

June 2000

The *LINK*



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Volume XX No 8

The
LINK

June 2000



Churches Together in Stansted
Presents a
Millennium Celebration



SONGS of PRAISE

11th June 2000

6 pm

on the Recreation Ground

in St John's Church if wet

Bishop's Stortford Town Band
Stansted Music Group
Bentfield and St Mary's Primary Schools

bring your own garden chair



Collection on behalf of
Regular Aid for the Poor



*"Come and enjoy an evening of
favourite Hymns and Songs"*

Car Parking in Crafton Green

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**

15th June for publication on 2nd July

13th July for publication on 30th July

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This Jubilee Year has also been designated as a year of Reconciliation. The Pope has witnessed to this by asking all peoples to forgive the Catholic Church for past wrongs that have diminished the message of Christ.

In our personal lives, as Catholics, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a confession of what we have done to diminish the message of Christ in our everyday actions and we ask for the forgiveness of God through our Priest.

This healing sacrament is available all the year round but at Easter it is especially encouraged by the Church. To go to Confession and Communion at this special time is known as our "Easter Duty".

The new Head of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain, Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, has written in his book, *The Family of the Church*, "For us, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the ways by which we turn back to God and celebrate his forgiveness", and goes on to say "it is why Catholics work so hard to become reconciled with other Christians and in so many other ways strive to bring peace and unity in our world".

This great sacrament, neglected by many, should be a means of giving added strength and healing to those who receive it. Instead, perhaps, of thinking "Have you done your Easter Duty?", we should think more in terms of "Have you received your Easter Blessing?"

Rita Morson

"SEEING SALVATION"

On Sunday 16 April members of St Theresa's and St Anthony's Catholic Church visited the National Gallery Exhibition "Seeing Salvation". Some of us had seen the first episodes of Neil MacGregor's television series and we looked forward in anticipation of seeing the paintings which would reveal the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus as really "Seeing Salvation".

The four Gospels do not provide a literal picture of what Jesus actually looked like. From them we can discern His character, His presence, His nature but not His appearance. Tradition has it that St Luke painted a portrait of the Virgin Mary but there is no such tradition for a portrait of Jesus.

During the early years of the church and more especially in the Middle Ages, the view that Jesus' real image was left to us became established in the veneration of icons. These were the image of the face of Jesus which, it was believed, was left on the cloth of St Veronica after she had wiped His face on His way to Calvary. One of the most famous of these is the "Veronica of Mandylion" which is in the exhibition. This, it was claimed by the Eastern Church, was the true image and effected a cure for the King of Edessa.

The "Veronica's" established the traditional image of Jesus in art as long-haired and bearded. This had not always been the case and in the Roman Empire the symbols of Christianity were the cross or the fish and the first carved portrait of Jesus was as a short-haired Roman.

The image of Jesus provided problems for mediaeval artists, especially as a child. In an age where the size of figures represented their status and strength it was incongruous to portray Jesus as a helpless babe. Therefore, in early altar pieces of the Madonna and Child, the baby Jesus is presented as a small man. It is only after the break with symbolic painting by Giotto that Jesus was portrayed as a real human being.

Pictures of the life of Christ in murals in churches were the main way of giving the ordinary people, the majority of whom were illiterate, a narrative of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. The faithful could literally see the story of salvation.

Throughout the Renaissance, two different schools of art developed. The Italian School, which focussed on the rediscovered beauty of classical art, and the Northern School of the Netherlands and German States, which focussed on realism and expressionism.

In Italian art, Christ, even in his sufferings, is depicted as the ideal of beauty, serene and graceful, despite the horrors of The Passion. Italian artists also took the opportunity to recreate artefacts from classical Rome in the decor and statuesque poses of the figures.

In Netherlandish and Germanic art the focus is on the horror and suffering of Jesus. The aim is to reveal the true evil of sin in the faces of the tormentors and in the physical

sufferings of Jesus which were the result of sin.

In both schools, however, the face of Jesus looks out to the spectator evoking pity and challenging us to assess our responsibilities for his sufferings in our own wrong doings.

During the Middle Ages and right up to the 19th Century, the view of Jesus as the suffering servant and the sacrificed lamb is a main theme in the art of The Passion. This is vividly displayed in one of the paintings in the exhibition, Zuburan's "Lamb of God".

Artists also took the opportunity to make political points. Most of the tormentors in the paintings of Jesus' suffering are not in Roman but contemporary dress. These were truly 'modern' paintings showing that Jesus is still being crucified in the lifetime of the spectator. Sometimes, the tormentors have oriental apparel or crescent moons on turbans. This is a direct reference to the desecration of the Holy Places of Christianity by the Turks during the Crusades. In other cases the tormentors may have the heraldry of an occupying power, such as Spain in the Dutch paintings of Breughel.

Such imagery is present in one of the most psychologically disturbing paintings in the exhibition, Hieronymus Bosch's "Crowning of Jesus with Thorns", where one of the elderly tormentors pats Jesus' hand in mock comfort whilst another is about to place the crown of thorns on his head.

In the final room, Salvador Dali's haunting "St John of the Cross" is the culmination of the exhibition in many ways. It reverses the atonement view of Christ as the suffering servant for the Cosmic Christ. This shows that the crucifixion was necessary as an expression of God's love for the world. Although a 'once and for all' sacrifice, it was also an eternal reminder of God's love in the past, now and forever.

Many thanks to the organisers of the trip and for Fr Joe's inspiration. It was a truly memorable day.

