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The *LINK*



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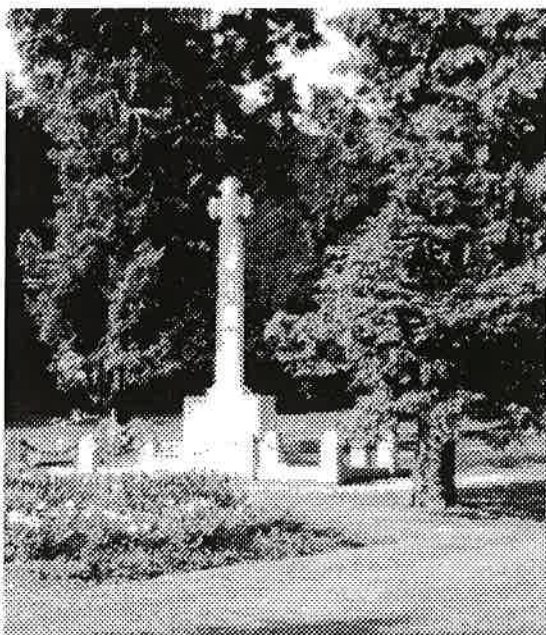
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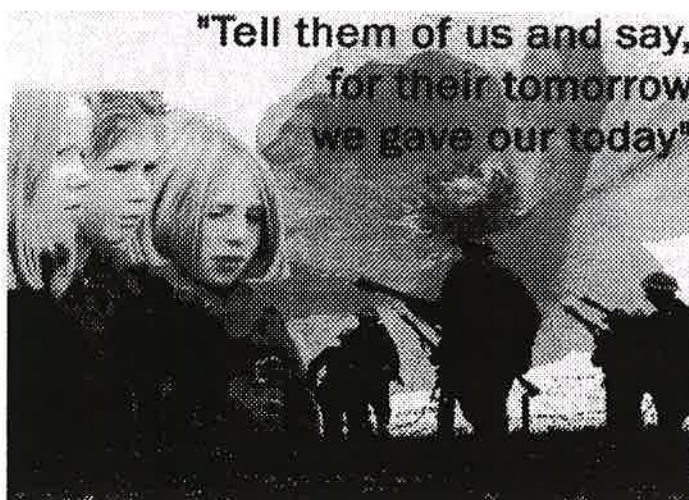
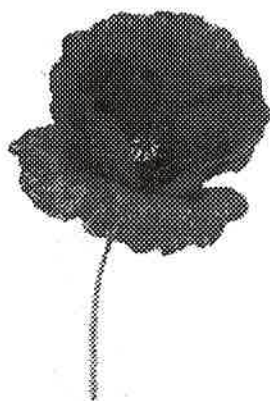




Photograph: Tony Butcher

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12th November
10.45 am
Laying of Wreaths
at the
War Memorial
followed by
Memorial Service in
St John's Church



The Link (price £3.50 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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editor.thelink@stansted.net
9th November for publication on 26th November
7th December for publication on 31st December

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

Email methodists@stansted.net

Services and preachers for Novmber

5th 9.30am Bernard Engel
12th No Methodist Service
11am Remembrance Day Service
at St. John's Church
19th 9.30am Michael Render
26th 9.30am Rev. John Graham - Holy Communion

11th Hour, 11th Day, 11th Month

Remembrance Day - now transferred to the nearest Sunday. This time of remembering has different levels of meaning for us. For those who lived through a time of war there are feelings of thanksgiving, glory, sadness and sorrow as they live with their memories of family and friends 'killed in action' or 'maimed' for the rest of their lives. For many there is a determination to do all they can to make sure that war doesn't happen again. For many there is a hope that they will not have to live through war - but don't really put any energy into helping their hopes to become reality.

We remember the holidays we had this last year. We remember fun times, happy times and feel good and wish and hope that there will be more special times in the future. So we plan next year's holidays and hope the weather is planning itself for us as well!

"This do in remembrance of me", Jesus bids us with regard to the Last Supper and as we partake we remember that he gave His Life so that we can have life in all its fullness for ever and ever.

What we remember and how we remember thus has a great influence on how we live today. Our past affects our present. (Sometimes it seems as though we live in the past!). So the death and resurrection of Jesus in the past affects my life now. I can occasionally say "Thanks" to God when I remember. Or I can make my life, the things I say, the things I do, my attitudes, my desires, my energy, my time, gifts and possessions, a worthy remembrance of Christ an everlasting expression of thanks to God, and a fantastic difference to the life of the world.

Have fun with your memories and decide this day how you will use them.

John Graham

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

Like most children, I appreciate my parents more since I lost them, and like most parents they were pretty unique!

Mum brought us up quietly, with an open mind, and an inner peace not given to many. She made the best of the little money my father earned, and the rented two up - two down. Besides looking after her own bedridden mother and a mother in law with memory loss, she was *always* there for us - and for our neighbours when they needed her.

Dad was a self-educated man who, in his spare time achieved his dream of building his own home. He was not in the building trade so read books, practised what he had read, got on with it and called building inspectors' visits at regular intervals. We had all learned to lay bricks and floors and my dad was an electrician, plumber, carpenter, roofer, plasterer and master builder by the time we moved in.

Both were Quakers and had run Sunday Schools for the children of the small, very old village three miles walk outside the nearest town. The Meeting House was the size of a small bungalow and an outhouse with kitchen facilities for those special Meeting days. The garden and graveyard sported a huge Walnut tree, which yielded *tons* of nuts every year, or so it seemed to me, a 'Walnut nutter'. Like Meeting Houses all over the world it had a special atmosphere but as transport got better, the bigger town Meetings grew in popularity causing it's sad closure when my parent were in their late teens.

