

Jan 2000

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In the bleak mid-winter ...



Photograph: Paul Embleton

High Lane and Lower Street

*“For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world and all the wonder that would be”*

*‘The Lady of Shalott’
Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

*We wish our readers a joyous New Year
and a Jubilee with New Horizons*

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are welcome at
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Stansted CM24 8JP

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Wakeley
Leetes Lane
Eversden
Cambs, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<benefice.music@stansted.net>

Taking Stock

"At this crucial point of human history, on the eve of the third millennium, the main duty of the religions is not to propagate their dogmas and rituals or to try to increase their memberships. The issue is not whether we should pray standing or kneeling, our heads covered or uncovered; it is whether we will pray — period."

The Millennium has either come and gone, or we are just under a year away, if you are a mathematical purist. Either way, there has been a great deal of taking stock of our history in the media and, last November, the Church of England had the chilling news that its membership had dropped below the magic one million mark.

Given that much of our time is spent maintaining obsolete structures, buildings and practices, I am not surprised both that people are dropping off through exhaustion, and the feeling that the church is not fulfilling its primary task. With fewer clergy on the ground, we have to ask how best to spend our time: whether to maintain a midweek service for Epiphany, with a full choir and three in the congregation, or to work on events which meet people where their need is, like the annual All Souls Memorial service, or the appeal for

Bosnian aid which so galvanised Birchanger village into action three years ago, a community which has otherwise almost completely abandoned its parish church.

The Millennium, with all its overtones of taking stock, or judgement, should draw our attention to the deepest fact that we have become disconnected from God, and a church without a clear purpose is bound to be hard work and lose people's interest.

On the initiative of Fr. Joe of St. Theresa's, Stansted, Christians will be meeting to pray together once a month in each other's churches, for this Millennium year, on the last Wednesday of the month. Wednesday evenings are a time when Christians of all denominations have gathered to pray weekly for the last nine years. No plan, no agenda, just prayer, since the only path to the future is to pray and to listen. AS

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

(Except the last Wednesday of this month when there will be an ecumenical service at St. Theresa's 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 (£5 concessions) 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

From the Registers

November
1999

3rd Colin D Linnell of Croasdaile Road
11th Edna Wickworth of Chapel Hill
12th Leonard Lawrence

Funerals

18th Margaret Iris Burton of Recreation Ground
22nd Amy Mabel McGregor of Woodfields

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

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 January

2nd	11am	Rev'd L Rapkin
9th	11am	Rev'd D Simpson - Communion
16th	11am	Rev'd L Rapkin
	6.30pm	CTS Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
23rd	11am	Rev'd L Rapkin
30th	11am	Mrs S Foakes

From The Rev'd David Simpson

Millennium bugs, millennium domes, millennium celebrations, millennium champagne, fireworks and top-of-the-pops - is there life after the millennium celebrations?

What will replace the frantic barrage emerging from the media and the commercial world? What will substitute for the time, energy and billions of pounds that have been ploughed into the preparation to mark the end of a century and a millennium?

Just as abruptly as the last firework fizzles out in the morning sky and 1999 slips irreversibly and swiftly into the history books, a frenzied search will begin to find another event or occasion to capture headlines and imagination and trigger the next novelty and spending spree. Not many though will compete with the last two years or so of millennium countdown, thank goodness!

Materialism bound to its two close allies, individualism and consumerism, lubricated with cutting-edge technology conspire to drive an ever accelerating and frenetic search for all things new and fashionably cool to sharpen the appetite in a 'been there, done that' philosophy. Unfortunately demand is inevitably overtaking availability and the laws of physics indicate that ever accelerating objects have a nasty habit of spinning out of control and eventually throw themselves to pieces.

Frantic and frenetic searching for all things new and stimulating and the stress that accompanies it seem to be a

direct contradiction of what the world is crying out most for, peace, harmony and accord.

With the millennium celebrations and hype behind us and The Lord's prayer rescued from 'Auld Lang Syne', we may find quality time and space in the new year to recover the gospel's message of life, hope and expectation that may yet be found in the otherness of Christ.

David Simpson

Pilots

A Youth Group within the URC We are re-opening our Pilot Group on Sunday January 23rd. The children will meet in the Lecture Hall between 10.50 and 11.50 am, returning to the Church for the last ten minutes of the main service. Much enthusiasm has been shown by our Junior Church children for this venture, and our Minister the Rev. David Simpson is giving us his full support. We are to hold a meeting with the Provincial Pilot Officer at a date to be announced and all persons interested in any way will be welcome to come along and hear what she has to say.

We will have a nucleus of about 8-10 children in our Pilot Group and all are looking forward to the many activities on offer including working for badges, craft work, music and games. The Captain of the group will be Mrs Valerie Trundle and the Officers, Mr. David King, Mrs. Michelle King and Miss Helen Gould.

Junior Church

Our Junior Church meets on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month except in August. Our leaders are David and Michelle King and Helen Gould.

Table Tennis

Calling all past and present table tennis players and all who would like to come along to the Lecture Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month, beginning on the 13th January 2000. We have a full sized table and it seems a pity to see it sitting in the hall not being used. We hope that the evening will prove to be a social occasion when we can not only play table tennis but have a coffee and a chat with friends old and new. The evening begins at 8 p.m.

