

March 2000

The *LINK*



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Mountfitchet*

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Leader: HOWARD DAVIS

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MILLENNIUM CONCERT

Saturday 11th March 2000

8.00 pm in St. John's Church

Reception with light buffet from 7.00 pm

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

Advanced booking strongly advised

For ticketing details please see
The Village Music Club section inside

The Link (price £3 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

Advertising enquiries to Angela Wall Tel 01279 817978

All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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13th April for publication on 30th April

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

In a discussion about the Dome, someone was very concerned that there did not seem to be any clearly put forward Christian reason for its existence; that the actual celebration of 2000 years of Christian belief was smothered by an overlay of contemporary information and frothy entertainment. She was distressed that the other main religions of the world also had displays of their own.

I have not yet seen the inside of the Dome and cannot comment on how it has been done. However, I felt uneasy about the worry over the presentation of other Faiths. Can people understand mankind without some understanding or knowledge of the faiths of humanity? Religion in some form has been part of human life since obscure and prehistoric times. There seems to have been many attempts to interpret the meaning and purpose of human existence. The "Why?" of being and the journey to "What end?" Just as over the centuries there have been stresses and disagreement between different interpretations in Christian belief, such problems also arose in other Faiths and the philosophies of Marxism or Humanism.

Some years ago my husband and I attended a Retreat at Pleshey. Bishop Trevor Huddleston came to speak and we were interested to hear him say that the time for concentrating on Ecumenism should be over and there should be more dialogue between world faiths. In India there are Christian communities adapting to local, simple ways of living and Hindu ways of life and thought. These are centres where people of different religious traditions can meet together in an attempt to marry East and West.

Two examples of founders of such communities are Father Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk, together with an Indian Benedictine monk and a Jesuit, Father Samuel Ryan.

Individual Friends have long been active in interfaith work, not only pursuing this work through the context of community relations but have also come to appreciate the theological issues implicit in interfaith dialogue and enrichment through interfaith sharing. There is a Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations. Britain Yearly Meeting is a member of CCBI's Commission on interfaith relations and is represented on the Interfaith Network through CCBI (Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland).

The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus - The first of the forty two Advices and Queries which are written to ask us personally where our own service lies

reads: "Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your heart. Trust them as leadings of God whose light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life -".

William Penn wrote in 1693 - "The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious and devout souls are everywhere of one religion and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another though the diverse liveries they wear here makes them strangers -".

Mary Rice

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

Services and Preachers for March

5th Doug Coulton
12th Rev Ronald Rawlings
19th Michael Render
26th Rev Jim Gill Holy Communion

We shall also be joining in the United Service for the First Sunday in Lent on 12th March at 6.30 pm at the Friends Meeting House.

Our monthly Fellowship Meeting will be on Friday 10th March at 8 pm.

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



All enquiries

are welcome at

The Benefice Office

located in the
Upper Room,

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Stansted CM24 8JP

Monday Open
Wednesday from
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Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings
Secretary

Mrs Joy Lambe

(01279) 817937

<joy@stansted.net>

Rector

Revd Andrew Spurr

The Rectory

5 St. John's Road

Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex, CM24 8JP

phone/fax (01279) 812203

<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate

From July 2nd 2000

43 Gilbey Crescent

Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex, CM24 8DT

<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest

Canon Derek Jackson

88 Stansted Road

Bishop's Stortford

Herts, CM23 2DZ

phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music

Mrs Glynis Morris

Wakeley

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Eversden

Cambs, CB3 7HH

phone/fax (01223) 263640

<benefice.music@stansted.net>

The vision thing

You don't have to live in Stansted very long before you find yourself in a conversation about development. Housing development, airport development, infrastructure, amenities are all part of the atmosphere which brings opportunity or uncertainty. The recent occupation of the airport runway by a plane full of Afghan hostages meant that planes had to take off and fly over the village. This was a reminder, if we needed it, of how fragile the peace is that we enjoy, living so close to an international airport.

One of the more interesting projects which I have been invited to join is the Village Planning Group of Stansted Parish Council. This is a new committee which has been drawn together to try and change the way we deal with local development.

As I understand it, our history of managing new proposals for building has been motivated by a very natural need to preserve the character of a village in which we have considerable investment.

If we accept that there is going to be growth in the shadow of the airport, a better and possibly more effective way is to say, what kind of community is it that we want to build in the future?

I was impressed with the quality of the discussion at the inaugural meeting of this group, particularly from Liz Lake, the landscape architect who draws from a fund of experience of these kinds of initiatives elsewhere in our region.

My interest, not surprisingly, draws from Jesus and the Old Testament prophets and their consistent message that it is the responsibility of the powerful to look after those on the margins. So passionate was Jesus about this that almost his entire domestic relations were conducted among those who were outcast from the polite Galilean and Jerusalem society of his day.

A vision for the village from a Christian worldview would include provision of a credit union, a Citizens Advice Bureau and a local outpost of Braintree Social Services, as part of a commitment to being a compassionate and whole community.

As I write, the Group is drawing together a questionnaire which will be circulated throughout the village. Its purpose is to give the widest opportunity for people to say what kind of place they want to see in five, seven or ten years.

Now no-one is naïve enough to believe a Village Plan will withstand *all* the commercial forces which are quietly acquiring land around here, but it does mean that we will have a voice in the debate, and a voice which will have the power to engage developers in dialogue. Uttlesford District Council will need to take seriously any vision which has widespread grass-roots support, and forming a plan is a way of becoming active and of taking responsibility for our future.

For those who have internet access, there is another opportunity to be heard. www.stansted.net now has a facility for people to join in an ongoing village discussion group. This is new, and I'm not aware of any other community which is using the internet for this, and it would be good to see if we could make it work.

AS

St. John's Diary

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

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

(Except the last Wednesday of this month when there will be an ecumenical service at the Friends Meeting House, led by the Methodists 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.