The village Meeting House reopened for their marriage on a fabulous August day in the depression of the nineteen - thirties, my parents having applied for special permission so their friends in the village, mobile or not, could attend the ceremony. It was the first wedding held there for a hundred years. If you have not experienced a Quaker wedding I ought to tell you that there is no 'official' presiding. The couples make their special vows to one another in front of friends and families who act as their witnesses. It's so very simple, quietly intimate, a day to remember.

The Meeting House never reopened again and is now a converted residence for a family who probably appreciate its' wonderful welcoming peace as they return from the days hustle and bustle.

Marion Rawson

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 - Saturday 9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday 10 am and by appointment
Baptisms	By appointment

One World Week is celebrated in the month of October. It is to raise our awareness of our brothers and sisters in other countries, of their culture, of their need, especially in under-developed parts of our world.

This year, we, in Stansted are combining it with a visit from our friends of the Black Church of Cherubim & Seraphim, first formed in Nigeria, and now with communities in Birmingham and London. In this visit, 15 October, we hope to share our fellowship, our hospitality and our appreciation of a common bond in Jesus Christ. Two days later, at our Churches Together AGM, we will welcome Fr Mike, a Roman Catholic priest from Ghana, at present studying in Cambridge.

In celebrating One World Week, we have generally been aware of our brothers and sisters who live overseas, yet we should be as aware of those from overseas who reside here. There are large numbers of refugees, especially in Essex, and asylum seekers. Sr Mairead Corrigan of the Refugee Development Project spoke to us last year of their plight. Right on our doorstep, we can do something to make One World Week relevant in our lives. We have the opportunity to pray for and to welcome and assist those of other cultures who find themselves, in this country, needing friendship and aid. Sometimes it is easier to help those who's face we cannot see, whose presence is not near enough to be uncomfortable. Maybe our sights could be set this time nearer to home.

For ways of helping: Our friends from Birmingham treasure our visits as we do theirs so watch for the next opportunity and join us in our welcome.

For Fr Mike: Our prayers for his study at Cambridge, after which he will return to Ghana to teach.

For refugees and asylum seekers: Contact is Sr Mairead Corrigan, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Brentwood, Essex CMI5 8AT (01277 231314)

Rita Morson

Covenant for the Poor 2000 - St Theresa's charity this month is 'British Aid for Deprived Children'. Run by George and Marion Mills of Little Sampford, they regularly take lorries to the Ukraine. For their January trip they need sweets, tins of biscuits and any unwanted gifts that can be given to the doctors. Aid has slowed down dramatically and they are in desperate need of pasta, rice, tuna, sugar, tea, coffee, soap, shampoo, toilet rolls, etc. - in fact all the things we take for granted. Good used toys would be gratefully received for Christmas presents.

If you want anything collected please ring Eileen and Brian on 812109 or leave at 4 Greenfields, Stansted.

Eileen Quinn

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

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

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 01279 812593

Preachers for November

5th	11.00	Rev'd Martin Cressey
12th	10.45	Remembrance Sunday in the Memorial Gardens and St John's Church
19th	11.00	Rev'd David Simpson - Communion
26th	11.00	Mr Mike Dyer

Other dates for your diary

Thursday 23rd November 8.00pm Social Evening
Sunday 26th November 10.45 am Pilots
Both of the above are in the Lecture Hall.

Andrew Berry Introduces Himself

Hi there! I'm the new internship student for the Stansted Group. My name is Andrew Berry and my internship under David Simpson will be until June 2001. I'm married to Hazel - whenever she is able to visit Stansted, you'll be able to recognise her by her lovely smile and Northern Irish accent! We have a teenage daughter, Gail, who has just started A levels at sixth form college. We live in Cambridge and this has been our home since I started training in 1998 for the ministry at Westminster College. Previously we used to live in Suffolk (Southwold URC) and although we enjoy our new life in Cambridge we do occasionally miss the Suffolk coast and the sea! I am now into my final year of training and so I hope to be ordained next summer. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks.

Andrew

A hearty welcome to Andrew from all the members of Stansted's churches as well as his own.

Editor



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

St John's, Stansted

Reaching out

It was a great joy to me when Stansted Parochial Church Council passed a resolution that, from now on, we would give 5% of our income to our church mission, with a view to revising this proportion in two years with a view to increasing it to 10%.

To some of our fellow Christians, this may seem a little tame, but it needs to be borne in mind that the maintenance and upkeep of the parish church and clergy falls on donations from members of our congregation.

The PCC resolution represents a commitment to the *purpose* of the Church rather than to its fabric. A Christian church is measured, not in its ability to stay afloat, or meet its present commitments, but in its ability to make *God's Mission* possible, to show God's love in reaching out to others to help them see that God seeks to draw all people to a relationship with her/himself.

Where do we make God's Kingdom

come? My daily post is always full of worthy causes and I am bombarded by prayer requests on the internet, all of which can be overwhelming unless we take a sane view of what is actually possible.

I believe we begin with local concerns where we have a direct responsibility. The **Stort Valley Schools Trust**, is a charity which funds a worker to develop relationships with local schools, take assemblies, RE lessons and the like. The **Stansted Charities** are a number of small Victorian funds for the poor which were consolidated into one a few years ago, administered by the church and Stansted parish council. This is a fund which could easily use more capital, as the demands for help can be great, and costs have risen way beyond what Victorians would have imagined when the charities began.