The Monday Club

We aim to be a really happy, relaxed and friendly gathering of both sexes and we are going to meet on the third Monday of each month at 2.30 pm in the URC Hall. Our first meeting will be on Monday, 17th January, 2000 and will take the form of a New Year Tea Party to welcome members. The annual subscription will be £3. We hope that at some meetings we shall have a speaker; at others, there will be games or a quiz. If you are interested in joining us, please give your name to Ann Calver (tel: 647381) or to Phyllis Little (tel: 815137) and come along on 17th January. The "Village Link" bus (Service No. 7) will be useful for those for whom walking is no longer easy.

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

For many Centuries the Church has declared certain years to be what we call Holy Years and not surprisingly the year 2000 has been so called.

These Holy Years are times for reconciliation and renewal, times when we are reminded of the generosity and goodness of God.

Traditionally we have been invited to go on Pilgrimage to celebrate the freeness of God's love for us.

This year our Cathedral Church of Brentwood has been designated as a centre for Pilgrimage and our Bishop will be encouraging us to make our own Pilgrimage there during this special year.

This great year of Jubilee should herald a renewal of faith for the birth of Christ was not just a historical event in first century Palestine, it was nothing less than the most important event in human history.

Unfortunately at this the end of the 2nd Millennium we have seen the secularisation of Europe.

Our Bishop therefore asks us to Pray, Witness and Work so that the Gospel may live again in our land.

Eileen Quinn

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

This "Millennium" year marks Emmanuel's 2000th birthday - at least according to the calendars used by most Christians in the UK.

"Emmanuel" was the name which Joseph was instructed to give his wife's baby. When Mary was pregnant before their marriage and Joseph was undecided about whether the wedding should go ahead, he had a dream in which an angel reassured him that this baby was God's idea - not only that, but God had chosen a name - Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us".

When I remembered this in a Quaker meeting recently, I realised that for me it really sums up the essentials in that strange mix of challenge and reassurance that makes religion worth thinking about:

- "God is with us": Quakers believe that each person has an element of God - a spiritual dimension, something deeper than ideas or even feelings, and a direct relationship with God - it's a privilege to be special, but it's a challenge - we have to make moral choices.
- "God is with us" - the same on 2nd, 3rd January 2000 as always - and now! Not just a vague hope (or last resort!) for the future.
- "God is with us" - We're not alone, and God is not distant but with or within us.
- "God is with us" - all of us human beings share this dimension, we share this special spiritual value - it's not limited to you, me, or 'them' but is in all of us, to be respected in others and nurtured in ourselves.

Best wishes for the Millennium - Emmanuel !

Carolyn Burch

METHODIST

Meets at 9.30 am 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 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Services and Preachers for January

2nd Rev. John Graham: Covenant Service &
Holy Communion
9th Michael Valentine
16th Jerry Heyhoe
23 Betty Kime
30 Rev. John Graham Holy Communion

Additional service on 16th January at 6.30 pm -
United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -
Friends' Meeting House.



SHALOM

JANUARY DATES

10th January An evening with Fr Jim Brand
at Mike & Marion's
7 Blythwood Gardens
24th January Prayer & Praise
Eileen & Brian's
4 Greenfields

Everyone welcome for Ecumenical Fellowship

**We are having our Retreat Weekend at Hengrave Hall,
26-28 February - if you would like details please ring
Harry Goreing, 503764.**



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

There will be a united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 16th January at 6.30 p.m. at the Friends' Meeting House. This service will be led by the Methodists.

Commencing in January, there is to be a joint act of worship on the last Wednesday of every month. The first service is on Wednesday, 26th January at 8 p.m. at St. Theresa's Church. This will be led by Father Joe White. All are welcome.

Churches Together in Birmingham

On Advent Sunday, twenty or so intrepid (and some trepid) travellers boarded a coach at Crafton Green and set off up the M11. A couple of hours later we arrived in Birmingham and headed for the Mosque. To be more accurate, we headed for the Baptist Church near the Mosque. It was there that we met our friends from the Church of Cherubim and Seraphim. They have been sharing the Baptist building for a year or so now and seem to very pleased with the arrangement. Hopefully the Baptists are equally happy about the lingering fragrance of incense! Those of us who enjoy the lively worship style of this African church are indebted to Tony Bundock, a former Stansted curate, who initiated this twinning between Stansted and Birmingham about ten years ago.

The basic elements of worship are familiar to most Christians, but traditional hymns such as 'Amazing Grace' and 'The day Thou gavest' take on a whole new meaning when accompanied by a reggae drum beat! The guest preacher was our own David Morson, who praised our hosts for their overwhelming generosity towards us. He went on to remind us of God's generosity 2000 years ago in sending his Son to live amongst us and die for us. In response we should make generosity the hallmark of Christianity in the new millennium. Some of us were disappointed that the service only lasted for two hours and there were only two collections; on previous occasions it was more like three and three!

As usual we were treated to a superb meal before setting off home laden with 'party bags' full of fruit. For me, a time of worship and fellowship with the Cherubim and Seraphim is a glimpse of heaven. Perhaps Isaiah had a similar vision of the Seraphim as they cried out to each other 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.'