From the Registers

January
2000

Baptisms

16th January
Matthew Benjamin Shepherd
Isabella Phoebe Allen

Funerals

27th December Phyllis Mary Hickman
of Hargrave House, aged 92
14th January Ruby Bird of Hargrave

House, aged 80
23rd January Winifred Dora Brett of
Broome End Nursing Home, aged 92

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

Services and Preachers for March

3rd	2 pm	Womens World Day of Prayer Dr Pamela Creasey
5th	11 am	Rev Mary Irish
12th	11 am	Rev David Simpson
	6.30pm	Churches Together Service for 1st Sunday in Lent at Friends Meeting House
19th	11 am	Rev David Simpson Communion
26th	11 am	Rev Lydia Rapkin
28th	8 pm	Service at St John's Church

Dates for your Diary

March 4th	10 am	Cake Stall: Church Steps
March 9th	8 pm	Coffee & Social evening Lecture Hall
March 20th	2.30 pm	Monday Club Lecture Hall

All are welcome.

The Monday Club

Twenty seven friends met on Monday afternoon, 17th January, 2000, and enjoyed delightful and interesting company and a truly delicious tea. Subs were paid and programmes given out.

A big "thank you" to those who came and made the time so enjoyable; to those who were unable to be there we extend a warm welcome for another time. And to those who so energetically served the tea and all who helped with the washing up and replacing of chairs and tables we say a special "thank you".

Editors note:

Congratulations are due to the United Reformed Church from all who visit Millways, the Church and the Lecture Hall, for their improved parking and passing arrangement.

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

SOARING



INTO THE FUTURE

APRIL 21st 2000 AD

Calling all children.

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

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

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

Don't miss this exciting day.

To all adults - Adult helpers are needed for Good Friday. Please contact Marion Johnson, tel. no. 812284.

There are two kinds of helpers required - "Activity Leaders" who organise one of the many activities that the children attend. No expertise is required and you will work with several other adults. "Escorts" have a group of about ten children and they escort these children to the different activities. Again you will have the support of other adults. I can promise that you will enjoy this event.

Marion G Johnson



SHALOM

March Dates

6th March	A report on the Parliament of World Religion by Pat Kern at the Friends Meeting House
20th March	A Lenten Meditation by Rev David Simpson at Eileen and Brian's 4 Greenfields
3rd April	A tape and discussion led by Edna and Harry Goreing at "Jim's" Bentfield Causeway (to be confirmed)



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

United Service

There will be a United Service for the First Sunday in Lent on 12th March at 6.30 pm. This will be led by the Roman Catholic Church and will be at the Friends meeting House.

There will be a United Act of Worship on Wednesday 29th March at 8 pm at St John's Church.

CHEVETOGNE 2000

The Jubilee Year Exchange, 1st - 4th June 2000

Make your jubilee pilgrimage to Chevetogne, share with and exchange friendship and Christian fellowship with the parish of Chevetogne in Belgium.

For under £100 you can enjoy a weekend in the company of our friends in Chevetogne, staying with a host family.

Contact Eileen on 812109 or Francis on 813945 to reserve a place or for more details and information.

Space is limited and all places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

CTS Millennium Event

On Sunday 26th March Andrew Harrison will present a One-Man Show at 7.30 pm at St John's Church Hall. The show entitled "Border Crossing" was commissioned by the Greenbelt Festival and was premiered there in July 1999. Tickets are £5 including supper and are available from Catherine Dean - 813579.

Lent 2000 - All together now

This course explores the Journey of Faith in Words and Music.

All meetings are on Fridays at 8 pm at the Friends Meeting House.

Week 1	17th March	Beginnings
Week 2	24th March	Followings
Week 3	31st March	Challenging
Week 4	7th April	Believing

All Together Now follows the simple pattern of the cycle of life based on Gospel readings.

Advance Notice

As part of the Churches Millennium celebrations it is planned to hold a 'Songs of Praise' on the Recreation Ground (weather permitting) on June 11th at 6 o'clock.

If you have a favourite hymn/song you would like included in the programme let Janet Townsend know on tel. 812593.

Regular Aid to the Poor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors for their generous support over the years and I am able to report that we have been able to start this year by sending £220 to each of our three charities.

Last year we distributed in all a total of £1,200. Thank you once again for your continuing support.

David Morson
Chairman

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY UTTLESFORD BRANCH

On behalf of our branch we would like to thank everyone who took part in the carol singing around the village and to all those who made donations. We have received £220 from Churches Together in Stansted towards the funding of our new venture The Yellow Ribbon Club.

The Yellow Ribbon is the emblem we use for our annual awareness week which is held in July and we thought this would be more appealing than just calling this club a "Drop in Centre".

As part of our work of supporting people who are ill with dementia and their carers throughout the Uttlesford area, we are opening a new weekly club in the committee room at the rear of the Town Hall in Saffron Walden on Thursdays, commencing 30th March from 10 am to 3 pm. The club will be a place where carers can leave their relative or friend in a safe and supported environment whilst they go shopping, attend appointments, etc.

The aim of the club is to offer flexibility so that those who use it can stay for as little or as long a time as they wish. A light lunch will be available for those who require it. There will be a variety of activities and, where appropriate, this will include some therapeutic work with the ill person.

We also hope that all carers, professionals and other members of the public will pop in for a chat, cup of tea and for information or advice.

If anyone is interested in further information please contact Val Reavell or Chris Rogers, Outreach Workers on 01371 872519.

Val Reavell

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Those till receipts

Readers will remember that some time ago we collected Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose till receipts to send to the supermarkets requesting them to sign up to the Fair Trade Agreement. The good news is that Sainsbury and Tesco have now done so - the bad news is that Waitrose has yet to do so. For this reason we shall be collecting Waitrose till receipts starting from March. There will be boxes in the churches, or you can let me have them. They will then be presented to Waitrose with a request to sign up to the Agreement to ensure good working conditions and fair wages for the workers in developing countries who produce Waitrose products.

