45 for 8 pm Fri 18th Feb

St John's Hall

Tickets £5 (incl light refreshments)

Tel 812725 / 812470 / 814433



## QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 19th Feb

Day Centre

Bring your own drinks

£6 (incl fish & chip supper)

Please tel 813871



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

Millennium Concert & Reception

### ALBERNI QUARTET

**Leader: Howard Davis**

plays Borodin, Puccini & Mozart

8 pm Sat 11th March

St John's Church

Light Buffet Reception  
from 7pm (in Church Hall)

The Parish Council invites all subscribers  
& ticket holders to the reception, before  
the concert and during the interval

Tickets from

Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019

Nockolds Bishop's Stortford

Sonia Levy 31 Chapel Hill 815282

£7.50 adults £5 conc £3 school children

## Stansted Evening WI COFFEE MORNING



10.30 am Mon 20th March

Stansted Day Centre

Bric-à-Brac ~ Raffle ~ Cakes ~

Bring & Buy and other stalls

Entry 50p incl coffee/tea & biscuits

All proceeds to Meningitis Trust

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



'Talitha Koum:

**Young Woman Stand Up'**

2 pm Friday 3rd March

United Reformed Church

Speaker Dr Pamela Cressey

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



### STANSTED BRANCH

So, the New Millennium is finally here! Apart from that momentous event quite a lot has happened in the HEAL Cancer Charity territory since my last article.

In November, Joy and I had the privilege of attending the laying of the foundation stone of the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Centre at the North Middlesex hospital. Nikki Rollason performed the ceremony, which was attended by the new patron of the appeal, Sebastian Coe, MP, and a whole host of TV sports personalities and local dignitaries. The plans of the building were on show and it looks very impressive. Building should start shortly and be complete in about a year - meanwhile the fund-raising continues.

We held our dance in December at Mountfitchet School and despite a lot of competition from other events that evening we had quite a good attendance and made a useful profit.

We as a committee, are greatly encouraged that of late an increasing number of local people and organisations are volunteering to raise money for HEAL. For example, the Stansted Fun Run shared their profit between HEAL and two other charities, from which we gained over £1000. King's Family Butchers ran their annual Christmas draw for HEAL and if you were out and about in the village on the Saturday before Christmas you may well have been waylaid by our local fire brigade to contribute to their annual street collection. This year they made HEAL the principal beneficiary from which the funds got a boost of £2,000!

On behalf of the Stansted group committee and the board of Trustees I would like to express our grateful thanks for these contributions - both to those who organised and collected and also to all who contributed ... and please don't stop!

Perhaps some of you have noticed that the HEAL Charity Shop in Bishop's Stortford has closed. Unfortunately the lease on the property ('Greenwich Village') expired so everything had to close. That is a great pity because in its short time of existence it had made a very significant contribution, through the parent shop at Epping, to the CT Scanner fund. However, we should remember that without the support and enthusiasm of Terry and Pam Jackson the shop would never have opened at all.

Our programme of events for this year as planned so far consists of a quiz night on 19th February and we are hoping to hold an auction of promises. If you would like to contribute something to be auctioned, whether a service or something for sale, we would be delighted to hear from you (tel. 813871). In July we will have our second annual 'open

garden' day and, of course, the 5th Annual Coffee Morning in September. Other events will no doubt emerge in due course.

In February HEAL Cancer Charity is four years old. We have come a long way in that time but the road to improving services for cancer patients in this area stretches as far as we can see into the distance. It would be nice to think that government funding would be available for everything we are trying to do but there is little prospect of that. Incidentally, HEAL has put in two applications to the National Lottery for grants, unfortunately both unsuccessful, and this year will put in a third. It takes a lot of time and effort to make the applications, but if we are successful then it will all be worth it.

We would like to wish all our supporters a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Richard Thomas  
Chairman, Stansted Group  
and Trustee



### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The wide range of interests and talents of our members becomes evident every year when we hold "Members' Evening" and this January was no exception.

Steve Welch's forefathers lived in Stansted and two letters sent by a friend in the Navy during Napoleonic times were read by Steve and one from the friend's wife was read by Janice McDonald. Mr Welch was considering whether his son, aged 4 at the time of the first letter and 7 at the time of the second letter, should have a career at sea but his friend did not recommend it!

Peter Brown then displayed stone bottles which had contained Normans Ginger Beer, once manufactured in Stansted, together with other locally used bottles and we heard about the now disbanded Observer Corps from Ted Pretty who was a member for some years.