Looking beyond our own village, we can have a direct effect on communities suffering economic or natural disaster. Agencies like

Christian Aid and **CAFOD** act on our behalf working with local organisations in the Sudan, Bengal, Kenya, all over the world to bring relief and a measure of self-determination to the poor.

The time will come when the congregation of St John's will need to decide whether to maintain the structure of the church, or maintain its mission. My hope is that we will choose to leave the buildings and maintain the work.

Andrew Spurr

All enquiries are welcome at
The Church 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
<church.office@stansted.net>

Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings Secretary

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

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The Rectory
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Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax (01279) 812203
<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate

Revd Rhys Martin
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Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8DT
phone (01279) 817513
<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest

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

Director of Music

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

St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B 9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i> Rite A 6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i> 11:00am Family Service on the third Sunday of the month
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> Rite B followed by coffee 7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

12th November 10:50am **Remembrance Sunday**
Service. Preacher: The Revd John Graham of Stansted
Methodist Church

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.

St. John's Christmas Market

Saturday,
25th November

St John's Church Hall

St John's, Stansted

(continued)

From the Registers

Baptisms

16th July Lucy Sarah Carter
Sam Richard Carter
Rosie Kate Hudson-Oldnall
Marley Paul Michael Wright

Marriages

2nd September Robert Graham Gandy to
Sarah Elizabeth Kettle

9th September Richard Martin Ward to
Nicola Catherine Mantle
Gavin Keogh Sankey to
Michelle Evelyn Iris Davies

23rd September Martin Peter Winder to
Fiona Jane Harvey

Burials

13th July Thomas Higgs, aged 91 years
8th August Suzanne Spencer Smith, aged 79 years

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas Market will be held this year on 25th November 2000 from 10am to 1pm in St John's Church Hall. As well as the normal fantastic array of prizes available to be won in the Grand Draw, there will be stalls weighed down with cakes, toys, sweets, gifts, books, bulbs, crafts and decorations, etc. In addition, there will be tombolas and raffles to suit all ages and, of course, it would not be complete without a visit from Father Christmas (who, we are assured, will be bringing an early sack of goodies for all the children lucky enough to see him!)

We hope you will drop in to pick up some early Christmas bargains and, perhaps, have a cup of tea and a cake from our well stocked refreshment bar whilst you wait to see if you are a big winner in our Grand Draw!

Francine Cope



SHALOM

6th November Rev. Jim Gill will talk about his Stansted Project.
Venue: 4 Greenfields

20th November Marion Dyer will teach us new songs from the Shalom song sheet.
Venue: 7 Blythwood Gardens

A PRICE CHANGE

After three years of holding the price of The Link at £3, we are reluctantly compelled to increase the price to £3.50 per annum with effect from this issue. The reasons for the rise are the usual ones - higher printing costs, a supplementary photograph charge and various computer costs (small in themselves but cumulative). We hope that you will feel that The Link is worth having and look forward to your continuing readership.



The Club's next event on Sunday 3rd December will be of baroque music on original instruments by QUODLIBET with the soprano, Angela Henckel. The programme will include works by Telemann, Bach, Scarlatti and Rameau. The instrumentalists are Rachel Latham, baroque flute; Matthew Truscott, baroque violin; Francisco del Amo, viola da gamba; and Philippa Estall, harpsichord. There will be a seasonal flavour in their programme and also during the interval when mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

The concert is at St John's Church, Stansted and will start at 3pm.

Tickets are £7-50, Concessions £5-00, Children £3-00, and children of members £1 -00, available from:
Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted
Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)

Alan Corbishley

GO ON, BE A HANCOCK, GIVE AN ARMFULL!

An adequate supply of blood is required for carrying out much of today's routine and emergency surgery. Sometimes surgery has to be cancelled or postponed because blood is in short supply.

You can help remedy any shortfall in supplies by attending the next Blood Donor sessions on Thursday, 30th November in St John's Church Hall. Sessions run from 2 - 4.30 pm and 5 - 7.45 pm. First time donors are especially welcome.

Come and help save a life!



Uttlesford Community Travel

Registered Charity No.1072529

Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT) wishes to publicise the need to recruit more car owners who will be willing to assist non-urgent patients who have no transport of their own to attend hospital appointments.

No doubt you are aware that for some time, Essex County Council have operated a "Social Car Scheme" of car owners willing to transport friends and neighbours to social occasions. But this scheme unfortunately, cannot cater for hospital journeys, and patients living in those areas not served by convenient bus services often have difficulty in finding alternative means of transport for journeys to hospital.

Uttlesford District Council, however, have now made funds available to establish a UCT Hospital Car Scheme, designed to meet the needs of those non-urgent patients who are referred by their doctors to hospital and who do not qualify for transport by the Ambulance Service.

Where the appointment is at Addenbrookes Hospital, of course, UCT Book-a-Ride members will be able to use the new direct Saffron Walden - Addenbrookes Service introduced on 2nd October. The Voluntary Car Service could then be used to run from the patient's home to Swan Meadow car park, where the UCT Addenbrookes service starts.

Even if the appointment is at one of the other hospitals serving the area, however, the successful creation of a UCT Hospital Car Service could be of great assistance in helping any patients, whether or not Book-a-Ride members, to reach hospital, or at any rate, to reach convenient public transport.