Run the Church and State 2000

This year's sponsored walk will take in buildings central to the Church and State in Westminster. Don't be put off by this title - this can be a leisurely stroll with plenty to see on the way. The date is Sunday 21st May from 2 pm and there will be a thanksgiving service at Westminster Central Hall at 5.15 pm. This is a fun day out, so do join us and raise money for Christian Aid at the same time.

First SOS for volunteers

Christian Aid Week is only two months away so I am appealing for envelope distributors and collectors. If you can spare a few hours in the week 14th-20th May please let me know. The more volunteers the easier for everyone.

Calling all gardeners and cooks

One of the best sellers at the Christian Aid Market (this year to be on Saturday 20th May) is plants. So if you are green fingered please **plant a tray of seeds for Christian Aid.**

The other best seller is **cakes** - so the message to the cooks of Stansted is please **bake a cake for Christian Aid.**

For offers of help and more information on any of the above please contact me.

Catherine Dean
813579



At our first meeting of the new Millennium members enjoyed a talk from Mrs Chudley on the Walled Garden at Cressing Temple. On the site of a medieval walled garden experts under the auspices of Essex County Council have recreated a garden in the style that formerly existed here. Mrs Chudley supported her talk with slides showing the development of the garden.

Mr Harrison won the members' competition for his pot of growing Hyacinths.

March Meeting

As usual our monthly meeting will be held at the Day Centre on the first Wednesday of the month. The subject is 'Flowers in History' presented by Mrs Anne Fotherby of Saffron Walden.

The members' competition this month is An Arrangement of Spring Flowers.



Spring Show

The Spring Show this year is on Saturday April 1st. Open to all for viewing from 2.30 pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted. **ADMISSION IS FREE.** Everyone welcome, come and see how Stansted gardeners do it.

Members are reminded that show schedules are now available and that all entries **must** be with a committee member by the Wednesday before the show. Entries after this date cannot be accepted.

This year we have introduced two photography classes and we are also looking for good support for the two Floral Art classes.

Derek Francis

**WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER**

'Talitha Koum:

Young Woman Stand Up'

2 pm Friday 3rd March

United Reformed Church

Speaker Dr Pamela Cressey

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



QUIZ NIGHT

CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

in aid of
Chevetogne
Exchange Visit

7.30 pm

Saturday 18th March

St John's Hall

Refreshments provided - Prizes - Raffle

Bring your own drink and glass

Tickets £4 from Eileen Quinn 812109

**Stansted Evening WI
COFFEE MORNING**



10.30 am Mon 20th March

Stansted Day Centre

Bric-à-Brac ~ Raffle ~ Cakes ~

Bring & Buy and other stalls

Entry 50p incl coffee/tea & biscuits

All proceeds to Meningitis Trust

March

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Huw Johnson AGM Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm St Mary's School 7.30 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	World Day of Prayer St Mary's School Disco	United Reformed Church 2 pm St Mary's School
3	Fri to 5	Sun Wild Goose Weekend	St John's Church
4	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
6	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting Hse 8 pm
9	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
11	Sat	Millennium Concert Quiz	St John's Hall/Church 7 pm Bentfield Sch 7.30 for 8 pm
12	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet Sch 8 am - noon
13	Mon to 16	Thu Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Tennis Club AGM	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm 105 Cambridge Rd 8 pm
16	Thu	RBL Women's Section	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sat	CTS Quiz St Mary's PTA Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm St Mary's School
20	Mon	W I Coffee Morning Shalom Group	Day Centre 10.30 am 4 Greenfields 8 pm
21	Tue	Millers' AGM	Day Centre 8 pm
22	Wed	Huw Johnson Coffee Morning	62 Chapel Hill 10 am - noon
25	Sat	Green Waste Skip NCT Sale Jumble & Table Top Sale	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm St John's Hall 2 pm Mountfitchet Sch 2 - 4 pm
26	Sun	Border Crossing	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
29	Wed	RBL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am

April

1	Sat	Cake Stall Cricket Club Jumble Sale Garden Club Spring Show	Outside URC 10 am Hargrave Ground 2 pm URC Hall 2.30 pm
2	Sun	Car Boot Sale Windmill open	Mountfitchet Sch 8 am - noon 2 - 6 pm
3	Mon	Shalom Group Children's Fashion Show	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm Bentfield School 6.30 pm
10	Mon	Kid's Clothes Show	St Mary's School

National Childbirth Trust



SALE

of Good Quality

Baby & Children's Wear

Nursery Goods ~ Toys

Books ~ Videos

2 pm Sat 25th March

St John's Hall

Andrew Harrison presents

BORDER CROSSING

7.30 pm Sun 26th March

St John's Hall

£5 (incl supper)



For tickets

tel 813579

A One Man Show not to be missed

Bentfield CP School

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm

Sat 11th March

Tickets £6 (incl light supper)

from the school or tel

Mandy 816895 Michaela 815796

Bring your own drinks



**CHILDREN'S FASHION
SHOW**

6.30 pm Mon 3rd April

Show lasts approx 30 mins

Tickets £2 (discounts for families)

from the school or tel

Natalie 815769 Michaela 815796

Clothes to purchase after the show



Stansted Cricket Club Jumble Sale

Hargrave Park Sports Ground

2 pm Saturday 1st April ~ Entrance 20 pence

For collection of jumble please telephone 814701 or 814471

Uttlesford District Council Report

Airport Matters

There has been much speculation in the local press that BAA wants to bypass normal planning procedures to progress their objective to expand the airport to 25 million passengers a year (9 million now) or more. District Councillors received a letter from the airport managing director suggesting that all parties might want to avoid a public enquiry.

Possibly BAA are wary of the millions of pounds that the enquiry into Terminal 5 at Heathrow has cost both them and the local authorities.