David Morson

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am every Sunday

AN ADDENDUM FROM ST JOHN'S

We apologise to our readers that the Registers for March, April and May are deferred until the July issue of LINK.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579
Email: methodists@stansted.net

Services and preachers for June/early July

4th Don McGregor
11th Rev. Harry Wood
18th Church Anniversary with
Andrew Harrison at 2.30 pm.
25th Rev. Jim Gill - Holy Communion
2nd July Service of welcome to Rev'd Rhys Martin
in St John's Church at 6.30pm.
Fellowship meeting on Friday 9 June at 8 pm

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 June

4th 11 am Rev M Cressey
11th 11 am Rev D Simpson
18th 11 am Rev D Simpson Communion
25th 11 am Rev L Rapkin

June 19th 2.30 pm Monday Club
June 29th 8 pm Coffee & Chat Evening

All Welcome.

Come and join us on 17th June in the Lecture Hall at 7.30 pm and bring your Antiques and Collectables with you so David Miller can talk about them. David lives in Stansted and has an Antiques Shop in Saffron Walden. Tickets from Peter Trundle (813433) priced £3 including coffee and biscuits.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

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

Assistant Curate
From July 2000

Honorary Assistant Priest
Canon Derek Jackson
88 Stansted Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 2DZ

Tel: 01279 652664

Director of Music
Mrs Glynis Morris
Wakeley
Leetes Lane
Eversden
Cams
CB3 7HH

Tel/Fax: 01223 263640
Email: benefice.music@stansted.net

Benefice Office

All enquires are welcome at the Benefice Office, located in the Upper Room, St John's Church Hall, Stansted, CM24 8JP. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am until Noon.

Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings
Tel: 01279 815243
Email: benefice.office@stansted.net

Church Hall Bookings

Mrs Joy Lambe
Tel: 01279 817937
Email: joy@stansted.net

Services for June:

Sundays

8 am Holy Communion - *said* Rite B
9.30 am Parish Communion - *sung* Rite A
11 am Family Service (18th June only)
6.30 pm Evening Prayer - *said*

Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion - *said* Rite B, followed by coffee
7.30 pm Intercessions and Night Prayer except for 28th June
8 pm Ecumenical Service at the Friends Meeting House on 28th June.

Thursday, 1st June - Ascension Day
8 pm Parish Communion - *sung* Rite A

Tiny Tots

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

Laser Group

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

A TEMPORARY INTERREGNUM

Have you noticed that whenever you feel that life is moving ahead and you feel in control, someone throws a spanner in the works? In a world where organised religion, let alone the Established Church is hardly flavour of the day, many will have appreciated the refreshing, outgoing, albeit not always uncontroversial, approach of Father Andrew. Regrettably, due to illness, Andrew will have to take a break from his work for hopefully only a short period.

This limited interregnum provides challenges for all of us to ensure that the services, work and mission of St John's are sustained. Whilst Canon Jackson and other local clergy will handle funerals, weddings and as many services as possible, there will be the need for the active support of all of us. However, there is always a silver lining, for we can all surprise ourselves if we let loose our talents. Perhaps our challenge is to pick up the baton and, by working together, to welcome Andrew back with a Church that has grown in confidence.

Now to practical matters, please direct all communications to the Benefice Office in St John's Hall (telephone no. 815243) which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings or to Peter Jones at Savages in Lower Street (telephone 813252).

Finally, Rhys Martin, together with his wife Caroline, will be taking up his position as Assistant Curate at the beginning of July. Without doubt they will receive a warm welcome and support as they settle in and make their mark on these parishes but your help and friendship will make a great difference.

Peter Jones
Churchwarden

Our new Curate, Rev'd Rhys Martin

There will be a special service to mark Rhys Martin's arrival on the evening of 2nd July followed by refreshments. Details will be in the Benefice Bulletin and invitations will be extended to our friends in the Benefice and the other Stansted churches.

**HOMEMADE CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC,
BOOKS & COFFEE**

10 am Sat 3rd June
outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
(in church if wet)



**Stansted
Evening WI
TEA PARTY**

2.30 - 4.30 pm Wed 14th June
Day Centre
Admission £1 incl tea & scones
Plant & Produce Stall ~ Raffle
All proceeds to the
National Osteoporosis Society



**Antiques
with
David Miller**

7.30 pm Saturday 17th June
URC Lecture Hall
£3 (incl tea & coffee)
For tickets please tel 813433
Bring your own item for David to talk about

VILLAGE EVENTS

June

3 Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
4 Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
5 Mon	Shalom Group	
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10 Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10 Sat / 11 Sun	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
11 Sun	Songs of Praise	Recreation Ground 6 pm
14 Wed	W I Tea Party	Day Centre 2.30 - 4.30 pm
15 Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
17 Sat	Antiques Evening	URC Lecture Hall 7.30 pm
18 Sun	Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
	Green Waste Skip	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
	Summer Fête	St Mary's School noon - 3 pm
19 Mon	Shalom Group	
21 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
23 Fri	'HillChilli'	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
24 Sat	Lib Dem Irish Evening	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
26 Mon - 29 Thu	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm

July

1 Sat	Sideways Playschool Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
2 Sun	Fun Run	Bentfield Green 11 am
	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm
5 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Sat	Liberal Democrats Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
	Street Fayre	Lower Street noon onwards
13 Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16 Sun	Gardens Open for HEAL	
	Windmill Open & Barbecue	2 - 6 pm