To realise this potential for aiding those out-patients who lack their own transport, however, we need more car owners to volunteer occasional help to enable our friends and neighbours to reach hospital on a mileage payment basis.

In order to make the most efficient use of the time of volunteer drivers for the UCT Hospital Service, the intention is that, unlike the Social Car Scheme, all requests for journeys will be made in advance direct to the UCT office. Volunteer drivers will be invited to specify, periodically, the regular times during which they will be willing to consider requests for trips. The requests for transport will then be matched against available volunteer drivers by the UCT office.

All mileage will be eligible for payment and the UCT office will inform passengers, at the time of booking, the estimated cost of the journey, **which they will be asked to pay in full.**

Over the coming weeks, the UCT will be seeking to recruit and train the additional part-time staff needed to run the booking system for this new UCT Hospital Car Service. It

is also our intention to arrange one or more meetings for potential volunteer drivers to meet the UCT staff and discuss any issues which appear to arise regarding the proposed scheme. Where such meetings would most conveniently take place out in the individual villages, the UCT will seek to arrange this.

Meanwhile, any car owner who is interested in learning more about the proposed scheme is invited to let the UCT office know, by letter or telephone (01371 875787). We will then keep them informed of progress in setting up the scheme and, in particular, tell them of the times and places of briefing meetings.

Sir George Moseley
Chairman

STANSTED HALL CRICKET CLUB

Junior 6-a-side presentations and BBQ

A great day with 26 boys and 2 girls taking part. With 5 teams, 10 matches to play meant that we played continuously from 10.15am to 5.15 pm. The trophies just arrived in time at 5.40 pm!

Will Ingham's team won for the first time, second, Ian Rawlings' team, each having won 3 from 4 but Will took more wickets - pretty close. About 50 parents and family came for the prize giving and BBQ. We had 2 members from Rotary present, James Wallace-Jarvis kindly presented the 6-a-side medals. In the evening, Tom Gould, Essex Development Officer, joined us with his wife and drew the raffle. David Brown and Stewart Pimblett had been invited from the club.

A great finish to our 2000 season.

Nigel Holland

WILL AID

These charities, ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Save the Children, SCIAF (Scotland), Sight Savers International and Trocaire (N.Ireland) will benefit from donations made by solicitors from fees collected for writing Wills during November.

Pothecary & Barratt of White Horse Court, North Street, Bishop's Stortford are one such local firm participating in the Will Aid scheme. A very basic simple Will costs around £50 with around £75 for a set of very basic mirror Wills.

Further information is available from Mrs Angela Lever on 01279 506421 or email angelalever@pothecary.co.uk

HOMEMADE CAKES

10 am

Sat 4th November

outside the

United Reformed Church



Chapel Hill

(in church if wet)



Grand Millennium Fireworks

Mountfitchet High School
Saturday 4th November

Gates open 6.30 pm

Display 7.30 pm

Refreshments ~ Hog Roast

Adults £2.50 Children £1



Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 12 November

8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments

Tel 813384



VILLAGE EVENTS

November

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
		Bonfire & Fireworks	Mountfitchet High School 6.30 pm
		Green Waste Skip	Lower Street Car Park 1 - 4 pm
6	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
9	Thu	Carers' Support group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
		WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Sun	Remembrance Sunday	War Memorial 10.45 am
		Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - 12 noon
14	Tue	St John's Housegroup	Enquire at Benefice Office 8 - 9.30 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
16	Thu	RBL (Women) Social	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sat	WI trip to Peterborough	Outside Sworders
		HEAL Race Night	Day Centre 7.30 pm
		Civic Amenity Skip	Lower Street Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
19	Sun	Craft Fayre	Mountfitchet High School 10 am - 4 pm
		Civic Amenity Skip	Lower Street Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
20	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
22	Wed	Stansted Lunch Club	Tel 815959
23	Thu	URC Social Evening	URC Lecture Hall 8 pm
25	Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm
28	Tue	St John's Housegroup	Enquire at Benefice Office 8 - 9.30 pm

December

2	Sat	Cake Stall	Outside URC 10 am
		Sideways Music Quiz	St John's Hall 7 pm
3	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
11	Mon - 14	Thu Civic Amenity Skip	Lower Street Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
12	Tue	St John's Housegroup	Enquire at Benefice Office 8 - 9.30 pm

Special event for December? Please submit details by 9TH NOVEMBER
to 58 Chapel Hill or by email to editor.thelink@stansted.net
Please note, all items are subject to the editor's approval.



STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

1 - 4 pm Sat 4 Nov

AMENITY SKIP 7.30 am - 3 pm

Sat 18 - Sun 19 Nov

Mon 11 - Thu 14 Dec



THE VILLAGE
MUSIC CLUB

QUODLIBET

3 pm Sunday 3rd December

St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds
or Sonia Levy tel 815282

Adults £7.50, concessions £5, children £3



RACE NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 18th Nov

Day Centre

£6 incl refreshments

Tel 813871

Bring your own booze!

Mountfitchet High School



CRAFT FAYRE

10 am - 4 pm Sun 19th Nov

All goods by local craftworkers

Admission by donation

Hot & Cold Refreshments

Tombola ~ Free Car Parking

St John's Church Christmas Market

10 am - 1 pm Sat 25 Nov
in the Church Hall

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries ~ Toys
Books ~ Cakes ~ Crafts ~ Decorations
Refreshments ~ Grand Draw

plus

FATHER CHRISTMAS



MUSIC QUIZ

7 pm Sat 2nd Dec

St John's Hall

Details from Helen on 813828

Uttlesford District Council

Highways

Uttlesford has recently published its draft transport strategy. This was written in conjunction with Essex County Council, who are the Highways Authority. There are some interesting statistics:

86% of households in Uttlesford had one or more cars (Great Britain average 71%)

48% of households in Uttlesford had more than one car (Great Britain average 26%)

About half the workers who live in Uttlesford work outside the District,

Uttlesford has the second highest accident rate in Essex. In 1997 the number of casualties per 1,000 population was 7.8 compared to an Essex average of 5.8.