A public meeting was recently held in Saffron Walden on the Report that has proposed a new town in the Stansted area. The BAA suggestion on short-cutting procedures came up there. There was a clear message from the audience that local people don't want cosy deals on airport expansion done behind closed doors.

Since then, Uttlesford District Council has agreed to meet with the airport management to find out what their proposals are. That must be right. We need to find out what they propose even if we choose to differ.

It also makes sense to see what can be done to reduce the impact of any further growth - if it comes about - on local communities and the environment. After all, it's not necessarily the number of passengers that matters, but rather what impact they have in terms of building development, traffic, noise, air pollution, etc.

Uttlesford must not be seen as a "soft touch" on any of these issues.

Cllr Alan Dean

The Voluntary Sector

Local Authorities are no longer the provider of everything but team players. Sometimes captain, but more often influential midfielders. This enabling role is crucial to the well being of our community. At a recent information exchange evening held at the council offices I met with a number of the voluntary organisations that Uttlesford help to fund. These included the Bishop's Stortford & District Citizens' Advice Bureau which receives a grant of £8,500 p.a. In the period from April to October 1999 it helped 729 Uttlesford residents. Another organisation which the council helps is Uttlesford Mind, which provides four drop in centres throughout the district including Stansted. These are held on a weekly basis and attendance totalled 345 (75 for Stansted) for the month of October 1999. Uttlesford's grant of £3,500 helps to ensure that a much needed service is provided. From April 2001 the Council will be facing a period of severe financial restraint due to changes in housing finance. It is important that when services are under scrutiny that the Council reaffirms its commitment to working with voluntary organisations and continues its financial support.

Community Achievement Awards

For some years now the Council has operated a scheme whereby it acknowledges and thanks the work done in the community by volunteers. On 17th February the Chairman of the Council presented awards to Stansted residents Marion Dyer, Peggy Honour, Jean McBride and Audrey Rodgers. I should like to offer them my own thanks and congratulations.

Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Essex County Council Report

February 2000

Presently there are three major issues facing not only the County Council but also all residents in Uttlesford, Braintree and Harlow. These are: the proposals for an increase in the throughput of airport passengers from 8 million to 35 million by 2010, the suggestion that a new town built in the Stansted area and lastly the effects of the development of the A120 which will contribute to the previous issues to a very large degree and I suspect with no real gain to any.

Whether we like it or not, airport traffic will increase. It is for us to manage that increase to best effect in terms of safety, the environment and the continuity of the local area. Various pressure and political groups are beginning the process of resistance now. It is for readers to decide what is the best approach and support it.

In the case of the proposals for a new town, I have already made comment on this subject in previous notes. Proper planning and management must be the way ahead. Again, it is for readers to demonstrate this by selecting a balanced and practised way forward. As I have said, there will be plenty of options for decision in the near future.

Finally, in respect of the development of the A120 - whilst this is long overdue and very necessary as the east of the county grows, I do not believe thought has been given in public to the likely effects; the increased traffic off the road and the increase in would-be residents seeking residential accommodation off route. Clearly the problems will be enormous and will require thought and thereafter proper management. It is again for readers to reflect on this and relate the matter to the other points I have made above. The year 2000 and thereafter will be interesting and those in local politics will need readers' views and support if they are to properly represent their views.

I trust these will be available. Should anyone wish to know more on these matters they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812471.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



Chair: Frances Spalding 01279813432
 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. Next ones are on March 11th, April 8th & May 13th. All are welcome.

On Friday March 10th we have a Supper Club at Church House, Newport, speaker Bob Russell who is the Lib. Dern. MP for Colchester. Tickets £6.50 from the Secretary.

On Saturday April 15th there is a quiz with supper and bar at the Elsenham Memorial Hall.



Half Term Report

Following a hectic Christmas term with a trip to the Audley End railway, a visit from Santa with a party and the end of term Nativity Play, we have leaped into the New Year by learning all about winter.

The children have found out about winter clothes by dressing up in hats and scarves and about food, chopping vegetables to make soup for their mid-morning break.

We have talked about winter animals and birds and the children have produced huge paintings of robins, polar bears and penguins to adorn the hall walls. We haven't forgotten our feathered friends; the children had great fun mixing seeds and nuts into a bird cake to hang in the trees outside the window.

Although we haven't seen any yet, we have also talked about ice and snow, making snowflake patterns and about tobogganing, skating and skiing. Look out Chapel Hill if we do get a cold snap!

Sideways is open every morning from 9-12. All children over 2½ years are welcome. Come and visit, stay and play! We look forward to seeing you seen.

Contact Auntie Helen on 816600 between 9-12 or on 813828



**Royal British Legion
 Stansted & District
 Branch**

We are to hold one of our much supported Fish and Chip Suppers on Friday 28th April at the Day Centre, 7.30 pm for 8 pm. The speaker has still to be arranged but we can assure you will be of local interest, but please put this date in your diary.

The Branch is still seeking a Standard Bearer and also a person willing to assist with the Poppy Appeal in Stansted. Please contact either Bob Stoddart, 814015 or John Segar, 813289.

It is with great pleasure that I can advise everyone that the collection from the District has now exceeded £7,800, an all time record.

Again I can only thank all the collectors and the generosity of all who gave for their magnificent support.

John L Segar
 Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser



**Royal British Legion
 Women's Section**

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday 16th March at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre when our speaker will be Ralph Phillips. Ralph is no stranger to any of us and we look forward to another of his talks on Railways which he always makes so interesting.

On Wednesday 29th March we are holding our Coffee Morning in the Day Centre from 10.30 am - cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, raffle. Please make a note of the date and come and support us.

Pat Clower

ALPINE TREK FOR SIGHT SAVERS

It was a year ago, in a Bristol pub that my friends James, Richie and I decided to trek from Innsbruck to Chamonix for charity. I don't think any of us realised then just how much organisation, and effort would have to be expended in order to get the idea off the ground and develop a functional expedition.