**Stansted & District
Liberal Democrats**

**IRISH THEME
EVENING**

8 pm Sat 24th June
Chantry Hall, Henham
Tickets £5 incl supper
Please tel 850209



**10K CHARITY
FUN RUN & WALK**

Bentfield Green 11am Sun 2nd July
SERIOUS RUNNER - needs a challenge
FUN RUNNER - improve your time
WALKER - enjoy a pleasant stroll
THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!
Register in advance using the entry form in
this Link, or on the day 10 - 10.45 am

**Stansted Parish
Council**



Skip Dates

Mon - Thurs

7.30 am - 3 pm
26 - 29 June
24 - 27 July
4 - 7 September

Weekends

(also Green Waste)

7.30 am - 3 pm
10 - 11 June
12 - 13 August

Green Waste

1 - 4 pm
Sun 18 June
Sat 15 July
Sun 13 August

Stansted Carnival Committee

STANSTED MILLENNIUM

STREET FAYRE

Saturday 8th July
noon onwards

Lower Street Car Park

Fancy Dress Competition
Side Shows ~ Jugglers
Fire-Eaters ~ Beer Tent
LIVE Music
Refreshments
Children's Games

See next month's Link for details

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

815925 or Principal Planning Officer, Roger Harborough on
01799 510457.

Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Uttlesford's Environment

All local authorities are required to adopt a Local Agenda 21 Strategy by the year 2000. Agenda 21 is a programme of action agreed at the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Agenda 21 means an agenda for action to achieve Sustainable Development by the 21st Century. This is "development that meets present needs without damaging the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This is essentially ensuring a better quality of life now and in the future.

At a recent council workshop we started to develop a draft strategy and considered where are we starting from? This was done by using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.

Uttlesford's strengths were thought to be:

Low deprivation levels;
Very low unemployment with prospects of further job growth;
Low level of crime;
High levels of educational attainment;
Good recycling rates.

Its weaknesses are:

Relatively poor road safety record;
Inability of some local households to afford a home which meets their needs;
Lack of public open spaces;
Traffic congestion in certain areas;
Lack of brownfield site capacity to accommodate the scale of new housing development required.

Opportunities are:

Enhance sport and art facilities;
Increased recycling and waste minimisation;
Public transport serving Stansted Airport provides opportunities for local residents to use these bus, coach and train connections to reach other destinations.

Threats are:

Road traffic growth, especially associated with Stansted Airport, the A120 and the M11;
Significant growth of Stansted Airport;
Pace of development outstrips service and infrastructure provision;
Viability of town centres.

It is intended that Uttlesford's LA21 strategy will be formally launched in June and that it would be open to consultation with members of the public until September. If readers require further information or want to get involved in the work of the Uttlesford LA21 Forum please contact myself on

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

May 2000

There are two topics in County Hall under discussion at this time. One is that of village bus transport, the other is the development of the Airport beyond 15m passengers per annum. In this Newsletter it is proposed to touch on both subjects so readers can know some of the thoughts of those concerned.

In the case of bus transport, the County is subsidising a number of routes particularly from Bishop's Stortford to Saffron Walden. This is a popular and effective service especially from a school pupil's point of view. Unfortunately there are insufficient funds to subsidise more routes and, worse, the companies are giving statutory notice and withdrawing some services to take advantage of more lucrative options. Officials at County Hall are working hard to persuade the companies to adjust and amalgamate routes in order that some sort of service can be maintained. This of course means very often a less frequent and less effective service. As an alternative the Uttlesford Community Bus Service is underused at present and it is suggested that contact be made through Parish Clerks so more details can be made available and better use be made of what can be a flexible and efficient service well suited to local needs. As bus services fade away alternatives arise.

So far as the airport traffic is concerned, the target of 15m passengers per year is fast approaching (9.9m went through in late 1999). Thus it is for all concerned to reflect on what is to be done and how the challenge is to be met. It cannot be reasonable to accept that no more than 15m will ever use the Airport. It is for all to decide what should be done and how any increase can be controlled.

Related to this must be the need to manage the infrastructure and the environment to deal with the developing problems. Whilst it is for elected members to decide the way ahead, they depend on the views and opinions of the electorate. It is for you to let us know your views.

Should anyone wish to know more on these matters they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812471.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



STANSTED FUN RUN

Sunday 2 July 2000
11.00 am from Bentfield Green

The tradition of the Stansted Fun Run is continuing with our Millennium Fun Run being held on Sunday 2 July. The beneficiaries of our efforts will be three charities as follows:

- Local: Huw Johnson Club for the Handicapped.
 - National: John Grooms Residential Charity for the Disabled.
 - International: Sightsavers, whose work can restore sight lost through cataracts for an operation at the cost of 50p.
- Entrance Fees: Adults: £6.00 in advance
 £7.00 on the day
 Children: £2.00 in advance
 £2.50 on the day.

As usual, entry forms and details are available from Marion Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted - tel. 814059. Registration on the day will be from 10.30 am on the Green. The Run starts at 11 am on Bentfield Green.

We are hoping to give a special medal for all entrants this year to celebrate the Millennium.

In an attempt to encourage personal sponsorship it has been decided to give back £6 to anyone who collects more than £15 in sponsorship money and £2 for anyone collecting £10.

If you are unable to run this year we need volunteers to help as marshalls along the course. Please contact Brian Quinn, 4 Greenfields, Stansted - tel. 812109.

Of course, this is a family day so walkers and dogs are also welcome.

David Morson

DEADLINES, DEADLINES!

Yes, the LINK has to live by datelines too. In recent months up to a quarter of our copy has come in after the due date, sometimes by several days. Our production team has tried to be accommodating but the difficulties in revising and re-revising the material to fit in have become too much. Please help us by getting your copy in by the due date (usually but not always the second Thursday in the month - see front page) as we can no longer avoid disappointing late contributors.