Michael Dyer

The photograph overleaf shows Pastor John Adegoke with his two honorary elders, David Morson and Michael Dyer.



HELPLINE

Thanks to a lottery grant, the Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service and Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau have jointly initiated a project called Uttlesford Voluntary Sector Training to offer training courses on a range of subjects for the benefit of volunteers within the district. The courses generally last for 1 day from 10am to 4/5pm, cost £15 each and are held at various venues in Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Thaxted. The subjects on offer between January and April are as follows:-

- Data protection:
- Equal opportunities in employment:
- Legal responsibilities of voluntary organisations:
- Producing management and statutory accounts:
- Planning & running an annual general meeting:
- Dealing with rapid change in the voluntary sector:
- Funding your future:
- Befriending and advocacy:
- Manual handling:
- Emergency lifesaving skills (1/2 day).

If any Helpline volunteers, or anyone else working within the voluntary sector, is interested in attending any of the above courses, please contact me and I will be happy to provide the necessary information.

Francine Cope
814562

WEA WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

"Dream, Superstition and Myth - or - Discovering the Otherworld", a long title for our next session which will begin in January. The aim of the course is to consider myths and legends that have come down through the ages, involving fairies, witches and wise men, knights and saints: from Valhalla to Oz and Wonderland, Robin Hood tales, mazes and labyrinths and rituals: to modern times with UFOs, corn circles and Star Wars. This is a dip into imagination, fantasy and the unexplained.

The lecturer, Mr. David Trenow, will use slides showing relevant pictures by famous artists, give readings and sing songs (live and on tape), and will encourage questions and participation by members. Let us celebrate the New Year with a study of the curious and whimsical.

The ten week course, held as usual at the Day Centre on Monday evenings, will begin on 24th January. The first evening doors open at 7.30pm to allow for enrolment before the lecture at 8pm. There is a reduced rate for pensioners. New members are always most welcome. If you have any queries please ring Jean McBride on 812214.

HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am

Sat 8th January

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)

St John's Church Grand Quiz

7.30 for 8 pm

Saturday 15th January

St John's Hall

Bar ~ Ploughman's Supper

Tickets £5 (Concessions £3)

Tel 813160 / 815225



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

JAMIE WALTON (cello)

DANIEL GRIMWOOD (piano)

Playing the music of
Chopin, Schumann,
Rachmaninov &
Mendelssohn

3 pm Sun 23rd January
St John's Church

Tickets from
Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019
Nockolds Bishop's Stortford
Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door
£7.50 adults £5 concessions
£3 school children

VILLAGE EVENTS

January

5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Cake Stall Lib Democrat Ploughman's	Outside URC 10 am Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
15	Sat	Grand Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
17	Mon		
to			
20	Thu	Skip at Railway Sidings	7.30 am - 3 pm
19	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
23	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
24	Mon	WEA re-commences Shalom Group	Day Centre 7.30 pm 4 Greenfields 8 pm

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
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	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
18	Fri	The Entertainers	St John's Hall 7.45 for 8 pm
19	Sat		
to			
20	Sun	Skip & Green Waste	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm



Stansted Junior Football Club

FAMILY QUIZ

7 pm Sat 5th February
Youth & Adult Centre

For tickets please tel
813769 or 814603



Stansted Evening WI

The Entertainers

(Part of Bishop's Stortford
Operatic Society)

An evening of light
musical entertainment

7.45 for 8 pm

Friday 18th February
St John's Hall

Tickets £5

(incl light refreshments)

Tel 812725 / 812470 / 814433

Stansted Parish Council



Skip Dates

Mon - Thurs

7.30 am - 3 pm

17 - 20 January

13 - 16 March

17 - 20 April

Weekends

(also Green Waste)

7.30 am - 3 pm

19 - 20 February

10 - 11 June

Green Waste

1 - 4 pm

Sat 25 March

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Since writing my last Newsletter, which I hope was of interest, I had planned to give news of the plans for the coming year's budget so that readers would be up to date on what next year's figures were likely to be and gain perhaps an idea of the rate for Council Tax. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the publication of the recent report on local housing development makes this thought redundant for the present. Instead I will make some comments on the report so that readers can reflect on them and be prepared to express their views as and when necessary.

The Report expresses the opinion that something near one million new houses will be required in the country over the next few years, two hundred and thirty thousand of which will be in Essex.

It further expresses the view that houses should be built on "green belt" land as well as in "Brown Field" sites.

Additionally, it poses the idea that eight new towns should be built in the South East of England, one of which is in the area of Stansted.

These opinions clearly do not reflect the views of those presently living in the county and particularly in the area of Stansted, who if I am any judge will be resentful of any disturbance to their pleasant semi-rural environment; yet the proposals are submitted in all seriousness. As such they should be resisted and the proposal disputed. The first question which might be asked is on what grounds are the houses required and on what basis are the figures produced. Experience indicates that if houses are built they will be filled regardless of need. How many empty houses and flats are there in Central London and the near suburbs and how many in Uttlesford! Why build to meet an imaginary demand?