Judy Colliver read the first Annual Report of the Stansted Mountfitchet Women's Institute, founded 40 years ago, and was assisted by Marion Pretty in showing some interesting items. The recent auction of the Lordship of Stansted provoked interest in the subject and Toby Lyons told us something of the way the old manorial system worked.

The next meeting on Thursday 3rd February will be on "The Elsenham and Thaxted Light Railway" by Peter Paye. On Thursday 2nd March we have a return visit by Peter Rawson on "Stansted - the last 250 million years". Both at 8 pm in the Day Centre.

FOURTH SEASON 1999-2000



# ALBERNI QUARTET

Leader: HOWARD DAVIS

The programme will include works by  
Borodin, Puccini and Mozart

## MILLENNIUM CONCERT

Saturday 11th March 2000

8.00p.m. in St. John's Church.

Reception with light buffet from 7.00p.m.

The Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council invites all subscribers and ticket holders to a buffet reception in the Church Hall before the concert and during the interval

ADVANCED BOOKING STRONGLY ADVISED  
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# Uttlesford District Council Report



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

### A Year of Change

This promises to be a very busy year for both members and officers as we tackle the most far reaching changes to the Council since its formation in 1974. The Local Government Bill introduced in November's Queen's Speech requires the Council to change the way it carried out decision making. Old committee structures will be swept away and instead, in the case of Uttlesford a cabinet with a leader is proposed. Separation of the executive is intended to ensure that decisions can be taken more quickly and efficiently than in the existing committee system, that the individuals responsible for decision making can be more readily identified by the public.

I hope that Uttlesford will learn from the experiences of other local authorities who have already implemented change. I don't share the view of former Liberal Prime Minister, Lord Rosebery, who remarked 'Change, change, change, why all the need for change. Aren't things bad enough already?' The system is in need of improvement. It must become more relevant, more independent, more accountable and more worth voting for. My concern is that the aim of the Government's reforms is to remodel local government in the image of parliamentary government. The only route available to a backbench councillor wanting to take a bigger role in local government is by seeking the approval of the executive. How effective a scrutineer will a councillor be when holding to account a more senior member of their own party whose hands hold their political destiny?

Uttlesford also has to respond to the requirement to introduce Best Value, which replaces Compulsory Competitive Tendering. Best Value is a duty placed on Councils to deliver services to clear standards, covering cost and quality. Councils will have to place themselves on a more business like footing. Increasingly they will have to look to the private sector, both to learn lessons and work in partnership

### Appointment of new Chief Executive

This February, Mrs Elizabeth Forbes will take up post as the head of the Council's paid staff. She was previously Assistant Chief Executive at Peterborough City Council.

### Uttlesford helps Stansted commemorate the Millennium

Bentfield Primary School, Mountfitchet High School and the Stansted 2000 committee all received financial help from the Council. Bentfield School was granted £300 towards the creation of a Millennium garden. Mountfitchet School was granted £250 towards the making of a film about life in Stansted around 1000 AD. The Stansted 2000 committee was awarded £300 towards the cost of providing refreshments and fireworks for the Millennium celebration.

Cllr Geoffrey Sell

W.I. members celebrated the New Year with their January party when the Committee provided the buffet and wine which followed the entertainment. We were serenaded by Alan Bloom with songs from the "Sinatra Years". He told us of Frank Sinatra's life and sang many of his most popular songs, finishing with a members request of one of his most famous - "My Way".

During business we were reminded of our forthcoming musical evening on February 18th when "The Entertainers" will entertain members, friends and allcomers to an evening of light music and songs from various shows. Tickets are £5 and include light refreshments. Members were also reminded of the Coffee Morning in aid of the "Meningitis Trust" to be held in the Day Centre on Monday 20th March at 10.30, entry 50p, to include coffee and biscuits.

The tea towels to celebrate our forty years have sold out and members agreed on a further supply to be ordered. These towels show pictures of the village in the Nineteen Sixties and are taken from the W.I. tablecloth which is a piece of the history of the village. They can be purchased at a cost of £2.50. We also have packs of notelets depicting the same design at a cost of £1.50 for six.

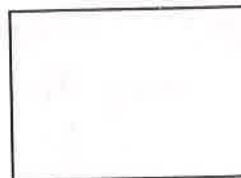
Our December raffle raised £25-50p which we donated to the Turkey disaster appeal organised by the Red Cross.

