

May 2000

The *LINK*



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Sat 20th May
Quaker Meeting House



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Dr Rukmini Rao, Deccan Development Society,
one of Christian Aid's partners in India.

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Advertising enquiries to Angela Wall Tel 01279 817978
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editor.thelink@stansted.net
11th May for publication on 28th May
15th June for publication on 2nd July**

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Reception Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Services and preachers for May

7th Michael Dyer
14th Michael Render
21st Joan Kennett
28th Rev. John Graham – Holy Communion

We shall also be sharing in the Joint Act of Worship for Christian Aid Week on Sunday 14. May at 6.30p.m. at the Friends Meeting House.

Fellowship meeting on Friday 12 May at 8p.m.

Cliff Richard's Millennium Prayer

Did you know that Cliff's version of the Lord's Prayer set to the tune of Old Lang Syne, which topped the charts just before Christmas was not his idea at all? This setting was part of a musical based entirely on the Lord's Prayer, called 'Hopes and Dreams', which toured the country last year. Within Methodist circles, Rob Frost is well known for his production of musicals, which are designed to involve local congregations and the audience, as well as professional actors and musicians, and this was no exception. Last summer, several coaches of local Methodists went to Brentwood to join a performance, and found themselves singing, amongst other songs, this version of the Lord's Prayer, little imagining that later in the year it was to add to Cliff's score of hits.

Rob Frost has a team of script and songwriters, some of whom are Methodists. The actual idea of using this particular tune for the Lord's Prayer came from two very ordinary Methodists, Polly (who acts in the show) and her husband Stephen, who has Muscular Dystrophy. Apparently they have bought a garden shed with their share of the royalties!

Despite the controversy surrounding its release, Cliff's Millennium Prayer was a great hit, not only with Christians. A recent article in the Guardian reported that, as a result of this release, more people actually know the words of the Lord's Prayer than at any point since the 1960s. In a secular society that seems to rate materialism above faith, it is encouraging and refreshing to find the words of Jesus are still a hit!

Marion Dyer

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 May

7th 11 am Mr R Friday
14th 11 am Rev D Simpson Communion
6.30pm C.T.S. for Christian Aid
Friends Meeting House
21st 11 am Rev P Ball
Cambridge District Pulpit Exchange
28th 11 am Rev Lydia Rapkin

On May 6th as well as our usual monthly cake stall there will be stalls selling Bric-a-Brac and books, outside weather permitting. Coffee and biscuits will be available in the Lecture Hall. All proceeds towards our Repair and Redevelopment Fund. Hope to see you there.

Please see the events page about two events coming up. Book the dates.

May 13th Music and Morris Dancing
June 17th Antiques with David Miller

'A GOOD EVENING'

The 70 or so people who attended 'Border Crossing', the one-man presentation by Andrew Harrison in St John's Hall on 26th March, were given a rare treat. Thought-provoking as ever, Andrew portrayed the life of a man whose childhood imagination led him into estrangement from his parents, followed by a spiritual loneliness which, through one of the quirks of life, brought separation from his partner and a brief period in jail.

This was followed by songs by Ben Okafor from Nigeria, who also recounted his involvement in that country's civil war.

The evening ended with an attractive supper, provided through the aegis of the CTS Millennium Committee.



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

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

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

Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings
Secretary

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

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

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

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

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

High Maintenance

It's not always easy to project this column three weeks ahead to the time when it will be read. Working with that kind of lead time means that the contents are not always as topical as I would like. However, some issues come back periodically.

This week (April 16) has seen the end of another episode of turbulence over St. Mary's churchyard. As my churchwardens have solved the problem of its upkeep for this year, I feel I can speak to the wider issues of how we come to have church buildings and churchyards available for community use.

I need to do this because I have seen some of the letters which the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has received over the years, and their tone is too often recriminatory. Feelings run high when it comes to the resting place of loved ones, so I understand that occasionally their approach will be rooted in feelings of hurt when the grass has been neglected.

But I think it is important to recognise that a PCC is very different from local government, and we can't make demands on it in quite the same way. A PCC is funded by voluntary contributions from a diminishing group of practising Christians, not by public taxes. The PCC receives nothing from the government to meet the costs of maintaining its buildings or grounds. The church is run by *amateurs* in the original meaning of the word: it is run by people who do it for the love of it or, in this case, for the love of God.

Active church buildings and churchyards continue to be available to the community because they are paid for by local Christians, there may

be one or two of these individuals in the road where you live. Certainly there will be fewer of them than there were ten or fifteen years ago.

I don't know how much longer St. John's PCC will be able to maintain its properties out of its own pocket. I am in the middle of a very lively debate among Birchanger villagers about the future of their parish church. It is not generally understood that when a congregation gets so small that it cannot meet the upkeep of a church, there is no other money available and it has to close; unless the village takes responsibility for meeting the costs of keeping it open.

St. John's PCC aspires to follow its Lord by giving to the needy and downtrodden. All too often it is frustrated in this aim by having to meet the expenses of maintenance and, one day, it may say it has to give up the building, or the churchyard to be able to fulfil what Jesus asked of his followers when he said, 'love your neighbour' not 'maintain your listed building', or 'keep the grass cut'.

So, do use St. John's church. It is available to pray and sit quietly in and it is open most days. Do write to the PCC when things go awry in St. Mary's churchyard, but please don't get cross with them because they pay for its upkeep themselves.

Better yet, why not offer to share the costs by contributing to the PCC? That way we get the best of both worlds: the church and churchyard remain available to the community, while the PCC may be able to release other funds to help make God's Kingdom come on earth.