Thank you.

Editor

THE GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

SOARING



INTO THE FUTURE

Marion would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made 'Soaring into the Future' such a great success. The music, the drama, the creative activities all combined to make it a memorable event in this New Millennium Year. Thank you to all those who gave the younger children such a happy and constructive day and to all those who escorted the older children to their different activities. I am sure that the children learnt a lot after spending time with Mary Magdalene on why Good Friday is such a special day. The final scene of the day was a triumphal end to a wonderful occasion and I am sure we were all marching in the light of God.

Marion Johnson



Huw Johnson Club

The Club is having great difficulty in finding new drivers to bring our members in from Saffron Walden on a Thursday evening. Our numbers continue to rise and we have some potential newcomers who would love to come to Club but we are unable to accept them as there is no room in our present transport. For the last two terms we have had the use of a mini bus twice a month but unfortunately this is no longer available making transport really difficult.

When we have enough drivers we ask them to make one journey a month in one direction only. Members are picked up at approximately 6.30 pm and returned to Saffron Walden at 9 pm. All our members are capable of getting in and out of cars without any assistance from the drivers and you will find them polite and eager to make friends with you. You would bring a lot of pleasure into the lives of our members as we are the only club of its kind in Uttlesford. Please, please get in touch with me if you can offer to drive for us once a month. If you do not want to become a permanent driver could you help until the end of July? You can contact me on 01279 812284. If I am not available when you call please leave your telephone number and I will contact you. Thank you.

Marion Johnson

Stansted Tennis Club



St Clare Hospice

Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues with his Saturday morning coaching sessions for 7-14 year olds. Thursday afternoon lessons have now re-started from 5 pm onwards. If you would like to join in there are limited places available so please contact Chris on 01279 466973.

Used Tennis Balls

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

Tennis Club Garden

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

Dates for your Diary

The Boyd Trophy will be played for on Sunday June 11th at 1 pm. This is a mixed round-robin event open to all members and includes a delicious tea. To enter just add your name to the list in the clubhouse.

NSPCC Ladies Doubles Tournament - to be held at Stansted and Bishop's Stortford Tennis Clubs on Tuesday June 13th. For more information please see club noticeboard.

A junior doubles competition is planned for Sunday June 18th at 12.45 pm. Please contact Chris Hollis if you would like more information.

Spring Tournament Result

There were 10 entries for the opening tournament of the season which was played on Sunday May 7th on a surprisingly hot day. The winners of the wine bottles were Jenny Appleby and Matt Whitbread who beat Richard Mott and Frances Rafferty 6-1 in the final.

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

Flora London Marathon 2000 is Runaway Success for St Clare Hospice

On Sunday 16th April fourteen St Clare Hospice supporters completed the arduous 26.2 miles of the 20th Flora London Marathon to raise much needed funds. Our runners were Matthew Jones from Epping, Caroline Bore from Stansted Mountfitchet, Bob Marshall from North Weald, Andrew Richardson from Theydon Bois, Robert Beverley from Sawbridgeworth, Paul Williams from Carshalton and Owen Phillips and Chris Bevan, two reporters from the sports desk of a local newspaper. Harlow runners included Pat Malyon from The Hides, Lee Jones from Church Langley, David Howes from The Chantry plus three inhabitants of Primrose Field, Marie and Garry Golder and Jeffrey Lilley. What a marvellous achievement!

After cold, wet weather the day before, runners and spectators alike were relieved to see blue skies in London that morning. A team of staff and volunteers from the Hospice stood at the 25 mile mark opposite Cleopatra's Needle, cheering on all our runners, giving them a last boost before the finish.

Hospice Fundraising Assistant, Caroline Bore, found the going difficult but struggled on valiantly, reaching the finish in a very creditable 4 hours 38 minutes. Caroline's aches and pain will have raised around £3,000 for our charity.

Meanwhile, Epping runner, Matthew Jones completed the course in exactly 4 hours and 14 minutes, generating over £750 in sponsorship money. Matthew says "The spectators all along the route were better than I remember in previous years - they kept me going calling out 'Come on Epping Runners! Come on St Clares!' as they read the printing on my shirt. The second half was toughest but enjoyable because of the crowds and the great atmosphere. As I turned into the Mall towards the finish, even though I didn't get the time I wanted, the noise from the spectators really lifted my spirits".

Many thanks to all the Hospice runners and to their sponsors. Now that they have done all the hard work, please honour your sponsorship pledge as promptly as you can. St Clare Hospice needs your support to fund its Hospice Care Services for the people of West Essex.



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

At our branch meeting we discussed flowers for the War Memorial which the Women's Section have provided and arranged each week for the past 50 years.

Our speaker was Frances Spalding who, as always, held our attention with her beautiful slides and details of her most recent holiday. Last July she went on a Russian cruise ship through the waterways from Moscow to St Petersburg, stopping off on the way to visit various landmarks. We saw shots of the metro, Red Square, the Kremlin, numerous cathedrals and churches, Lenin's tomb, the Olympic Stadium, Peter the Great's palace and an elaborate War Memorial.

Our next meeting in the Day Centre on 15th June at 7.30 pm will be the Group Meeting and our speaker will be Jean Reay. A warm welcome awaits all our Stansted Members and those from our other villages.

Pat Clower



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society on Thursday 4th May was well attended by members. Business matters were conducted with Reports, Election of Officers and Committee and matters of any other business, etc.