The report recognised that speed is a factor causing accidents. Some country lanes are particularly prone to speeding traffic. 'Rat-running' on some roads around the airport causes problems. Speeding is one reason why 5,000 non-drivers die nationally on our roads every year; and why, though our roads are the safest in the European Union, our rate of child pedestrians killed is the worst: 1.3 per 400,000, against 1.0 in France and 0.7 in Italy

What is Uttlesford doing to improve road safety? At our Highways sub-committee meetings representatives from the County Council and Essex Police are always present. Mrs. Rose Johnson who is Uttlesford Council's road safety officer also attends. Since 1995 Uttlesford has had a locally determined highways programme. For the current financial year the budget is approximately £190,000. This means that district councillors working within that budget can decide on what are Uttlesford's highway priorities and the County Council will implement them.

How has Stansted benefited from the locally determined highways programme? The B1383 between Newport and Stansted has over the last few years been something of an accident blackspot with a number of fatalities. Readers will have noticed that the speed limit has now been reduced to 50 mph and that new road markings have been introduced. It is hoped that traffic calming measures will be in place before Christmas at Burton End.

Councils however can only do so much to promote road safety. It does not only require enforcement but a change of mentality amongst many drivers. Essex Police have limited resources. It was however pleasing, that in response to Silver Street residents complaints that officers were out recently with their speed gun. Speeding is an epidemic problem as a survey issued by the Department of Transport indicates. It states that most drivers exceed speed limits on clear roads, and two out of three ignore 30 mph signs. Personally, I agree

with the views of the RAC, which believes we need to rethink speed limits. Whereas 80 mph would be a more reasonable limit for motorways, 20 mph limits should be introduced around areas where there are vulnerable people such as schools.

The Rochford's site when developed will release under the planning agreement signed with Uttlesford some £400,000 from the developers for highway and transportation improvements. Although nothing has been finally decided, suggestions have included traffic signals for Silver Street/Chapel Hill junction, provision of or widening of footway along Church Road including land acquisition and traffic calming in Church Road.

Geoffrey Sell
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 815925



Huw Johnson Club

The Huw Johnson Club would like to congratulate the Tortoise Scout Troop on reaching their 24th Anniversary. Many of our members are also members of the Troop and we were very happy to meet up with those old friends who attended the Troop's Millennium Party.

We are all very pleased with the Club's Millennium photograph organised by Derek. It is hard to believe that such a wonderful picture resulted from absolute chaos as we all jostled for positions. Mr Cox certainly knew how to get the best out of such an unruly crowd.

As usual we are still begging for more drivers. Our numbers continue to grow and our drivers are really being stretched to the limit. Please consider helping us in this way. If you feel nervous about you reaction to people with disabilities why not come along one Thursday evening and meet our members. After that you may feel able to offer your services.

Marion Johnson



Essex County Council

As was reported in the last news, the County Council has now returned from the Summer Holidays ready for the Winter's work. As always when there is a recess, a pile of work is left outstanding to be completed on return. This is the case on this occasion. Thus the Councillors will be busy!

One issue which is to be considered is the question of school terms and holidays; a matter which has been hanging around the world of Education for many years. The issue is which is the best spread of holidays and terms that meets the needs of the pupils and also those that deal with them; the teaching staff and those in support.

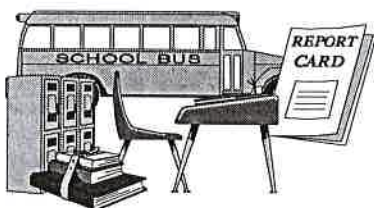
Traditionally, there have been three school terms in a year divided by two short breaks and a long summer holiday, this last supposedly so the children could help with the harvest! This time honoured system has been subject to pressure over the past few years for a number of reasons: Public Examinations have increased in number, more children go on to tertiary education and Universities require early knowledge of examination results. With increasing affluence, families too take longer and more frequent holidays and so do not wish these to be dictated by the present fixed periods for school holidays.

There are a number of ideas for reform; a five term year or a six term year, each based on a shorter more concentrated term, separated by short breaks, the periods for term and holiday disregarding to some extent the various religious and public holidays.

Clearly, the problem is not easy of solution and one which cannot be decided on in isolation nor unilaterally, as public transport, administrative and hospital services all to some degree are affected by any change.

Your Council is concerned to study the whole problem as this article is written and thereafter those likely to be concerned will be consulted in depth. Should any reader have any thoughts or ideas which might be helpful, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588, who will be pleased to hear them.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



Nature Notes

The first 10 days of October were extremely wet with over 2 inches of rain. As mentioned last month this is likely to result in fungi being visible in our woods and on roadside verges as well as in gardens. At the time of writing there are already Giant Puff Balls, (*Calvatia gigantea*) in Gall End by the allotments. These can reach football size and are unmistakable when mature and white. They harden and darken with age.