Revd. Andrew Spurr, Rector

St John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B 9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i> Rite A 6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i> 11:00am Family Service on the third Sunday of the month	<i>Wednesday of this month when there will be an ecumenical service at the Friends Meeting House, at 8:00pm)</i> 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.
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B followed by coffee 7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer	
<i>(Wednesday evening service is at 7:30pm except the last</i>		

Registers for
March will be included in next
month's Link

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 reading an article recently about the terrible massacres/suicides in Uganda by an apparently Christian group, I came across a sentence, which said that, of course, most Christian movements were "harmless". That rather stopped me in my tracks: is that really how Christians are viewed? And is that how we want to be viewed? Naturally we do not want to do harm deliberately, but surely Christianity wants to be viewed as a positive force for good, not just negative and harmless. Because, in fact, if you are negative you allow harm to flourish.

All Christians believe in a power beyond themselves, as do other religions, and we should be able to be a channel for that power in what we do and what we say. The great Christian leaders have not been warlike or aggressive figures, but have exuded a power that is unmistakable.

A few weeks ago I heard a fascinating talk on John Bunyan - his life, his preaching and his writing. He was born near Bedford, which has a fine 9ft statue of him; and the town now has a bust of Bishop Trevor Huddleston - recently unveiled. No-one would have dared to call either of them "harmless".

Katharine Hurford

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

The following have recently been baptised:

2nd April Bonnie Elizabeth Haughey
9th April Arabella Swadling

A Day At The Dome

The Dome equals 13 Albert Halls - Ten St Paul's Cathedrals - or 2 Wembley Stadiums. It's as high as Nelson's Column and encloses an area twice the size of Trafalgar Square. With a £758 Million Budget it has been the cause of much controversy but it is a magnificent engineering achievement.

We rose blinking in the sunlight from the depths of the Jubilee Line and, even knowing all the aforementioned facts, were not prepared for the sheer size. Close up it is quite breathtaking. But it is an enclosure rather than a building and that is the problem - what to see first!

We had an early timed ticket for the Millennium Show and that set the tone for the rest of the day. The 180 strong company has been brought together to perform aerial acrobatics, swinging, leaping and flying into space, dropping, joining the dancers on stilts. They absail with kites and sails and the whole spectacular colourful event really brings the structure to life. After this show we were quite happy whatever we would see!

We enjoyed the Talk Zone and were transformed into Cyber Space people - seeing ourselves in virtual reality on the big screen certainly brought out the child in us!

We saw many other interesting Zones but particularly wanted to spend time in the Faith Zone and see for ourselves whether this area really recognised the year 2000 as a significant Christian Anniversary. We were pleased and surprised to spend over 1½ hours there. The continuing display by both TV monitors and legends enlarged on the great contribution that the Church had made down the centuries in Healing, Education, Justice, Freedom and Landscape and shows how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus changed the course of the World and is a continuing influence for good on the lives of individuals worldwide today.

Other Faiths are represented and one hopes this will motivate people in removing barriers and prejudice and increasing respect for other Faiths but the Faith Zone is primarily ensuring that the Christian significance of the Dome is fully reflected in these celebrations.

We really enjoyed our day out. A day is not long enough to take it all in - so don't be put off by the press - go and enjoy it for yourselves!

Brian & Eileen Quinn

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14th - 20th MAY

Calling all volunteers – have a good send off for collecting. Come to the Joint Service for the beginning of **Christian Aid Week** on Sunday 14 May at 6.30pm at the Friends Meeting House. Of course non-collectors are just as welcome!

Plants – cakes – books – toys – bric-a-brac will all be available at the **Christian Aid Market** on Saturday 20. May 10am to 12 noon at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

For Chocaholics - this year there will be a **Choc Shop** selling fairly traded **Divine** chocolate.

For those with energy left at the end of Christian Aid Week, the sponsored event “**Run (but we walk) the Church and State**” is on Sunday 21. May starting at 2pm I have sponsorship forms and maps of suggested routes for those wishing to take part in an interesting afternoon.

Question -When is £1 worth £1-28? Answer – when it’s given to Christian Aid by a taxpayer.



For the first time this year, gifts of any size will qualify for tax relief, providing the donor is a UK taxpayer. So this year there is a declaration on the back of the Christian Aid envelope for you to fill in name, address and if possible amount given. There will be a leaflet with the envelope explaining this. If just half the givers give details, Christian Aid could raise an extra £1 million for children in the developing world.

Children make our Future – this is the theme of this years Christian Aid Week and the following is a prayer for the week.

PS Gap Year @ Christian Aid – if any 18 to 25 year olds are planning a year of voluntary service, Christian Aid is offering training and placements in a Christian Aid Team. If you want to know more telephone – 020 8444 8096 or e-mail at or visit the web-site at

Catherine Dean
813579



LENT 2000

All Together Now was the title of the Lent course and the theme was **Exploring the Journey of Faith in Words and Music**. There was certainly a lot of music in our sessions – much singing of hymns, both ancient and modern and listening to music, chosen by different people each week to illustrate an aspect of their faith journey. There was also much sharing, and it was wonderful to see how over the four weeks, we opened up to each other more and more. Contributions ranged from anecdotes about first girlfriends to very moving personal experiences.

Each session emphasised the journey of faith as we sang “Walk, walk in the light, walk in the light of the Lord” and said Psalm 139, which reminds us that God is always there for us, watching over and guiding our journey.
“ You are all around me on every side;
You protect me with your power.
Your knowledge of me is too deep;
It is beyond my understanding.”

Each week we heard a reflection as if through the eyes of a biblical character.