Why should they not think again. People move to where jobs are - is it to be the case that those unemployed in the North and Midlands of England are to move to fill the new town. Surely it makes more sense for jobs to be established where the population now is.

Should the new houses or town be built, will there be the infrastructure to support it. Is there enough water, electricity, rubbish disposal areas and other facilities to sustain the demand. Will the road system be sufficient! Are there enough shops!

Whilst these are only some of the questions which must be asked, obviously they will be answered by a positive reply of 'yes they will be', but the counter question must be "when".

Experience shows that infrastructure tends to follow development rather the reverse.

Having outlined some grounds for thought, I believe this brief note is sufficient for the present. Should any reader wish to know more or who has some points to make, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812471. Readers can be sure that representations on these homes are being made to the right place now. Readers' views will be required later should the representations be unsuccessful.

R C Wallace
Stansted Division

Stansted Art & Craft Market

The 20th Stansted Art & Craft Market was held on the final weekend of October, 1999, in Lower Street's Youth Centre. Once again, the event proved to be well visited and a popular local point for the village, providing its traditional platform for local crafters and artists to display their work. Throughout the two days, more than 1,000 visitors enjoyed browsing, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, amongst over 20 varied craft stalls and an exhibition of original framed and unframed paintings which were also the work of local artists. Live music was provided by pupils of Newport Grammar School's Swing Band and by Woodwind of Stortford and many children enjoyed having their face painted by members of our local NCT (National Childbirth Trust) Group. There were demonstrations of some crafts such as pottery, woodturning and paper marbling. Visitors even tried their hand at the wood turning and clay. An endless supply of delicious homemade cakes and refreshments was also laid on!

Since its first year, well over £22,000 has been donated to deserving causes in and around Stansted. This year, a record £1500 was distributed amongst the Mountfitchet School library, St Mary's School and Newport Free Grammar School; our three village pre-school groups - Rainbow, Sideways & the Chapel Hill Nursery; Riding for the Disabled and the Huw Johnson Club; Buffy Bus, the Laser Group & the Creche of St. John's Church; Helpline and Homestart; the Link, Millennium trees for the village, Venture Scouts and the refurbishment of the Youth Centre.

As in every previous year, the committee is most grateful to all who supported the event in any way, both before and during the event.

It's never long before we start hatching ideas for the next Market and we hope that the event will continue to go from strength to strength long into the next millennium!

For further information, contact Rachel Mortishire-Smith.

UTTLESFORD TOPICS

There will be two lots of public consultation from Uttlesford early in the new year. One will be about plans to rearrange the way the council makes decision. The second will be about what central government calls Best Value.

I have been sitting on a working party that has been drawing up proposals in response to the government's so-called modernisation agenda. This will divide councillors into two groups; a small executive of say six in number who will be responsible for making most decisions currently made by all councillors at committee meetings. The remaining 36 district councillors will be expected to scrutinise the decisions of the executive members and step up their constituency role in their wards.

Uttlesford's proposals will be to have a political council leader to head up the executive. We do not favour a directly elected mayor of the type causing so much controversy for two of the parties in London.

Depending on who is on the executive, these changes could mean that decisions about Stansted will no longer be taken by members from the locality.

The second major area of change is the introduction of something called Best Value. In essence, it is a system which gives local authorities new responsibility of making sure that they are delivering what local people want in the most efficient way. Uttlesford is a bit behind in its preparation of a set of proposals needed by the government by the end of March. You will have received a letter in early December about service priorities in a pack with a set of Christmas black waste bags. That letter is part of the consultation exercise, but there should be more to come in January.

Both these schemes will require greater consultation with the public and involvement of local people in the decision making process. The Stort Valley Forum held in November was an example of changing the way councils work. It came up with a recommendation for a number of local road safety measures, including a proposal for some Quiet Lanes - roads made safer for pedestrians and cyclists by restricting motor transport.

The draft legislation allows for area forums to be given executive authority to make decisions on matters that affect their area. Unfortunately, in recent years Uttlesford has resisted all attempts to devolve matters away from the centre. The executive proposals could lead to even greater centralisation than now.

Some council officers and even councillors have not yet willingly embraced the value of greater involvement of local residents in deliberations on local issues. But the tide of constitutional change

is flowing rapidly in that direction, and will accelerate in 2000. Your views on how this should work could be very important, so please don't just bin (or recycle) the next letter from Uttlesford.

Alan Dean
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 81359

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues his Saturday morning lessons between 8.45-10.25am. If you would like to join in or find out more then please contact Chris on 10279 466973.

Used Tennis Balls

These are still available at £1 for a tube of 4. If you would like to buy some please call Janet Hollis on 01279 812073.

Pearce/Frodo Tournament

On Sunday, 31st October, 12 players took part in this annual mixed round-robin tournament. This year's winners were Chris Hollis and Corinne Gladwin, who beat Tim Hollis and Frances Rafferty 6-3 in the final. The players all enjoyed a magnificent lunch in the clubhouse before the final.

Essex Small Club League

The winter league is now under way and for the first time Stansted is entering a Mixed B team to compliment our existing 5 teams. This should give a lot more players who do not usually play matches the chance to get involved! Good luck to the team!