There are four other common species, which can definitely be found in the Stansted area. The first are the aptly named bracket fungi. These can always be seen on the Aubrey Buxton reserve. The Many-zoned Polypore, (*Trametes versicolor*) has individual concentric layers of variable colour. Velvety and smooth when young but hard and leathery with age; they can cover tree stumps and fallen logs.

Look in gardens especially if you have conifers, for the Shaggy Parasol, (*Lepiota rhacodes*) The cap is at first ovate (a drumstick shape) but expands to become almost flat. It is covered with scales, which are a darker buff towards the centre.

A delightful find and one which is surprisingly common, is *Coprinus comatus* otherwise known as Lawyer's Wig - see below. This is one of the ink caps and its conical cap blackens from below and deliquesces into an inky fluid. The most likely sites are roadside verges and rubbish heaps.

Finally a gelatinous fungus common on most woods especially elder and particularly on dead branches (*Auricularia auricula-judae*). Any walk along Stansted footpaths should give you a sighting of this fungus. Often found in clusters these soft brown fungi vary in size from a thumbnail to a child's fist and do indeed bear a resemblance to a human ear.

Judith Combes



Illustration by Maureen Davies



STANSTED
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
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Clubs Sponsors: Ampersand Associates, 'blue post production', Diamond Associates, Desavoury Foods, D.C. Poulton & Sons, Leoni UK & Urbanhurst Ltd.

Welcome to another SJFC. page. Our new season has now started and all the teams are doing well in their respective leagues. All of the teams have played pre-season friendly matches and have continued their training since mid August. It really is good to see such commitment from all the boys, so well done to all the boys who play and train with SJFC.

The youngest teams at the club, Spitfires U6's & Cyclones U5's, are coming along very well, both groups have about 15 boys and are now both carrying out their winter training in the gym at Mountfitchet school. Dave Godden & Leon Szyszkowski will become the managers of the Spitfires and John Turner manages the Cyclones. Our under 8's, The Sharks, have now joined the league with 2 sides. They proudly wore their new kits, sponsored by **D.C. Poulton & Sons**, for their opening game of the season. The league's computer could not have pulled out a closer local derby to say the least. They were paired against each other on the first game of the season, I can happily inform you that a Stansted side ended up winners. The Spartans Blacks & Blues are both enjoying their start to the season. Their managers, Glyn Warwick & Ken Makepeace have been putting in a lot of hard work to ensure the pitches up at Bentfield are in good condition. They spent an entire day recently white lining and cutting the grass so the boys could play their matches in the best possible conditions. Unfortunately there is still a terrible problem of dog mess. Despite the Parish Council putting a special bin on the gate, and several ardent dog lovers helping to clear up others mess, the boys still have to wait for their pitches to be cleared before they can play. I find this totally unacceptable. The guilty dog owners who continue to let their dogs mess on the grass, obviously have no conscience where children are concerned.

Happier news with the older teams now, the Swifts have made an impressive start to their season opening with a draw and a 10-2 thrashing over in Stevenage. A winning start also for the Comets. This team nearly folded at the end of last season, but thanks to the eagerness of the boys and new manager David Bright, they have got a 100% record as I write. The Scorpions began their campaign with mixed fortunes, they are in the top division of their age group and face another competitive season. And finally Santos, the club's oldest team at Under 14's. They too have a new manager, Mark Webb. Mark has put an awful lot of work into the team and I know both the players and Mark were delighted when they recently picked up their first win of the season.

Until next time all the best and good health.

Luke Pearman, Chairman, 01279 813769



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"Old Sunday Markets" was the theme of the October 5th meeting where Mr Markham with his memories guided us through the market place. Searching stalls for that piece of leather, Blakeys or perhaps studs required for home shoe repairs, valves, etc. to build your own radio set and fruit and veg. Stall holders demonstrated their skilled art of selling china. You could buy virtually all you needed (and often more) and there would be the occasional long walk home shouldering a role of lino or a new tin bath. Many members' own memories rippled back at the mention of family bath night with the required preparation to achieve a successful, perhaps once a week, bath.

Programmed for November 2nd, "The Welch Family in Stansted" by Mr S Welch.

P Brown

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and Gwyneth Richards (01279-718505)

Profile No. 28

Marion and Ted Prettv, M.B.E.

Marion and Ted must be among the best known of Stansted's residents. Marion is Stansted born and is most unusual in having lived in the same road, Stoneyfield Drive, for her whole life, and most of this time in her present house. Her schooling on Chapel Hill was followed by nursery nurse training at the Mid-Essex Technical College and School for Art at Chelmsford. The intention to work at Dr. Barnardo's did not materialise and her first job was with Speechley's chemist shop in Bishops Stortford. However she did practise her skills a few years later when, with her daughters at the Primary School, the opportunity returned with children from families in the village.

Ted was a Takeley boy but moved to Bishops Stortford in his early years and attended St. Michael's School. His first job was a four and a half year plumbers apprenticeship with Ernest Markwell. In those days of National Service he soon found himself in the RAF where he became a corporal storeman. Ted has no regrets from those days and felt that it was a good experience, which would benefit the young men of today.