A special thanks of appreciation was given by the Society to the Chairman, Mrs Peggy Honour, who is now standing down from Office and Committee duties, having been a committee member and holding various offices since the formation of the Society in 1987. Being of great benefit to the Society her advice will no doubt still be sought on many matters.

Following the A.G.M. a presentation arranged by Peter Sanders was made, assisted by members and the Committee who were to lend their voices towards a Parish event, thus bringing to an end a very successful and interesting season.

Now we must look forward to the new season where we have a full programme starting on Thursday 7th September where, hopefully, you will find a warm welcome being given to existing and any new members. We trust you will find many interesting history related subjects therein.

Peter Brown



The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

This May has seen us as active as usual with lots of activities for both parents/carers and children. We've raced around at Rascals, enjoyed swimming at Saffron Walden, had a messy play session in Henham, visited the Castle Gardens playground in Stortford, baked biscuits in Stansted and picnic'd at Hatfield Forest. We've also had family photo's taken, a girls' night out at a local Chinese restaurant, an anniversary Quiz Night, an Open House 'drop-in' coffee morning and a special 'Bumps and Babes' morning - the list is endless - and mustn't forget the lads who had their usual end of month night out in Stansted!

June sees us just as active with an indoor obstacle course at St John's Church Hall in the half term, a songs and stories afternoon in Elsenham, a 'ride on toys' session in Henham, playground trips to Saffron Walden and Newport, a Father's Day picnic at Easton Lodge, lunch at the Playbarn and a walk/push in Hatfield Forest.

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

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

All parents/carers are most welcome; please come along and meet new people. For all details of the above venues please see the parish noticeboards. If you wish to know more about the NCT, ante-natal classes and/or are interested in joining please speak to Wendy on 813387.



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

Chair: Frances Spalding 813432

Secretary: Robin Scarr 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 10th June and 8th July. All are welcome.

On Saturday 24th June at Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham, there is an 'Irish Theme Evening' with supper in the garden, weather permitting. Details from David and Rita Morson, 01279 850209. Entrance £5.00.

Profile No. 24

Mrs Phyllis Watts and Mrs Bridget Gott

These two may be mother and daughter but they are very distinct personalities and have led very different lives. The thread that links them is their vitality and strength of character. Phyllis was a professional chiropodist for the whole of her married life and did not retire until she was 82. Bridget, an only child herself, had three children, spent some time abroad and worked in various spheres of activity.

Phyllis Watts was born in Lincoln 98 years ago and spent her early childhood there and later in Lowestoft during the First World War. Her father was a businessman and in his spare time was very active in amateur dramatics and singing - he was particularly renowned for his Gilbert & Sullivan performances. His daughter did not inherit this talent but his grand-daughter, Bridget, was very actively involved in amateur drama before her marriage. After the Watts were married they lived in Palmers Green, Potters Bar and then in Enfield for 30 years where Phyllis had a flourishing chiropody practice. They did not come to Stansted until 1973, first to Gall End and later to her present home in Lower Street. She continued with her profession, working both for the Herts County Council at a weekly clinic and in her private practice. She got to know a wide range of people in Stansted and the surrounding area - Barbara Cartland was one of her more exotic patients! Although she herself has not been involved in local politics, her late husband was on the Parish Council for many years (he and Dr Gabb sporting their bow ties) and he was Secretary of the local Conservative Association. Phyllis was an active member of St John's Church, regularly attending the Wednesday morning service until she became more housebound. She still takes a great interest in parish matters and receives Communion at home

Bridget was born just before the Second World War when the family lived in Potters Bar. After her schooling in Barnet she first worked in a bank. Her marriage to John Gott took place in Gabon in West Africa, where he was working - being a French colony Bridget had to polish up her schoolgirl French very rapidly. She has travelled widely and the Gotts did not settle in Stansted until 1972, after two years in Canfield. They had three children, two sons and a daughter, and now have five grand-children. One of their sons lives in Sweden and their daughter and her husband and family have recently returned from Hong Kong, so all the members of the family are much travelled.

After the Gotts settled in Stansted, Bridget worked at Hargrave House with handicapped children for about ten years. She then worked at the Day Care Centre in Saffron Walden, cooking for 60 people. After the breakdown of her marriage she continued working there but on a full-time basis. She is now employed by the Springboard Housing Trust at Frere Court in Bishop's Stortford cooking for the 22 residents and doing various other duties - both daytime and at night.

Bridget has always been very involved in local activities. She has been on the Parish Council for many years and was on the Uttlesford District Council for a time. She is also on the Windmill Committee and is Chairman of the ladies' branch of the local Conservative Association as well as being Vice-chairman of the main branch. For a time she was a Governor of both Bentfield and Elsenham Primary Schools. There are many people in Stansted who have met her in one of her numerous activities in the community - there is not space to list them all.

It was a delight to talk to those two lively members of the same family. Mrs Watts, although physically rather restricted now, retains an active interest in all that is going on in Stansted. The village is fortunate to have them and I was fortunate to talk to them.

Katherine Hurford



MEDIEVAL MYSTERY PLAYS

I was interested to read a reference in the March issue of Link to the Medieval Mystery Plays performed recently at the National Theatre. My husband and I attended a one-night performance of a modern medieval play entitled 'In the Bleak Midwinter' much closer to home in St Mark's College Barn at Audley End. As secretary of the WI, I was sent details of this through the post and decided at once that I wanted to go, having always wondered what they were like.