Since then, we've decided to raise money in support of Sight Savers International. After considering several other charities, we felt that this was the most worthy cause. Sight Savers is the leading UK charity devoted to the prevention of blindness and the restoration of sight to the curably blind. Through its community-based rehabilitation programmes Sight Savers also helps incurably blind people to rebuild their lives.

A rather painful practice expedition around the Monte Rosa with a friend helped to sort out some of the route logistics, and made us aware of some other problems too. For example, early one morning, we were forced to pack up camp by a herd of hungry (and quite plainly angry) cows, who were trying to reclaim their pasture. A much more forgiving Serbian shepherd called Jimmy and his dog followed them. We also soon gathered that living in such close proximity on an expedition could be testing even for the closest of friendships. However, that said, we are on the verge of starting our campaign after talks with Sight Savers International.

We decided to call the expedition Alpine Trek for Sight Savers. Through seven stages, we will walk a total of 375 miles, hut to hut, occasionally rising to altitudes of 3000 metres. We set off on 2nd July and the walk will take us up to eight weeks to complete.

All money donated in sponsorship of the expedition will go to the charity. Therefore, as well as pursuing a number of alternative funding sources, we are meeting the costs out of our own pockets.

In total, we aim to raise upwards of £5000 for Sight Savers. Sponsor forms are at this moment being produced and some of these will soon be available at the back of St. Johns Church. We also plan to hold a Quiz Night in the Church Hall during Easter, as well as organising non-uniform days at our old schools.

Having 'talked the talk', all that remains is to 'walk the walk'.

To find out more about the expedition, or about Sight Savers International, please get in touch. I would also be interested to hear if you have any useful advice or contacts.

I can be contacted at home:
Elms Farm, Walden Road, Swards End,
Saffron Walden CB10 2LG

By email on:

Or leave a message on the following number:
0410 707070

Rajenda Whitlock



This month sees the highlight of our current season when, on Saturday 11th March at 8pm in St John's Church, Stansted, the Village Music Club presents the internationally famous Alberni String Quartet performing Mozart's Hunt Quartet, Borodin's Second Quartet, and also works by Dvorak and Puccini.

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

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

"...one of the finest half-dozen quartets in the world today"

- *New York Times*

"...reflecting some of the finest qualities of the British musical tradition."

- *The Washington Post*.

"A performance.... spacious yet tempestuous, powerful yet infinitely flexible. One of the most exciting performances"

- *The Daily Telegraph*.

For this event pre-purchase of tickets is strongly encouraged as we anticipate a full house for this event. Tickets are, Adults £7-50, Concessions £5-00, Children £3-00, and children of members £1-00.

Ticket price includes buffet and wine at both Reception and Interval

Available from:

Stansted Parish Council, Grafton Green, Stansted
Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted

Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282)

Profile No. 21

Elizabeth and Jeremy Wagener

Music lovers in Stansted will know Jeremy as the delightful and welcoming front man at the Village Music Club events and Elizabeth as the membership secretary. They both work extremely hard - he as Chairman - in helping to run this much valued village asset: the brainchild of Sonia Levy.

Jeremy started life in Lancashire where his father was a schoolmaster, although the family originated in the south. He went to boarding school and when he was 18 became articled to a firm of accountants in Edinburgh. Although the family background was academic he had a great interest in finance and business. His 5 years in Edinburgh were particularly happy and formative ones. When qualified he moved to a post in London and while there he met Elizabeth who was working as a bi-lingual secretary for an oil company. Elizabeth, although locally born and brought up (in Great Easton), had spent some time in France, including a year at the Sorbonne, and speaks French fluently.

After their marriage they emigrated to Canada and during their year in Toronto their eldest daughter was born. A rather nice rounding of the circle is that she was married last summer in St John's Church to a Canadian, and now lives in Toronto: she helps with giving meals to the homeless in the crypt of the church where she was baptised.

Since returning from Canada, Jeremy and Elizabeth have lived in the Stansted/Dunmow area. Jeremy's work, although based in London, has involved quite a lot of travelling and, at one time, the whole family spent six months in

Iran during the Shah's reign. For a period Jeremy worked as a Management Consultant, which included a review of opera and theatre for the Arts Council - a very enjoyable time. This was followed by him becoming the Finance Director of a large Insurance Brokers at a time of recession - a stressful period. Later he worked for 7 years with the Economist Newspaper and now has several non-executive directorships and also helps Elizabeth run her courses for teaching English to foreign students.

They recently started their own sideline under the name LINGUAHOME and now take students of any age and nationality; the students live with the Wageners for up to two weeks and Elizabeth, who qualified as an EFL teacher at the Bell School of Languages, teaches them daily. Over the years they have met many nationalities and made some good friends.

Elizabeth, as well as bringing up six children (four girls and 2 boys) has been very involved with St Mary's Primary School, first of all teaching cookery and then French - to enable the children to get the most out of the school trips to France. She was also a Governor for 14 years. To fill up any spare moments (!) she is involved with the Anglia Parents Club which arranges interesting outings and talks for parents during term time.

The variety and richness of their activities is "hidden under a bushel" by their modesty and I am delighted to have had the opportunity to lift the bushel up a bit!

Katharine Hurford





Stansted Junior Football Club

Welcome to the Stansted Junior Football Club page. I hope all of you had an enjoyable festive time. Since our Christmas break all our teams have been back in action and some rewarding results have been coming in. Despite the cold weather, all the boys are putting in some committed performances and doing the club proud.

This month I thought we would give the youngest team a mention. They are the Sharks, Under 7's. They started nearly a year ago with just a few boys but have since grown to a healthy squad size of 21. Currently coached by Ken Makepeace & Mike Moralee, the boys are coming on well with the training and are beginning to understand the basics of football. Both Mike & Ken have said the boys are progressing well and are eager to play a match, which hopefully will be sometime soon. The Harlow Rec League have said they would like to get some friendly games up and running for this age group just to give the boys the feeling of what it is like to play as a team. Although the rules state that 'Mini Soccer' is meant to be non competitive you cannot stop any players from competing, they all want to win.