On his return in 1952, his courtship with Marion brought them to their wedding at the then Congregational Church. Their daughters Carol and Diana were born in 1954 and 1958 and they, like their parents, became immersed in village life during the school years. Ted became a lead specialist with the Ministry of Works and remained with the organisation through its various manifestations until it became English Heritage. He retired in 1995. During this time he was largely based at Audley End and came to know and respect every part of the mansion. He also worked on the Tower of London, Downing Street, Westminster Hall and other houses in East Anglia. His later years were spent as supervising foreman over a wide area. Ted's RAF background led him into the Royal Observer Corps where with 11 other men he spent 36 happy years based at the still surviving underground bunker at Henham. He recalls how aircraft reporting in the 50's gave way to nuclear reporting, the training for which he was profoundly glad not to practise. However, it was Scouting that became his "spare time" activity. As a former Scout at Hockerill, he remembers a night hike to Stansted where under Malcom Treacher's direction the boys spent the night in Stansted Windmill. He was the right person to lead Stansted's Bulldog Pack for 35 years and is perhaps best-known through the scores of boys -many now parents themselves - who were led by him. He was justly awarded the Scout Medal of Merit and Bar and is cheered that one of his old Cubs, David Ciancola, is now a Cub Leader in Haverhill, and that grandson Matthew became a Cub Scout in Old Harlow. Ted's greatest regret is that several changes in uniform have detracted from the status of the Scout Movement. The old jersey and cap were thoroughly serviceable and meant something to the boys. The Windmill is another of Ted's enthusiasms. He has been a Steward for

many years and can still be relied on to carry out the smaller repair jobs which constantly arise and for which his working skills can be used.

In 1960 Marion became, with Margaret Chastney, Olive and Maisie Bunting, Elsie Stoddart and Margaret Meadows, a founder member of the Stansted Evening Womens Institute. It is a tribute to the Institute that, 40 years on, Marion is having her second term as President and that these founder members are still active. Marion feels that credit should be given to Marjory Cowan for perceiving the need for such an evening organization as a result of meeting mothers at the school gate, and is pleased to see the W.I. increasing in membership again. She was a member of the Parish Council for some 16 years, some of them as Open Spaces chairman and the last four as Vice Chairman. Marion looks on her time as well worthwhile and an opportunity to repay the village for the good things she has experienced here.

Marion has also served on the Brownie and Guide Committees and is currently secretary of the Local History Society. For some years she was well known in her jobs with Pearsons Bakery in Silver Street, as a school dinner lady and at Family News on Chapel Hill. Both she and Ted are keen practitioners of Tai Chi, the beginning of which Marion attributes to a happy weekend at the W.I.'s Denman College. Her particular pride is that her granddaughter Rachel is the fifth member of the family to attend the Herts and Essex High School but they both feel that their greatest day came in 1995 when at Buckingham Palace Ted received his MBE for services with English Heritage.

They are determined to spend all their days in Stansted, a wish that we sincerely share.

Derek Honour





St Clare Hospice



Official Opening of St Clare Hospice In-Patient Unit

St Clare Hospice's new In-Patient Unit may have been taking patients since January but the Official Opening took place on Wednesday, 11th October at the Hospice, Hastingwood. The ceremony was a dedication of the work of the whole of Hospice including our Day Care facilities and outreach services, which have been operational for a number of years.

Over 300 specially invited guests attended. The Hospice Chief Executive, Brian Hilton, began the proceedings at 11am. The Rt Hon Lord Braybrooke (Patron) spoke about the origins of the Hospice and thanked everyone who worked so hard to enable the in-patient extension to be built. He then unveiled a plaque just inside the entrance to the Unit.

Ian Paterson, OBE (Chairman of Trustees) stressed that St Clare's is a community hospice belonging to everyone present and all who support our work. He said "Since the new Unit opened, over 100 patients have benefited from in-patient care and around 680 people are currently being helped within the wider community. All this costs around £1 million per year, only one third of which is paid for by the NHS. This means that we need a great deal of support both now and in the future".

Philip Platt, husband of the late Gloria Platt who was one of the founders of the Capital Appeal to build the Unit then read from the Old Testament on behalf of the Jewish community. He chose an extract about the symbolism of light.

Next, the Rev'd Charles Mashed (Trustee) introduced a procession of people representing key groups involved with the Hospice and Father Paul McNamara from Holy Cross Catholic Church initiated the passing of a special candle around this representative group.

Eventually this symbolic light of hope was returned to Father McNamara who carried it in front of the audience before handing it to staff representative Jo Price (Fundraising Administrator). Jo then carried the candle to the Sanctuary inside the Hospice where the light will burn for evermore. Once the eternal flame had been lit, Rev'd Charles Mashed gave a blessing.

Jo Price



Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the committee and staff during the holidays, the move to the Quaker Hall has taken place and the children are now settling into their new premises.

All at Rainbow had an enjoyable end to the summer term when the children (and some of the mums and dads) took part in the village carnival procession. The medieval theme provided a lovely opportunity for the girls to dress up as princesses with colourful gowns and pointed hats, whilst the boys wore crowns and tabards and wielded very realistic swords. Our medieval sweet and cake stall did very well and the playbus staffed by Rainbow helpers was extremely popular, especially during the rainstorm.

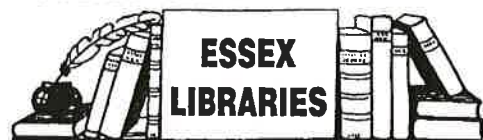
A further fundraising event during the summer holidays was a wine tasting evening which was very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all who went.

The first topic for the autumn term is "mini beasts". The children are looking after some worms and have made a wormery, and they are learning about beetles, butterflies and caterpillars. The children will also be learning about autumn itself and will, of course, soon be preparing for Christmas.