The four sessions were entitled Beginnings, Following, Challenging and Believing. We looked at the beginnings of our faith journey, why we chose to follow Christ, and who had been an example in our lives for us to follow. We discussed the challenge of the church’s response to asylum seekers and the things that strengthen and weaken our belief.

It is not possible to do justice to the experience of the Lent course in a few short paragraphs. From the feedback, I can say that those who attended felt, as I did, enriched and blessed to have taken part.

Catherine Dean
813579

There's a lesson somewhere...

23	Easter Day	Green Waste Skip Windmill open	Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm 2 - 6 pm
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Entry in Village Events for April

Including all church services within the church pages in *The Link*, with social or secular items appearing on the **VILLAGE EVENTS** page can sometimes lead to unexpected results. We are grateful to Phyllis Harrison for spotting an apparent clash of cultures on 23rd April, and for sending this entertaining, even hilarious poem which must surely contain a message for us all!

*I must go down to the skip again, to the lonely skip by the rails,
And all they ask is my green waste (hopefully done in bales).
And a quick toss, and a small loss as the loads fly over,
And a few snags in the bin-bags that we use for cover.*

*I must go up to the church again, to the lonely church on the hill;
And all they ask: that I come there of my own, free will;
And the prayers said and the Word read, and the hymns still ringing
And the Lord ris'n and the flowers sprung, and the green wastes singing.*

With acknowledgement to the late John Masefield

*Well done, Phyllis
Editor*



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

On April 1st our Annual Spring Flower Show was held in the U.R.C. Church Hall. It was one of our most successful Spring Shows with the number of entries up and of a very high standard. It was a particularly successful day for Brian Townsend who won the Committee Shield, the Oldfield Shield, the Prentice Cup, the Daffodil Societies Bronze Medal and the Best Bloom Certificate. Gordon Fuller won the Maud Banks Tankard for vegetables and Mrs Dorothy Harrison the Humphrey Vase for the best entry in the Floral Art.

On April 5th at our monthly meeting Mr Peter Morris came to talk and give advice and practical demonstrations on filling hanging baskets. We also held our Annual General Meeting.

The cup for the most points in our monthly competitions was won by David and Dorothy Harrison. At our meeting on May 3rd the speaker will be Mrs Sue Robinson and she will be talking about Gardens in France (inc. Monet's). Any non-member that would like to come will be very welcome at the cost of 75p.

Cyril Stoneham



SHALOM



HERTS, ESSEX AND LONDON CANCER CHARITY

May Meetings

- May 8th. Prayer and Praise led by Marion and Michael Dyer at the Friends Meeting House.
- May 22nd. A debate entitled "This house believes that church buildings are an impediment to Christian unity" at the Friends Meeting House.

All meetings are at 8pm

Catherine Dean
813579

HELPLINE

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately the Helpline telephone number is one of those affected by the "Big Number" changes. As a result, the four digit prefix will change:

from **0941** to **07641**

and the full number will therefore be:

07641 104093

Either number can be used until April 2001 but from then the new number only will apply.

As previously reported in the Link, thanks to lottery funding the Uttlesford Voluntary Sector Training offers training courses on a range of subjects for the benefit of volunteers within the district. The courses generally last for one day from 10am to 4/5pm, cost £15 each and are held in Dunmow and Thaxted. The subjects on offer between May and July are as follows:-

- Telephone techniques and stress management (10th May)
- Health & Safety Risk Assessment (24th May)
- Presentation skills (6th June)
- Managing volunteers (20th June)
- Computer training in Access database (11th July).

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

Francine Cope

The following fundraising activities will be of interest to all.

On Friday, 26th May, at 7.30 pm in the Stansted Day Centre, Keith Gibbs will present the second part of "Castles and Cathedrals". Entrance will be £3 and there will be refreshments and a raffle.

Stansted Open Gardens takes place on Sunday, 16th July. Further details will be available shortly.

Sue Hitchmough



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

"A Gamekeeper's Year" was the title of the talk Graham Bendall gave at the April meeting. Mr Bendall, who comes from Little Braxted near Witham, told us how he as a young boy, along with his brother, helped their Gamekeeper Father and when he was old enough eventually took over from him. He told us many amusing stories about he and his brother while they were helping their father, especially the time they climbed a tree to capture an escaped peacock for which their father took the credit and the £20 reward. Mrs Gurr thanked him for an entertaining talk.

During business members were reminded of our trip to Sandringham and our Spring Group Meeting later this month convened by Elsenham W.I. The competition for this meeting is baby jackets for premature babies. Our members have knitted many of these tiny garments which will be passed on to the "Rosie" maternity unit at Cambridge and Princess Alexandra hospital at Harlow.

Mrs Rosemary Minshull presented her report from our County A.G.M. held at Brentwood in March. She said she had enjoyed the day which had two very good guest speakers, also a visit from our National Chairman.

We finished our meeting with a quiz organised by Mrs Chastney, about chocolate which seemed appropriate as Easter is nearly here.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings in St John's which start at 7.45 pm.

Brenda Ryan
812725

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL NEWS

Last year, Tom and Marion Johnson relinquished responsibility for the day to day running of the Hall. At about the same time, Alan and Jackie Corbishley stepped down from being Chairman and Secretary of the Hall Committee.

Managing a publicly-used building is an unremitting and demanding task requiring a high degree of dedication - and, apart from the cleaning, all voluntary. We have been fortunate to have been so well served for so long.

The Link wishes on behalf of the whole community to express our thanks to Tom, Marion, Alan and Jackie for upwards of 15 years of selfless work, most of it unnoticed and certainly materially unrewarded.



The Hall Committee would like to tell you what has been happening since the start of the year.