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



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

The New Millennium gives us an opportunity to look back and reflect that, though the Club is only three years old, it has already become firmly established in the village. This is due in no small part to the support of our members and also to the generous sponsorship and patronage we receive from many local businesses.

And now, following the success of our first two concerts this season, we are looking forward to two more events, this month and in March which contrast young new talent with established artistes.

On Sunday, 23rd January at 3pm in St John's Church we are welcoming Jamie Walton ('cello) and Daniel Grimwood (piano). In 1995 Jamie won the International Instrumentalist of the Year at the Eisteddfod Festival and the Young Musician's Platform at Bromsgrove. Since then Jamie has given numerous recitals with his duo partner Daniel Grimwood - who recently won the Accompanist Prize in the International Young Concert Artist's Competition in Tunbridge Wells. They have performed at the Purcell Room, St John's Smith Square, Bishopsgate Hall and the Wigmore Hall as well as recitals across Europe and the IJK.

Their programme in Stansted will include sonatas by Chopin and Rachmaninov as well as works by Schumann and Mendelssohn.

Looking ahead to our Millennium event on Saturday, 11th March at 8pm, we are delighted to announce the appearance of the internationally renowned Alborni String Quartet, leader Howard Davis. This concert will be the highlight of our season and will be preceded by an Official Reception at 7pm hosted by Stansted Parish Council. The Alborni's programme will be Mozart's Hunt Quartet, Borodin's Second Quartet, and works by Dvorak and Puccini.

We anticipate a high demand for tickets and would advise non-members to purchase in advance to avoid disappointment. Ticket prices for both concerts are £7-50, Concessions £5.00, Children £3-00, and children of members £1-00. **(Tickets for the March concert include buffet and wine at both the Reception and Interval)**

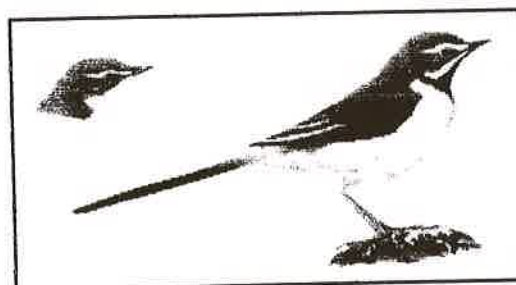
Tickets for both concerts are now available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square Bishop's Stortford and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill (01279 815282).

Nature Notes



One interesting sighting in Lower Street at the end of November and into December has been a Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*. These delightful birds are seen locally but are uncommon residents. Most records in the area have come from the Stansted Brook between Elsenham and Stansted. Back in 1953 there were no recordings of breeding and the birds were just passage migrants or winter visitors. In the 1980s, individual birds were sighted at the Stansted Sewage Farm and again along the Brook but there was still no evidence of nesting and raising young. However in the 1990s for three years in succession, breeding was confirmed along the Stansted Brook. In mid February 1993 there was a small roost of 5 birds. Their preferred breeding habitat is of fast flowing upland and mountain streams.

Grey Wagtail



Summer: female (left), male

Grey Wagtails are about 7-8 inches (18-20 cm) long. At first glance identification as a wagtail is easy; their tail-wagging is almost incessant. Although these birds have quite dramatic yellow underparts, they are not to be confused with Yellow Wagtails. Their tail is actually longer than the Yellow or the Pied Wagtails and all their movements are graceful and delicate. The males can be distinguished by the presence of a black chin, the female having a whitish throat. Insects form the bulk of their diet even in winter although occasionally minnows are taken. Although they are fairly tolerant of man, we are fortunate to see these birds in Stansted.

Judith Combes

Stansted Profile No 19 - Peter Jones

Glancing through previous profiles, I was again impressed by the rich variety of people who make up our community, and perhaps that is a strong reason why we have such a well-served village.

Peter Jones, together with Kaye, his wife, has become one of the more well-known personalities, and their home 'Savages' is frequently used in pictorial representations of Stansted.

Peter started life in London's Old Kent Road where his father was a shopkeeper. His parents hailed from Wales so many holidays were spent in the principality, where he felt at first hand the Nonconformist fervour which still prevailed in the post-war years. At 14 Peter went to Dulwich College and, from there, entered St. John's College, Oxford to read history. Politics became his abiding interest and took an increasing amount of his (and Kaye's) time while they were in Oxford, (where they met) and may have been responsible for neglecting his studies for a doctorate. The high of quality debate in the City Council attracted him to stand for, and be elected at the age of 21, which was the qualifying age in those days. Only one year on he became Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee.



In 1969 his working life started with an appointment in the research department of L. Messel, stockbrokers. The following year he married Kaye and moved to Purley. Neither of them felt at ease in the London suburb, so weekends were spent looking for fresh pasture. Perhaps because of Kaye's Essex origins they struggled up the old A11 one Saturday to see a cottage at the bottom of Grove Hill. It was love at first sight and without further ado purchase arrangements went ahead, with their move following in 1973. A few years later they moved to the nearby larger and even older house, Savages. By then Peter had local politics in his bloodstream, so it is not surprising that in 1976 he became a member of both the Parish and District Councils. Many will remember the personally addressed letter which he first used in Oxford and which went to all electors on that occasion. In 1981 he became Chairman of the Parish Council. To Peter, local commitment is the most important, so to enable the Parish to receive his wholehearted attention he left the District Council in 1983.