Finally, we will shortly be taking on a new play leader to join Ann Conroy and Terry Stockwell as we have recently said goodbye to Sylvia Smith. She will certainly be missed and we wish her every success in her new job. We are also delighted to welcome our new helper, Janet Kemp, who has joined the staff this term.

For admissions enquiries please contact Alison on 816188.

Rebecca Procter



Our library has changed its opening hours to the following:-

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9a.m. - 1p.m.
Wednesday	2p.m. - 6p.m.
Thursday	2p.m. - 6p.m.
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	9.30p.m. - 4p.m.

Telephone No. 01279 815149



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

By the time you receive the Link, the Poppy Appeal will be in full swing. Please be as generous as you can. We need every penny we can collect and every donation we are given to keep the work of the Legion going.

On Saturday 11th November we will have a gathering in the Memorial Garden, Chapel Hill, to observe the silence at 11 am. We invite everyone to join in this remembrance wherever you are.

On Sunday 12th November there will be the usual parade from the Crafton Green Centre at 10.30 am to the Memorial Garden where the laying of wreaths will take place, followed by the Service of Remembrance in St John's Church.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

Remember.... Remember....

Our Bonfire and Fireworks extravaganza is looming on Saturday 4 November at the Mountfitchet High School. As usual, gates open from 6.30pm with the bonfire at 7pm and the Firework Display at 7.30pm. Unfortunately, the Hog Roast, which was to be run by the Rotary Club and has been publicised in our Newsletter, will now not proceed due to circumstances beyond our control. It is intended that we will have the usual burgers and hotdogs. We have an increased budget to spend on the fireworks in this Millennium year, so please make every effort to come and support this village event. All profit goes to the local organisations arranging the event.

Remembrance Sunday

Your support would also be welcomed at this year's Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday, 12th November. The Parade will leave Crafton Green, led by the Air Training Corps, at 10.40am and proceeds to the Memorial Gardens where wreaths will be laid. The Service at St John's Church will this year be led by the Rev'd John Graham of the Methodist Church.



Royal British Legion Women's Section

Our harvest sale at our meeting on 21st September raised £46.50 for Legion funds. Many thanks to all members who brought such a generous supply of vegetables, flowers and produce, buying it all back again at an auction very ably conducted by Jean Fuller and much enjoyed by all.

Our Social Evening with fish and chips or ploughman's will be on Thursday 16th November at 7.30 pm in the Day Centre. All members will be very welcome.

Pat Clower



Recipe of the Month

Lamb Korma

- 1 oz / 25 gm butter
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 crushed cloves garlic
- 2 inch / 5 cm piece grated fresh ginger
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1lb / 450 gm cubed leg or shoulder of lamb
- 2 oz / 50 gm cashew nuts
- 10 oz / 300 gm natural yogurt
- 2 tablespoons fresh coriander
- mint

- (a) melt butter in a large saucepan
- (b) sauté onion & garlic until soft
- (c) add ginger and spices
- (d) sauté for a few minutes
- (e) add lamb, nuts, yogurt & coriander
- (f) cook on a low heat for 30 mins
- (g) serve with basmati rice & garnish with mint

Serves 4





The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

October was as active as ever with lots of branch activities, especially during half-term. We braved the weather for a walk/cycle/push in Hatfield Forest, we braved the children with an indoor obstacle course in Stansted, and we also braved the mess when we hosted a baking session! As usual we didn't forget ourselves, though after a pizza lunch and a pudding night, we'll probably have put on a couple of pounds!

Events in November include Creepy Crawly Songs and Stories, a visit to the playbarn, messy play in Henham, swimming in Saffron Walden, a trip to the Common playground in Saffron Walden and all the usual coffee mornings/afternoons.

We are also hosting our bi-monthly 'Open House' drop-in coffee morning at the Crafton Green Day Centre in Stansted where there will be a chance to buy toys and books for Christmas. Another event we shall host is the Coffee and Cakes for Bumps and Babes morning. For us grown-ups there's bound to be a pub night or two!

Alongside all these events we also host regular coffee mornings 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

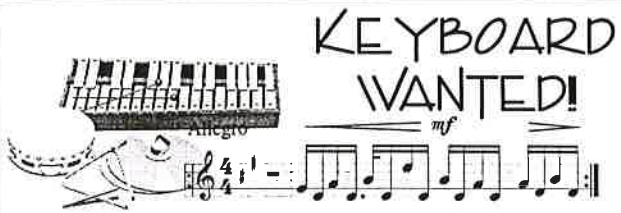
All parents/carers are most welcome, please come along and meet new people.

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

Of course we're not all about just doing lots of socialising (even though it might look that way!). The NCT offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood and is run by parents for parents. So if you want to find out more about the NCT 'ante-natal classes and/or are interested in joining please speak to Wendy on 813387.

Cheryl Salmon





KEYBOARD WANTED!

Stansted Music Group

Those of you who attended the *Songs of Praise* on the Recreation Ground in June will have heard the newly formed Stansted Music Group. The group are hoping to play for services throughout the year and are looking for a keyboard (the one used at the Songs of Praise was on loan). If you know of anyone who is looking to donate or sell a full sized keyboard please contact Marion Dyer on 814059 or email methodists@stansted.net



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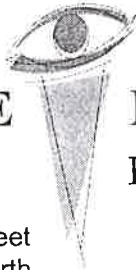
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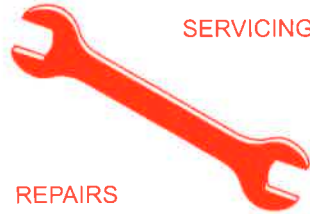
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