Short term improvements

The floors and windows have been cleaned and polished. Various maintenance jobs in the toilets have been done. There is more to do: the west-facing windows and sills badly need painting or renewing and the "garden" is untidy. Is there anyone handy with pruning shears and weed-killer who would help tidy it up?

Cleaning

We have appointed a new cleaner, Jill Wilson, who lives nearby in Woodfields.

Longer term plans

Money is a big factor in achieving our longer term aims; the short term work alone will cost about £1,800. However, we are optimistic and have agreed what we would like to do over the next one to three years:

The kitchen

We are sure that all will agree the kitchen needs a complete "make-over". This will cost about £3,500. We have applied to the Airport STACC Fund for a grant for part of the work. If we are successful, we shall be able to proceed this year.

Chairs

Many of the old metal chairs are beyond repair. We hope to start replacing them this year. Soon there will be a sample chair on display in the Hall and you will be asked to "Sponsor a Chair" for £10 or £14 apiece. We need about 60 chairs making, with the 60 bought in 1997, 120 in all.

Curtains

We are looking at a number of ideas for replacing the curtains which will brighten the Hall.

Decoration

The Hall entrance lobby and the toilets all need decorating - a very big job. All areas get a lot of use and the decor we choose must be hard-wearing and washable but still attractive to look at.

Fund-raising

There is some money in the Hall Fund but this will be needed for the short term improvements and the kitchen (even if we get the STACC grant). We shall have to raise the money for the other projects and, to do this, we plan to hold some events this year:

Millennium Children's Party in the Hall on Sunday June 11th from 3-30 to 5-30pm.

Summer "Hill Chilli" at Sonia Levy's on Chapel Hill (the Hall if wet) Friday June 23rd from 7pm.

Quiz Night with a difference in the Autumn.

Contact Joy or Tracy for details of these events!

Don't forget to tell us if you have any problems when using the Hall - AND your ideas for improving things!



The Hall Committee (from the rear):

Jeremy Wagener - Chairman (01279 813182)

Elizabeth Wagener

Lino Bottalico


Joy Lambe - Hall bookings (01279 817937)

Tracy Bottalico (01279 814369)


P.S. Why not hire the Hall for your next special event?

**Rates during Millennium Year
Only £6 per hour (£7 at weekends)**

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

10 am Sat 6th May
outside the
United Reformed Church
Chapel Hill
 (in church if wet)

**Stansted Carnival Committee
General
Knowledge
Quiz**


7.30 for 8 pm Sat 6th May
Mountfitchet High School
Bar ~ Tickets £6
incl Ploughmans
from 'Dog & Duck' or tel 815904



**Coach Outing to
Sandringham**

Sat 13th May - 9 am Sworders
(journey time approx 2½ hrs)
Departs Sandringham 3 pm
Cost (incl admission) £11.70
Concessions £10.80
Tel Pearl Wellings 813614
All Welcome
Organised by Stansted Evening W I

May

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 pm Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Sat	Cake & Book Stall Carnival Committee Quiz	Outside URC 10 am Mountfitchet Sch 7.30 for 8 pm
7	Sun	St Mary's Church & Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
8	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
10	Wed	Uttlesford Volunteer Training begins	Tel 814562
11	Thu	Carers' Support Group W I	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13	Sat	W I Outing to Sandringham Plant Sale May Fair Music & Morris Dancing Junior Football Club Presentation	Meet at Sworders 9 am Fire Station 10 am - noon Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm URC 7 pm Mountfitchet School (evening)
14	Sun	Windmill open (Nat. Mills day)	2 - 6 pm
15	Mon to 18 Thu	Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
17	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18	Thu	RBL Women's Section Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Sat	Christian Aid Market Green Waste Skip	Outside Quaker Mtg Hse 10 am Railway Sidings 1 - 4 pm
21	Sun	Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
22	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
23	Tue	PTA Fashion Show	Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm
24	Wed	Stansted Luncheon Club	Tel 815959 1 pm
26	Fri	HEAL Talk	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
28 Sun / 29 Mon		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
June			
3	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
4	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10 Sat / 11 Sun		Skip	Railway Sidings 7.30 am - 3 pm
11	Sun	United Songs of Praise	Recreation Ground 6 pm



Development Fund

**Music &
Morris
Dancing**

7 pm Saturday 13th May
£3 (incl tea & coffee)
For programmes please tel
Peter Trundle on 813433
Music in the Church, followed by
Dancing in the Lecture Hall



**Mountfitchet High
School PTA**

**FASHION SHOW
Ladies Fashions by Millplan**

7.30 pm Tue 23 May
Tickets £2 from
Margaret 816718 / Linda 814685
Clothes can be purchased at the show



**CASTLES &
CATHEDRALS**

Part 2 !

An illustrated talk by
Keith Gibbs
7.30 for 8 pm Fri 26th May
Day Centre. Entrance £3.
Raffle & Refreshments



**Stansted Windmill
Open Days 2 - 6 pm**

Sunday 30th April
Monday 1st May
Sunday 7th May
Sunday 14th May
Sunday 28th May
Monday 29th May
Sunday 4th June



Development
Fund

**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



**Stansted
Evening W I**

TEA PARTY

2 - 4 pm Wed 14th June
Day Centre
All proceeds to the
National Osteoporosis Society

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford
Office Hours
10 am - 1 pm
Monday - Friday



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

Forthcoming Projects

There are several projects looming on which the Parish Council wishes to consult with parishioners. In the next month or so, it is our intention to circulate two questionnaires to every household.

One will relate to a proposal to re-vamp the Memorial Gardens in Chapel Hill. We have come across old postcards and photographs of how the Gardens used to look in the early 1900's, and a local landscape architect has produced a new design which we believe will improve the Gardens and reinstate the War Memorial as the focal point.