Their daughter Sarah was born in 1977 and it was her interest in Sunday School which led Peter back to the church in 1982. In 1986 Peter and Kaye adopted Andrew to become Sarah's younger brother. Peter's association with the Parochial Church Council began in the late 1980's and in 1991 he became Church Warden, an office he still holds. He had a second period of Parish Council chairmanship from 1990 to 1994.

His business life moved to Lehmann Brothers in 1986 as a result of a merger. In 1991 there followed a move to Peel, Hunt where he became and remains the Research Director. A stockbroking life used to be noted for comfortable hours, but that is a thing of the past. Peter leaves Stansted at 6am and often returns in late evening.

Peter's attitude towards Stansted and its life is simple and direct. His principal criterion is that of a reasonable solution— neither dogma nor unyielding adherence to the past. Decisions should have a 'rightness' which works to the benefit of the community. His straightforward approach also applies to his church life where he looks for gospel-based teaching, with each member of the congregation being responsible for worship and mission.

Peter and Kaye have earned their place in today's Stansted, and long may they give us encouragement.

Derek Honour



Stansted Junior Football Club

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Welcome to the Stansted Juniors page. We have just had our 3 week Christmas break so there is little to report on the team front. The U 11's, **Scorpions** done extremely well in the E.A. Cup. They made it down to the last 16, which is an incredible feat as this competition is believed to be the largest competition of its kind in Europe! It covers an area from parts of Lincolnshire right the way down to central London and includes many good players who will eventually go on to higher levels of the game, so our Scorpions can be proud of themselves. Some great performances from **Santos**, U13's, and the **Comets**, U13's, have seen both teams climb their respective leagues. And in the 'Mini Soccer' (all teams under 10) all 4 teams have really made the headlines in the Stansted Reporter with results they can all be proud of. And finally the **Sharks**, U 7's, are all still training well. Hopefully the Harlow league may well begin a friendly league for this age group later this year. I am certain the boys will be more than up for it.

The club's 'End of season trip' sales have been a great success. We were hoping to offer a limited amount of tickets to other children in the village but unfortunately we have sold out completely and already there is a growing waiting list. The club and its players will be going to the 'Valley' home of Charlton Athletic. They face London rivals Queens Park Rangers, for what looks like a Division 1 promotion race. The day will include 2 hrs of training by qualified coaches followed by lunch and a goody bag for all the boys. They will then go off to watch the match and hopefully Charlton will benefit from the 2 coach loads of Stansted Juniors cheering them on. Coincidentally, for the past 2 seasons both teams visited by Stansted have in fact won promotion, so lets hope we can be lucky for the *Addicks!*

The club can finally give details of their family quiz night. This will be held on **February 5th 2000 at the Adult & Youth Centre, Lower St, Stansted 7pm-11pm**. It should prove to be an entertaining night as well as hopefully raise much needed funds for the club. If there are any local businesses that would like to donate a prize or help with a cash donation please do not hesitate to contact the club (number below). On this note we would like to thank **Jon Reddington of Prestige Automobiles Elsenham, for his kind donation**. I will once again appeal for anybody who may know of a local land owner who would be willing to lease the club a sufficient area to have some pitches and amenities. I realise this is an enormous request, but as the saying goes 'if you don't ask you don't get'!

Finally the club would like to appeal to anybody who use to be involved with the club in any capacity during the past. Club chairman Tony Matthews would like to compile a detailed history of the club including previous chairman/officers/managers/assistants etc. This will feature on our official web site and will make for some interesting reading. So if you know anything at all about the history of our club please contact Tony direct on 01279-814668.

Until next month, good health & all the best.

Luke Pearman

Tony Matthews (Chairman)	Luke Pearman (Social Secretary)	Mike Moralee (Fixture Secretary)
2 The Champions Stansted CM24 8LL	20 Stoneyfield Drive Stansted CM24 8PA	56 Bentfield Gdns Stansted CM24 8HE
Tel: 814668	Tel: 813769	Tel: 814603

Two thousand years have passed.

Up in a high-rise flat they lie, Mary and new-born son,
A tremulous smile across her lips, now that her work is done.
With the grey light of dawn came the pains of birth, lasting
the whole day.
'Some Christmas this has turned out to be', she has mused as
they faded away.
Tiny bright lights on the tinsel tree cast shadows across the
wall,
And close by her side, wrapped in a sheet, lies the greatest
gift of all.

Joe's gone down to the pub for a drink, to tell all his mates
what he's done.
He burst through the door to shout to them all 'Mary and me
have a son!'
So it's drinks all round, a pat on the back with laughter and
lots of jokes.
A big fat cigar for the proud new dad, though he hardly ever
smokes.
'So what will you call this son of yours - for special it has to
be?'
'We can't call him 'Jesus', that wouldn't be right, so he's
going to be named for me'.