Our February speaker is Pippa Bondi MSTAT. Her talk is on the "Alexander Technique". Our trading stall is a Spring Sale of any unwanted items. Visitors are welcome to attend our meetings and hopefully if you find the W.I. interesting, join us

Brenda Ryan  
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# Essex County Council Report

January 2000

Before outlining the latest news may I take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy and prosperous New Year with the hope that all will go well for them and their families.

In a previous Newsletter I mentioned the coming budget which is still in process of preparation. I think now is the time to let readers know some of the facts so they are prepared for the final settlement which will be announced in March.

Central Government has increased the total Standard Spending Grant by 5.7%. As a result, the Revenue Support Grant will fall by some 2.3% because income from business rates will rise by 5.5% and because specific grants were made during the year. Unfortunately, as a result of the special grants made to Shire counties, which were removed in 1997, the County Budget will suffer and the actual funding required will be more than the increased grant. On this basis there would appear to be two options, either an overall reduction in expenditure which would seem to be unlikely or an increase in Council Tax. By how much remains to be decided but I fear the worst. Readers are warned and should be prepared.

I will report again in due course as and when more facts are available. Should anyone wish to ask questions please contact the undersigned on 01279 812471.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division



## St Clare Hospice

Our recent December street collections raised some £3,100. Many thanks if you made a donation, stood with a tin, or stored our equipment during the course of the collections.

With such support we have been able to provide a 24-hour helpline, day care at four venues, loans of specialist equipment, bereavement counselling, and support for over 600 families. The most exciting news is that from January onwards, in-patient care will be available too. We now have a brand new eight-bed unit at Hastingwood on the outskirts of Harlow. Patients suffering from life-threatening and terminal illnesses will be admitted for a variety of reasons including the control of symptoms and to give carers at home a respite. The average hospice in-patient stay is a fortnight, with the majority of patients returning home.

We could not have built this wonderful facility without your help. However, we now face the challenge of raising most of the £1 million needed per annum to pay for running costs. This means that your continued support is vital. St Clare is your hospice serving your area although we sincerely hope that you will never need to use our services.

Let us all hope for a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jo Price  
Fundraising Administrator



## Huw Johnson Club

Our 25th Birthday and Millennium Party went with a swing as 120 guests met in the Church Hall to wish the Club "Many happy returns" with their best wishes for the continuing success of the Club. Our Rector Andrew took many photographs and also made us famous by putting us on the 'Internet'. Thank you Andrew. The baseball caps with the Club logo on them were very popular and many members discoed away the evening wearing their new headgear. During the evening we were very pleased to receive donations to augment our holiday fund, especially the £300 from Saffron Walden Mencap. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Our ambition for a special millennium holiday is to book into a hotel or similar so that our helpers, many of whom are O.A.P.'s, will not have to cook meals, giving them more time to concentrate on enjoying our members' company - to do this we need to raise about £10,000 instead of our usual £4,500. Please support our 'Coffee Mornings' which we will be holding in the spring and help us reach our target.

Our annual visit to the pantomime was also a resounding success and we say a big thank you to the congregation of the U.R.C. for once again presenting us with a bumper bag of sweets and chocolates. Everyone had a selection to nibble through while the goose was busy laying golden eggs and there are still plenty more goodies left for future club evenings.

We would all like to wish our many benefactors, friends and supporters a very happy "New Millennium".

Marion G Johnson



# Stansted Profile No 20 - Ann Calver

Ann is well known in Stansted as the organiser of monthly coach outings for the village (anyone can join in). Last year's programme included a guided tour of London churches, Hampton Court, Docklands, Norwich, Apsley House, a Mystery Tour and ended with the Christmas celebrations at Thursford.

But the main thread running through her life is her Christian commitment through her work in the Salvation Army.

For the first years of her life she lived in Scotland in a small village near Kinross - where her parents had found work. When she was seven they came back to Bishop's Stortford and she attended St Michael's School from where she gained a scholarship to the Herts & Essex School. Ann knew from her early teens that she wanted to join the Salvation Army, so when she left school she went to Denmark Hill for the 4-year training. After her probationary posting in Yorkshire she became a Lieutenant. During the following years she continued to work in Yorkshire as well as Leicestershire and then spent a year caring for unmarried mothers in Belgium. She returned as a Captain. In all her postings Ann particularly enjoyed her work with children - in schools and in the clubs and Sunday Schools that she ran. Fundamentally rather a shy person, at first she found speaking to large groups and going into Public Houses quite hard, but soon found that she had an ability to communicate and always enjoyed meeting people. This gave her confidence and she got to enjoy the repartee required in pubs when selling the 'War Cry'.