The company that performed it is known as 'Eastern Angles' and has been touring East Anglia during the last two decades with unusual theatrical performances. I think this is the first time that they have come so near to us in Stansted. They perform regularly in the summer months in Suffolk and are based at the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich.

The Barn was an ideal setting for this play which seemed to set the atmosphere of the middle ages. The seating, for about 150 of us, was arranged each end of the barn and looking inward to a raised rock-like construction where all the action took place. Originally written a few years back by Charles Way for a Welsh company, it is set both 2000 years ago and now in the Black Mountains of Wales not far from Bethlehem. So we had an all-Welsh cast of four who not only acted but sung in close harmony 'a capella' (which means unaccompanied - I looked it up). It opened to a darkened hall and just the sound of these four voices singing Christina Rossetti's 'In the Bleak Midwinter' set to music by Gustav Holst, who for a short time lived in Thaxted. The story unfolded of Zac, a dreaming shepherd and Miriam, his long-suffering wife, who engage in a constant war of words as they shelter from the cold. They make their way into town but on the way are visited by the sheep rustler Mak who steals one of their lambs and then by his spirited girlfriend Gill who is looking for him. When they at last reach the town they get separated and Miriam finds shelter in a stable with Mary and Joseph and the new baby. There is a wonderful conversation between the two of them about men, life in general and babies' names! Miriam's son is a few weeks old and she hasn't been able to decide on a name yet - she had rejected 'Jesus' as being too commonplace!

Relationships are resolved and Mary and Joseph sent on their way before Herod's men find them and the evening ended as it began with the lights dimming and the audience still lost in the spell which had been cast.

Throughout the middle ages from the 11th century until they came to an end in the reign of Elizabeth I, mystery plays were performed in towns and cities across the shires of England. They aimed primarily to instruct the audience through dramatic performances and to blend sacred and secular themes in a way that would appeal to all sections of their audience, from the lowest serf to the grandest knight. Many of the characters, which appeared in the plays were drawn from folklore going back even earlier in time. In the medieval world the power of darkness was very real and disease, dirt, cold and poverty prevailed. The church offered a different vision; bright with candlelight, the smell of incense and wonderful colours in the wall paintings and glass

windows and above all, music, all representing the idea of Heaven. The battle between good and evil was very real to people of that time. Three major cycles of plays survive from then, York, Chester and Wakefield, as well as a few individual pieces, notably from Norwich. It is not really understood why the plays lost their popularity. They could have been suppressed with the rise of Protestantism under Elizabeth I, or the opening of the first professional theatre in London in the late 1570's could also have contributed to their demise. We are lucky these days to have so much access to drama and music from all ages and we can recommend a trip to see the 'Eastern Angles' if you get a chance.

Judy Colliver



Nature Notes

Swifts returned to Lower Street during the first week in May having wintered in Southern Africa. One of their first actions is to inspect their nesting sites and then they seem to disappear but they are in fact feeding after their long journey. Swifts commonly breed in built up areas such as ours but travel huge distances to feed.

Although swallow-like they are unrelated to our common or Barn Swallow and are larger birds with long sickle-shaped wings. They are reputed to be the most rapid flying animals known and spend virtually their entire life on the wing. They never perch but their small feet have four forward-facing toes, which enable them to cling to vertical surfaces. Only rarely can they be seen like this, usually just below their nests under the eaves of buildings. Normally they fly into the nests at break-neck speed and barely seem to have time to feed their young before they are off again.

It is rarely possible to get a clear close view of these birds but they are uniformly blackish brown with a whitish chin. The beak is very small but they possess a wide gaping mouth, ideally adapted for catching insects on the wing. Their cigar-shaped bodies are only about 6-7 inches long but they appear bigger.

It is one of the pleasures on a warm summer evening to watch the swifts sweeping and swirling through the sky while emitting a long shrill scream. They may be feeding but it is tempting to think that they are just enjoying themselves.

Occasionally a young bird will become grounded as they cannot take off from the ground and then they are prey to cats. Beware their sharp claws if you are tempted to rescue them; simply wear a thick glove and throw the bird as high in the air as possible. You should be rewarded by seeing it fly to rejoin its family.

Summer would not be the same without the swifts but we can enjoy them until the end of August.

Judith Combes

ENGLAND'S FORGOTTEN VALLEY

Occasionally, we are able to publish articles about people and places far removed from Stansted. The following contribution is one such, as it draws attention to one of the unspoilt parts of our country in which we can still find peace.

For those who wish to escape the bustle of daily life to explore rural corners of our country where time really has stood still, I recommend the Golden Valley. Tucked away in the far western corner of one of the smallest and the most rural English county of Herefordshire, the Golden Valley is a place of cornfields, orchards, rich green meadows and wooded hillsides. Gently meandering through the Golden Valley between the lonely Black Mountains on one side and the rolling Herefordshire hills on the other, the River Dore winds its way from Dorstone in the north to Pontrilas, passing through sleepy villages, each with interesting and strangely beautiful churches.

When I recently visited the Golden Valley for what has become for me something of an annual springtime pilgrimage, I passed through the numerous black and white half timbered villages of north Herefordshire, crossing two of England's loveliest rivers, the little known, gentle Arrow at Eardisland and the rather better known Wye at Bredwardine, where the diarist, Kilvert was curate over a century ago (subsequent to his curacy at Clyro.) Both villages are worth a stop and prepare the visitor for the treats that lie ahead in the Golden Valley. Like so many English placenames, a misunderstanding gave the valley its name when the Normans translated *dwr*, the Welsh for water as *d'or*, the French for golden. I think the valley should be known as the forgotten valley as this beautiful area is perhaps the least known corner of England.