The second questionnaire is part of the process for producing a Village Appraisal. The District Council is starting to compile the District Plan, which will determine the way Uttlesford develops over the next 10-15 years. It is essential that the parish has an input into this document, and in order to do that, we must know what you think.

Sometime soon, hopefully during May, we will be calling a public meeting to discuss car parking in the village. Over the course of the last 18 months or so, we have been approached by residents from certain areas of the village who are experiencing on-going problems with on-street car parking. A questionnaire was circulated to those in what we considered to be the worst affected areas (Lower Street, Chapel Hill, Sunnyside, Stoney Common etc) and we were amazed by the high response of returns. Various suggestions were made, and we undertook to research these ideas. We will report back at the meeting, which we hope will be attended by officers of Uttlesford District Council, Essex County Council and the Police.

As I am being dragged into the 21st Century kicking and screaming, it is likely that the two questionnaires will also appear on the Stansted Website!!

Ruth Clifford, Clerk



St Clare Hospice

Canoe Support St Clare?

Since retiring as St Clare Hospice General Manager in January, Joe Brennan has been training for a mammoth solo canoe trip to raise funds for our charity.

Starting on 28th April (before the water starts to warm up!), Joe will be paddling from Bath to Reading along the Avon Kennet Canal covering a distance of 87 miles over the course of about 8 days. Her canoe will not be allowed through any of the 81 locks en route so in each case she will have to take the canoe out of the water and carry it across. Joe is fit but she says that "my knees are about 180 years old and have forgotten how to stand up and sit down!" This means that getting in and out of the canoe will be difficult. She is sure that she will capsize on at least one occasion. Joe is asking people to sponsor her for the number of locks she gets around without capsizing.

If you would like to sponsor Joe even at a mid-way stage please send your pledge or donation to St Clare Hospice Centre, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex, CM17 9JX. Alternatively, call the fundraising team on 01279 413590 to leave your details. Please help your local hospice to care for people affected by life-threatening illnesses.

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues with his Saturday morning coaching sessions for 7-14 year olds. From the end of April, Thursday afternoon classes will recommence for the summer months. 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 01279 812073 if you would like to buy some.

Tennis Club Garden

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

Club Tournament and Hospital Cup Competitions

If members would like to enter either of these competitions, please add your name to the entry forms on the noticeboard in the clubhouse.

Stansted Tennis club finals day will take place on Sunday 3rd September. The Hospital Cup Finals Day will be held at The Grove Tennis Club, Saffron Walden, on Saturday 22nd July.

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.

MILLENNIUM PARTY RAISES £600

Some of you will know that there was a New Year's Eve Millennium Party held at the Snuff Box. The "Mountfitchet Millennium" party was planned as a self-funding, not for profit celebration, but it was anticipated that there might be a surplus when all the bills were paid.

The main aim of having an enjoyable evening was achieved, and the final reckoning showed a surplus of £300. It was decided to split this evenly between the Huw Johnson Club, Helpline and St. Clare's Hospice. Ann Lee, who works for Lloyds TSB, was aware that they run a matched funding scheme, whereby they will match funds raised by members of staff for registered charities. She applied and was very pleased to be given a further £300, to be distributed as before.

Our thanks to all those who bought tickets and we are very grateful to Lloyds TSB for their support of these worthy local causes.



Nature Notes

If the sun shines in May we can expect a number of butterflies in our gardens and along the hedgerows. They need warmth to become active and can then search for their nectar source. Some species overwinter as adults and appear early in the spring. The bright sulphur-yellow Brimstone, which lays its eggs on the Buckthorn in our hedgerows has been around since March. Peacock butterflies with their dramatic 'eyes' can often be found in garden sheds or even indoors during the winter and will appear early. After mating they lay their eggs on stinging nettles in May and the black shiny caterpillars with white spots, feed and grow together in a silken web. There may be a hundred in one group. In July, they pupate in the undergrowth. The common Small Tortoiseshell may also be seen and they too lay their eggs on stinging nettles but the black larvae have yellow stripes along their bodies

Gardens do not need to be a wilderness to attract butterflies although, as mentioned, nettles are a bonus. There is a wide range of plants, which provide food and it is better to grow a few large clumps of the recommended species than grow all of them in pennynumbers. Easily grown plants include the Buddleias, Sedums, Lavender, Candytuft and Scabious but the butterflies need shelter as well as sunshine. If your north facing, windswept garden is overshadowed and you only grow Roses and Gladioli, you will only see an occasional butterfly passing through to somewhere warmer and sunnier, which has a source of food.

If you wish to see an area managed for the benefit of butterflies, visit the Flich Way, which was the old Dunmow

Railway Line. Working parties from the Bishop's Stortford Natural History Society and the British Butterfly Conservation Group have cleared scrub on the banks to give grassy, sunny areas. At the same time patches of Bramble and Hawthorn have been left to provide cover. A Field Trip has been arranged for May 6th and details are available in the library.

Judith Combes



The National Childbirth Trust Education for Parenthood

We've had a reasonably busy past month with a couple of visits to child-friendly pubs, swimming at Saffron Walden, playing on Stansted Rec' and racing round in circles at a 'ride-on-toy' session in Henham. The highlight of the month was the Easter party at the beginning of the school holidays where the children ate (lots), hunted eggs (lots) and were entertained (lots).

We also hosted a very well attended Save a Life first aid evening to learn the basic lifesaving techniques for children.