After Yorkshire, Ann was in Manchester for two years; then followed a spell in Plymouth and finally the Salvation Army Headquarters in London when she became a Major. While working in London she lived with her mother in Bishop's Stortford and met again a childhood friend - Peter Calver. They married in 1972 and formed a partnership that clearly gives them both great joy. They have lived in Stansted for 22 years, at present in Cannons Mead. Ann relinquished her rank on marriage but has remained very actively involved with the Salvationists, and, in fact, takes charge in Bishop's Stortford when they are without a Captain. Last December she organised the Christmas Concert at Rhodes Hall with the Letchworth Salvation Army Band, raising £185 for the Gateway Club for handicapped youngsters.

All this may make her sound a very serious person, but that is far from the case. She has a great sense of humour and our afternoon together had plenty of laughter. Peter and Ann share a love of their garden. Even at this time of year it has plenty of variety and I have seen it in the summer when it is a blaze of colour - it needs a television programme to do it justice! Some of Ann's very fine cross-stitch is framed on the walls, alongside Peter's paintings. Their home is full of activity but has a great feeling of serenity and happiness.

Katherine Hurford

## Education needs YOU



**WELL YOUR PRAYERS ANYWAY....**

### PRAYER MEETING

We will pray for all involved in schools and education both locally and nationally.

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Wednesday 1st March

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## LIVING IN NEPAL

It seems hard to believe that at the time of writing I have been in Nepal for eight weeks. In some respects it seems like only yesterday that I left England for a four month teaching placement here but at other times it seems so long since I was on British soil.

After the wonderful time I had in India in the summer I decided to take a gap year before university. Despite applying late I managed to find a company (called "Asia Venture") which could organise for me to go to Nepal for four months to teach English as a foreign language. So on the 24th October, my nineteenth birthday, I left Heathrow with twenty other equally nervous volunteers I didn't know, bound for Kathmandu, via Jordan and Delhi.

We arrived in Kathmandu on the 25th. Flying into the airport I got my first glimpse of the Himalayas. The view was spectacular as the snow capped mountains were gradually replaced by the green mountains of the Kathmandu valley. Arriving into the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu was for me perhaps not as much of a culture shock as for the others after already having experienced it in India. We were greeted at the airport by the Nepalese representative of the company, and his wife, who presented us each with the traditional Nepali welcoming garland.

We spent the first two days in Kathmandu getting acclimatised, getting to know the other people in the group and seeing some of the sights. We visited Patan Durbar Square, the stupa (a site of pilgrimage for Hindus) and various other temples.

We left Kathmandu on the Wednesday to go to Shivapuri, a one hour minibuss ride and three hour walk away. Shivapuri - situated at 7000ft - is a wonderful little deserted village which has been turned into a "resort", by Nepali standards as it has no electricity or hot water. At night we saw by hurricane lamps and kept warm round an open fire in the communal room. We were there for four days to do our orientation course - learning some basic Nepali and being given advice on teaching. The views from here were wonderful and as we were the only people there it was very peaceful.

On the Sunday we left Shivapuri for the villages we are now living in. The group is based in four towns/villages around Nepal - six people in a place called Waling, five in Sangjia, six in Gorkha, and I live with three other English girls in a hamlet called Laxmi Bazaar, 8km south of Gorkha.

The first week I was in Laxmi Bazaar, Katie (my teaching partner) and I shadowed the other teachers getting a feel for how the school works. We then had five days holiday for the festival of Tihar, which is the second most important Hindu festival. As we live in the village we were actually involved in the celebrations. We watched the family who live upstairs worshipping their cow and then for Diwali, the most important day of the festival, we were invited to our headmaster's house and involved in his family's

worshipping ceremony. It was fascinating to watch and wonderful to actually be involved, something which people merely visiting Nepal and not living here would not get the chance to experience.