The village of Dorstone, at the head of the Golden Valley is a place of old stone cottages which radiate from a tiny green. St. Faith's church is a late 19th century reconstruction of the original built by one of Thomas Becket's murderers. The village has a strong Welsh influence lying close to the border, itself the subject of disputes over the centuries. Fortunately, things are quieter now although nearby Peterchurch, dominated by the huge spire of its Norman church with a double chancel and sometimes referred to as the "cathedral of the valley" may well have been a larger settlement in times past. The village remains the largest in the valley although it is still a haven of tranquillity. Further down river lie the twin villages of Vowchurch and Turnastone. Each have small churches which according to legend were originally built by two warring sisters, one of whom declared "I vow to build my church before you turn a stone of yours". Whether this tale has an ounce of truth or not, the two churches a few yards from each other are situated in a lane away from the main valley road where the only sound comes from the gently flowing waters of the River Dore. Vowchurch has a half-timbered bell turret added in the 1520's, an unusual roof supported by oak posts and a Jacobean screen. Turnastone's 13th century church has a wagon roof and a Norman doorway. It is worth continuing past both churches, up the lane into the thickly wooded hills

which lead to the large parish of St. Margaret's. This sparsely populated community consists mainly of brick built farmhouses and has one of England's most isolated churches overlooking the Golden Valley below. The Welsh influence is strongest here with plastered walls and a pre-reformation screen and rood loft. The 20th century has contributed a wonderful array of kneelers which decorate the church.

On reaching Abbey Dore, one discovers a parish church which was built from the chancel of a Cistercian abbey. The present church has a 17th century oak screen and has 17th century glass in the lancet windows. Nearby, Abbey Dore Court has delightful grounds with the River Dore running through the centre of the four acre garden. On my recent visit, heavy downpours had turned the river the colour of the red Herefordshire soil and the gardens were a mixture of soggy paths and rain soaked lawns with spring bulbs struggling to stand up and blossom flying all about. Yet the garden was a quintessential English springtime scene with the sandstone manor house surrounded by the lush lime green gardens contrasted against a grey sky relieved by occasional patches of blue. Nearing the end of the valley, the hamlets of Ewyas Harold and nearby Pontrilas with the fine 17th century stone gabled Pontrilas Court give this end of the valley a strong Welsh appearance before the River Dore finally flows away southwards.

As one approaches the end of the Golden Valley, it is always worth making a small detour to visit nearby Kilpeck church, one of the most interesting in England. This unaltered gem dedicated to St. Mary and St. David has some Saxon remains but is mainly Norman and is probably best known for its intricate carvings around the south door of angels, birds and dragons representing the tree of life. Around the church are seventy more carvings of human and animal heads including my personal favourite of a man playing what looks like a violin. This forgotten and lonely corner of England remains largely unknown but always provides an invigorating and interesting holiday destination and the opportunity to explore some of the quietest places in the land.

Philip Duly

WHAT'S IN A NAME NO. 5 Occasional Series

Several roads on the Hargrave Estate are named after former residents of Hargrave House, (previously known as Hargrave Lodge), in the original house and the present one, which is on the same site.

Croasdaile Road/Croasdaile Close. Henry and Harriet Croasdaile, resident 1777 to 1847.

Rainsford Road. Mrs. Charlotte Rainsford, resident 1848 to 1864.

Gilbey Crescent. (Sir) Walter Gilbey, of the famous wine merchant family, resident 1865 to 1874.

Pulteney Road. The widow and family of the Rev. R.T. Pulteney, resident from 1876 to 1898. This family gave the land for the building of St. John's Church.

Alderbury Road. The Alder family, resident 1900 to 1931. Hargrave House became a holiday home for working women in 1939 and named after the social worker Mary MacArthur. It was opened by her friend Queen Mary in March 1939. Hence **Mary MacArthur Place** and **Queen's Close**.



We have really sprung into Spring with lots of activities based around the season, from talking about baby animals and now gardens and growing things, to making Mother's Day and Easter Cards. We have been watching our tadpoles gradually grow, hopefully we may soon see the froglets!

As the weather is getting better we have also had our first trip to look at the windmill and play on the rec.

The children have collected pennies in smartie tubes to raise funds and recently we held a very successful plant sale in conjunction with the Fire Station. Many thanks to them for the venue! Over the Easter break we challenged the children to make "I-Spy Boards", a sponsored scavenger hunt for diverse objects such as wood shavings, a snail shell and, of course, an Easter Egg wrapper! Why not come and see our results one morning, displayed on the wall in St John's Hall?

The most important thing for the nursery, however, was the installation of a watertight shed to replace a much-dilapidated one in which we lost a lot of equipment to the winter rain. Our dads came up trumps with helping to take down the old shed and ensuring the new one was ready for use. Many thanks to the "Andys" for all their hard work. Now no-one minds going in the shed, it's light and airy (no spiders to frighten Auntie Sally!) and all the toys are easily to hand.

Sidways is open every morning from 9.00 am to 12.15 pm. Come and see us. You are very welcome. Why not Stay and Play?