Up in their high-rise flat they lie, Mary and little Joe.
'Some Christmas Day this turned out to be, already I love
him so!'
'Big Joe' returns to the darkened room, close to the stars
above,
No kings or shepherds this starry night, but the room is full
of love.

Judy Colliver



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

"I can't join the Legion ... I'm too young!"
"The Legion is for 'old soldiers'"
"I didn't even do my National Service"
"What was National Service?"

Just a small selection of 'reasons' and questions we find we are asked whenever we talk about the Legion amongst people around the villages.

To set the matter right ...

ANYONE CAN JOIN THE LEGION.

Those of us who served in the Second World War, even those who did their National Service, are a disappearing race, but the work of the Royal British Legion still goes on. Our objectives to help and assist ex-servicemen and women and their dependants, there are several in the District, is ever growing. Wherever our Forces have served, be it in The Falklands or The Gulf, or presently throughout the world as part of the peace-keeping in Bosnia, Kosovo or East Timor, the Legion cares for those who have suffered. We really are "A CARING FORCE FOR THE FUTURE", but we desperately need new members. YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE US INTO THE FUTURE.

PLEASE HELP. If you have an interest in joining us, or just wish to know a bit more, please contact Bob Stoddart (Secretary, tel: 814015), or John Segar (Membership Secretary, tel: 813289).

The AGM of the Branch took place on 7th December and reports on the year showed that we had held our own but if the Branch is to continue we must increase our membership.

Officers elected for the year are:

President: Mrs K Stevens

Chairman: Mr D L Challis

Vice Chairman/Secretary: Mr G R M Stoddart;

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Mr J L Segar

Committee: Lt Col R A Finn

Mr E T Laird

Mr W A J Morris.

We are still seeking a Standard Bearer. This voluntary position involved carrying the Standard on three or four occasions a year - principally the Remembrance Parade in Stansted in November and the Carol Service in December. Instruction will be given and the task is not onerous. If you feel able to help please contact Bob Stoddart on the above number.

Poppy Appeal 1999

To date this year the collection has been a huge success. In October Jean McBride gave us a very interesting talk followed by a fish and chip supper which raised £110.20p. The collections, house-to-house, in the pubs, schools and shops and on the streets - not forgetting the Airport Terminal and surrounding offices - resulted in a total so far of over £7,300 - £1,300 up on last year.

I must thank all the collectors, some of whom turned out in not so favourable weather, for their continued support and efforts. Grateful thanks too for the generosity shown in supporting the Appeal.

On a future note, we do need more house-to-house collectors for our 2000 Appeal. If you can devote a few hours in November please contact me. You must be over 18 years old and we don't ask you to go out in the dark unless you are happy to do so.

It is regrettable that not all the streets in Stansted were covered this year so we apologise if you weren't called on, and, with help, we hope to be able to do better next year.

John L Segar

Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel. 813289



Royal British Legion Women's Section

In November members and friends from the royal British Legion joined the Women's Section in an extremely enjoyable social evening with fish and chips or ploughman's for supper washed down with lashings of white wine.

A "Get Well" card was signed by all for our Treasurer, Mrs Vera Levey, recovering in the Thomas Rivers Hospital after a hip operation. Donations were also made to the local branch of the National Trust in memory of Miss Edna Winckworth.

A very generous raffle, with 24 prizes, was drawn by Mrs Jean Fuller as a very successful evening drew to its close.

Our next meeting will be on 17th February at 7.30 pm.

Pat Clower



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our new President, Marion Pretty welcomed members, visitors and our speaker, Steve Tombs, a freelance comedy writer, to our December meeting.

During business members were reminded that our tea cloths and notelets celebrating the W.I.'s 40th birthday next year are on sale. Many members have decided to use these as gifts, some of them going abroad.

Our first fund raising effort will be a musical evening in St John's Hall on Friday 18th February when we will be entertained by a group from Bishop's Stortford Operatic Society called "The Entertainers". Their programme will cover Gilbert & Sullivan and songs from musicals. Tickets will cost £5 which will include light refreshments.

Members agreed to organise a Coffee Morning in March in aid of the Meningitis Trust, when we hope once again the village will support us in this worthwhile cause. It was also agreed to send our December raffle proceeds to the British Red Cross "Turkey Earthquake Appeal".

A letter to John Prescott together with members' signatures will be sent protesting about Professor Crow's suggestion of building 1.1 million houses in the south east of England, including a possible new town next to Stansted: the majority of members are very much opposed to this report.

Our speaker, Steve Tombs then gave a most amusing talk on his work as a comedy writer. He told members how he started and his rejections, some from Jimmy Tarbuck, but he did sell his first sketches to Little & Large after only three weeks of writing. He has written for Tommy Cooper who, despite all the mistakes he appeared to make, was in fact a very good magician. His favourite comedian is Ken Dodd. He first met him when, after sending him some of his work, he was invited to the London Palladium where the comedian was performing. He left later that night clutching two tickling sticks together with a request to provide jokes on a number of subjects.

Steve, who lives at Saffron Walden, finished by saying he is now writing sketches for comedians in Norway, Belgium and Germany, so we will all now be looking for his name in the credits on comedy programmes.