The Sharks squad are having have their first winter training sessions in a gymnasium, which is best suited to the younger players, but they will be playing on grass as soon as the weather improves and the evenings draw out. Fortunately there are already 2 parents who will take over the running of the squad (which if the numbers stay so high will probably mean 2 teams into the league next season), which is great news for both the team and the club. More good news for the Sharks is the fact they also have a kit sponsor for their first ever season. D.C. Poulton & Sons have kindly agreed to sponsor the Sharks, which will ensure they look every bit the part when they play their first league match next season. So best of luck to all the boys in the Sharks squad.

Club news includes the unfortunate phone call I received from Charlton concerning our annual trip. Sky have purchased the rights to the game and decided to move it to a Friday night, which is just not suitable to the younger members. It also meant that the boys would no longer get the training from professional coaches, which is a big part of the day out. Luckily for us Norwich City were able to accommodate us on the same date for their home game with League Cup finalists Tranmere. Norwich are renowned for being a family club and I am certain that the near 120 boys/parents that are going on the trip will have a great time.

Good news on the sponsorship front. Ampersand Associates, Leonische, D.C. Poulton & Sons and another new sponsor, Diamond Associates, have all agreed to renew sponsorship for next season. Its great news for all the boys and the club, to get such generous help from local companies. So a big thank you to all of those and of course to our other sponsors 'blue post production' & Urbanhurst.

Finally, a thank you to Elaine, Jill, Karen, Ken, Matt & Mike for all your hard work on 'Quiz Night'. The exact profit is still being worked out by club treasurer Martyn Taplin, but we are confident it will peak £300. And of course we must thank all the parents who attended the evening with their families, it was a great night for the club.

My apologies for no page in the last issue of The Link, but to make up for it we hope to have some great photos in the next issue.

All the Best

Luke Pearman

Club Chairman - Tony Matthews Tel: 814668
Club Secretary - Mike Moralee Tel: 814603
Social Secretary - Luke Pearman Tel: 813769

In Memoriam

Cecil Smith

Many readers will remember Cecil who died on October 5th, 1999. He was born in Sunnyside, moved to Manor Road in 1968 and finally to Coltsfield. He became well known as a footballer, cricketer, a member of St Mary's Church choir, the British Legion and the Social Club.

Cecil joined the Territorial Army in 1939 and was mobilised on the first day of the war. He saw action in Italy where he was wounded. Following convalescence in England he joined the Royal Berkshire regiment and was "de-mobbed" in October 1945. After the war he returned to Daniel Robinson, builders, but subsequently went to the airport before earning promotion to become a Duty Officer at Heathrow, from where he retired in 1974.

Cecil's wife Elsie, whom he married on Boxing Day 1939, continues to live in Coltsfield.





January and February saw us getting back into the swing of things after the Christmas and New Year break with our coffee mornings starting up again and activities for the children.

We kicked off with a messy play session in Henham just to remind them how to 'splash and stick' in case they had forgotten! To make doubly sure of this we also hosted a baking session for pre-schoolers - the 'splash and kick' theme still very apt! We've been to Rascals for tea and the Adventure Island Playbar for lunch, we swam in Grange Paddocks and Lord Butler, we've played in Newport and Saffron Walden, we've 'dressed-up' in Henham and run an obstacle course in Stansted. As for us grown ups - we've had lots of coffee (and a few cakes as well at 'bumps and babes') and a few other beverages at our A.G.M. and also on our pub night out!

March brings with it an important annual event for us - the

**NCT NEARLY NEW SALE -
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH, ST JOHN'S HALL,
STANSTED.**

We sell **good quality used** baby and children's wear, nursery goods, toys, books and videos. It is open to everyone from 2.00 pm. Anyone wishing to sell needs a 'sellers number' which can be obtained from Tracy on 812587. NCT members received 80% of the price of the item and non-members receive 60%. It's a brilliant opportunity to clear out all those no longer needed or outgrown children's items - **but** - they must be of very good quality.

We also have our regular coffee mornings (see below) and an open house coffee morning at the Crafton Green Day Centre in Stansted on Wednesday 15th March - all welcome, come along and have a coffee and a chat!

Our regular coffee mornings are as follows:

Monday 10.00-11.30 am 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 and/or are interested in joining please speak to Wendy on 813387

Nature Notes



At this time of year before the leaves are fully out it is easier to see the birds. The Green Woodpecker (*Picus Viridis*) is a common resident but many people may not be aware of them and therefore a sighting can be a delight. These birds are the largest and most conspicuous of our 3 British woodpecker species. They are approximately 12 inches (30cms) long and have a green body with a buff grey underside and yellow rump. Despite their crimson crown and bright moustache stripe, these birds are well camouflaged on grassland and are often only spotted when they move. There have been regular sightings on the grass verge of the road past the long stay car parks at the Airport and also on the approach to the motorway roundabout. These birds have a long flexible and sticky tongue and use their beaks to probe for ants in the soil.

Green Woodpeckers can also be heard on Aubrey Buxton reserve, the area managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. Unlike other woodpeckers they rarely drum on wood but announce their presence by emitting a wild laughing 'yaffle' call. This is heard mainly in the spring when pairs are displaying to establish their mating territories. It is an unmistakable sound.

Those lucky enough to find that the Green Woodpecker visits their garden are probably those who are less rigorous about their lawn. By giving up fertilisers and weed killers and setting the mower blade higher, one can encourage low growing plants such as speedwell, celandines, clover, medick and, of course, daises. This makes the sward less homogenous and encourages solitary bees to nest, while in the layer below the surface, the variety of invertebrates will be increased. It is these that the woodpeckers are after as food. There is a lot that we can do to encourage the wildlife in our gardens.