For more information please phone Auntie Helen on 01279 813828.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

In the March issue of the "Link" we reported that there was approval from the trustees for a plan to be able to have the sails turning again on the windmill. The behind the scenes preparation for this work is progressing. After a site meeting, a specification for the work has been agreed and this is being submitted for approval by English Heritage. They have to approve all work on the mill because it is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. If the specification is approved then the work can progress to tender along with applications for grants to help support the cost of the project. This is expected to run to some tens of thousands of pounds, since it will also include a significant amount of the periodic maintenance, which is also scheduled to retain the good working order and structure of the mill. In recent years this maintenance work has been planned well in advance and the income from fundraising, and not least the money from visitors to the windmill, goes towards this schedule. Grants should add a significant amount to the funds but of course the down side is that there is much paperwork to be completed and approved before work can begin in earnest. Only then will Stansted have a mill, which shows its sails living and moving once again.

A new venture this year is a Windmill Photographic Competition. Also, the Children's Drawing Competition will take place again. Both to be judged at the August Bank Holiday Monday Mill Fete. We are looking for new ideas for the Fete, any suggestions ?

Opening Dates for June/July:-

Sunday 4th June

Sunday 2nd July

Sunday 16th July (Summer Barbecue)

For those interested in helping with the mill, or would like further information, please contact Steve Clements Tel: 816514

STANSTED LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
The photographic project to record Stansted at the turn of the century is drawing to a close. Will those organisations who said that they would provide their own photographs but have not yet done so, please let us have them by **1st July**. If you find you cannot do so let us know and we will try to make arrangements to take some ourselves. Also any organisation we have inadvertently missed, please contact Peggy Honour, 813160, 59 Blythwood Gardens.

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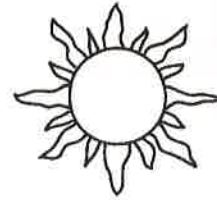
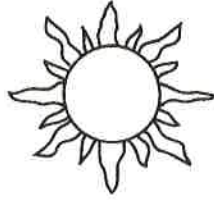
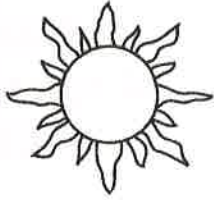
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Recipe of the Month

Chicken Parmigiana

1 lb / 450 gm aubergines
 oil for frying
 ¾ lb / 350 gm chicken
 1 oz / 25 gm grated parmesan cheese
 4 oz / 125 gm onion
 small tin of tomatoes
 1 teaspoon origanum
 1 beaten egg
 salt and pepper
 4 oz / 125 gm mozzarella cheese

- (a) thinly slice & blanch aubergines
- (b) pat dry & fry in a little oil
- (c) dip chicken in beaten egg & parmesan cheese
- (d) cover with foil & put in fridge for 15 mins
- (e) lightly fry sliced onion
- (f) stir in tomatoes & all seasoning
- (g) spoon into casserole dish
- (h) quickly brown the chicken
- (i) arrange overlapping rows of chicken, aubergine & sliced mozzarella
- (j) cook uncovered for 35 - 40 mins gas mark 5 / 190°C / 375°F

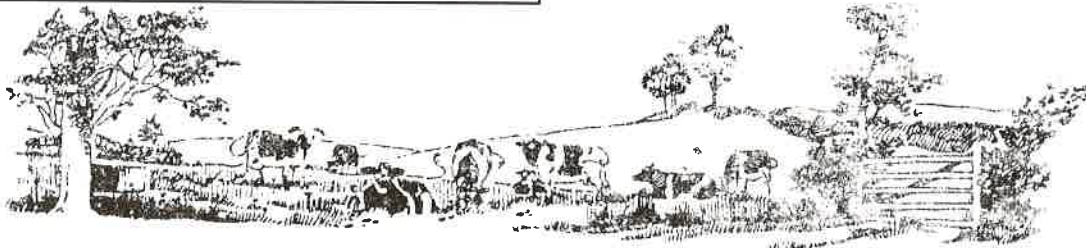
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10K COUNTRY & ROAD CHARITY FUN RUN & WALK

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Categories (Individual & Teams) Male/female Under 12, Under 16, 16+

Fees Adults £6 (£7 on the day) Children £2 (£2.50 on the day)

Postal entries by 19th June - fee includes free drink and souvenirs

Individual (but not team) entries on the day from 10.00 am to 10.45 am.

Bar-B-Q - refreshments - ice cream - raffle (1st prize - two KLM air tickets)

PRIZES include plaques and T Shirts

PLUS MILLENNIUM MEDAL for first 350 runners

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FIRST NAME

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL.

EMAIL (will not be publicised or passed on)

AGE (Optional if over 16)

MALE / FEMALE

TEAM (if applicable)

Note: Postal entries (including teams) must be received by 19th June.

Please send team entries in one envelope. First 4 team members home to count.

DECLARATION:

Please enter me for the Stansted Fun Run. I will not hold the organisers or sponsors responsible for any injury or illness incurred to my person during, or as a result of, the event, or for any property lost or damaged in the vicinity of the course.

SIGNATURE

DATE

IF ENTRANT IS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE, PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SIGN.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING AS APPROPRIATE:

Amount enclosed £

Chèques payable to Stansted Fun Run.

I require a sponsorship form (entry fee will be refunded if you raise over

£15/£10 in sponsorship for our chosen charities).

I enclose an additional size for a list of timings to be sent to me after the event.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A LARGE (12" x 9") STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE plus an ADDITIONAL 9" x 6" sse if you require a list of timings.

Please use a separate form for each entry (photocopies are permissible) but you may send one cheque for all entries.

Please return this form BY 19th JUNE to:

Marion Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Tel: 01279 814859



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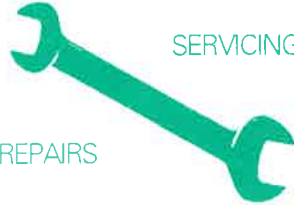
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