The week after Tihar the children had exams so Katie and I invigilated in exams, marked exam papers and held oral exams. Marking the papers was good as it gave us an idea of the level of the children's English. We found that it varies a lot which is hardly surprising when you consider that Class Four, for example, has 71 pupils. We have now settled into a routine at school and have a timetable. Sunday to Thursday I teach three periods a day (Classes 3, 4 and 5 - ages 7 to 12) and on Friday I only teach Class 3 as it is a half day. The teaching is difficult due to the high number of pupils in the classes (over 60 in every class) and the problem of communication as I know only very few Nepali words and phrases and some of the children's English is poor. It is enjoyable though and rewarding when I get something across. The children are also very sweet and recently have been giving me presents.

Life in the village is demanding. I live on the ground floor of a local headmaster's house. Our floor is basically an open corridor which means we constantly have half the village, and their livestock!, walking through our house. We will often find a crowd of people at our kitchen door watching us cook and eat. Cooking itself is quite difficult as we have only two gas rings and a tiny grill to cook on which means that there are only a limited amount of things we can cook. It is certainly challenging. Our washing we have to do in a bucket, having first boiled the water as there is no hot water in the house. Which leads me on to the shower! The shower and toilet are both outside, housed next to a small farmyard. I have got used to the squat toilet but it still takes a lot of will power to brave the cold shower!

The people of the village are very friendly and welcoming to us but the lack of privacy is quite difficult at times. When walking through the village we will often find everyone staring at us and the children from my classes will call out "Miss Ellen, Miss Ellen" after me!

Christmas will be strange out here, although it will be refreshing to miss all the hype and commercialism of it but I know that it will not feel much like Christmas not being at home in Stansted.

I have five weeks of teaching left and will then spend a month trekking and doing a safari before returning to England in the middle of February. Coming out to Nepal has been, and I hope will continue to be, a very rewarding experience and one which I am thoroughly enjoying.

Ellen Brooks

(Ellen is a Sunday School teacher and Server at St John's Church, and a helper at the Huw Johnson Club.)



## ARE YOU ON MESSAGE'?

Yes, I reckon I am.

I can send and receive Emails, extract information and make purchases from (and be defrauded by) sites on the World Wide Web and I use the information on our local stansted.net' web site....

But here is a cautionary tale.

I go to my desk and switch on my computer. I decide to see if someone is trying to contact me so I log in to my principal Internet Service Provider and, once connected, the distinctive voice of Joanna Lumley welcomes me and tells me that there is mail waiting for me.

I strike a few buttons on the keyboard and the first message appears on the screen. It's from Joe Bloggs: a series of badly constructed sentences with words mis-spelt. However, I know Joe well and I am used to receiving his Email comments a couple of days after we've had a night out at the pub.

But wait, there is a further message: this time from the XYZ Travel Co offering me discounted tickets for a weekend in Paris. It says quite clearly that the offer is being made over the Internet to Internet Users only and can only be booked via the Internet: similar discount offers will not be made to people who do not use the Internet. My funds are low, so in spite of the attractive discount, I decide not to accept the offer.

While my computer is still connected to the Internet, I decide to look at the web site of a large electrical goods trader. Apart from giving me a list of all their store branches and telling me how good their 'free credit' terms are, I note that the new hi-fi system that I've been considering buying is in their New Year sale starting at the end of the week. Now, this is most odd: the trader's local sale promotion pamphlet that came this morning with the free newspapers says nothing about this hi-fi system but their web site, last updated two weeks ago is quite unequivocal, the hi-fi system is in their sale. This is all very confusing. Since I'd like an up to date hi-fi system, I phone the local branch of the store. After some waiting on the phone while the store checks the situation, they indeed confirm that the hi-fi system will be in the sale at the end of the week.

I log off from the Internet, I turn off my computer and I sit down and I reflect upon the situation.

Through my ability to access the Internet and the World Wide Web, I have a personal communication capability with Joe Bloggs, I have been made offers and been given public domain information that otherwise would not have been available to me. I am in a privileged position.

But what about those people in three quarters of the

households in this country who do not have residential access to the Internet. They were excluded from all that I had received.

Although we are all being bombarded with advertisements for the services of the digital revolution to give us Internet and World Wide Web services, not everyone wants to or is able to avail themselves of these icons of life at the beginning of the Third Millennium. Some will be too old to learn to about the new enabling gizmos, some will be unable to afford them and others will be just plain disinterested; after all, there are other things in life!

Although the situation will change rapidly and increasingly more people will have Internet and World Wide Web access in the future, is it fair to provide information that is of interest and importance to all, solely, as sometimes happens, via these new communications services? Of course not, there should never be any essence of an elite or privileged entitlement for information particularly when it is supposed to be in the public domain.