As we get into May we shall continue the children's activities with tea at Rascals, another swim at the Lord Butler toddler pool, a messy play session in Henham, a play in the Bishop's Stortford Castle playground and a baking session in Stansted. Half term at the end of May sees us with a Hatfield Forest walk one day and an indoor obstacle course another.

We mustn't forget the all important social events for us 'grown-ups' too! We've a night out for the girls, a family weekend pub lunch, an NCT Anniversary Quiz Night and not forgetting the now regular lads' night out!

May is also the month for our family photograph session in - very good inexpensive photos.

For the new Mums/Carers amongst us we have our bi-monthly 'Cakes and Coffee for Bumps and Babies' morning in Elsenham, this time with a baby massage session. We also have our drop-in 'Open House' coffee morning at the Crafton Green Centre in Stansted on Wednesday 17th May where good value books, games will be on sale.

Our regular coffee mornings are as follows:-
Monday 10.00-11.30am Expectant Mums and Under Ones
Wednesday 10.00-11.30am Toddlers
Friday 1.30-3.00pm Pre-Schoolers

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

RIGHTS OF PASSAGE

The continual increase in the number of motor cars on our roads seems to create more council business than any other subject. Car parks and fees, residents' parking, congestion at primary schools, air pollution, are all problems. The car is a great social benefit but also the source of much social aggression.

In Stansted the state of our roads is a special problem. I could list more than a handful of current cases in which I am involved that are directly caused by Stansted's unadopted road network. Therefore, I thought I would attempt to explain the status of these roads.

Most roads and pavements are maintained at public expense through our taxes by the highways authority. Essex County Council is responsible for repairs to main roads such as Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill, as well as side roads such as Blythwood Garden, Croasdaile Road, Meadowcroft, Mountfitchet Road and Spencer Close.

There is another group of roads – an unusually large proportion in Stansted – that is not maintained by the county council. These include Greenfields, St. John's Road, Recreation Ground, Sunnyside, Park Road and Stoney Common Road.

The people whose homes front on to these roads usually have the expense of paying for repairs. None of these roads is acceptable in its present condition (width, drainage, etc.) to be taken over or adopted by the county council.

Greenfields is in a special category. It is a private road because highway rights have not been established over it. This is because the residents have a gate to close off this road from time to time. They can prevent access by non-residents if they so wish.

All the other roads that I have mentioned are public highways in just the same way as publicly maintained roads are public highways. The county council's description is "non maintainable full public highway". They are also referred to as "private streets", a legal term which perhaps is misleading. Anyone has the right to travel over these roads on foot or in a vehicle, despite the fact that non-residents pay nothing for their upkeep through their taxes.

There is a common misunderstanding that roads in this category are private roads and belong to the people who front on to them. That is not so. The fact that a section of road is shown on deeds in the ownership of the adjacent house provides no special privilege to the house owner. The road may be lawfully used by all traffic without "let or hindrance", to quote the lawful term. They cannot legally be obstructed.

Parking is a major problem as more and more of us own more and more cars. No-one, resident or not, has any lawful

RIGHT to park a vehicle (including a trailer) on any public highway, whether adopted or not. But parking on residential streets would normally not be seen to be unreasonable and is usually permitted.

Informal arrangements to reserve personal parking spots on unadopted roads are no more legitimate than on a maintained highway. Residents' parking schemes can be established. Uttlesford has Stansted on its list for future schemes. These schemes exist in Saffron Walden. They prevent non-residents parking on a road within the scheme but they do not guarantee a parking spot outside one's own home.

According to the county council the placing of unauthorised traffic cones, stones, signs or other objects on the highway would be likely to be viewed by the authorities as an obstruction and potential hazard in contravention of the Highways Act. The Highway Authority is empowered to seek the removal of obstructions.

I have compiled this information note based on advice from Essex County Council's Highways and Transportation Department. I hope that readers find it helpful. Please do contact me if you would like to discuss any of these facts.

Councillor Alan Dean
Uttlesford District Council
01279 813579



Royal British Legion Women's Section

The speaker at our March meeting was Ralph Phillips who, with a wealth of facts and anecdotes and some beautiful slides, gave a fascinating history of railways in this area. The London to Cambridge line was first proposed in 1835 and the Bishop's Stortford to Newport Extension Act was passed in 1843, the siting of Stansted station being determined by William Fuller-Maitland. The Gilbey family had a special carriage attached to trains whenever they travelled to London.

Our coffee morning was very successful and added £246 to our funds. Our thanks to those who so generously supported us.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 18th May at 7.30 pm when we shall have a quiz.

Pat Clower

Profile No. 23

Dick Pollard

Coming from a Stansted family, Dick is probably one of our best known residents. He and his brother David were born in Chapel Hill and, apart from seven years in Newport and the National Service years, he has spent his life in the village. Dick has many memories of his school years in the Lower Street and Chapel Hill buildings when Mr Hare was Headmaster. For much of his life Scouting has played an influential part, first as a Cub with Akela Winnie Funcston, then the Scout Troop when it met in the Windmill under Malcolm Treacher and Cyril Clark. They were great days when local weekend camps and annual Gang Shows were in vogue. The latter were held in the Central Hall and deserve an article in their own right, such were the escapades and hilarity which Dick and other old Scouts still remember. His propensity for pranks became part of Troop folklore, including an occasion when an elaborate but faulty rope mechanism led to a mallet falling on Cyril Clark's tent in the small hours. At this time he joined the Congregational Church Youth Club and became its leader under the respected Revd. Mason. He later became a Committee Member of the Working Men's Club which was a different but enjoyable experience.