Judith Combes



Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues with his Saturday morning coaching sessions for 7-14 year olds. If you would like to join in there are limited places available so please contact Chris on 01279 466973. Chris is hoping to organise several junior tournaments at the club throughout the year. This is after the success of the first one which was held on a freezing cold Sunday afternoon just before Christmas last year. The final was won by Tony Hudson and Luke Berry who defeated Will Pacey and Sanjay Cheema in a very close encounter.

Used Tennis Balls

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

New Year Italian Tournament

Always coming up with novel ideas, it was decided to have an Italian theme for the first tournament of the new Millennium. The 8 competitors competed on a round-robin basis, followed by a final in which John Eyre and Jenny Appleby beat Richard Mott and Fran Cayless

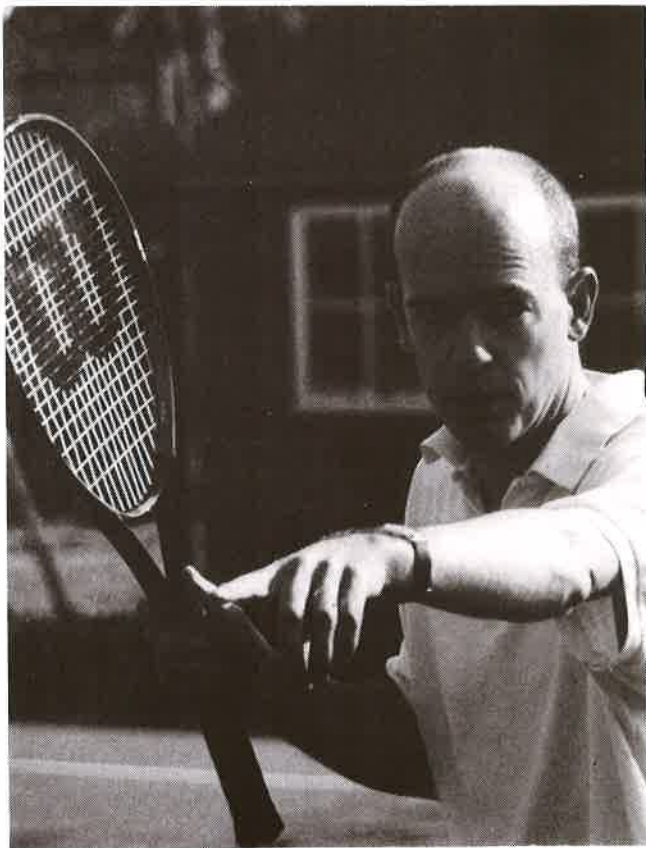


Photo Revd. Andrew Spurr

Stansted Tennis Club AGM

This will take place on Wednesday 15th March 2000 at 8 pm at 105 Cambridge Road. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to air their views or concerns about the club.

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 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Those who want to know anything about the Elsenham and Thaxted Light Railway should consult Peter Paye who was the speaker at our February meeting. His knowledge of the subject is comprehensive and he has some interesting old photographs.



Only three more meetings before our summer break, all at the Day Centre at 8 pm. March 2nd - "Stansted: the last 250 million years". Those who have heard Peter Rawson on this subject on a previous occasion will no doubt be happy to be taken back again to the roots of the history of this area.

April 6th - "The Blyth Family" by Patrick Streeter. Another subject of local interest

May 4th - A.G.M. followed by a presentation by Peter Sanders - what has he in store for us this year!

For further details please contact Peggy Honour, 813160.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

A year ago at last year's AGM I talked about the possibility of getting the sails turning again. In the last couple of years we have tried to get an impression of how it must have been by turning the sails on occasional days by hand. Now that the trustees have given the go ahead to get grants and quotes for the current plan we hope to get the sails turning whenever the wind is strong enough from the Southwest and there are volunteers on hand to keep an eye on things. If you are interested in helping us achieve this objective and/or helping to work the mill when the sails are turning you could join us at this year's AGM at the Day Centre on Tuesday March 21st, 7.45 pm for 8.00 pm start.

For those interested in helping with the mill or would like further information please contact - Steve Clements - tel. 816514.

Opening Dates for April/May:-

Sunday 2nd Apr	Sunday 23rd Apr (Easter)
Monday 24th Apr	Sunday 30th Apr
Monday 1st May	Sunday 7th May
Sunday 14th May (National Mills Day)	
Sunday 28th May	Monday 29th May

Mills in mind

Everyone knows what a windmill looks like. The image is portrayed on calendars, jigsaws, chocolate boxes, etc. One of the oldest pictures is an engraving on a memorial brass in the church of St Margaret's, Kings Lynn, circa 1349. To me there is something magical about the majestic landmark. Maybe it is in the sails like the flailing arms of a clown or a scarecrow.

Here in Stansted we are very privileged with our mill. It was built in 1787, the same year as George III was on the throne, the American Constitution was drafted and George Stephenson, our famous engineer, was 6 years old! Our mill ceased working in 1910 and was eventually bequeathed to "the inhabitants of Stansted". The mill has been restored and, although it may never grind flour again, is a very precious landmark.

At one time it was estimated that there were around 10,000 working windmills in England. The great storm of 1703, also named The Tempest by Daniel Defoe, was worse than any Britain has seen since. On November 9th 1703 over 400 windmills were destroyed.

The first use of stones for grinding corn into flour was around 12000 BC. Windmills were known to exist in 10th C Persia. The concept of harnessing the wind for free energy is

thought to have been introduced in Britain in the 12th C by Crusaders returning from the Middle East. The earliest record of a windmill I have found so far is in Laxton, Nottinghamshire, built in 1252. Windmills were used to grind corn, salt, drain the land (especially the Fens and in Holland), drive saw-mills, pulp rags for paper-making, grind concrete clinker for producing animal foodstuffs.