By all means put public domain information on Web Sites and send Emails - these are valuable and efficient communications means in their own right - but make sure that the same public domain information is available by way of the printed and, where necessary, the spoken word.

Be inclusive, not exclusive !

Tacitus II

(PS. Did I buy the hi-fi system? Well no; I went to the local store but the manager said that they never actually had had it in stock. It was suggested that I try one of their other stores 20 or 30 miles away but, they were sorry, but it was up to me to make the enquiries, they couldn't possibly phone round their other branches and get one for me that I could collect from my local store !)



## Recipe of the Month

### Essex Oaties

3oz / 75 gm plain flour  
3oz / 75 gm margarine  
3oz / 75 gm sugar  
3oz / 75 gm oats  
1 tablespoon milk  
½ level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1 level tablespoon golden syrup

- (a) mix flour, bicarbonate, sugar & oats
- (b) heat margarine, milk & syrup
- (c) mix all well together
- (d) roll into balls about size of a walnut
- (e) place on greased tray, leaving space for them to spread
- (f) bake for 10-15 mins 150° C / 300° F / Gas 2
- (g) cool on a wire rack



## BERTIE'S SURPRISE

Christmas was over and school had started again. Bertie was very excited about this as he was seeing all his old friends and making some new ones. One Saturday, as he had finished his lunch and the sun was shining, he decided to go for a walk to see Primrose, the little horse. "Don't be too long" said Mrs Bouncer "As it gets dark early". "All right" replied Bertie. And off he went.

But Primrose was not in her field and Bertie could not see her anywhere. "Oh dear now what shall I do" thought Bertie to himself. Just then Mrs Rabbit came scampering up the lane behind him. "Hallo Bertie, are you looking for Primrose?" "Yes" said Bertie, "But I can't see her". "Primrose has gone to live in a warm stable for the winter". Bertie looked sad as he liked talking to Primrose. "Never mind" said Mrs Rabbit "Why don't you come home with me and we can have a drink and biscuit before you go home". So that's what Bertie did.



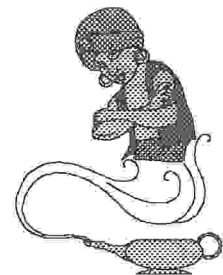
When he went home Mrs Bouncer told Bertie to go and have a wash and get changed into his best clothes as they were all going out. "Where to?" asked Bertie. "It is a surprise" said Mrs Bouncer. And before Bertie could ask any more questions Billy and Mr Bouncer came hurrying in. "Hurry up and get ready" said Mrs Bouncer "And before we go we must have some soup because we will not have dinner until quite late".



Soon they were all ready and off they set. Bertie was very excited and kept bouncing up and down. They went into the schoolhouse where chairs had been placed in rows and a curtain had been hung at one end of the room. All the woodland folk were there and it was very noisy with everyone chattering away.

Bertie and Billy saw all their friends sitting together at the front. "Can we go and sit with them?" they asked. "Yes" said Mrs Bouncer "But mind you behave yourselves". Bertie wondered what was behind the curtain, but just as he was going to have a peep, the lights suddenly dimmed. The curtain was slowly drawn back to reveal - guess what - A STAGE which was lit up by a light. Bertie looked round and saw that Mr Bouncer was on a ladder at the back of the room with a large torch which he was pointing at the stage. Bertie and all the audience clapped their hands as hard as they could.

Bertie suddenly remembered that before Christmas Mrs Blackbird had told him that some of the woodland folk were going to perform a pantomime and that was what he was going to see. There were lots of boos and hisses when the wicked uncle was on stage and Bertie thought this was great fun as the wicked uncle was played by his school master and, of course, he couldn't tell them off for shouting at him! Bertie especially liked the magic lamp which Aladdin rubbed to make a genie appear in a great puff of smoke.



Later when it was all over and Mrs Bouncer came in to tuck Bertie up in bed, she asked him if he had enjoyed the surprise. "Oh yes" said Bertie sleepily, "It was so funny, I laughed so much I nearly bounced off my chair".



"Well goodnight and sleep tight" said Mrs Bouncer and put out the light. Bertie snuggled down beneath the bedclothes and thought of Aladdin and his magic lamp. "If I had a magic lamp I wonder what my three wishes would be". But he was so tired he fell asleep before he could think of one!



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