Dick's ambition was to enter the Police Force but this did not materialise and he began his working life at the London and Stansted Furnishing Co. where he rose to become manager of the Hockerill shop. He also cheerfully recalls his National Service when he was stationed in Cyprus and Germany at the time the Berlin Wall went up. He made many friends, including his sergeant whom he was constantly trying to outwit.

His gift of mimicry was once used to mischievous effect when, imitating the Company Sergeant Major's voice, he had the whole platoon paraded within minutes outside the Guard Room one dark night. For this he suffered the standard retribution - dunking fully clothed in a cold bath.

Some time after his return he took a sales post with Stewart Textiles, later to be part of the Mitre Furnishing Group and with which he is now Area Sales Manager and a Director.

In the 60's Dick was inveigled into reviving the Cub Pack which had dwindled to a dozen boys. Such was his success that numbers rapidly rose to 40, but fortunately a crisis was averted by Ted Pretty starting a second pack. Both Packs have since been a thriving feature of village life.

Dick's present fame comes from his role at the Carnival where, clad as a Jester, he competently steers the events of the day and gives encouragement to the stallholders. He remembers the heyday of the Carnival in the 60's and 70's when such artistes as Fenella Fielding, Kenneth Horne and Nicholas Parsons were invited by Aubrey (later Lord) Buxton to open the event. On one memorable occasion a sleuth from the News of the World publicised a report that the Carnival

Queen was a topless model. In those days such a scandalous revelation demanded immediate abdication. He was again featured by the national press when a youth group of which he was a member was apprehended by a local policeman for carol singing without a licence. His reputation as the Carnival MC has spread and he now takes the mike at various local fetes and fairs. He puts his great demand for his services down to the fact that he is so cheap (free)!



Dick has been a governor of Mountfitchet High and Bentfield Schools and still helps the Bentfield PTA. He retains his earlier connections by chairing the 1st Stansted Scout Group Committee. Dick and his wife Sue - also a Stansted girl - have two grown-up children, Christopher and Caroline. The family is completed by a large exuberant dog, Maulder, two affectionate cats and two lively hamsters.

On the right evening you may hear Dick exchanging anecdotes old and new with other village personalities in the Rose and Crown, and well rewarded you would be. May he long continue to dispense good cheer to us all.

Derek Honour





STANSTED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1986 Affiliation No. MY0969 Essex F.A.

"We are Stansted, Super Stansted, from Essex"

Welcome to the SJFC page. At long last some pictures of last year's silver. On the left we have got J.M. Sportsman Trophy, League Champion's Shield (centre), Under 16's Cup, (right). You may recall that our Under 16's won the league and cup double. Also the Under 10's, Scorpions, won the Johnson Matthey Sportsmanship Cup. This is an award given to the team with the best attitude and sportsmanship towards their opponents and the game in general.



Pictured below is 11 year old Daniel Latchford of Mountfitchet Road, Stansted. He has played for the Scorpions since they began nearly 4 years ago (Scorpions & Swifts trained as one unit in their first year) and he has been a permanent fixture in the squad since. Daniel plays in central midfield and attends St Mary's school in Stansted. Anne & Andy Latchford told me "The only other things that Daniel has shown interest in are Nintendo 64, Playstation and girls". Daniel has won 'Manager's Player of the Year Award' as well as 'Top Scorer'. Daniel's favourite team is Manchester United and his happiest moment was last year when they scored a last minute winner against Bayern Munich in the Champion's League Final. If any of the neighbours heard loud whooping noises and shouts of delight, that was Daniel after running round the house and teasing Andy Latchford (West Ham supporter and excellent plumber) because the Red Devils had become the first team to ever complete the triple. DOH! Well done Daniel and all the best, mate.



Pictured below is Jamie Matthews of The Champions, Stansted. Jamie, who is also 11 and plays for the Scorpions is another long serving member of the Scorpions squad, joining at the very beginning, 4 years ago. Jamie plays in defence and has picked up the 'Most Improved Player' trophy. Jamie attends Bentfield Primary School in Stansted. Mum, Jill said "Like most boys of his age, he loves football, computers and video games". I also happen to know that Jamie, like his dad Tony, is a keen Arsenal fan and will be hoping his team can continue their challenge to Man Utd. Well one thing seems for sure Jamie, you always take 6 points off my beloved Hammers! One last thing, Jamie's dog, Riley, seems to have the idea in his head that I taste of prime steak; well, I am hoping he won't get the chance to find out. Well done Jamie and all the best, mate.



LA LECHE LEAGUE

Back in 1992 the Department of Health issued a statement saying that hospitalisation of babies with gastro-enteritis cost the NHS £12m. That figure could be even higher now as gastro-enteritis is 10 times more common in formula-fed babies than those which are breastfed.

But mothers need more help, information and support to breastfeed their babies and that is what LA LECHE LEAGUE, a charitable organisation, aims to provide through mother to mother contact.

The Bishop's Stortford branch of LA LECHE LEAGUE are holding a fundraising and information event in the Markwell Pavilion, The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday 3rd May between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Among other attractions, there will be refreshments, a supervised play area, second hand clothes and many raffle prizes. An invitation is extended to all parents, grandparents, carers and children.

NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS WEEK this year runs from 14th-20th May and is co-ordinated by the Department of Health. Again, LA LECHE LEAGUE of Bishop's Stortford will be running an information stall in Jackson Square on Thursday 18th May between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

If you wish to know more about La Leche League in Bishop's Stortford you can contact a leader: Mary Moverley, tel. 01279 506238.



Stansted Cricket Club

By the time this is published we should be enjoying yet another summer season (weather permitting!).