Not all windmills have 4 sails. Some in Lincolnshire have 5, two mills have 6 sails and a working mill at Heckington has 8! There is evidence that the sails of windmills were used to convey messages, like Indian smoke signals. Smugglers in Sussex would avoid landing their illicit cargoes if the sails of a local mill were set at a certain angle. It was a warning from the friendly miller that Revenue Officers were in the neighbourhood. Closer to home, the sails on our mill are turned vertically in respect on Good Friday and returned to the diagonal position on Easter Sunday.

Uses of mills today include conversion into private homes, guest houses and for educational purposes - especially the working mills where flour is produced. Our mill in its time served as the Boy Scout Headquarters for the village.



5-sail Alford Mill, Lines

continued on page 16

To mark the Millennium, a project was launched by the Stansted Millers last year to create a "Windmills of the World" Postcard Album, to be kept in perpetuity for "the inhabitants of Stansted". To date we have 135 postcards, including 2 of Australian windmills and one of a mill in Cape Town, South Africa. We have a Dutch card from schoolchildren who found our project on the internet and another from "an admirer" in Jersey. The stamps and postmarks have created another aspect of interest. Someone also sent a book "Windmills of Nottinghamshire" which makes fascinating reading. It includes the story of Karl Salsbury Wood, or "Windmill Wood" as he later became known, who was an eccentric who specialised in painting watercolours of windmills in the 1930's and almost succeeded in his ambition to paint all the windmill remains in the country - travelling by bicycle! Sadly many of the remains have now been demolished, mostly in the 1960's.

So, when you are on holiday or out for the day, possibly visiting mills, please remember to look out for unusual windmill postcards, both old and new. In years to come future generations will visit the mill and hopefully their postcards too!

Julia George



**Huw Johnson
Club**

Come to our AGM. on Wednesday March 1st at St Mary's School, St John's Road, 7.30 pm for 8 pm, followed by a cheese, wine and coffee social evening. All are welcome.

As we go to press in mid-February, we are all looking forward to celebrating Joanne's birthday with a fancy dress disco on February 17th. It promises to be an entertaining evening.

We will be holding a Coffee Morning at 62 Chapel Hill on Wednesday March 22nd. We hope that everyone will come along and help us augment our holiday fund.

Marion G Johnson



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

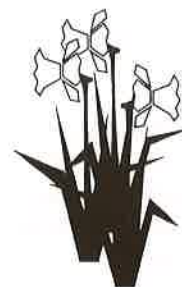
Our speaker for the February meeting, Pippa Bondy MSTAT, gave members a very interesting talk on "The Alexander Technique". She told how the gentleman who invented this was a premature baby born in 1869 and was always a sickly child. When he grew up he became a Shakespearean reader. When his voice went all the doctor could suggest was he did not speak for two weeks. This helped at first but he eventually lost it again; he then started to investigate himself using mirrors to check his posture, discovering the tension in his neck. He eventually came up with a series of movements to improve his posture. Many other actors became interested in his technique which was of great help to them as well. Mr Alexander died in 1955 leaving behind a number of schools and teachers in this field. Pippa used members to demonstrate the technique and answered many questions on a most informative subject.

During business Mrs Wellings said she would be arranging a trip to Sandringham on Saturday 13th May for members and family and it will be open to the village if the coach is not full. The cost will be £11.70 (£10.80 concessions) but money must be paid by April 1st.

In our social time we were entertained by six members who gave a dead pan rendering of the pantomime "Cinderella" giving a good finish to our evening as it caused a good deal of laughter.

The March speaker is Peter Brown 'Bridging the Gap' (all about Stansted) so if you are interested in hearing this talk why not join us on Thursday 9th March, 7.30 for 7.45 pm in St John's Hall, St John's Road.

We were also reminded about the coffee morning in aid of the Meningitis Trust on Monday 20th March, 10.30 am in the Day Centre, Crafton Green, when we will be raising money for this worthy cause. There will be coffee and biscuits and many stalls including a raffle. Entry is 50p.



STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Our local Member of Parliament for the Saffron Walden Constituency, the Rt Hon Sir Alan Hazelhurst, MP will be available for interviews at the Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green, Stansted on Friday, 31st March from 5.45 pm until 6.30 pm. No appointment is necessary.

Alastair Richardson



Stansted Cricket Club

We are hoping to buy a bowling machine for the juniors to use during their coaching sessions - any monies raised at our Jumble Sale (see Village Events page) will go towards this.

Sandra Ayres
49 St John's Road
814471

Look What's New in 2000 Montage! Montage! Montage!

Have you ever thought while looking at your family photographs, old and new, that they would look great if pictured together in one grouped arrangement. Or maybe you would like to see images put together of family and friends New Year celebrations, for your delight or possibly their embarrassment. Whatever the occasion, whatever the images you have or may want to create, for free advice and quotation call:

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Recipe of the Month

Pork Tenderloin Filet in Cider Sauce

- 1 lb / 450 gm pork tenderloin
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 carrots, cut into strips
- ½ lb / 125 gm mushrooms, cut into quarters
- 1 pint / 575 ml medium dry cider
- ½ pint / 10 ml double cream
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon plain flour

- (a) slice pork into ½ inch rounds & flatten
- (b) sauté in half the oil
- (c) put to one side when sealed, & save juices
- (d) sauté vegetables in remaining oil
- (e) remove with slotted spoon
- (f) add meat juices & flour to pan
- (g) cook into a roux
- (h) add cider, bring to boil & simmer
- (i) add cream & continue to simmer until tender
- (j) season to taste
- (k) serve with fresh vegetables or green salad

Serves 4

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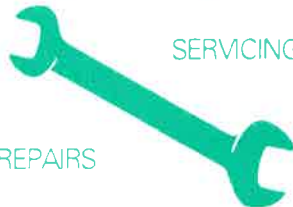
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