Our meeting finished with members deciding which of a number of resolutions we wished to be discussed at our National AGM. in the year 2000.

Our January meeting will be on Thursday 13th, 2000, 7.30 -

7.45 pm, in St John's Hall when we will celebrate the New Year with a party and be entertained by Alan Brown with "The Sinatra Years". We will also have our photo taken by the History Society to commemorate the millennium.



St Clare Hospice

The St Clare West Essex Hospice Care Trust provides Hospice Care Services to help and support people with life threatening and terminal illnesses and to ease the stress of caring that family and friends experience. Over 250,000 people live in West Essex. Every year 600 people die from a terminal illness and would benefit from hospice care before they die. The Hospice Centre at Hastingwood offers Day Care facilities, a Family Support Service, an Equipment Loan Scheme, Bereavement Support, and a 24-hour Helpline.

Thanks to the generosity of local people, £1.65 million has been raised towards our Capital Appeal. The money has enabled us to build an eight-bed extension to the existing Hospice Centre which we are now fitting out ready for the first in-patient to be admitted in January. However, we are still left with a significant deficit, which we need to make up in order to complete the project and pay for initial running costs. All donations are therefore gratefully received.



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

Chair: Frances Spalding 01279 813432

Secretary: Robin Scarr 01279 813080

Forthcoming Events:

On every second Saturday in the month we have a ploughman's lunch at Stansted Day Centre, 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm. The next ones are on January 8th, February 12th & March 11th. All are welcome.

On Friday March 10th we have a Supper Club at Church House, Newport. The speaker will be Bob Russell, Lib. Dem. MP for Colchester. Tickets £6.00 (approx) from the Chair or Secretary.



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Last month proved to be very festive as we ran towards Christmas with lots of seasonal activities for the children. Lots of our coffee mornings were mince pie orientated and we had a special Christmas songs and stories afternoon with mulled wine as well! They enjoyed the annual Christmas party with lots of food, games, songs and a very special visitor all the way from Lapland - he seemed to be very popular! In fact we went to visit him again, this time at his grotto in Audley End at the Miniature Railway.

Of course we didn't forget ourselves, there was a 'Curry Night' that several of us enjoyed and our Christmas dinner in Broxted rounded off the Christmas events.

We enter the New Year with lots more things for the children to enjoy. A messy play session in Henham, a swimming session at Grange Paddocks, a cooking session in Stansted, a Playbarn session on Sawbridgeworth and a playground session in Newport.

January also sees us with our bi-monthly Open House coffee morning in the day centre at Crafton Green in Stansted on Wednesday 12th at 10.00am, buggy boards will also be on sale. Everybody welcome! Another opportunity to see what we are about is the Coffee and Cakes for Bumps and Babes morning in Elsenham, 26th January. An ideal time to meet other mums-to-be and new mums.

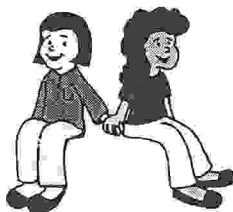
Our regular coffee mornings are as follows:

Monday 10.00-11.30am Expectant Mums and Under Ones
Wednesday 10.00-11.30am Toddlers
Friday 1.30- 3.00pm Pre-Schoolers

All parents/carers are most welcome, please come along and meet new people.

For all details of the above venues please see the parish noticeboards.

If you wish to know more about the NCT and/or are interested in joining please speak to Wendy on 813387



Recipe of the Month

Spanish Casserole

1¼ lb / 575 gm minced beef
2 medium onions, chopped
2 celery sticks, chopped
1 green pepper
2 tablespoons oil
2 dessert spoons paprika
10 oz / 300 gm tin condensed tomato soup
1 cup patna rice
2 oz / 50 gm grated cheese

- (a) fry onions, celery & pepper in oil for 5 mins
- (b) add mince & fry for further 7 - 10 mins
- (c) add paprika & mix well
- (d) boil rice in 2 cups salted water for 10 mins
- (e) drain & mix into mince mixture
- (f) add soup straight from tin
- (g) mix well, turn into casserole & cover
- (h) cook for 35 mins 350° F / 180° C / Gas 4
- (i) remove lid & sprinkle with grated cheese
- (j) return to oven for further 10 mins

Serves 4

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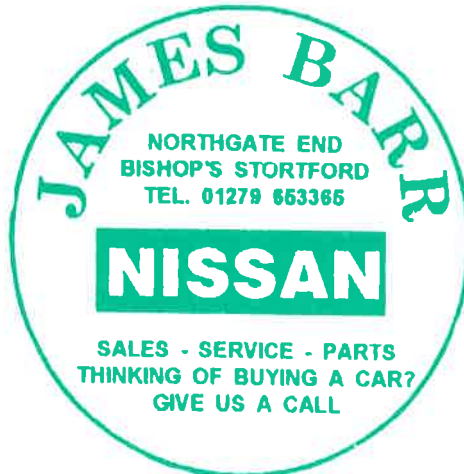
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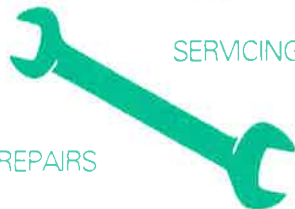
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