Last season the Saturday 1st XI joined Division III of the Herts & Essex Observer League and was very successful finishing as runners-up to Takeley and gaining promotion at the first attempt. 10 of the 14 fixtures were won and the 5 individual divisional awards all went to Stansted players:-

Highest run aggregate	Phil Maule 608
Best batting performance	David Cope 159 n.o.
Highest wicket takers	Phil Maule 23
Best Bowling performance	Phil Maule 6-15
Most Wicket-keeper dismissals	Keith Ayres 13

We now look forward to proving worthy of the higher standard expected in Division II with home and away matches scheduled through to September. On Sundays there is a full fixture list of friendly 1st XI matches as well as several 2nd XI games to give us veterans a game and allow juniors a chance to progress.

Home games for May include:-

Sat May 6th v High Roding	League
Sun May 7th v Elmdon	1st XI
Tue May 9th v Elsenham	Davies Cup (provisional)
Sat May 20th v Ashdon	League
Sun May 21st v Much Hadham	1st XI
Sun May 28th v Nazeing Common	2nd XI

Do come along to Hargrave Park (next to the Football Ground) and watch. The setting is very pleasant and we welcome old friends and new (and perhaps some potential players or helpers). You would also see that we have had the pavilion veranda decking and surrounding woodwork renewed thanks to one of our members, Colin Legge, who has put a lot of voluntary time and effort into planning and carrying out the work to a high standard.

The Club also has a thriving Junior section with nets and some matches for boys aged about 8 and upwards run by Keith Ayres.

Brian Linford, Chairman
8 Park Road
Tel. 01279 813466

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

For this month's News I thought it would be of interest to outline the proposals made in the Budget for payment of the Social Services costs for the Financial Year 2000/2001.

The Budget was approved at a total of £216.116M which, although an immense sum of money, is still very probably not enough to meet all likely expenses. This figure includes an increase of some £16M over last year.

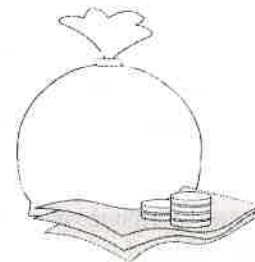
Social Services expenditure like that on the Health Service is very difficult to predict because it is impossible to know exactly how many will make use of the service over a given period. All one knows is that the Health Service keeps us all living longer, thus as we grow older, to a greater or lesser degree, we will need Social Service support if only for a Carer to do the shopping which is a minor service but one that costs money. Thus costs are always likely to rise. Unfortunately too, the Government does not at present adjust the funds allocated for Social Services sufficiently to provide a totally funded service, with the result mentioned above.

County is forced therefore to ask all to pay something more towards the costs and also is forced to cut costs by enforced savings. For example, the cost of meals on wheels is to increase by 20p per meal, a number of staff posts presently vacant are not to be filled for the time being, the cost of care in all its aspects is to be increased and the absenteeism common amongst County Staff is to be reviewed to effect economies.

Readers may not see the effect of these decisions immediately since, as always, they will take time to come into effect, but in due course an effect will be seen and felt and hopefully savings will be achieved which will keep the Social Services Budget within bounds.

Readers are invited to take note of these and to contact the undersigned for further advice and to inform him so that attempts to remedy the situation can be taken over the longer term.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor, Stansted Division
Tel/Fax 01279 812471





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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL

In April a talk of great local interest on The Blyth Family was given by Patrick Streeter, a descendant of Sir Charles Gold. The Gold, Blyth and Gilbey families, who lived in Stansted, inter-married and the large number of children they had gives a complicated family tree. Slides of photographs of big game hunting and hints of Society scandal provoked a mixed reaction of disapproval and interest!

The last meeting of the season on Thursday 4th May in the Day Centre at 8 pm is the Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation by Peter Sanders on how Stansted got rid of its Vicar in 1900.

A Blue Badge Guided Walk of Thaxted is planned for the afternoon of Sunday 11th June and regular monthly meetings will start again on Thursday 7th September.

Peggy Honour
 813160

It is National Mills Weekend in the second week of May and the windmill will be open on Sunday 14th May for this special occasion. The day will also mark the beginning of the children's drawing competition and also, for the first time this year, a photographic competition. There will be different categories with black and white and colour photography with judging of both competitions to be completed at the Bank Holiday Fete in August. The drawings will be on display in the windmill through the year until judging.

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

Opening Dates to June:

Sunday 30th April	Sunday 28th May
Monday 1st May	Monday 29th May
Sunday 7th May	Sunday 4th June
Sunday 14th May (National Mills Day)	



Recipe of the Month

Felixstowe Tart

Pastry

4 oz / 125 gm cornflour
 4 oz / 125 gm self raising flour
 ½ oz / 15 gm caster sugar
 4 oz / 125 gm margarine
 2 egg yolks
 water

Filling

3 tablespoons raspberry jam

Topping

2 egg whites
 4 oz / 125 gm caster sugar

- (a) sift cornflour, flour & sugar together
- (b) rub in margarine
- (c) add egg yolks to dry ingredients with enough water to make a dough
- (d) roll out pastry to line a greased plate
- (e) prick base well
- (f) bake for 15 mins gas mark 5 / 190°C / 375°F until pastry is pale brown
- (g) spread with jam
- (h) beat egg whites until stiff & fold in sugar
- (i) pile mixture on top of jam
- (j) sprinkle with a little caster sugar
- (k) cook in oven for 5 mins until slightly brown

Serve plain or with a little double cream



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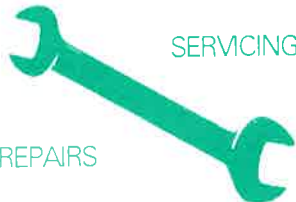
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